

OPINION 6
WE ARE ALL STYLE,
NO SUBSTANCE!

WORLD 9
CHINA ON TAIWAN: EXTERNAL
INTERFERENCE WON'T BE TOLERATED

MONEY 10
'RBI SET FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT
RATE HIKE TO QUELL INFLATION'

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.32 Issue 267
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



KULDEEP TAKES
HAT-TRICK
AGAINST NZ A
11 SPORT

Major crisis erupts in Raj Cong over CM's job

Gehlot bowls googly on Gandhis; talks on as 90 MLAs loyal to CM threaten to quit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
JAIPUR/NEW DELHI

A major crisis has erupted in Rajasthan Congress with nearly 90 Ashok Gehlot loyalist MLAs submitting their resignation to Assembly Speaker CP Joshi over the High Command's reported decision to hand over the reins of the State Government to Sachin Pilot.

The Speaker is unlikely to accept their resignation and the move is seen as a pressure tactic to scuttle Pilot's chances. The Congress is in search of a new Chief Minister in the State after Gehlot reluctantly agreed to step down from the post if he is elected the new Congress president.

The crisis could not have come at a worse time for the Congress. Despite tall claims by the Congress leaders that the Rahul Gandhi-led 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' is all set to revive the party, the leadership looked as helpless as ever in dealing with dissidents. Clearly, the Congress leadership was caught off guard.

Few had expected that



Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken arrives to attend the Congress Legislative Party meeting in Jaipur, on Sunday.

PTI

Gehlot would bowl such a googly on the leadership, but the wily leader seemed determined not to allow Pilot to take over the reins of the State.

Soon after it was 'confirmed' that the Congress High Command wanted to anoint Pilot as the CM, about 90 Gehlot

loyalists threatened to resign as MLAs and rushed to Rajasthan Speaker CP Joshi's residence. The MLAs have thrown their weight behind Joshi and want him to replace Gehlot.

These MLAs pointed out that Pilot plotted to bring down Gehlot's Government and one of

the 102 MLAs who foiled his attempt, should be made the new Chief Minister.

Earlier, Pilot and nearly 18 MLAs supporting him turned up at Gehlot's residence and waited for the CLP meeting. Congress observers Mallikarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken were present there. But the MLAs loyalist to Gehlot held a parallel meeting at the residence of senior Minister Shanti Dhariwal. The CLP meeting could not take place and a "humiliated" Pilot went back licking his wounds.

Sources said that Sonia Gandhi conveyed to Gehlot and Central observers Maken and Kharge that she wanted them to consult each and every MLA through the night and persuade them to fall in line. The entire process was taking place at Gehlot's residence where the MLAs kept returning from CP Joshi's residence.

"We aren't going to Delhi at the moment. We have been instructed by Congress president to conduct one-to-one talks with Rajasthan Congress MLAs. We'll meet them tonight," said Maken.

Despite publicly claiming that he would do whatever the party wanted, Gehlot did just the opposite. He mobilised his supporters and raised a virtual banner of revolt against the Gandhis, triggering an unprecedented implosion in the legislative party.

Continued on Page 2

Opp leaders call for all inclusive united front

But Didi, Stalin, Kejriwal give 'Samman Diwas Rally' a miss

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
CHANDIGARH/FATEHABAD

In a step towards forging a united anti-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) front, several prominent leaders of Opposition parties on Sunday attended the 'Samman Diwas Rally' in Fatehabad and called for a new alliance that would include the Congress and the Left parties for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The rally, organised to mark the 109th birth anniversary of late Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal by INLD supremo Om Prakash Chautala to forge a joint front against the BJP, was attended by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his Deputy and senior RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar from Maharashtra, Communist Party of India (CPI) leader Sitaram Yechury, JD(U) leader KC Tyagi, Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal.

Meghalaya Governor and senior BJP leader Satya Pal Malik also sent a video message praising Devi Lal.

However, several other regional satraps like the TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav gave the rally a miss along with Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Addressing the rally, Chautala called for Opposition unity to defeat the BJP.

Continued on Page 2



INLD chief OP Chautala, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Bihar CM and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar, Bihar Dy CM and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal and others being garlanded during a rally on the occasion of 109th birth anniversary of former deputy PM Devi Lal, in Fatehabad on Sunday.

PTI

Nitish, Lalu urge Sonia to lead Opp's unity efforts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav on Sunday met Congress president Sonia Gandhi and urged her to lead the Opposition's unity efforts to dislodge BJP from power in the 2024 General Elections. The meeting at Sonia Gandhi's residence in the national Capital is seen as important in the con-

text of Nitish's repeated rejection of the "third front" and his call for the formation of a "main front" that will include both the Left parties and the Congress to take on the Narendra Modi juggernaut in 2024. Both Lalu and Nitish said Sonia Gandhi heads India's largest Opposition party and they requested her to take the initiative for the Opposition's unity. *Continued on Page 2*

CAPSULE

TOP LAWYER M ROHATGI WON'T RETURN AS AG

New Delhi: Senior lawyer Mukul Rohatgi has declined the Centre's offer to return as the Attorney General of India, the Government's top lawyer. Mukul Rohatgi, 67, stepped down as Attorney General in June 2017. KK Venugopal took over after him. Venugopal's extended tenure ends on September 30. He served as the Centre's top law officer for five years.

SD BURMAN'S HOME TO BE CULTURAL COMPLEX

Cumilla (Bangladesh): Legendary musician and composer Sachin Dev Burman's palatial home in Cumilla district of Bangladesh is all set to be transformed into a cultural complex, with the Sheikh Hasina Government having sanctioned Taka 1.10 crore for the project.

VETERAN CONG LEADER ARYADAN DIES AT 87

Kochi: Veteran Congress leader Aryadan Mohammed breathed his last on Sunday. He was 87. Aryadan was a three-time Minister in the Governments led by EK Nayanar, AK Antony and Oommen Chandi. He was also a eight-term member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and an eminent leader from Malabar.

2 ULTRAS KILLED AT LOC, INFILTRATION BID FOILED

Srinagar: Two terrorists were killed as security forces foiled an infiltration bid near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Machil sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Sunday, police said.

Nations defending terrorists at their own peril, says India

Jaishankar takes swipe at China, Pak at UNGA

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI /UNITED NATIONS

Taking a tough stand on the scourge of terrorism, India has said nations who defend terrorists in the United Nations (UN) neither advance their own interests nor their reputation. These observations were apparently aimed at China and Pakistan though External Affairs



Minister S Jaishankar refrained from naming them in his address late on Saturday in the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He said no rhetoric, however sanctimonious, can ever cover up blood stains and asserted those who politicise the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 1267 Sanctions regime, sometimes even to the extent of defending proclaimed terrorists, do so at

their own peril.

"Having borne the brunt of cross-border terrorism for decades, India firmly advocates a 'zero- tolerance approach. In our view, there is no justification for any act of terrorism, regardless of motivation," he said.

"The UN responds to terrorism by sanctioning its perpetrators. Those who politicise the UNSC 1267 Sanctions regime, sometimes even to the extent of defending proclaimed terrorists, do so at their own peril. Believe me, they advance neither their own interests nor indeed their reputation," he said.

Continued on Page 2

U'khand resort murder: Ankita cremated after hours of protests

NH was blocked over autopsy report demand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PAURI

Ankita Bhandari's family performed her last rites on Sunday evening after her family members and the protesting members of the public were convinced by the authorities not to defer the cremation.

The bereaved family was demanding the final post



People block Rishikesh-Badrinath highway in protest against killing of Ankita Bhandari, in Pauri Garhwal district on Sunday.

PTI

mortem report. The body of

the 19-year-old who worked as a receptionist at a resort in Rishikesh and was allegedly killed by her employer and two others was recovered from the Chilla canal on Saturday. Three accused, including the resort owner Pulkit Arya who is the son of now expelled BJP leader, have been arrested in the case.

Earlier, demonstrators blocked the Rishikesh-Badrinath National Highway outside the medical college mortuary for hours.

Continued on Page 2

Chd airport to be named after Bhagat Singh

Announcement by PM ahead of birth anniv ends 7-yr-old Punjab, Haryana dispute

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced that the Chandigarh international airport would be named after freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. This announcement came three days before the nation

will observe the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh on September 28. The Prime Minister's announcement ended a seven-year-old deadlock between the two States of Punjab and Haryana. The Chief Ministers of both States on Sunday hailed the move. Haryana had first insisted that the airport should be named after Chandigarh because it was the joint Capital of both States. Later, when Bhupinder Singh Hooda became Haryana's Chief

Minister, he okayed the proposal to name the airport after Bhagat Singh, but his successor Manohar Lal Khattar wanted the airport to be named after an RSS ideologue Mangel Sen.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagant Mann said that the announcement is a "dream come true for every Punjabi", while Khattar said that it would be a true tribute to Shaheed-e-Azam especially when the whole country is celebrating the 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Welcoming

the decision, Mann said that it is the result of the State Government's strenuous efforts.

"It is a dream come true for me and every Punjabi as our Government has been making concerted efforts in this regard. I had a detailed meeting with Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala to make a consensus for naming this airport on the name of an iconic martyr," he said.

Mann also pointed out that he had demanded that the name of the airport must be announced ahead of Shaheed-e-Azam's birth anniversary on September 28, and now, "this would be a real tribute to the young martyr".





VIT ON THE RISE

IN WORLD & INDIAN RANKINGS

Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities 2022

INDIA RANK	LIST OF THE TOP INDIAN INSTITUTIONS	WORLD RANK
1	Indian Institute of Science	301-400
2-3	University of Delhi	601-700
2-3	Vellore Institute of Technology	601-700
4-7	IIT Delhi	701-800
4-7	IIT Madras	701-800
4-7	IIT Roorkee	701-800
4-7	Jawaharlal Nehru University	701-800
8	IIT Kharagpur	801-900

SOURCE: <https://www.shanghairanking.com/rankings/arwu/2022>



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RANKING 2022

9TH Best University

10TH Best in Research

12TH Best in Engineering

18TH Overall



₹1.02 CRORE PER ANNUM
HIGHEST SALARY PACKAGE THROUGH CAMPUS PLACEMENTS



www.vit.ac.in

[vituniversity](#) [VIT_univ](#) [vellore-institute-of-technology](#) [vellore_vit](#) [VITUniversityVellore](#)

Kejriwal in Gujarat promises to make contractual staff permanent

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday promised to make contractual employees permanent and implement “equal work, equal pay” if his party is voted to power in Gujarat.

Addressing a town hall with outsourced and contractual employees, Kejriwal also said his party will end the contract system if voted to power so that money comes directly into the bank account of the employees without middlemen taking away anything.

Assembly polls are likely to be held in December in Gujarat, where the Bharatiya Janata Party has been ruling for the past 27 years.

"I can see that every government is slowly ending gov-



ernment jobs. They say they (contract workers) do not work when they are made permanent. It is wrong to say that a government employee does not work if he is made permanent. He works if he is given respect and full salary," Kejriwal said.

"If we form a government, all contractual employees will be made permanent. And we will do so properly so that the court does not grant a stay later on," Kejriwal said.

With Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann by his side, Kejriwal said there are 36,000 contractual employees in Punjab who will be made permanent. He has made 8,500 teachers permanent.

It is taking time in order to ensure there is no court stay after they are made permanent, Kejriwal added.

"We will also implement 'equal work, equal pay.' There is not much cost in implementing it. Their (state gov-

ernment) intention is not right. We are the party of the poor and deprived and we understand your problem. We will give you respect and full salary," he said.

He said an AAP government in the state will end the contractor system, adding that contractual employees, till they are regularised, will get salaries directly in bank accounts so that the contractor does not take away some portion as commission.

Government jobs will be given on merit without any system of recommendation, he added.

The Delhi CM said contractual employees will also benefit of free power up to 300 units as well as healthcare from a network of 20,000 mohalla clinics, while women will get Rs 1,000 per month.

In over dozen States, dropout rate at secondary level higher than national average of 14.6%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar and Tripura are among more than a dozen States where the school dropout rate at secondary level was higher than the national average of 14.6 per cent, according to official data.

The central government has suggested these states to take special steps to reduce the dropout rate.

This information has been obtained from the minutes of the meetings of the Project Approval Board (PAB) under the Ministry of Education on the 'Samagra Shiksha' programme for 2022-23. These meetings took place between April and July with different states.

According to sources, the government wants to achieve 100 per cent Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) at the school level

by 2030 as targeted in the new National Education Policy and considers dropout as a hindrance.

According to the PAB, the dropout rate in 2020-21 at the secondary level in Bihar was 21.4 per cent, Gujarat 23.3 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 23.8 per cent, Odisha 16.04 per cent, Jharkhand 16.6 percent, Tripura 26 per cent and Karnataka recorded 16.6 per cent.

According to the documents, the estimated number of children with special needs (CWSNs) enrolled in schools in Delhi during the relevant period was 61,051, of which 67.5 per cent dropped out or could not be identified. The PAB has asked the Delhi government to complete the work of bringing dropout children back into the mainstream school education on an expeditious basis.

Senior IAS officer Rajendra Kumar now ESIC DG after bureaucratic reshuffle

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior bureaucrat Rajendra Kumar has been appointed the director general of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre on Sunday.

Kumar, a 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, is currently an additional secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

He has been appointed the DG of ESIC, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

As per the order, T Natarajan, a 1996-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, will be an additional secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

V Hekali Zhimomi has been appointed as additional

secretary in the Department of Health and Family Welfare. She is at present working as a joint secretary in the same department.

Ashish Srivastava, Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has been named as adviser in the Inter State Council Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Jaideep Kumar Mishra, who is currently an additional secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, will now be additional secretary and financial adviser to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, replacing Srivastava.

L. Satya Srinivas, Additional Secretary in NATGRID, Ministry of Home Affairs, will be an additional secretary in the Department of Commerce, it added.

6 IAF officers charged with murder after trainee cadet found hanging in Bengaluru

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Six Indian Air Force officers have been charged with murder after a trainee cadet, against whom a court of inquiry was initiated, was found hanging, a police officer said.

According to police, Ankit Jha (27) was found hanging in one of the rooms of Air Force Technical College (AFTC).

Police suspected that the death happened four or five days ago.

Based on his brother

Aman Jha's complaint, the police registered a case against six IAF officers at Gangamma Gudi police station on Saturday.

Aman has also alleged in his complaint that attempts were made to tamper with the evidence as people from the AFTC were present around 4.30 am on Saturday at the police station with a piece of evidence he was also looking for. He even wondered how the people from AFTC knew beforehand about his presence in the police station in the early hours and reached



there. "The reason behind the death is yet to be ascertained. Our investigations are on. Jha was a trainee cadet and he was found hanging in one of the rooms of AFTC," a senior police officer told PTI.

U'khand resort...

From Page 1

The protest began after the body was brought there from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh. At AIIMS also the public demonstrated and tried to block the ambulance carrying the body due to which the police had to resort to minor force to disperse the crowd and make way for the ambulance.

In Srinagar, the police and local administration tried for hours before convincing the family members of Ankita at about 5:30 PM. Her body was cremated in the presence of her family members and a large number of villagers and other members of the public at the

Alaknanda Ghat.

Earlier, hundreds of demonstrators blocked the national highway to Badrinath with efforts of the district administration and police failing to convince them to clear the road. Pauri district magistrate Vijay Jogdande asked the demonstrators to send a delegation of four to five persons to discuss the matter but they insisted that talks be held in front of the gathering. The DM informed that the post mortem report could not be released in the public domain, after which the demonstrators demanded Rs one crore ex-gratia for the bereaved family and a Government job for the victim's brother.

Major crisis erupts in Raj Cong over...

From Page 1

The CLP was expected to pass a one-line resolution saying all Congress legislators have full faith in the party president's decision to appoint the new chief minister. But nothing of that sort happened, and most of the MLAs rushed to CP Joshi after holding a meeting at Dahriwal's bungalow.

"All the MLAs are angry and are resigning. We are going to the speaker for that. MLAs are upset that how can CM Ashok Gehlot take a decision without consulting MLAs," Congress MLA Pratap Singh Khachariyawas told Media at Jaipur.

Khachariyawas said Gehlot should pay heed to the suggestions of MLAs. "We have 92 MLAs with us," the Congress

leader claimed.

Gehlot was expected to quit as the chief minister of Rajasthan if he wins the election to the post of the Congress national president, as the party has a "one-man one-post" policy.

Before the meetings, Gehlot said, "It has been our tradition that whenever the CLP meets during elections or for the selection of chief minister, a one-line proposal is passed that we are giving the right (to make the decision) to the Congress president. I believe this will happen today, too."

Gehlot loyalists are opposing the move to make Pilot the next CM saying he remained a rebel for a long and always destabilized the Gehlot government.

Independent MLA and

Gehlot advisor Sanyam Lodha said, "If the decision is as per the wishes of the MLAs, then the government will run. But if it is not as per the wishes of the MLAs, then can the government function?... Obviously, there will be a threat of the government falling."

Asked about the likelihood of Sachin Pilot as the next Rajasthan CM, cabinet minister Govind Ram Meghwal echoed the sentiment among Gehlot MLAs: "This is a sensitive issue. There is resentment among the MLAs. There were independents who helped us during the political crisis... Hence, we will all sit down and discuss (at Dahriwal's residence)," he said, referring to the 2020 rebellion by Sachin Pilot.

BSES
BSES Yamuna Power Limited

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERDate: **26.09.2022**

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following jobs:

NIT No.	Brief Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/22-23/RS/5V/47	SUPPLY OF AUTO TRANSFORMER OF RATING 66/33KV 40/50MVA	4.25 Crore	8.50 Lakh	10.10.2022 14.00 Hrs	10.10.2022 15:00 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1,180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submitment of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsessedelhi.com ->Tenders -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD -> Open Tenders.
Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
TEL: 011-41247111 | Fax:011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsessedelhi.com

Office of The Chief Engineer (Capital Zone) P.W.D Bhopal (M.P.)

Tender NoticeBhopal, Date 22-09-2022

NIT No. 22/G/1/Mis/C.Z./2019 (Year 2022)
Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal <https://mptenders.gov.in> Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of Work	Name of Work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In Lakh)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2022_PWDRB_223283_1	Bhopal (Division no. 2 bpl)	Annual Repair	Work of Pot Hole filling of various roads with Jet Patcher/ Durapatcher/Velocity Machine with a Citizen Engagement Model for registration of complaints by Citizens and Time Bound resolution, in Bhopal, Vidisha, Raisen, Rajgarh, Narmdapuram and Harda District.	1st Call	5172.00	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
Total						5172.00	

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document on line is **Dated 07-10-22 up to (17:30)**. Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

Chief Engineer (Capital Zone)
G-17429/22 **कोरोना में सावधानी हट्टी, समझौ दुर्यवता घट्टी।** **P.W.D. Bhopal Madhya Pradesh**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public at large is hereby informed that Ansal Properties & Infrastructure Ltd., a company incorporated under the companies act, 1956 and having its registered office at 115, Ansal Bhawan, 16 K.G. Marg, New Delhi – 110 001 has developed residential group housing projects under the name and style of **Ansal Sushant City** at Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana, India.

The following allottees of the project failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the allotment & shop buyer agreement as a result of which their allotment in the said project stands terminated. the details of the same are provided below:

S.No	Customer Name	Project Name	Unit Code
1.	NARENDER GUPTA	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-AT007
2.	URMILA KAK	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-AT029
3.	SANGEETA GARG	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-AT031
4.	AARTI GOGIA	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-AT033
5.	ANITA GUPTA	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-GF117
6.	RAJ PAL	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-GF125
7.	ARADHANA GUPTA	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-UG213
8.	MAHALAXMI ASSOCIATES	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-UG219
9.	AJAY SAREEN	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-UG223
10.	MAHALAXMI ASSOCIATES	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-UG227
11.	VIKRAM CHOPRA	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-UG227A
12.	JYOTI SYNDICATE	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-UG227B
13.	JYOTI SYNDICATE	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-UG227C
14.	ALPHA ASSOCIATES	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-UG229
15.	M/S VARDHMAN ASSOCIATES (P) LTD.	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-UG230
16.	SNEH LATA	Ansal Highway Plaza Mall Sonipat	0201-0-UG237

The public is hereby cautioned and put to notice that any person dealing with the allottee of the aforesaid units or claiming to acquire any interest / right of any nature in the property shall do so at its/their own risks, costs and consequences and the same would be deemed null and void.

the public is hereby further cautioned and put to notice that no person / entity has the right to sell, alienate or create third party rights over the aforesaid units other than Ansal Properties & Infrastructure Ltd.

Any person having queries may contact at below mentioned numbers with prior appointment on any working day in business hours i.e. from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Contact No-880640038

From Page 1

This was a strong, though veiled attack against Pakistan

BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13 (4) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and In the matter of **WEL CAST ENGINEERS PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at A-36 ARYA NAGAR PLOT NO.90 I.P. EXTENSION NEW DELHI-110092, 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 Uttar Pradesh".

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 **A-36 ARYA NAGAR PLOT NO. 90 I.P. EXTENSION** 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
TEK BAHADUR SINGH
Director
DIN:01136327
Date: 26/09/2022
Place: NEW DELHI

and its all-weather ally China, which has on multiple occasions blocked bids and proposals by India and its allies to designate Pakistan-based terrorists under the 1267 sanctions regime of the UN Security Council.

Bids by India, the US and other western allies to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists under the Security Council's sanctions regime have been blocked and put on hold on various occasions by Islamabad's all-weather ally and veto-wielding permanent member China in the 15-nation Council.

This month, China has put a hold on a proposal moved at the United Nations by the US and co-supported by India to designate Lashkar-e-Taiyiba (LeT) terrorist Sajid Mir, wanted for his involvement in the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks, as a global terrorist.

Jaishankar said terrorism should not be used as a "political tool" and the idea that something is blocked without assigning a reason challenges common sense.

"We do believe that in any process if any party is taking a decision, they need to be transparent about it. So the idea that something is blocked without assigning a reason, it sort of

challenges common sense," Jaishankar said as he spoke to a group of Indian journalists on Saturday after wrapping up the New York leg of his visit to the US with his address to the UN General Assembly high-level session.

He was responding to a question on the issue of repeated holds and blocks on proposals to list Pakistan-based terror group leaders under the UN sanctions regime and whether this came up in his talks with his global counterparts as he met them during the high-level General Assembly week.

"It came up in some of my meetings. I also mentioned it in my BRICS intervention," he said referring to the meeting held on Thursday on the margins of the General Assembly between the foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa group - Brazilian Foreign Minister Carlos Alberto Franco Franca, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa Naledi Pandor.

China, a veto-wielding per-

manent member of the Security Council, has repeatedly put holds on listing proposals by India, the US, and other allies to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions regime of the Council.

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

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

"We hope that reason would prevail and people, first of all, would not arbitrarily or politically block," Jaishankar said, underlining that the message is that this is "not inter-state politics which we are talking about."

"We are trying to get across our message that terrorism is not political. It should not be

used as a political tool, its consequences should not be made political.

"If you go into the UN and say does everybody consider terrorism a common threat, everybody will say yes. So we are saying well, if that's what your position is, then why don't your policies and your actions follow up on it," he said.

With the Chinese Foreign listening, Jaishankar had said during a ministerial meeting in the Security Council on Ukraine this week that 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.

He had said "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 some of the world's most dreaded terrorists."

"If egregious attacks committed in broad daylight are left unpunished, this Council must reflect on the signals we are sending on impunity. There must be consistency if we are to ensure credibility," he said.

10-year-old boy sodomised by 3 friends, 2 arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 10-year-old boy was physically assaulted and sodomised allegedly by his three friends in northeast Delhi's New Seelampur area. Police said two of the accused have been apprehended and produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and efforts are on to apprehend the third one.

The police, however, said the probe so far has not revealed that a rod was inserted in the private parts of the victim but a medical examination will ascertain it.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) also issued a notice to the police in this connection and demanded strict action against the accused.

According to a DCW official, the Commission received a complaint from the mother of the boy who informed that her son was brutally sexually assaulted.

"The complainant informed that her child was gang raped on September 18 by 4 men who even inserted a rod in his private parts. She has informed that the accused also beat him up brutally with bricks and rods. The child



informed his parents about the horrific ordeal on September 22," said the DCW official.

The victim and the accused are neighbours and belong to the same age-group of 10-12 years. They hail from the same community, police said, adding that the incident took place on September 18.

The police received information from LNJP hospital on September 22 that a 10-year-old boy has been admitted after being physically assaulted, officials said.

Immediately, a police team reached the hospital and met the child's parents who, however, refused to give statement. The child was under medical observation, police said.

Although the investigation officer regularly contacted the family, the latter refused to give

a statement till Saturday. The police then arranged a a counsellor from an organisation named 'Sakhi' and the child and his mother were counselled, a senior police officer said.

On extensive counselling, the victim's mother disclosed that on September 18, her son was physically assaulted and sodomized by his three friends, the officer said.

Based on her statement, a case was registered under section 377 (Unnatural offences) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code and Protection Of Children Sexual Offences Act, he added.

The victim is still under medical observation, police said. The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Sunday issued a notice to the police in connection with the matter.

The DCW said it received a complaint from a woman who informed that her child was sexually assaulted by people who even inserted a rod in his private parts

However, police said investigation so far has not revealed that a rod was inserted in the private parts of victim but the medical examination will ascertain it.

The woman claimed that the accused had also beaten up her son with bricks and rods. The child, who informed his parents about the incident on September 22, is in hospital.

The panel has sought a copy of the FIR registered into the matter along with the details of the arrested accused and a detailed action taken report by September 28.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal said, "This is a very horrific incident. The boy was gang-raped by four persons who inserted a rod in his private part and beat him up mercilessly."

"The boy is presently admitted in hospital and is in ICU. Our team is continuously present with the family and assisting them. The accused must be arrested immediately and strictest action must be taken against them."

Woman alleges bouncers thrashed her, 'tore off' her clothes at club

Owner denies charges, accuses cops of falsely implicating him for not paying '₹5 L extortion'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A woman and her friends were allegedly thrashed by the bouncers of the "Da Code" club in South Delhi. The women alleged that her clothes were torn off and the manager of the club was also involved in the brawl, said the police. However, the owner of the club denied all charges and accused Delhi Police personnel of mental and physical harassment and demanding 'extortion' money. The club owner Surendra Singh claimed that the club has been falsely implicated in the case as he didn't pay the extortion money amounting to ₹5 lakh.

Police said they are enquiring into the allegations made by the club owner.

According to the police, the incident took place on the intervening night of September 17-18 and a PCR call was received at regarding the incident.

"The female caller told police of misbehaviour and tearing off the clothes of a



woman at the club in South Extension after which the police reached the spot and met the caller," said a senior police official adding that a police team reached the spot.

"On reaching the spot, police team found that the caller's clothes were messed up and disordered. She told police that she was misbehaved and hit by the bouncers and they had also touched her inappropriately and tore her clothes," said the police official.

"An FIR under sections 323 (Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 354 A (Sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment), 354 B (Assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 509 (Word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered. Days after a woman was

thrashed, the club was again in controversy after police detained seven of its people after they allegedly tried to stop police personnel who went there after a complaint of quarrel and loud music was received.

According to Chandan Chowdhary, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, a PCR call was received on September 24 around 12.02 AM regarding a quarrel with bouncers of the club and DJ loud sound.

When the police reached the spot and tried to enter the club, the bouncers tried to stop them following which seven persons were detained under sections 107 and 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, said police.

Meanwhile, the DCP said that three years ago in 2019 when the Excise Staff came to conduct a raid in the club, they

were assaulted and confined in the bar for several hours by the owner and his staff.

"Police team reached there and intervened in the matter. The club owner, his son and staff were also charge-sheeted in the said case," said the DCP.

On the other hand, the owner of the club had written a letter to the Special Commissioner of Police (Law and order), in which he had accused the local police personnel of demanding Rs five lakh extortion money every month.

"When I refused to pay the money, I was threatened by them," he wrote in his letter.

He further wrote that on September 18, around 1 am, 4 boys and 3 girls, who were drunk, misbehaved with the staff and when they were told to behave, the girls threatened to implicate them and they even forcibly took Rs 1.5 lakh from the podium.

"They then made a call to the police. When the police came, it was the same police personnel, who had been threatening us with extortion and then he again threatened us of severe consequences," he wrote. "Two of club staff members were detained next day and for over 22 hours they kept in custody where they were thrashed with belts, sticks and shoes at regular intervals.

City's rain deficiency drops from 49% to 17% due to showers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital's overall rain deficiency dropped from 49 per cent to 17 per cent due to heavy rainfall in September. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) data showed that the national Capital received 450.9 mm of rain as against the normal of 540.1 mm between June 1 and September 26, a deficit of 17 per cent. According to IMD data, East Delhi is the only area that has seen a surplus rain at 32 per cent this monsoon.

The IMD data showed that Central Delhi received 606.2 mm rain against the normal of 659.7 mm, a deficit of 8 percent; New Delhi received 508.5 mm rain as against the normal of 635.1 mm, a deficit of 20 per cent; North Delhi received 542 mm rain as against the normal of 554 mm, a deficit of 2 percent; North East



Delhi received 301.6 mm as against the normal of 659.7 mm, a deficit of 54 percent; North West Delhi got 322.4 mm rain as against the normal of 398.1, a deficiency of 19 percent; South Delhi got 575.8 mm rain as against the normal of 658.7

mm, deficiency is almost 13 percent and South West Delhi got 485.6 mm rain as against the normal of 549.3 mm, almost 12 percent less this season so far. The East Delhi is exception this monsoon season which received 32 percent excessive rain so far. East Delhi received 868.2 mm rain as against the normal of 659.7 mm.

June saw a deficit of 67 per cent, in July there was surplus rain of 37 per cent and August saw an 82 per cent deficit with only 41 mm of rain recorded against a normal of 233 mm.

The IMD official said that the three consecutive days of rain have not managed to wipe out the city's monsoon rain deficit. The city saw a massive shortfall in June and August, but July received more rain than normal.

"Now, September has brought more than usual rain, but it has still not managed to make up the shortfall," he said.

The temperature is also expected to increase in the days to come. The maximum temperature in the national capital on Sunday settled at 31 degrees Celsius, three notches below the season's average. After three consecutive days of rain, there wasn't any in the national capital on Sunday morning.

The minimum temperature in the city settled at 22.6 degrees Celsius, a notch below the season's average, the IMD said. The relative humidity oscillated between 100 per cent and 63 per cent, it said.

In the last 24 hours, the Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, received 18.6 mm of rainfall, while the Palam station recorded 23.7 mm of rainfall. Delhi's air quality index (AQI) was recorded in the 'satisfactory' (53) category around 7 pm, Central Pollution Control Board data showed.

'Yamuna river's water level could rise to danger mark'

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

Following the incessant rainfall, the Delhi Government's flood and irrigation department issued a warning stating that the Yamuna river's water level could rise to 'danger level' at the Old Railway Bridge in Delhi.

According to a senior official familiar with the matter, the water level on Sunday at 1pm recorded 204.09m at the Old

Railway Bridge, while the danger level is marked at 205.33m.

"The warning had been issued for Sunday amid the possibility that the 'water level can shoot up to the 'danger' mark at any point of time," he said.

"The Delhi flood control room on Sunday reported a discharge rate of around 22996 cusecs from the Hathnikund Barrage at 12pm," he added.

54-year-old man held with 45 kg opium worth ₹30 cr

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested a 50 year-old man in the national Capital with 45 kg Opium worth more than ₹30 Crore in the international market.

The accused is identified as Jasvir Singh (54), a resident of Moga, Punjab. Police said that he used to hide opium between rice packets to dodge the law enforcement agencies.

According to Rajiv Ranjan Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, the sleuths of Special Cell were working on information that an interstate narcotic drug cartel is active in the States of Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi-NCR.

"Police had received information that members of this cartel are involved in supply of opium in Delhi, NCR, Uttar Pradesh (UP), after procuring the same from suppliers of Manipur, who further collect raw material from hilly areas around international borders of Manipur and Myanmar," the DCP said.

"Police had started developing information around 3-4



months ago and during the process, members of the said cartel were identified and their activities were kept under discreet surveillance," said the DCP.

"On September 24, specific inputs were received about Jasvir, who was involved in drug trafficking. He used to supply opium on the directions of Dilbag resident of Bazpur, Uttarakhand after procuring it from one Limanthang resident of Manipur," said the DCP.

"Acting on the inputs, that Jasvir would come near Raighat DTC depot, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Delhi to supply heroin to Surrender a resident of Delhi, a

trap was laid and he was apprehended," said the DCP.

"On cursory checking 45 kg of opium concealed between 566 gunny bags containing rice was recovered from the truck of the arrested accused person," said the DCP.

"On interrogation, he confirmed that the recovered opium was delivered to him by Lenmingthang a resident of Manipur on the directions of Dilbag a resident of Bazpur, Uttarakhand. Accordingly, the police registered a case under relevant sections of law and arrested the accused," the DCP added.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has arrested five people, including two Union Health ministry staff, for allegedly duping people of ₹15 crore on the pretext of getting them work-related orders for transportation of Covid vaccines to different States.

The accused have been identified as Hermenn Sabherwal (43), Govind Tulsian (52), Diprana Tiwari (32), Trilok Singh (53) and Mrityunjay Roy (44). Police said Singh is employed as a Multi Tasking Staff at the Health ministry on a permanent basis while Tiwari is also an MTS but on a contract basis.

"Roy was on deputation with Minister of Home Affairs from SSB and was a reception officer in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at Nirman Bhawan," a police statement said.

According to Ravindra Singh Yadav, Special Commissioner of Police, Crime, a probe was initiated after several complaints were received from a person named



Sunil Kaushik and others where the victims alleged that they had been duped of ₹15 crore on pretext of getting them work orders for transportation of Covid vaccines.

"In all the complaints, the victims narrated the same modus operandi. All the complainants claimed that they were made to sit inside the conference room of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in order to execute the work order for transportation of Covid vaccines," said the Special CP.

"After preliminary enquiry, the case was registered and investigation was taken up by EOW. A total of six complainants came forward where as the cheated amount comes out to be ₹15 crore," he said.

"The investigation revealed that in May last year, the

accused came in the contact with the complainants and offered them the ministry's work order. To gain the trust of the complainants, the accused also took the victims to the Union Health ministry located inside the Niman Bhavan premises in Central Delhi," said the Special CP.

"The accused also impersonated themselves as officers in the Ministry and obtained signatures of the complainants on forged work orders. In lieu of such forged work orders, they obtained ₹15 crore from the complainants," he said.

The officer said the bank accounts and other details of the accused were also scrutinized and analyzed which revealed that huge cash deposit in them.

"Harmenn Sabherwal was arrested from Agarata, where he was hiding in a hotel while other accused were arrested from Delhi. The role of other accused is under probe," he added.

Sabherwal has an MBA degree and was running an HR company in which he suffered losses. Tulsian was running a stabilizer manufacturing factory, police said.

AAP Mahila Morcha demands justice for U'khand girl Ankita

Gheraoes BJP headquarters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party's Mahila Morcha gheraoed the BJP headquarters on Sunday demanding justice for India's Daughter Ankita Bhandari, who was brutally murdered by a BJP leader's son in Uttarakhand.

A large crowd of AAP Mahila Morcha members took part in the protest. As they gheraoed the BJP headquarters they were met with heavy police bandobast that barred them from charging ahead.

AAP Mahila morcha State incharge, Sarita Singh said that BJP ruled Uttarakhand Government's response to Ankita Bhandari's murder reeks of inaction and insensitivity.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah must own up to their responsibility of providing security to country's daughters. The entire nation is angry. BJP leaders and

their sons are indulged in crime against women in the country," she said

"The BJP is not willing to take this responsibility and initiate action against their own leaders who have become the biggest threat to the safety of women which has fumed the entire country and women with anger.

AAP stands in solidarity with all the women and we will not allow the BJP to perpetrate atrocities on them," said Singh. The AAP spokesperson Reena Gupta said that BJP should be renamed to Bharatiya Balatkari Party.

"In the past three days, three BJP leaders have committed crimes against women. Two of the unfortunate incidents have taken place in Bhopal & Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh and Ankita was murdered in Uttarakhand.

BJP leaders have given freedom to their sons to do whatever they want to even if it means taking law in their own hands and they are misusing their power to cover up their crimes," said Gupta.

DDMA's 'garbage in & garbage out' plan averts flood in Capital

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has managed to avert floods during monsoon by adopting the concept of garbage in and garbage out. This concept means that the water is discharged from the capital at the same speed it is pushed into from the barrages of Hathnikund, Okhla and Wazirabad.

The Authority also monitored, for the first time, the hourly discharge of water from the Okhla barrage which was managed by the Uttar Pradesh flood and irrigation control department. Following this, the water level did not peak from 205.99 despite the discharge rate being 1.91lakh cusecs and 2.21 lakh cusecs on August 11, 2022. One cusec is equivalent to 28.32 liters per second.

The flood warning level of the Yamuna is 204.50 meters, while the danger level is 205.33 meters. The evacuation level for the people living in the low-lying area is 206 meters.

Sushil Singh, Special Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the DDMA said that this year when the water was released by the Haryana from the Hathnikund barrage, the authority started the preparations to avert any flood situation in the capital.

"As the water reached Delhi, the water level at the old railway bridge started rising, I myself visited the Okhla barrage to ensure that the water is discharged from the same speed that is headed from the Hathnikund barrage," Yadav said.

"The water was discharged in a synchronized manner from the Wazirabad and Okhla barrage due to which this year



the water level did not cross the 206-meter mark, following which there was no need to shift the people residing in the low lying areas," Yadav added.

During the monsoon, many parts of Delhi, including arterial roads, get waterlogged leading to traffic snarls even in an

hour's rainfall. The main reason is the problems related to the city's storm water drains. The city works on a drainage master plan made in 1976 and one such plan prepared by IIT Delhi for the Delhi Government in 2018 is yet to be implemented.

According to officials, in Delhi's case, flooding could be due to two reasons: floods in the Yamuna or local rainfall. In 1978, Delhi had witnessed a flood due to the rise in the Yamuna water level. But the annual urban flooding we see is due to local rainfall. The run-off water (water left after being absorbed by the earth) from the local rainfall is supposed to drain into the Yamuna through storm water drains. But due to a combination of reasons, including sewage flowing in storm water drains, it does not properly drain into the Yamuna

and leads to urban flooding. The drains were made decades ago to handle a particular amount of run-off water. Over the years, the paved area has increased due to development.

While informing about the preparations made by the DDMA in case of the flood situation, a senior DDMA official said that the arrangements including boats have been deployed at various locations near the Yamuna River. 17 boats are placed at Boat Club under District Magistrate (East). In addition, 34 boats belonging to Irrigation and Flood Control Department are at their Timarpur shore. Out of these 51 boats, 29 are currently plying in the Yamuna River. Rest are kept on standby mode.

In 2021, the Yamuna river breached the danger mark on July 30 and the water

level at the Old Railway Bridge had risen to 205.59 meters.

In 2019, the flow rate had peaked at 8.28 lakh cusec in August, and the water level of the Yamuna had hit the 206.60-meter mark, while in 1978, the river had swelled to an all-time record water level of 207.49 meters. In 2013, it had risen to 207.32 meters.

What creates a flood-like situation in the national Capital?

Normally, the flow rate of the water at the Hathnikund barrage is 352 cusecs, but the discharge increases after heavy rainfall in the catchment areas. The water discharged from the barrage normally takes two to three days to reach the national capital. Following this the water level also increases in Delhi, creating an alarming situation in the city.

Mann Ki Baat: Modi lauds sign language

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In his 93rd episode of radio talk ‘Mann Ki Baat’, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday spoke about the priority given to development of sign language in the country saying “ten thousand words of the sign language are ready to help specially-abled and New Education Policy has included this language

On September 23, many school courses have also been launched in sign language, he said. The Prime Minister cited examples where sign language immensely benefited people in different States.

“Pooja, who hails from Haryana, is very happy with the Indian sign language. Earlier, she was not able to communicate with her son, but after going through sign language training in 2018, the lives of both mother and son have become easier”, he said.

Similarly, Modi said, “Manju of Kerala has also benefited a lot from these efforts. She is not able to hear since birth. Not only that, this has been the situation in the lives of her parents as well. In such a situation, sign language has become a means of communication for the whole family.”

Modi stated his radio talk by speaking about the return of cheetahs to the country after over five- decades saying “People from all corners of the country have expressed happiness and order over the return of cheetahs” and sought people to participate in the competition to give them their names.

He said a task force will monitor them and on the basis of that it will be decided when people can see them.

In the broadcast, the Prime Minister paid tributes to BJP ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyaya on his anniversary saying he was a profound thinker and a great son of the



country and referred to his philosophy of ‘Ekataam Manavtabad’. In the same vein he said that an important day of ‘Amrit Mahotsav’ is coming on September 28 when the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh will be celebrated.

“Three days later, that is, on the 28th of September, is a special day of Amrit Mahotsav. On this day, we will celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh ji, the brave son of Mother India”, Modi said and announced that Chandigarh airport be named after Bhagat Singh.

“Just before his birth anniversary, as a tribute, an important decision has been taken, it has been decided that the Chandigarh airport will now be named after Shaheed Bhagat Singh”, said the Prime Minister.

“Let us take inspiration from our freedom fighters, following their ideals and build the India of their dreams... this is our tribute to them,” he said. Modi remembered another significant occasion on September 28. “I will tell you only two words and I know your enthusiasm will increase fourfold. These two words are - Surgical Strike. Hasn’t the Josh risen!”, he exhorted.

He reminded listeners that in his last episode of Mann Ki Baat, he spoke about the year 2023 being the International Year of Millets.

Modi said he came to know

that people had become excited about and started using millets in their daily diet. He suggested making an e-book that will record people’s experience of dishes prepared with millets. Speaking about being ‘Vocal for local’, in the coming festival season, Modi asked the people to break all previous records of buying khadi, handloom, or handicraft products.

He said plastic bags are extensively used during festivals, he said. However, the harmful waste of polythene during the festivals of cleanliness is against the spirit of the festivals.

“On the occasion of Bapu’s birth anniversary on the 2nd of October, we have to take a pledge to intensify ‘Vocal for Local’. Through our resolution of this campaign, we now include our local artisans, craftsmen and traders in the joy of festivals,” the Prime Minister said.

“During the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, we are onwards with the goal of a self-reliant or Aatmanirbhar Bharat. It will be a true tribute to freedom fighters. That’s why I request you to break all the records this time to buy these products of Khadi, handloom or handicrafts,” he said.

On making the ocean clean, he cited an example saying “People in Goa’s Kakinada were told about the harm caused by plastic during a Ganapati immersion.

Govt to distribute 10 lakh Ayushman cards everyday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Having issued 19 crore Ayushman cards in the last four years, the Government now has an ambitious target of distributing 10 lakh such cards to the beneficiaries every day under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Ayushman Yojana.

Highlighting the PMJAY beneficiaries as the most important stakeholder in the largest global public health insurance scheme, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya stated that over 19 crore Ayushman Cards have been made in the country spanning its coverage in 33 States/UTs, and more than 24 crore ABHA numbers have been generated.

“This reflects an important milestone in the digitization of health records in the country”.

The current rate of making 4.5 lakh cards per day will be increased to making 10 lakh Ayushman Cards every day, said the Minister after inaugurating the two days long

Arogya Manthan 2022 programme here.

Arogya Manthan marks the completion of 4 years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and 1 year of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

He said the Government’s focus is to make health services reach the person at the end of the delivery chain, enabled by technology. Dr. Mandaviya stated that PM-JAY has been successful in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor in terms of accessibility of healthcare services in the country.

Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnav said that with the interplay of Information Technology and Health, the vision of the Prime Minister of making healthcare accessible in the country can be achieved. He added that every village in the country will be connected through a high-speed optical fiber in the next few years which will ensure health access to all.

INS Satpura takes part in multi-nation drill in Australia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Navy’s guided missile stealth frigate, INS Satpura, is currently taking part in multi-nation Exercise KAKADU-22 in Australia being conducted by the Royal Australian Navy.

The indigenously designed and built Indian ship participated in various anti-submarine warfare exercises, anti-Ship warfare exercises, manoeuvres and has also showcased her precise target destruction capability during gun firing exercises.

The participation in exercise KAKADU-22 is aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability at sea amongst navies of friendly



foreign countries, officials said here on Sunday.

INS Satpura weighs 6,000 tonnes and is a frontline unit of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam and is currently on one of the longest deployments by the Indian Navy in the 75th year of India’s Independence.

NGMA fosters inclusivity: Guided tour in sign language, catalogue in Braille

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

From holding special guided tours for the differently-abled in sign language to publishing a catalogue of select items in Braille, the National Gallery of Modern Art is taking steps to foster greater inclusivity while giving visitors a holistic museum experience.

The celebrated gallery, located in the iconic Jaipur House near India Gate, comes under the purview of the Ministry of Culture.

It is currently also displaying a large number of mementos gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the past as part of an ongoing e-auction of the gifts that will end on October 2.

“The NGMA has made great strides towards making the museum a democratising space, one that gives access to all including to those who are differently-abled,” a senior official said.

It has initiated several creative museum practices with the idea of inclusivity.

“In addition, for the very first time in the history of the



museum, we have also published a catalogue of select items in Braille along with an audio guide app,” the official said. Various well-known people have visited the exhibition of mementos, and the gallery has taken care to make the experience inclusive for all.

Notes singer Mohit Chauhan visited the NGMA on Saturday and took a tour of the exhibited mementos.

As part of the International Week of the Deaf being observed globally, a guided tour of the exhibition of mementos received by the prime minister was held in sign language. This was followed by the recital of national anthem also in sign language, by Sai Swayam Society for the differently-abled visitors on September 23, the official said. Besides, a cultural extrav-

aganza was organised that not only celebrated inclusivity but also put the spotlight on the role of museums in uniting communities, he said.

“The scintillating performance by young artists set the stage for next performances including a puppet show, a magic show and a musical performance by Anhad, a gifted band of visually impaired people,” the NGMA said.

International Week of the Deaf is celebrated by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and its national associations and their affiliates globally during the last full week of September, culminating with International Day of the Deaf on the last Sunday of the week, which falls on September 25 this year. The theme for 2022 is “building inclusive communities for all”.

“Bearing in mind the significance of the ongoing International Week for the Deaf, we have introduced several innovative solutions to keep those with hearing and visual impairment, engaged with happenings at the museum.

Prez Murmu’s 3-day visit to Karnataka from today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu will visit Karnataka from September 26 to 28 to attend a host of programmes, according to a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday.

This will be her first visit to any state as the President of India, it said.


She will inaugurate the Dasara festival at Chamundi Hills in Mysuru on Monday.

On the same day, the president will attend a felicitation function, ‘Poura Sanmana’, organised by the Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation in Hubli, the statement said.

She will also inaugurate the new campus of the Indian Institute of Information Technology in Dharwad, it added. The president will inaugurate the Integrated Cryogenic Engines Manufacturing Facility of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in Bengaluru on Tuesday. On that occasion, she will also lay the foundation stone of the Zonal Institute of Virology (South Zone) virtually, the statement said.




On the same day, the president will grace the inaugural function of the St Joseph’s University and will also attend a civic reception hosted by the government of Karnataka in her honour in Bengaluru, it added. On September 28, the president will return to New Delhi.



राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश

(लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन)

लिक रोड नं. 3 पत्रकार कॉलोनी भोपाल (म.प्र.) पिन - 462016



NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
एन.एच.एम.आई.

विज्ञा.क्र./रा.स्वा.मि./मा संसा./2022/6640

भोपाल, दिनांक 21.09.2022

--:: विज्ञापन ::--

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, म.प्र. के अंतर्गत संविदा आधार पर राज्य स्तरीय संविदा पदों की पूर्ति हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है। यह अनुबंध 31 मार्च 2023 तक के लिये होगा, जिसे आगामी वर्षों की वार्षिक कार्ययोजना में स्वीकृत अनुसार पद का विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

S. No.	Position Name	No. of Vacancies	Honoraria in INR (Per Month)	Essential Qualification, Experience, and Skills
1	Consultant Viral Disease (NVBDCP)	1	Rs. 45,000	Essential Educational Qualification: Post Graduate Degree in Zoology/Life Sciences (preference will be given to specialization with Entomology). Essential Computer Qualification: Certificate/Diploma/Degree in Computer Application/Computer Science from a recognized University/Institution. Essential Work Experience: Minimum 5 years experience of implementing vector born disease control strategies/managing vector born disease control programmes. Desirable Experience: 1) Candidates having experience in the area of viral disease under NVBDCP shall be given preference. 2) Candidates having experience in health program monitoring, training shall be given preference.
2	Insect Collector (NVBDCP)	1	Rs. 15,000	Essential Educational Qualification: 10+2 • Physics, Chemistry and Biology Mandatory. (Minimum 60% marks) Essential Computer Qualification • Certificate/Diploma/Degree in Computer Application/ Computer Science from a recognized University/ Institution.
3	State Consultant CPHC	1	Rs. 45,000	Essential Educational Qualification: BDS/BAMS/B.Sc. from a recognized University AND (Along with) 2 Years Full-Time Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH) OR 2 Years Full-Time Master of Health Administration/ Health Care Management/Health Management from a recognized University OR 2 Years Full-Time MBA in (Health Administration/Health Management) from a recognized University OR 2 Years Full-Time PGDM (in Health Administration/ Health Management) from a recognized University Essential Work Experience: 03 Year of Relevant Experience of Working in Public Health Sector (Planning, Coordination and Monitoring for Health System Strengthening at State Level). Desired Skills: Proficiency in MS office
4	State Consultant IT IRIS	1	Rs. 45,000	Essential Educational Qualification:- Post-Graduate Degree in (Computer Science/Computer Application/IT) OR BE/B Tech (CS/IT7 Electronics & Telecommunications) Essential Work Experience:- Min 03 Year Experience in IT Domain/Call Center Applications/System Administrator/GPS Based Tracking Systems/Call Center in any Reputed Organization. Desirable Work Experience:- Preference will be given to those having experience in Emergency Response System related to Government Sector.

आवेदन सेम्स लिमिटेड के वेब पोर्टल www.sams.co.in के माध्यम से किया जा सकता है, आवेदन के लिए लिंक दिनांक 28.09.2022 से उपलब्ध किया जायेगा। ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 27.10.2022 है। ऑफ लाईन आवेदन किसी भी स्थिति में मान्य/स्वीकार नहीं किया जावेगा। उपरोक्त संविदा रिक्त पदों हेतु निर्धारित शैक्षणिक योग्यता, अनुभव, अन्य विवरण एवं नियम पुस्तिका सेम्स लिमिटेड के वेब पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध रहेंगी।

निर्धारित प्रारूप में नहीं किये गए अथवा अपूर्ण आवेदन निरस्त माने जायेंगे।

1. अंतिम तिथि के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

2. मिशन संचालक, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश किसी भी आवेदन को बिना कारण बताए, स्वीकृत/अथवा भर्ती प्रक्रिया को निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा।

मिशन संचालक
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन,
मध्यप्रदेश

G-17446/22

Wild elephants will not be burnt or buried anymore, carcass to be left for natural decomposition

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wild elephants dying of natural death or in man-animal conflict such as electrocution might not be incinerated or buried as has been the present norm. Instead, their carcass will be left in the open for natural decomposition and scavengers to feed on since they are an important source of energy and nutrients for predators.

However, those who are found poisoned, as confirmed by their post-mortem report, will continue to be buried, a senior official from the Union Environment Ministry said about the Government’s plan to tweak the current rules. “Once it is done, a notification will be issued in this regard soon for the States to follow the new norms,” he added.

In fact, Kerala has already taken a lead in this direction and way back in April had issued instructions to its forest

officials to leave open the body of the wild elephants in the natural ambience of the green habitat so that it can be decomposed on its own. Usually, huge earth has to be dug to bury the elephants which are mostly around 3000 kg in weight.

“Earlier a wild elephant after its death due to any reason used to be buried or burnt along with its tusks after its post-mortem. But now, if it is found to be succumbed due to natural causes or in conflicts like a rail hit or electrocution, the body will be left in the jungles so that other animals can feed on it. However, if found poisoned, then it will be buried so that other animals do not eat the poison-laced body” the official added.

He said that there have been incidents as captured by cameras, even tigers have been found to scavenge on mega-herbivores like jumbos. Experts

say that elephant carcasses provide various animals including tigers with easy availability of large quantum of biomass and also help them save the energy needed for hunting species like Sambar deer and spotted deer.

Elephants are increasingly becoming vulnerable because of the loss and degradation of their natural habitat. Many ventures closer to human settlements in search of food, and some are killed by poachers or farmers angry over damage to their crops.

At least 45 elephants were killed on railway tracks between 2019 and 2021, as per government data.

As per the last count in 2017, India has 29,964 elephants. According to Government data, on average, 500 people are killed annually by elephants, and about 100 elephants are killed in retaliation.

‘Removing toxic proteins from brain goal of most therapies for Alzheimer’s treatment’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists have identified a potential non-invasive therapy i.e. reducing the amount of toxic protein which, they said when aggregate is the main cause of neuro cell death causing Alzheimer’s disease.

These proteins are also present in the blood, and according to this expert of the UMA they are in equilibrium with the brain –if they increase in the brain, they increase in the blood, and vice versa. Based on these results, Moreno proposes removing these toxic aggregates as a target for Alzheimer’s disease therapy. The paper was published by the scientific journal Molecular Psychiatry, which belongs to the Nature Group.

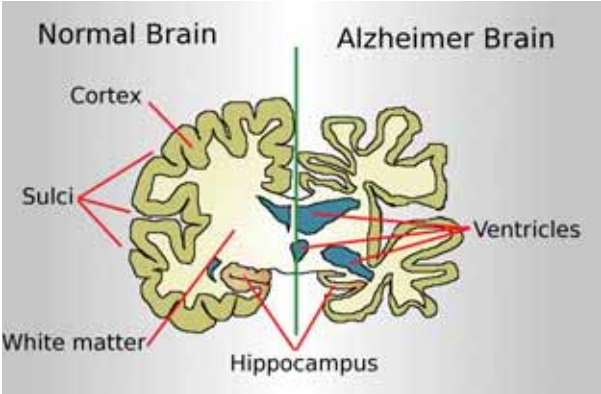
“Removing the toxic proteins from the brain is the goal

of most of the current therapies for Alzheimer’s disease”, explained scientist of the UMA, Inés Moreno, in collaboration with the University of Texas, of the UMA group “NeuroAD”.

“We have verified that if we remove toxins from the blood, they drain again from the brain to blood in search of equilibrium, improving the clinical signs and pathology of the disease”, says Moreno.

This finding “opens the door to potential non-invasive therapeutic strategies to be implemented at a circulatory level”.

“The study holds importance for India too given that Alzheimer’s disease is not only a health issue but also is a social problem as patients suffering from Alzheimer’s are converted to dementia patients within five years after which they cannot care for themselves,”



said Dr RP Parasher, Medical Superintendent of the Panchkarma hospital, Prashant Vihar in Delhi.

Dr Prashar suggested that people suffering from respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases and psychosomatic disorders can be treated by adopting a holistic approach

including ayurvedic medicines, Panchkarma therapy, yoga, counselling and psychotherapy.

“We have Ayush Post Covid Care Centre at the Panchkarma hospital which was started in July last year. Ayurvedic medicines like Ashwagandha, Jatamansi, Brahmi, Mandukparni,

Shankhpushpi, Turmeric, Tulsi, Giloy, Smriti Sagar Ras, Yogender Ras, etc. are quite effective to treat Alzheimer’s and Dementia,” he said, adding that recently they held a five-day camp for the treatment of the neurodegenerative disease.

At present more than 24 million people are suffering from Alzheimer’s around the world out of which 6.1 million are in India alone. Cases of Alzheimer’s are expected to increase threefold by 2050. People over the age of 60 years will contribute to 19% of the Indian population as reported by Dementia India Report.

Obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, smoking, and alcohol consumption are among the main factors responsible for developing Alzheimer’s disease besides the genetic coding.

Rahul’s Bharat Jodo Yatra revives Cong in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

As Rahul Gandhi completed more than half of his Bharat Jodo Yatra through Kerala, a marked change is discernible among the Congress cadre in the State. Even critics of the Grand Old Party accept the fact that the walkathon has brought the warring factions in the Kerala unit of the party together. For the first time in the history of the Congress in the State, no jarring note has been heard till Sunday evening. “Rahul is clear in his mission as the targets of his attacks are the BJP and RSS which are trying to divide the country on communal lines. The large scale participation of the minority communities in the Yatra that commenced from Kanyakumari prove that which way the wind is blowing in this part of the land,” said K C Venugopal, general secretary, AICC and the main strategist of



the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Even K Muralledharan MP, who does not miss any chance to criticise the party leadership was a picture of calm. Muralledharan, son of late K Karunaaran, the former Chief Minister of the State, followed Rahul as a Yatri and opted to be among the cadres rather than fighting for a place to be near the party supreme. Rahul’s subdued response to the Kerala CPI(M) leaders

who taunted the BJY was surprising. “I have a mission to complete and it is not against anybody other than the Prime Minister and the RSS. Perhaps leaders of other opposition parties too should think of launching a mission to infuse the people with confidence,” he said while addressing the media at Kochi. The unprecedented participation of youth in the Yatra, despite the KPCC not organis-

ing any rally, is being seen as the support that is being snow-balled in favour of the Nehru-Gandhi family scion. Despite his ruling out the possibility of contesting for the presidential election of the party, the leaders and cadre of the party in Kerala and Tamil Nadu are unanimous in their demand that Rahul Gandhi take over the party chief’s post. BJP leader Prakash Javadekar ridiculing the BJY has evoked strong condemnation from the civil society. “Javadekar should learn that those who stay in glass houses should not throw stones. How many elections he had contested other than the Rajya Sabha polls? He doesn’t deserve a reply,” said Mohammed Shiyaz, president, Ernakulam District Congress Committee who was the main organizer of the walkathon through the districts of Alappuzha and Ernakulam.

2 terrorists neutralised along LoC in Kupwara

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR

With the onset of the early winter season in the higher reaches of North Kashmir heavily armed group of terrorists from Pakistan have started making infiltration bids to sneak inside the Indian territory by breaching the barbed wire fencing along the line of control.

On Sunday morning a joint team of security forces comprising the jawans of the Jammu and Kashmir police and soldiers of the Indian army foiled a major infiltration bid by eliminating two terrorists along the LoC near Tekri Nar in the Macchal sector of Kupwara district.

The security forces were already keeping a tight vigil in the area following inputs from the Jammu and Kashmir police and other intelligence agencies about the possible movement of terrorists in the area.

Several teams were deployed in the area to plug the different infiltration routes. The undulating terrain in the



area becomes inhospitable during the winter season due to heavy accumulation of snowfall in the higher reaches and thick foliage.

According to a Srinagar based Defence PRO, “early Sunday morning alert troops observed two armed infiltrators crossing the LoC near Tekri Nar, Macchal around 7.30 a.m. The infiltrating terrorists were engaged by the troops. In the ensuing firefight both the terrorists were neutralised”. Till the time of filing the report the police had not confirmed the identities of the slain terrorists. However, huge recoveries were made which included, AK 47 rifles - 02, AK Mags - 06, AK 47 rounds - 53, Hand grenades - 04, Pistols - 02, Pistol Magazines - 02, Pistol Rounds - 35, Pak Currency and food items.

TMC, Mithun trade fire

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



War of words ensued between Mithun Chakrabarty and the Trinamool Congress with the latter calling the Mumbai mega star a “back stabber” who had no political commitment but “only looks for political convenience.” Chakrabarty hit back saying “those who resort to insulting other would one day fade into oblivion.”

The Mumbai actor who joined the BJP just before the 2021 Bengal Assembly elections was presently engaged in “Jan Sampark” (public relations) campaign in Bengal.

Referring to Chakrabarty’s claims that some TMC leaders were in touch with him and many would soon start joining the saffron outfit TMC Rajya Sabha MP Shantanu Sen said that Mumbai actor’s presence would only benefit the TMC as “no one takes him seriously and wherever will go the Trinamool Congress’ votes will increase as it happened in the last year’s Assembly elections.”

Claiming that Chakrabarty had been forced to campaign for the BJP Sen said “no one

knows under whose pressure he has come to campaign for the BJP ... no one knows whom he wants to save ... himself or his son ... in any case Mithun da’s presence will only help the Trinamool Congress in Bengal.”

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh attacked Chakrabarty for back-stabbing Mamata Banerjee. “There are some people who have no political commitment ... they only work to soothe their political convenience ... He started as a nax-alite, then he drew close to the Jyoti Basu and then Buddhadeb Bhattacharya ... then he became a TMC MP and backstabbed us before joining the BJP ... so he has no credibility ... no one will take him seriously ... like it was in 2021 Assembly elections when he drew large crowds but little votes,” Ghosh said.

Imam must apologize to country for Bhagwat gaffe: Muslim intellectuals.

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Muslim intellectuals have strongly objected to the calling of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat as the father of the nation and the sage of the nation by the head of the National imam organization, Imam Umar Ahmed Ilyasi. They say that Imam Ilyasi may have called the father of the nation for his personal benefit to please the RSS chief, but his statement has insulted the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

He should apologize to the countrymen for his statement. Imam Umar Ahmed Ilyasi had met Mohan Bhagwat, who had come at his invitation, at the mosque at Kasturba Gandhi Marg in Delhi. However, later Imam Ilyasi retracted from his statement. He said, he did not intend to compare Mohan Bhagwat with Mahatma Gandhi.

Professor Mufti Zahid Ali Khan, Former chairman of Theology department, AMU said that Imam Umar Ilyasi’s father Imam Jameel Ilyasi has also been close to the RSS. The imam would have made such a statement on the basis of his relationship. Power is worshipped, he bowed before that power.

Maulana Hassan Mohammad, Imam, AMU said that I do not understand this at all, the Imam behind whom there are countless numbers of people. He has come after the RSS chief for his own benefit, which is not a good thing.

Syed Nadir Abbas Naqvi, Secretary, Tanzimul Aza AMU said that the statement of Imam Umar Ahmed Ilyasi is supposed to please the RSS chief, but he forgot that he had insulted the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi. He should apologize for his statement.

Principal Secretary Nitishwar shifted from J&K Raj Bhawan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR

Top ranking Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer (Batch 1996), Nitishwar Kumar, currently serving on the post of Principal Secretary to LG Manoj Sinha in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, has been ‘abruptly’ shifted to New Delhi.

On Sunday, the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) posted Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to LG Manoj Sinha, as additional secretary and financial adviser, Ministry of Women and Children Development.

Kumar served Jammu and Kashmir for a period of little

over two years between 7 September 2020 till date.

Significantly, he was shifted at a time when LG Manoj Sinha was himself visiting California to attend IIT BHU Global Alumni Meet. Kumar was considered a close confidante of Sinha and had earlier served him when he was part of the Narendra Modi government between 2014-19.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had earlier approved the proposal of DoPT (Department of Personnel & Training) for inter-cadre deputation of Nitishwar Kumar from Uttar Pradesh cadre to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on September 7, 2020.

Vaishno Devi shrine all set to welcome pilgrims for Navratra



MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU


Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board authorities are fully geared up to welcome pilgrims from different parts of the country during the nine-day long Navratra festival beginning September 26.

Post Covid-19 pandemic it is for the first time the nine day long Navratra festival is being organised in Katra by the Department of Tourism in collaboration with the Shrine board and other agencies.


Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg said, “we are expecting more than three lakh pilgrims to


visit the cave shrine during the Navratra festival”. Around 70 lakh pilgrims have already performed darshan inside the sanctum sanctorum this year.

To create a spiritually stimulating atmosphere in and around the cave shrine area the board authorities have decorated the paths leading to the shrine with large varieties of imported flowers and fruits. Welcome gates have been erected to give a festive look to the Katra base camp as well. The board authorities have also illuminated the Bhawan area with attractive and colourful lights to give a scintillating look to the abode of Maa Vaishno devi nestled in Trikuta Hills.



Government of Haryana







The nation remembers
pioneer of socialism & sculptor
of a unique society who blessed
humanity with the mantra of
‘ एक रुपया, एक ईंट ’

Maharaja Agrasen Ji


on his Birth Anniversary

Monday, September 26, 2022




“Maharaja Agrasen Ji was the epitome of social harmony and a true Karmayogi. Maharaja Agrasen's work towards human welfare, philanthropy and upliftment of the underprivileged will always inspire us.”

- Narendra Modi



Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

www.prharyana.gov.in | Follow us on  @dipharyana

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Himalayas burning

A young girl, Ankita Bhandari, is murdered but Uttarakhand Govt’s response is sloppy

The murder of Ankita Bhandari, a 19-year-old female receptionist at a hotel, has exposed for the nth time the underbelly of Indian politics. A worker at the Vanantara Resort in Pauri district, she was allegedly killed by three persons, including the hotel’s owner who is the son of a Bharatiya Janata Party leader in Uttarakhand. According to media reports, the culprits wanted to push her into prostitution, which she resisted. She is also said to have resisted a molestation bid by the main accused Pulkrit Arya, son of Vinod Arya. The BJP has expelled Vinod Arya from the party. On Saturday, her body was recovered from a canal. Not surprisingly, the murder has sparked public outrage, not just in the Himalayan State but across the entire country. A young life was snuffed out because the son of a politician thought he could do whatever he wished to — kiss her forcibly, push her into prostitution, throw her into a canal — and get away with it. Ankita’s family members are not just angry but also suspicious of the decisions and actions of the Uttarakhand authorities. Ankita’s relatives and others disrupted the Srinagar-Kedarnath highway in protest. They have questioned the State Government’s decision to demolish the resort where the victim worked, alleging that it is a bid to destroy evidence. They have also refused to cremate the body until they get the final postmortem report. The provisional postmortem report states that Ankita died because of drowning.



The Opposition has supported the family’s stand. Calling it “a planned murder,” senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Harish Rawat said the demolition was carried out to destroy evidence. The Opposition has also accused the police of lethargy. It may be pointed out that it was the land revenue officials who registered the first information report in this case. Uttarakhand Police chief Ashok Kumar, however, didn’t find that awkward, claiming that the State has “a system of land revenue officials registering FIRs”. The real problem, however, is politicians’ disregard for their basic functions: keeping the administrative machinery well-oiled and maintaining law and order. This disregard is in direct proportion to their fondness for organising events. For instance, days before Ankita’s murder, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami celebrated his birthday with differently abled children at Dehradun. He called it Sankalp Diwas (Determination Day). A celebrated slogan of his party is ‘Beti bachao, beti padhao’. Dhami and other BJP leaders have said many nice things about the education and wellbeing of girl child, women empowerment, gender justice etc, and then there have been programmes like the one on Sankalp Diwas where homilies are delivered. But even a million homilies, platitudes and events can’t do what sound administration and good policing can. As it is, Dhami is on a weak wicket politically; he must realise that pro-forma clichés and actions like honouring kanwaris would do little good, but focus on governance can.



An artisan gives finishing touches to an idol of Goddess Durga ahead of Durga Puja, in Gurugram

Governor vs Govt

The spat between the Kerala Governor and the Chief Minister is most unfortunate

Yatha Raja, Tatho Praja (As the ruler, so his subjects) is an age-old saying. If the rulers are honest, the ruled too would be of the same genre, as per this adage. The rulers are the ones who set the benchmark of quality and standard in normal life. The stand-off featuring Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was a blot not only on democracy but on the entire political discourse. What started as a wordy duel soon degenerated into name-calling and using the choicest of abuses by certain CPI (M) leaders known for their contempt for civility. Arif Mohammed Khan should have used his reign in Thiruvananthapuram Raj Bhavan to learn that the Marxists are blunt and hubristic towards persons who do not agree with their line of thinking. Whenever they are in power, it is customary for the CPI (M) to appoint party fellow comrades and cadres as vice-chancellors, faculty members, and administrative staff in universities even if they do not meet the mandatory qualifications. The Marxists in Kerala are known for their uncompromising stance that the ‘Boss can never be wrong. Being a scholarly person as claimed by BJP leaders, the Governor should have read George Orwell’s Animal Farm before landing in Thiruvananthapuram.



The issue before the Governor is that certain legislations enacted by the Assembly to strengthen the CPI (M)-led Government with the power to appoint people of their choice in all Government departments and to do away with the authority of Lok Pal, the official whistleblower. Arif Mohammed Khan could have signed the Bills or sent the same for the opinion of constitutional experts. There was no need for the Governor to interact with the Kerala media which the Raj Bhavan itself has pronounced as ‘hostile’ and ‘partial’. The Chief Minister, while rebuking the Governor for speaking in a language that does not suit the position being held by the latter, should have asked his comrades too to not cross the Lakshman Rekha. One of the party commissars was sentenced to a jail term for calling High Court judges ‘illiterates’ and ‘imbeciles’. A good Governor should have taken a cue from Queen Elizabeth, the former monarch of Great Britain who, having worked with more than two dozen Prime Ministers, left a mark of elegance and aristocracy on her tenure. Despite facing myriad personal and official issues, the Queen remained a cool customer and a role model for other heads of State. Khan should have emulated the Queen.

We are all style, no substance!

India has become a jejune society which is happy cheering optics rather than being concerned with issues concerning the larger good of all

It seems that to the vast majority of us in this country, from every stratum of society, what matters most, is keeping up appearances rather than concentrating on the substantive aspect of the issue. A characteristic that we are willing to defend at any cost, in the courts, indulging in verbal jousting and even letting loose bulldozers.

Take for instance the issue of developing patriotism within our citizenry. Undoubtedly a noble endeavour, but hardly likely to be fulfilled by launching a one-week concerted drive to convince citizens to fly the national flag on their balconies or in their cars, that is if it is to be anything more than just a marketing gimmick. Yet the Central Government did just that with the “*Har Ghar Tiranga*” initiative, launched by the Prime Minister, just prior to our Nation’s 75th Independence Day.

Leaving that aside, obviously the initiative had not been thought through and it fizzled out the day after 15th August, leaving us to view terrible optics as most flags ended up strewn on roads and in garbage dumps. Hardly a reflection of either national pride or reverence for our National Flag. Yet, if more substantive thought had been given and their disposal catered for, this rather unsavoury spectacle could have been avoided. Or, for that matter, take the recent unveiling of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s statue at India Gate by the Prime Minister with much fanfare. It was a much-deserved recognition of the vital contribution to our freedom struggle, not just by Netaji, but the soldiers of the Azad Hind Fauj and other liberation armies, of which we are mostly ignorant. The Italian organized and led “*Battaglione Azad Hindoustan*” of *Centro Militare* and the German-led “*Legion FreiesIndien* (Free Indian Legion)” which was first established by Netaji before he moved to Japan. Our history books focussed on the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, and the Congress, while conveniently ignoring the sacri-



fice of tens of thousands of men and women, despite over twenty thousand of them having been martyred.

Indeed, one must thank the Prime Minister for this long overdue gesture, but in truth, it has turned out to be just an illusion, largely bereft of any substance, by which Prime Minister Modi and the BJP clearly hope to benefit at the hustings. That would have required the government to institute measures to assist the handful of veterans of the INA and other rebel armies still alive, including those living in penury and without recognition in Myanmar, Malaysia, and Singapore. Indeed, their sacrifice was no lesser than that made by others who fought for our freedom on Indian soil. Surely, knowing Netaji’s character, such a gesture would have been preferable to that of rose petals being devoutly showered on his likeness by the Prime Minister under the glare of television cameras.

But, why just stop there? This Government could, and indeed should offer to assume responsibility for further beautification and upkeep of the INA Memorial at the Esplanade in Singapore. An important historical symbol of our Independence struggle, it was re-constructed by the

“
WE ARE NOW A NATION WHERE FICTION GETS MORE TRACTION THAN FACTS. UNVARNISHED TRUTH MAKES US DISTINCTLY UNCOMFORTABLE AND LESS CERTAIN OF OURSELVES

Singapore Government, with contributions from the local Indian community, at the site of the original monument, established to commemorate the unknown warrior of the INA. It had been desecrated and destroyed by Pandit Nehru’s great friend and mentor, Mountbatten, immediately after the British reoccupied Singapore. Incidentally, its foundation stone had been laid by Netaji himself.

We are now a nation where fiction gets more traction than facts. Unvarnished truth makes us distinctly uncomfortable and less certain of ourselves. It would not be incorrect to suggest that we have made ignorance an art form, allowing public relations departments of political parties to spin facts to Gobbelsian proportions, with some more adept than others. What else can explain the utter complacency and complete absence of outrage at the manner in which Chinese land grab in Eastern Ladakh has been accepted and formalised by this government?

While Prime Minister Modi may have been visibly displeased with President Xi, because of this, at the SCO Summit in Uzbekistan, actions speak louder than words and nothing can take away from the fact that this



DEEPAK SINHA

‘nationalist’ government capitulated in Ladakh. However, we can all rest assured our braves who gave their lives at Galwan have not done so in vain. This Government will certainly undertake the construction of a memorial to honour them. For obvious reasons, it will not be where they fought and died but closer home, because as Pandit Nehru once said “*not even a blade of grass grows there!*”

Finally, one may recall that our Russian friends, ignoring their military’s ignominious collapse in Ukraine, with humongous casualties to boot, have preferred instead to deify Putin’s follies by celebrating his opening of the largest Ferris wheel in Europe. Not to be outdone, we too have avoided thinking about our loss of sovereign territory by presenting our beloved Prime Minister with eight Cheetahs from Namibia, at taxpayers’ cost of course, on his birthday, much in the way our royalty was treated in days gone by. (The writer is a military veteran who is a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi, and a Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DOLLARISE YOUR INVESTMENTS

Sir — The Indian rupee has breached the ₹80 mark against the US dollar and touched ₹81.22. The rupee lost 1.5 percent in two days, said to be owing to the US Federal Open Market Committee’s decision to raise the federal funds’ target rate. The dollar is expected to strengthen even further. Asheesh Chanda, CEO & Founder, Kristal.AI and winner of the Indian Achievers’ Award 2021, has this to say, “As an Indian investor, one would be well advised to dollarise their investments as even rupee is expected to decline further this year.” This is a stinging recommendation.

In 1947, the year India got freedom, the exchange rate of the Indian rupee was ₹3.30 per dollar. Gradually, the dollar strengthened against the rupee to mark ₹59.44 per dollar in May 2014; the average yearly depreciation was ₹0.84. The Indian rupee weakened rapidly between 2014 and 2022 at an average of ₹2.64 per year to register an exchange rate of ₹81.22 per dollar now. Economists are of the view that it is a weak economy that tends to weaken its currency. Currency depreciation triggers inflation, slows economic growth, and widens fiscal deficits. There is no denying the fact that India currently suffers from all these adverse conditions. Or, is the value of the rupee falling “because of corruption?” The free fall in the value of the Indian rupee is destined to influence the living conditions of the people negatively.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

HIJAB DEBATE RAGES ON

Sir — A Supreme Court bench is hearing a batch of petitions challenging the ban on wearing a Hijab in educational institutions in Karnataka. The Karnataka Government cites Iran’s anti-hijab protests to back cases in the Supreme Court. Karnataka Government told Supreme Court that women revolting against Hijab even in Islamic countries like Iran

The Opposition matrix



Opposite unity appears difficult because each regional party has its own issues with the center and there is no common agenda on which they can come together. In the last assembly election, cut money was raised full throat by BJP but TMC managed to get the majority. Corruption which was visible to BJP finally has been investigated deeply by all the central agencies and they have already succeeded in rounding up at least four big wigs. It is enough to cool down Mamata Banerjee.

RK Aarya | Faridabad

and hence ban against Hijab in Karnataka institutions is justified. Some even are citing examples that in Pakistan girls are not wearing hijabs in stadiums, whereas in India women are protesting against hijabs. One thing should be clear if Women in Iran are protesting against hijabs or women not wearing hijabs in stadiums or somewhere else it will not become rule of law. Iran has grabbed global attention for the wrong reasons. Protests in Iran are continuing because a 22-year girl Mahsa Amini was brutally killed by Moral police demons for not wearing Hijab. It is observed that Amini was arrested and punished by police in the process of re-educating her for not properly following stringent and mandatory Hijab regulations. Outrageous Iranian women are cutting off their long hair and removing their Hijab and burning it on the streets before the force of tear gas canisters and police.

Now a buzz is created that Iranian women are against Hijab. The Iranian women are protesting against the cruelties and brutally attacking women by moral police in Iran. The police are beat-

ing women and even kicking them for not wearing Hijab. Women in protest are burning hijabs in Iran in atrocities carried out by moral police and they are demanding that wearing Hijab should not be compulsory and it should be a matter of choice.

Hijab is a religious practice in Islam. For Islamic women, wearing a Hijab is an act of faith and obedience to the creator. It provides Muslim women with both spiritual and physical peace in harmony. For Muslims wearing a head scarf is not only about religious expression, it is strictly a religious obligation. Still, the Quran permits that wearing of Hijab should be a matter of choice. We cannot compare Iran’s women protesting against the Hijab and Indian women protesting the ban on wearing of Hijab in the same manner. One thing that is common between women protesting in Iran and women in India is that both want to wear the Hijab should once be a matter of choice and there is no right for the Government to interfere in it.

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

If the Hindus of Hindustan and our Marathis Hindus decide to take the matter in their hands, then what these scoundrel will face?

MNS chief —Raj Thackeray

Indian parliament member Rahul Gandhi is walking to Kashmir - from Kerala...Yes - solidarity - to all anti-fascists everywhere!

American actor —John Cusack

Less price. Less arrogance. Less star fees. More research. More content. More Bharat. Simple solution for Bollywood’s resurrection.

Filmmaker —Vivek Agnihotri

Fantastic win for the Indian girls. A fitting tribute to Jhulan Goswami with a series win.

Former cricketer —Virender Sehwag

It appears that you (Mann) are too much angry with me. I think your legal advisers are not briefing you adequately.

Punjab Governor —Banwarilal Purohit

FIRST COLUMN

INDIA MAKING DRUGS, VACCINES FOR WORLD

COVID-19 affirmed India's status as a global pharma manufacturer



NIKKHIL K MASURKAR

In the ever-increasing demand for pharmaceutical solutions and products globally, the Indian pharmaceutical industry has certainly established itself as a significant contributor. During the COVID-19 pandemic, India has been on the forefront with a huge export volume of medicines and medical equipment to different countries to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus, which included exports of over 65 million vaccines globally.

India continues to play a key role in producing various critical, high quality and affordable medicines for domestic and global markets. India caters to 50-60 per cent of the global demand for different vaccines, including ARVs. Almost 40 per cent of generic drugs consumed in the United States and 25 per cent of all the medicines dispensed in the United Kingdom are supplied by India.

India accounts for 60 per cent of global vaccine production, contributing 40-70 per cent of the WHO demand for Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DPT) and BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) vaccines, and 90 per cent of the WHO demand for measles vaccine.

With low-cost skilled manpower and a solid domestic production base, India is gradually emerging as a global base for pharma manufacturing. The Indian pharmaceutical industry has gained from steps taken by the government such as changes in industrial policy, patent law and investments in developing indigenous capacity. Indian pharmaceuticals only had a five per cent share of the market in India, while foreign-owned pharmaceutical companies had a 95 per cent share in 1947.



However, fast forward to 2020, domestic companies held close to an 85 per cent share of the pharma market. By regulating prices through 'Drug Prices Control Order' and encouraging the manufacture of generic drugs, the government paved the way for the growth of both public-sector and private companies. It was the changes in the Indian Patent Act of 1970 that led to a booming generics drugs industry in India which was valued at \$33 billion in 2017.

India joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in the 90's and had to sign the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement. Though this created certain challenges for the industry, India continued to build on its advantages and manufacture lifesaving and affordable drugs, vaccines and diagnostics which rightfully earned it the moniker—pharmacy of the world.

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is also gaining from research, innovation and manufacturing. An Indian company was the first to develop novel processes for manufacturing a Hepatitis B vaccine and reduce prices to less than \$1 per dose. After WHO prequalification, low-cost mass vaccination was enabled globally through organizations like UNICEF.

In 2002, an Indian pharmaceutical company partnered with the MVP (Meningitis Vaccine Project) in 2002 and successfully manufactured and licensed MenAfriVac (an affordable Meningitis-A conjugate vaccine for Africa) in 2010, the first internationally qualified vaccine that was developed outside the major multinational pharmaceutical companies.

In another notable achievement, an Indian pharmaceutical company became the world's first to launch a clinically proven Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine against typhoid fever and received prequalification from WHO. In 2015, an Indian pharma company launched ROTAVAC- the cheapest Rotavirus vaccine in the world at \$1 per dose.

While the government has introduced several initiatives to boost the advancement of research and development in the pharmaceutical sector, more innovations are required to become the global pharmaceutical leader. It is crucial to create an inclusive environment for industry experts, academicians and other stakeholders to have a common platform for the advancement of R&D in the pharmaceutical sector.

(The author is CEO, Entod Pharmaceuticals)

Xi's Taiwan takeover has to wait till 2027

The Chinese Army is not yet ready for an invasion of Taiwan, and necessary modernisation will take some more time



SONAL SHUKLA

Sun Tzu in *The Art of War* wrote: "All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must appear inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near."

History is the witness of the fact that Chinese attacks occur when they are least expected. 2022 is not the year for World War III to begin. China is not ready for a war yet; it doesn't possess enough defence equipment for the invasion presently, and its forces are also not fully prepared for the joint-op amphibious assault needed for the task.

It is also the year when Xi Jinping seeks re-election for an unprecedented third term in the 20th Party Congress, and therefore seeks stability and eschews boldness. Post re-election, Xi, with uncontested authority, is expected to assert an even more aggressive foreign policy, intervening more directly in disputes on China's periphery (Taiwan and border row with India might be the focal areas) and pushing more forcefully against the United States' presence in the Pacific. The American Congress' scrambling to pass a bill on semiconductor chips is also a signal of the upcoming conflict over Taiwan. The Pentagon has assessed that China will not invade Taiwan for the next two years. The CIA Director has warned that as we move into the decade the risk of Taiwan's invasion aggravates.

Unification of Taiwan is a matter of personal legacy for Xi and essential part of his "China dream"—the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" with the CCP leading China's reemergence as a great power—so Chinese move over Taiwan can most probably happen in his third term, if not, then certainly in his fourth.

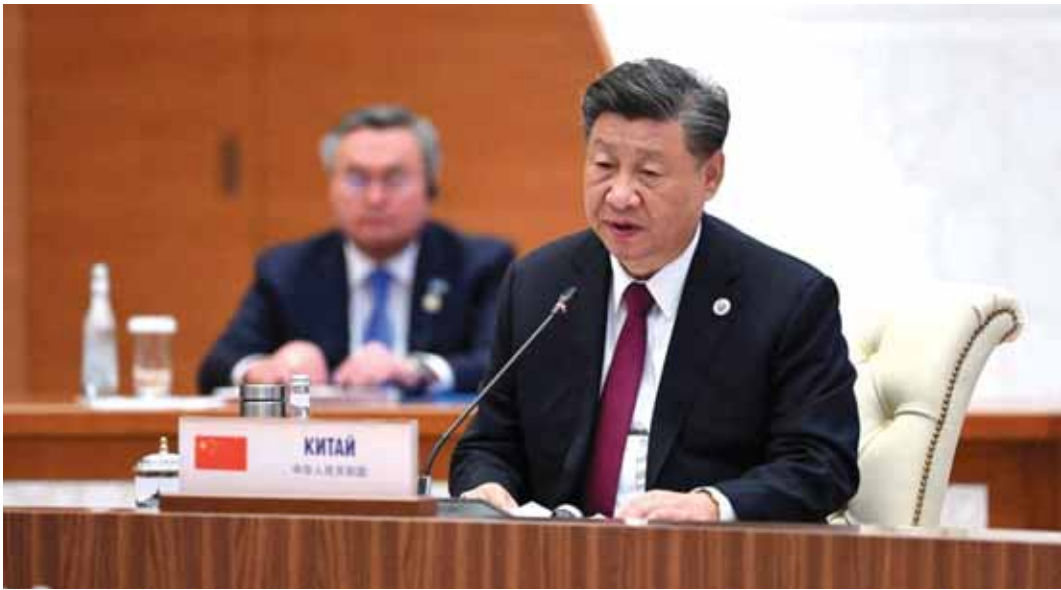
Chinese military modernisation was pre-poned to 2035 in 2017 by Xi; the key parts of modernisation are set to be achieved by 2027. So, there exists greater probability of an invasion in the later part of the decade, instead of earlier. Eruption of an accidental war due to increasing hostilities between Taipei and Beijing or with Washington can never be ruled out, but the chances should be rather slim. Xi would not want to repeat Putin's blunder, and attack before China is fully prepared to take over Taipei in an assured short swift move.

US Army General Douglas MacArthur had described Taiwan as "an unsinkable aircraft carrier and submarine tender." It possesses an enormous value from strategic and security perspective for Beijing as well as Washington: keeping a hold over the crucial Philippine Sea -- the waters between East and South China sea and Western Pacific, stretching from Japan to Indonesia and Taiwan to the sec-



'UNIFICATION' OF TAIWAN IS A MATTER OF PERSONAL LEGACY FOR XI AND AN ESSENTIAL PART OF HIS 'CHINA DREAM' — THE 'GREAT REJUVENATION OF THE CHINESE NATION WITH THE CCP LEADING CHINA'S REEMERGENCE AS A GREAT POWER

(The author is a foreign policy expert)



ond island chain, wherein falls the US military base Guam. Beijing's control of Taipei would markedly improve Chinese military position by increasing its ocean surveillance capabilities and operations of its submarines in Philippine Sea, curtailing American military's ability to operate there, impeding US naval and air operations needed to come to the defence of its treaty allies Japan, South Korea and Philippines in case of Chinese aggression over disputed islands.

Without the control over Taiwan, in case of a conflict between US and China, Washington would destroy China's surface radar system and its warships could move in the Philippine Sea without much danger of detection; however, a control over Taiwan would allow China to deploy hydrophones off the island's eastern coast, which has much deeper waters as compared to waters around first island chain that Beijing controls presently. These difficult to destroy hydrophones would give away the location of US warships thousands of miles away; thus, being a game changer.

Detected US warships will be easy targets of the Chinese submarines moving freely in the Philippine Sea. This will leave the US incapable of protecting its interests in the Pacific. North-East Asian shipping lanes will also become vulnerable to Chinese control in case of a takeover.

As the biggest semiconductor chip supplier, and almost a monopolistic manufacturer of nano chips, Taipei holds great economic and technological signifi-

cance for Washington as well as Beijing. Control over Taipei could drastically enhance Beijing's space, military and economic advancement while paralyzing Western technological-industrial complex.

Salami slicing is a well-known policy that Beijing adopts in conflicts. It involves creating a non-regular presence in the disputed area, then turning that into a sustained occupation or routine presence.

From denying the existence of the median line and routinely crossing it, violating Taiwan's ADIZ to declaring Taiwan straits as not international waters but under Chinese control, undertaking military drills around the island and creating blockades, Beijing is creating a new normal.

Interestingly, this time around, Beijing had accused Washington for using salami slicing over its 'One China Policy'. The US is not just inching forward in its ties with Taiwan -- commencing the trade initiative to bolster trade and investment between them, high level visits to the island -- but even the policy of "strategic ambiguity" is held all for smoke and mirrors. Biden has declared three times that the US will be involved militarily if the invasion takes place. It is American domestic law -- Taiwan Relations Act, 1979 -- to help Taiwan defend itself in case of use of force by Beijing; importantly, not coming to Taiwan's defence runs counter to Washington's self-interest.

In the invasion scenario simulated by Beijing, its weak spots have been noticed as precision logistics which is crucial for

amphibious assault that's needed for invasion. The PLA was also found deficient in amphibious vessels and trained personnel for complex logistics missions and military transport aircraft. Xi has directed China's defence industry to produce weapons specifically designed to prevent the US forces from intervening to help Taipei or other allies in the region. Such weapons include increasingly accurate and lethal ballistic and cruise missiles, integrated air-defence systems and anti-satellite weapons, backed by a growing stockpile of nuclear weapons.

Washington is preparing Taiwan for an asymmetric warfare, supplying anti-ship missiles and air-to-air weapons. Taiwan has shifted its defense planning to "porcupine strategy" involving mines, short range missiles, civil defense and guerilla resistance. How direct the American involvement would be during the invasion is difficult to predict, however its military involvement is most probable.

The invasion is bound to be long-drawn out one and Taiwan's preparedness militarily, food and other essential supplies wise would be an essential factor in holding out to China. But the determining factor ultimately will be the resolve of the common Taiwanese people. Taiwan is the toughest and most dangerous problem in the world for Washington as well as Beijing.

A long-stretched out conflict might become a disaster for the Chinese economy and can create political instability and problems for Xi's leadership and the CCP.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHY ONLY KERALA WITNESSED UNRULY SCENES THOUGH PFI WAS RAIDED ACROSS THE NATION? IT WAS A DARK DAY IN KERALA.

—BJP LEADER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR



IN THE HARTAL, LED BY THE PFI, KERALA WITNESSED PRE-MEDITATED VIOLENCE. THE STATE SAW AN ORGANISED AND VIOLENT INTERFERENCE.

—KERALA CHIEF MINISTER PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Digitised healthcare depends on faster connectivity

Digital health delivery is gaining popularity, but its expansion in rural India will bank on connectivity

Like most industries and spheres of life, healthcare too is undergoing digitization in India at many levels. Even as the government has led from the front with its landmark National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), now rechristened Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), the private sector is also embracing digitization. At least in metro cities and big towns apart from a few in smaller cities, several private as well as public hospitals providing tertiary care have been engaged in setting up (or upgrading) some form of digital infrastructure and allocating resources and personnel in the recent past. This would also involve the implementation of healthcare IT applications in terms of Hospital Information System, Hospital

NITENDRA SESODIA

(The author is Senior Director, Medical Communication & Corporate sales, Thieme)

Management Information System and Electronic Medical Records (EMR), etc., to manage the patient data in electronic format.

Likewise, patients too are evolving into more digital technology-savvy healthcare receivers, using smartphones and other devices to not just store diagnostic reports and doctors' prescriptions but also to make appointments, consult, use home-based diagnostics and testing facilities and order medicines.

The NDHM was launched as a pilot in six UTs in 2020 when three principal registries such as Health ID, Health Professional Registry (HPR), Health Facility Registry (HFR) and digital infrastructure for data exchange were developed and implemented. Building on

this success, the programme was expanded in a country-wide rollout in September 2021, focussing on key components such as Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), Health Facility Registry, ABHA App, Healthcare Professionals Registry and Unified Health Interface (UHI). Within a year, the programme has registered considerable success.

As of Sep 12, 2022 according to ABDM website, an impressive over 24 crore ABHA numbers have been created with 1,44,371 health facilities and 69,312 health professionals having registered, along with over seven lakh health records App downloads. By July this year, as many as 52 digital health services/applications have integrated with ABDM including 32 private entities.

Besides, by July end, there were as many as 919 healthtech innovators in the ABDM Sandbox, a digital space for experiment of integration before a digital app or health product is made live for the actual use.

While the over 24 crore ABHA numbers may already constitute one-sixth of India's population, the truth remains that a large part of the healthcare value chain remains outside the government-driven ABDM initiative. According to the government's own data, of nearly 12 lakh healthcare facilities, a mere 1.4 lakh have joined the ABDM platform. Similarly, of the 50 lakh healthcare professionals today, only 69,000 joining the platform is again an insignificant number.

According to the National Health Profile 2019, only 65 per

cent of primary health centres in rural India had computers. And the fact that over 65 per cent of rural India still has no internet.

However, it has only been a year since the nation-wide ABDM launch was done. The foundations for a country-wide infrastructure for internet and digital connectivity will ensure a far better internet-penetrated India in the next 25 years. It is likely that initially the healthcare facilities in tier I and II towns will take the digital path.

All the stakeholders in the entire value chain need to reach consensus for ensuring readiness as well as interest of all, including regulators and agencies in states, healthcare service providers, hospitals, healthcare professionals, diagnostic labs, healthcare soft-

ware vendors, digital consent solution providers, EHR/EMR/PHR solution providers, hardware makers and insurance companies.

Given that more than 75 per cent of outpatients and 60 per cent of inpatients get treatment in private facilities, it is important to incentivize the private players sufficiently. Accordingly, suitable PPP models need to be worked out. Moreover, the patient record makers and the software providers need to be convinced to design interoperable systems such as free and open source software.

Similarly, hospitals would need to upgrade their systems. Importantly, privacy and confidentiality of data must be ensured through legal framework as well as technological innovations.

Already, India has seen the emergence of an incredible number of healthtech startups. In a world of IoT, the advent of AI, machine learning and robotic process automation (RPA) is not only catalyzing better clinical decision-making and personalization of treatment but also helping authorities in terms of healthcare research, affordable drug discoveries, disease surveillance and even prediction of diseases. So, digitisation is vastly improving our public health delivery mechanism. The mammoth Covid-19 vaccination exercise carried out successfully through the digital platform in a country-wide operation is illustrative of this improvement even as we continue to work on and refine the ABDM. By 2047, the healthcare network will be far more efficiently digitalised.

Winter’s approach sets clock ticking for Ukraine, Russia

AP ■ KYIV

The onset of autumnal weather, with rains making fields too muddy for tanks, is beginning to cloud Ukraine’s efforts to take back more Russian-held territory before winter freezes the battlefields, a Washington-based think tank said Sunday.

Russia, meanwhile, pressed on with its call-up of hundreds of thousands of men to throw into the seven-month war, seeking to reverse its recent losses. It also deployed suicide drones Sunday against the Ukrainian port city of Odesa, Ukrainian authorities said. No casualties were immediately reported.

The Russian mobilisation — its first such call-up since World War II — is sparking protests in Russian cities, with fresh demonstrations Sunday.

It is also opening splits in Europe about whether fighting-age Russian men fleeing in droves should be welcomed or turned away.

For Ukrainian and Russian military planners, the clock is ticking, with the approach of winter expected to make fighting more complicated. Already, rainy weather is bringing

muddy conditions that are starting to limit the mobility of tanks and other heavy weaponry, according to the Institute for the Study of War.

But the think tank said Ukrainian forces are still gaining ground in their counteroffensive, launched in late August, that has spectacularly rolled back the Russian occupation across large areas of the northeast and which also prompted Russian President Vladimir Putin’s new drive for reinforcements.

The partial mobilisation has triggered an exodus of men seeking to avoid the draft — and sharp differences of opinion in Europe about how to deal with them. Lithuania, a European Union member-country that borders Kaliningrad, a Russian Baltic Sea exclave, said it won’t grant them asylum. “Russians should stay and fight. Against Putin,” Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis tweeted.

His counterpart in Latvia, also an EU member and bordering Russia, said the exodus poses “considerable security risks” for the 27-nation bloc and that those fleeing can’t be considered conscientious objectors against the invasion.



Many “were fine with killing Ukrainians, they did not protest then,” the Latvian foreign minister, Edgars Rinkēvics, tweeted. He added that they have “plenty of countries outside EU to go.”

Officials in other EU nations, however, say Europe has a duty to help, and fear that turning away Russians could play into Putin’s hands, feeding his narrative that the West has always hated Russians and that the war is being waged to safeguard their country against

Western hostility.

“Closing our frontiers would fit neither with our values nor our interests,” a 40-strong group of senators in France said in a statement. They urged the EU to grant refugee status to Russians fleeing mobilization and said turning them away would be “a mistake by Europe in the war of communication and influence that is playing out.”

The mobilization is also running hand-in-hand with Kremlin-orchestrated votes in

four occupied regions of Ukraine that could pave the way for their imminent annexation by Russia. Ukraine and its Western allies say the referendums in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south and the eastern Luhansk and Donetsk regions have no legal force. The votes are set to wrap up Tuesday but are being dismissed in Ukraine and the West as a sham, with footage showing armed Russian troops going door to door to pressure Ukrainians into voting.

On Ukraine, Russia repeats its claim that it had no choice

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Russia made its case to the world Saturday for its war in Ukraine, repeating a series of grievances about its neighbor and the West to tell the U.N. General Assembly meeting of leaders that Moscow had “no choice” but to take military action.

After days of denunciations of Russia at the prominent diplomatic gathering, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov sought to shift the focus to Washington. His speech centered on a claim that the United States and its allies — not Russia, as the West maintains — are aggressively undermining the international system that the U.N. Represents.

Invoking history ranging from the U.S. War in Iraq in the early 2000s to the 20th-century Cold War to a 19th-century U.S. Policy that essentially proclaimed American influence over the Western Hemisphere, Lavrov portrayed the U.S. As a bully that tries to afford itself “the sacred right to act with impunity wherever and wherever they want” and can’t accept a world where others also advance their national interests.



“The United States and allies want to stop the march of history,” he maintained.

The US and Ukraine didn’t retort at the assembly on Saturday but can still offer formal responses later in the meeting. Both countries’ presidents have already given their own speeches describing Russia as a dangerous aggressor that must be stopped. Lavrov, for his part, accused the West of aiming to “destroy and fracture Russia” in order to “remove from the global map a geopolitical entity that has become all too independent.”

The Ukraine war has largely dominated the discussion at the assembly’s big annual meeting, and many countries have

laid into Russia for its Feb. 24 invasion — denouncing its nuclear threats, alleging it has committed atrocities and war crimes, and lambasting its decision to mobilize call up some of its reserves even as the assembly met. “Neither partial mobilization, nuclear saber-rattling, nor any other escalation will deter us from supporting Ukraine,” Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde declared Saturday.

Russia does have some friends in the sprawling chamber, and one — Belarus — offered a full-throated defense Saturday of its big neighbor. Echoing Russia’s talking points, Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei said

‘We got our miracle’: Freed Americans back home in Alabama

AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Two U.S. military veterans who disappeared three months ago while fighting with Ukrainian forces against Russia arrived home to Alabama on Saturday, greeted by hugs, cheers and tears of joy at the state’s main airport.

Alex Drueke, 40, and Andy Huynh, 27, had gone missing June 9 in the Kharkiv region of northeastern Ukraine near the Russian border. The Alabama residents were released as part of a prisoner exchange. The pair had traveled to Ukraine on their own and bonded over their shared home state.

“It’s them!” a family member shouted as the pair appeared at the top of an escalator at the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport in Birmingham, one of Alabama’s largest cities.

Smiling but looking tired, the two were pulled into long emotional hugs by family members after their connecting flight home. Then they were whisked to a waiting car.

“Surreal. I still have chill bumps. I always imagined this day. I always held not just hope but belief in this day. But I thought it was going to be two or three years from now at best,” said Drueke’s aunt, Dianna Shaw.



“There are prisoners of war who have been held for months and years. There are people who have been detained wrongfully for years and for this to come about in three months is, just, unimaginable to me,” she added. “Even though I’m living it, it feels unimaginable, and I don’t want people to forget all the Ukrainians who are still being held.”

The families of the two men announced their release on Wednesday. The men were among 10 prisoners released by Russian-backed separatists as part of a prisoner exchange mediated by Saudi Arabia. The Saudi embassy said five British nationals and others from Morocco,

Sweden and Croatia also were freed.

Darla Black, whose daughter is engaged to Huynh, said she thought, “there he is. There he is” as Huynh came into view.

“I had to get my hands on him to actually believe it. I’m just overwhelmed with gratitude. We got our miracle,” Black said.

The men had arrived Friday at New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport.

“We’re looking forward to spending time with family and we’ll be in touch with the media soon,” Drueke said shortly after arriving in New York with Huynh. “Happy to be home.”

Serbian Minister defends deal with Russia amid criticism

AP ■ BELGRADE (SERBIA)

Serbia’s foreign minister on Sunday sought to play down the importance of an agreement with Russia after the Balkan state that is seeking European Union membership faced criticism for signing it.

Nikola Selakovic signed the agreement on Friday along with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York, where most Western delegations shunned Russia’s top diplomat over the country’s invasion of Ukraine.

Selakovic said at a news conference on Sunday that the agreement is a “technical” one and relates to bilateral ties, but not security issues.

Serbia has been signing similar documents with Russia since 1996, Selakovic insisted. “The government could have rejected such a plan but there is nothing contentious in it,” he added. “It is being criticised by those who haven’t seen it.”

The consultation plan covered by the agreement is expected to last for two years,



Serbia’s foreign ministry said in a Friday statement.

Serbia officially is a candidate for European Union membership, but the government maintains good relations with Russia.

The news of the deal triggered harsh criticism from the pro-EU opposition at home and some EU politicians.

A member of the European Parliament from Germany, Viola von Cramon, suggested the possible suspension of EU accession talks with Serbia. “This is a serious scandal,”

von Cramon said on Twitter. “In the midst of raging war, (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Serbia signs the plan on future collaboration with the aggressor.” Von Cramon added that “maybe it’s just a signal for us to freeze the EU accession talks as entering the EU does not go through Moscow.”

Another European Parliament member, Vladimir Bilcik from Slovakia, described the agreement with Russia as a “serious blow” to the accession process in the Western Balkans.

CPC says all delegates ‘elected’ for Oct’s key CPC Congress under guidelines set by President Xi

PTI ■ BEIJING

The countdown for next month’s key Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) began as the ruling party on Sunday announced that all delegates totalling nearly 2,300 were “elected” for the once-in-a-five year meeting in which President Xi Jinping is widely expected to get endorsed for a record third term.

A total of 2,296 delegates were “elected” to attend the upcoming 20th National Congress of the CPC to be held on October 16, official media reported, citing a statement by the party here.

Scotching rumours and speculation over tensions within the ruling party over Xi’s continuation for an unprecedented third term, the statement said that the delegates were elected “under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era,” and in accordance with the Party’s Constitution, adopting methods required by the CPC Central Committee.

Xi, 69, himself was “elect-

ed” as a delegate to the Congress in April this year, according to the party’s earlier announcement.

The process upheld the Party’s nature and purpose, adhered to and enhanced the Party’s overall leadership, and fully embodied intra-party democracy, the statement said.

The Congress, in which Xi is expected to get endorsed for an unprecedented third term, is being held amid a big purge of top security officials, stated to be part of a “political clique” opposed to the Chinese President.

Three security officials were sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve this week for corruption, raising eyebrows about the sudden surge of punishments ahead of the Congress.

Sun Lijun, former vice minister of public security who was accused of heading a “political clique” opposed to Xi, was sentenced to death on Friday with a two-year reprieve for taking bribes, manipulating the stock market and illegally possessing firearms by the Intermediate People’s Court of Changchun in northeast



China’s Jilin Province.

A day before that the same court sentenced Fu Zhenghua, former Justice Minister and one of China’s most powerful police chiefs, to death with a two-year reprieve for indulging in corruption amounting to USD 17.3 million and abuse of power. Hours later, the same court gave a similar sentence to former Jiangsu official Wang Like. He was also sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve for bribery, conniving with criminal gangs and faking identity cards, official media here reported.

Since he came to power in

2012, Xi has carried out a shock and awe anti-corruption campaign in which over a million officials, including dozens of top military officers, were punished. The CPC holds a Congress every five years. But this year’s Congress is regarded as significant, as it is a leadership change year for the century-old party.

Xi, heading the party, the military and Presidency, is due to complete his 10-year tenure.

As per the norm widely followed since the death of party founder Mao Zedong in 1976, all Xi’s predecessors strictly followed a 10-year tenure keeping

up with the directive of Mao’s successor Deng Xiaoping.

Deng, regarded as Paramount Leader for his pragmatic social and economic policies introducing market reforms diluting socialist ideology, directed the leaders to strictly confine to a 10-year tenure to ensure the emergence of new and collective leadership to avert some of the excesses like Cultural Revolution pursued by Mao in which millions of people were killed in the name of ideological experimentation.

Indications are that Xi, who is conferred with the title of “core leader” like Mao, is expected to continue in power for a third term and perhaps for life, which reportedly caused consternation among the 96-million-member strong party.

The CPC statement said the “elected” delegates are composed of outstanding CPC members who are highly qualified ideologically and politically, have good work styles and high moral standards, are competent in discussing state affairs, and have made remarkable achievements in their work.

German leader continues Gulf tour with stops in UAE, Qatar

AP ■ GERMANY-GULF-TOUR

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz planted a tree at a mangrove park in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday, a token nod to environmentalism during a two-day visit to the Gulf region focused mainly on securing new fossil fuel supplies and forging fresh alliances against Russia.

Germany is trying to wean itself off energy imports from Russia in response to the invasion of Ukraine, while avoiding an energy shortage in the coming months.

To do so, the German government has sought out new



natural gas suppliers while also installing terminals to bring the fuel into the country by ship.

After visiting the Jubail Mangrove Park in Abu Dhabi, Scholz was scheduled to meet UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al

Nahyan to sign an accord on energy cooperation and the country’s hosting of next year’s UN climate talks.

Later on Sunday, he was heading to Qatar to meet the emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and discuss

bilateral relations, regional issues such as tensions with Iran and the Gulf nation’s upcoming hosting of the soccer World Cup. The German leader’s first stop on Saturday was Saudi Arabia, where he met with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Human rights groups criticised the meeting because of Prince Mohammed’s alleged involvement in the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Scholz told reporters after the meeting that he had discussed “all the questions around civil and human rights” with the prince, but declined to elaborate.

China on Taiwan: External interference won’t be tolerated

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

China underscored its commitment on Saturday to its claim on Taiwan, telling assembled world leaders that anyone who gets in the way of its determination to reunify with the self-governing island would be “crushed by the wheels of history.”

The language was forceful but, for Chinese leadership, well within the realm of normal.

“Only when China is fully reunified can there be true peace across the Taiwan Strait,” Wang Yi, China’s foreign minister, said at the UN General Assembly.

He said Beijing would “take the most forceful steps to oppose external interference.” China regularly and vehemently



defends its claim to Taiwan, which separated from the mainland after a 1949 civil war and now functions with its own government.

A visit last month by the speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, markedly ratcheted up tensions

between Washington and Beijing.

The language, while pointed, reflected China’s typical intensity about the island; its claim seldom goes unmentioned in major international speeches.

Taiwan is a core issue of China policy, and Wang’s appearance at the leaders’ meeting — instead of his boss, Chinese leader Xi Jinping — was a signal that the speech was not necessarily a significant one. “The PRC government is the sole government representing all of China,” Wang said, referring to China’s formal name, the People’s Republic of China. “The one-China principle has become a basic norm in international relations.”

He added: “Any move to obstruct China’s reunification is bound to be crushed by the wheels of history.”

Russia major partner in many domains: Jaishankar

PTI ■ NEW YORK

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that he had a wide-ranging conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov during which they discussed a number of issues, including bilateral cooperation, the Ukraine conflict, G20 and UN reforms as he described Russia a "major partner in many domains."

Jaishankar made the remarks during his interaction with a group of Indian reporters after his meeting with Lavrov on the margins of the UN General Assembly session, just hours before his address to the UN General Debate on Saturday.

"We discussed a number of issues. Some part of my meeting was focused on our bilateral cooperation because Russia is a major partner in many domains," Jaishankar said while responding to a question by



PTI on his meeting with Lavrov. "A wide-ranging conversation with FM Sergey Lavrov at #UNGA 77. Discussed our bilateral cooperation. Exchanged views on Ukraine, G-20 and UN reforms," Jaishankar had tweeted after his meeting with Lavrov. To another question, he said while "obviously" there are

big issues, which focus both the Russians and the rest of the world, the relationship has to address its own requirements, processes and objectives.

"We spend some time on the bilateral side, where things are, taking stock," he said, adding that they also spoke in "some detail" about issues related to Ukraine.

"A lot of it was he briefed me about various developments from the Russian perspective. I also shared with him what I picked up from some of the others. So that was a back and forth conversation," Jaishankar said as he wrapped up the New York leg of his visit to the US.

He said there was also a discussion on the G-20, with India beginning the G-20 presidency this December. "Russia is very much at the centre of debate where G-20 is concerned. And finally, we spoke about the UN reform."

The meeting in New York is the fourth between Jaishankar and Lavrov this year, including on the sidelines of the G-20 foreign ministers' conclave in the Indonesian city of Bali and when Lavrov was in New Delhi earlier this year.

In his address to the UN General Assembly just an hour before Jaishankar's speech, the Russian foreign minister voiced

Moscow's support for India and Brazil as "worthy candidates" for permanent membership in the UN Security Council, calling them "key international actors." Later, addressing a press conference, Lavrov said that "we view India and Brazil as strong candidates given, they are leading international players..."

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.

Jaishankar said that there has been a "shift" on the issue of UN reforms among the international community.

"In respect of UN reform, every General Assembly (session) you revisit that issue, but this time something has shifted. You can see that, you can sense that," he told reporters, referring to remarks of Joe Biden earlier this week.

South Asian origin women unite against 'senseless violence' in Leicester

PTI ■ LONDON

A group of women leaders of South Asian heritage based in Leicester has come together to fight back against what they termed "senseless violence" on their city's streets between men from Hindu and Muslim communities in the wake of an India-Pakistan cricket match.

In a joint appeal on Saturday, the community leaders and local politicians from the eastern England region described Leicester as a great place to live and work and called for solutions to the "hate-filled violence".

According to local media reports, they gathered outside the Town Hall in the centre of Leicester where Indian-origin councillor Rita Patel read out a joint statement.

"We as Asian women from Leicester, call upon the people of this city to rally together and oppose the senseless violence that has torn apart our community over the last week. We condemn those perpetrating hate and violence in our city – you will not succeed in divid-



ing us," the statement read.

As your grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunts, daughters and friends we have come together in collective solidarity to say no to the "senseless violence that has plagued our great city in recent weeks and left many people injured," it said, adding that as a result, whole neighbourhoods and entire families, particularly women, children and elders are now living in fear.

"It is now time for solutions. We therefore, ask the women of Leicester to join us in taking action and bringing out communities together once

again. As strong proud Asian women, we know that when Leicester is united, it can never be defeated. Leicester, united as one," it added.

Their plea came as Leicestershire Police announced that "proactive and high-visibility patrols" will continue on the streets of Leicester into next week, when Navratri festivities are set to begin.

The police have charged a total of eight people related to the incidents of violence over the course of this month, including for possession of offensive weapons and making threats to kill.

Iran summons UK, Norway envoys amid violent unrest

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's Foreign Ministry said Sunday it summoned Britain's ambassador to protest what it described as a hostile atmosphere created by London-based Farsi language media outlets. The move comes amid violent unrest in Iran triggered by the death of a young woman in police custody.

The state-run IRNA news agency reported the ministry also summoned Norway's ambassador to Iran and strongly protested recent remarks by the president of the Norwegian parliament, Masud Gharahkhani.

The death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in custody after being detained by Iranian morality police launched unrest across Iran's provinces and the capital of Tehran. State TV suggested Saturday that 41 protesters and police have been killed since the protests erupted Sept. 17. It said official statistics would be released by the Interior Ministry.

According to a tally by The Associated Press, there have been at least 11 deaths from both sides since protests began after Amini's funeral.



The Foreign Ministry's website said it summoned Simon Shercliff, the U.K.'s ambassador to Iran, on Saturday and protested the hosting of critical Farsi-language media outlets. The ministry alleges the news outlets have provoked disturbances and the spread of riots in Iran at the top of their programmes.

Iran said it considers the news agencies' reporting to be interference in Iran's internal affairs and acts against its sovereignty.

The crisis in Iran began as a public outpouring of anger over the death of Amini, who was arrested by the morality police in Tehran for allegedly wearing her Islamic headscarf too loosely. The police said she died of a heart attack and was not mistreated, but her family has cast doubt on that account.

Amini's death has sparked sharp condemnation from Western countries and the United Nations.

Amid unrest, Iranian Guard attacks militant group in Iraq

AP ■ TEHRAN

Amid unrest, Iranian Guard attacked a militant group on Sunday. The attack targeted the bases of Kurdish separatist groups in the north of Iraq and took place at 16:00 local time, and caused serious damage to them.

The Guard's attacks were in response to the support of the separatist group for the recent unrest in the country, as well as their attempt to import weapons into Iran, the report said. State TV suggested Saturday that 41 protesters and policemen have been killed since the protests erupted last Saturday. He said official statistics would be released by the Interior Ministry. According to a tally by The Associated Press, there have been at least 11 deaths from both sides since protests began after Amini's funeral. Iranian authorities have also disrupted or cut internet access to stymie the protests, and tightened restrictions on popular platforms like Instagram and WhatsApp.

On Monday, Tesla CEO Elon Musk tweeted that his satellite internet firm Starlink would seek permission to operate in Iran. National security



adviser Jake Sullivan said it was up to the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control to decide on Starlink's next steps.

The US Treasury Department said Friday it was allowing American tech firms to expand their business in Iran, one of the most sanctioned countries in the world, to boost internet access for the Iranian people.

Iran's foreign ministry condemned the United States' move and said "bids to violate Iran's sovereignty won't go unanswered."

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani in a tweet accused the US of "nefarious designs". He said Washington was "loosening communications sanctions, while keeping Max Pressure in place."

Retired senior army officer shot dead by Myanmar guerrilla

AP ■ BANGKOK

A retired high-ranking officer in Myanmar's military was shot dead at his home in the country's biggest city, Yangon, in the latest such killing attributed to militants opposed to army rule.

Ohn Thwin is believed to be the highest-ranking active or retired military officer assassinated since February last year, when the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, triggering widespread public opposition.

An urban guerrilla group called Inya Urban Force claimed responsibility for the attack on Ohn Thwin, 72, who also had served as Myanmar's ambassador to Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and South Africa. His son-in-law was also killed.

The military government's spokesperson, Maj Gen Zaw Min Tun, confirmed their deaths to the Myanmar-language service of the US government-backed broadcaster Voice of America on Saturday evening.

He condemned it for being an attack on veterans.

The takeover prompted



peaceful protests that security forces suppressed with bloody violence, leading to armed resistance that has escalated into what some UN experts characterise as a civil war.

Ohn Thwin was shot in the head by two men about 3 pm when he opened the door to his house in Hlaing township in Yangon, said two residents, who spoke Sunday on condition of anonymity because they fear retribution from the authorities.

They said his son-in-law, Ye Tay Za, a retired captain in the military, was also shot when he resisted the attack and tried to help Ohn Thwin.

The residents said the victims were taken to Kan Thar

Yar Hospital, which is reportedly owned by a holding company controlled by the military.

In a Facebook post, the Inya Urban Force declared "today's mission is accomplished."

It claimed that Ohn Thwin encouraged the military to commit brutal actions against civilians and had advised the army to seize power from Suu Kyi's civilian government.

Most of the fighting between the military and its opponents takes place in the countryside, where the army has carried out major offensives to try to quash the armed wing of the pro-democracy movement and discourage its supporters.

Labour conference starts with focus on 'immoral' tax cuts

AP ■ LONDON

Britain's opposition Labour Party opened its annual conference Sunday, with leaders attacking the "immoral" tax-cutting of the new Conservative government.

The event, this year taking place in the northern city of Liverpool, kicked off two days after the U.K. government, under new Prime Minister Liz Truss, said it would scrap a 45% tax rate for Britain's highest earners and forge ahead with plans to boost growth.

The Labour Party has seized on the tax cut as a crux issue for hard-at-heel Britons who are struggling through the worst cost of living rise in decades. "I do not think that the choice to have tax cuts for



those that are earning hundreds of thousands of pounds is the right choice when our economy is struggling the way it is, working people are struggling

in the way they are," Labour leader Keir Starmer told the BBC.

Andy Burnham, the mayor of Manchester, one of the U.K.'s

largest cities said the policy was "immoral".

Labour suffered a crushing defeat in the last general election in 2019 under previous leader Jeremy Corbyn and is using this conference as a way of repositioning itself as a credible government in waiting.

Starmer said there was now "belief in a Labour government" among an electorate that is coping with soaring energy bills that have helped push inflation up to 9.9% while workers get only modest wage increases. He pledged to reverse the income tax cut for the richest Britons and hit energy producers for a windfall tax on bumper profits. He also said his government would invest in green energy to speed the transition from fossil fuels.

Audio clips between leaders of Pak Govt leak raises security concern

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

More purported audio clips featuring leaders of Pakistan's government surfaced on Sunday, raising questions about the security of high-profile places and the meetings held there.

Apparently one of the clips involved a conversation among several senior leaders of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the high-security PML House.

Interior minister Rana Sanullah, defence minister Khawaja Asif, law minister Azam Tarar, and minister for economic affairs Ayaz Sadiq can be heard talking about the fate of Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and the resignations of Pakistan



Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers from the National Assembly. Another audio clip is purportedly about a conversation between PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif about finance minister Ismail.

Maryam who is the daughter of former three-time premier Nawaz Sharif wields a lot of influence in the government and is critical of Ismail.

"He (Ismail) doesn't

take responsibility [...] says strange things on TV which people make fun of him for [...] he doesn't know what he is doing," she is heard saying in the clip.

"He clearly cut corners," the voice said to be PM Shehbaz is heard as saying.

"Uncle, he doesn't know what he is doing," Maryam says, as she wishes for the return of PML-N stalwart Ishaq Dar, who has been tipped to come back next week to take charge of the finance ministry. The two clips followed another a day earlier involving PM Shehbaz and the unidentified official who is talking about Maryam's wish that her son-in-law should be allowed to import some machinery from India.

Powerful typhoon hits north Philippines, thousands evacuated

AP ■ MANILA

A powerful typhoon slammed into the northeastern Philippines on Sunday and was barreling across the main Luzon island toward the capital in a densely populated path where thousands have been evacuated to safety.

Typhoon Noru hit the coastal town of Burdeos on Polillo Island in Quezon province shortly before nightfall.

With sustained winds of 195 kilometres (121 miles per hour) and gusts of up to 240 kph (149 mph), it was expected to weaken slightly when it hits the Sierra Madre mountain range but will remain dangerously ferocious, forecasters said.

"The typhoon is young and we live by the sea," said Marilen Yubatan, who left her shanty in Manila with her two young daughters.

"If we fall into the water, I don't know where I will end up with my children."

The typhoon gained considerable strength from a storm with sustained winds of 85 kph (53 mph) on Saturday into a super typhoon just 24 hours later in an "explosive intensification" over the open sea, Vicente Malano, who heads the country's weather agency, told The Associated Press.

Thousands of villagers were evacuated — some forcibly — from the typhoon's path, as well as from mountainside villages prone to landslides and flash floods. Coastal communities could be hit by tidal surges as high as 3 metres (about 10 feet) in Quezon province, including Polillo island and nearby Aurora province. "The combined effects of storm surge and high waves breaking along the coast may cause life-threatening and damaging inundation or flooding," the weather agency warned.

24 killed as boat carrying Hindu devotees to historic temple capsizes in Bangladesh

PTI ■ DHAKA

A boat carrying Hindu devotees to centuries-old Bodeshwari Temple capsized in the Korota river in north-western Bangladesh on Sunday, killing at least 24 people, including women and children, while over a dozen remained missing, officials said.

The incident happened in Bangladesh's Panchagarh district when the devotees were travelling in the boat to the Bodeshwari Temple on the occasion of Mahalaya, the auspicious start of the Durga Puja festival.

"Around 24 people have died in the boat capsizing incident. Of the dead eight are minor children and 12 are women. . . . Some of them were declared dead after they were brought to a local hospital," Solaiman Ali, administrative chief of Panchagarh's Boda sub-district, told newsmen.

He said searches by firefighters and local divers were underway for the missing ones, adding the number of passengers was assumed to be between 70 and 80.

Ali said the engine-run boat was carrying Hindu devotees to a centuries-old Bodeshwari Temple coinciding with a festival.

Panchagarh's administrative chief or deputy commissioner Zahurul Haque said the boat was apparently carrying passengers beyond its capacity.

Thousands of Hindus in Muslim-majority Bangladesh visit the Bodeshwari Temple every year during the Durga Puja, which began in Bangladesh on Sunday.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued statements condoling the Sunday's incident while local officials were asked to take steps for survivors treatment and compensation for the dead.

South Korea says North Korea test-fired missile towards sea

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile Sunday toward its eastern seas, extending a provocative streak in weapons testing as a US aircraft carrier visits South Korea for joint military exercises in response to the North's growing nuclear threat.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile launched from the western inland town of Taechon flew cross-country before landing in waters off North Korea's eastern coast. The South's military didn't immediately release further specifics about the weapon, including what type of missile it was or how far it flew.

North Korea has dialed up its testing activities to a record pace in 2022, testing more than 30 ballistic weapons, including



its first intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017, as it continues to expand its military capabilities amid a prolonged stalemate in nuclear diplomacy.

The launch came as the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its strike group arrived in South Korea for the two countries' joint military exercises that aim to show their strength against growing North Korean threats.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said in a statement Tokyo is "doing its utmost" to gather information on North Korea's launch and confirm the safety of ships and aircraft, although there were no immediate reports of damages.

The North Korea threat is also expected to be a key agenda when US Vice President Kamala Harris visits South Korea next week after attending the state funeral in Tokyo of slain former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. North Korea has dialed up its testing activities to a record pace in 2022, testing more than 30 ballistic weapons, including its first intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017. North Korea is exploiting a divide in the United Nations Security Council that deepened over Russia's war on Ukraine to speed up arms development.

Weakening ₹ to make import of crude oil, commodities expensive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian rupee sliding to a historic low of 81.09 to a dollar will make import of crude oil and other commodities expensive further fueling inflation which for the past several months has remained above the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent.

The pressure on the domestic currency, which is mainly due to repeated hikes in interest rate by the US Fed, is likely to continue with rise in trade deficit and gradual withdrawal of funds by institutional investors.

The Reserve Bank, which is scheduled to announce its bi-monthly monetary policy later this week, is expected to increase the repo-rate or the short-term lending rates by 50 basis points in a bid to tame inflationary pressure.

For a nation that is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and 50 per cent for gas requirements, a weakening rupee has a bearing on domestic price of fuel.

India's trade deficit more than doubled to USD 27.98 billion in August due to increased crude oil imports. Import of 'petroleum, crude & products' stood at USD 17.7 billion in August this year, an annual increase of 87.44 per cent.

India's forex kitty continued its southward journey, with the overall reserves declin-



ing by USD 5.219 billion to USD 545.652 billion for the week ended September 16. The reserves, which have been dipping as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressure caused majorly by global developments, had declined by USD 2.23 billion to USD 550.87 billion in the previous week.

SBI in a report said global commodity prices have remained volatile after their fall in June from historical highs. Prices edged up during late July - early August, before moderating towards the end of the

month, largely driven by concerns over demand slowdown.

Crude oil prices are trading decisively below USD 100 per barrel with heightened volatility due to expectations of an imminent slowdown in global demand, it said.

"A depreciating INR will partly counteract the benefit of lower commodity prices on inflation," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA.

Solvent Extractors' Association of India Executive Director B V Mehta said the cost of imported edible oils will go up. The country imports

about 13 million tonnes of edible oils every year. "Ultimately, this will be passed on to consumers. However, the only silver lining is India's oilseed sector exports...The rupee depreciation will boost export realisation and support export," he said.

Imports of vegetable oils stood at USD 1.89 billion in August 2022, up 41.55 per cent over the same month last year.

As per the SBI report, no central bank can prevent currency depreciation currently and RBI may allow the rupee to depreciate for a limited period. Foreign currency assets of RBI have declined by USD 75 billion since Ukraine War, in order to protect the rupee, it said and added that this has led to reduced import cover of nine months, which is at the lower end. "This is also true that once the currency settles at a lower level, appreciation of the currency picks up at a dramatic pace, that is a distinct possibility given India's strong fundamentals," the report said.

Moreover, much of the weakness in rupee is on account of a strong dollar and not because of our domestic economic fundamentals, it said.

Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda was of the opinion that the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will have a unique issue to debate when it meets next week for the monetary policy.

The recent downhill movement of the rupee following the Fed's announcement has made the rupee one of the more unsatisfactory currencies based on the response to the dollar strengthening in the global market, he said.

"This piece will also be actively discussed in the deliberations, as when deciding on interest rates, the currency part of the story cannot be left out," he said.

Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities said Indian rupee marked the biggest weekly decline after April 2021 amid a stronger dollar index and risk-off moods.

"There seems to be no turning back for the dollar as it made a fresh two-decade high and in turn pushed the rupee to a record low level," Parmar added.

The 38th meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee, constituted under the Reserve Bank of India Act, will be held on September 28-30.

The rupee declined by 30 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 81.09 against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by a strong American currency overseas and risk-off sentiment among investors.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency breached the 81-mark for the first time ever and slumped to 81.23 against the American currency. It finally closed at 81.09.

'RBI set for fourth straight rate hike to quell inflation'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may take cues from its global counterparts, including the US Federal Reserve, to raise interest rate for the fourth time in a row on Friday to tame stubborn inflation.

The RBI, which has since May raised the short-term lending rate (repo) by 140 basis points (bps), may again go for a 50-bps increase to take it to a three-year high of 5.9 per cent, say experts.

The central bank had raised the repo rate by 40 bps in May and 50 bps each in June and August. The present rate is 5.4 per cent.

The consumer price index (CPI) based retail inflation, which had started showing signs of moderation since May, has again firmed up to 7 per cent in August. The RBI takes into account retail inflation while framing its bi-monthly monetary policy.

The RBI Governor-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to start its three-day deliberations on Wednesday. The decision of the rate-setting panel would be announced on Friday (September 30).

The US Fed delivered third consecutive rate hike after it raised the rates by 75 bps to take the target range to 3 - 3.25 per cent. The central banks of the UK and the EU have also gone for rate hikes to tame inflation.

Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda,



said inflation in India remains high at around 7 per cent and is unlikely to come down any time soon.

"This means that a rate hike is given. The quantum is what the market would be interested in. While a hike of 25-35 bps would have signaled that the RBI is confident that the worst of inflation is over, the recent developments in the forex market could prompt a higher quantum of 50 bps to stay on track with other markets so as to retain investor interest," he said.

The government has tasked the RBI to ensure the retail inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO, Housing.Com, said reining in inflation will remain the RBI's top concern amid resilient economic expansion and robust credit growth.

"Any hike in rates would result in banks increasing home

loan interest rates, too. But, we are of the opinion that its impact would not be significant as demand for property remains robust. Demand is only going to accelerate further during this festive season," he said.

Global commodity prices have remained volatile after their fall from historical highs in June.

SBI in a special report said a 50 basis points hike in repo rate "looks imminent".

"We expect the peak repo rate in the cycle at 6.25 per cent. A final rate hike of 35 bps is expected in December policy," it said.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, too expects another 'new normal' 50 bps rate hike from the MPC in September 2022.

With inflation expected to soften in October 2022, the December policy decision is likely to be highly data dependent, she added.

Tax collections to continue rising in coming months, say experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The trend of increase in income tax collection is expected to continue in the coming months on increased compliance, higher corporate profitability and increased trade in festive season, experts said.

The gross direct tax collection grew 30 per cent to Rs 8.36 lakh crore in the April to mid-September period of the current fiscal on increased corporate tax and personal income tax (PIT) mop up due to increased economic activity.

Deloitte India Partner Rohinton Sidhwa said the reason for rising tax collection, aside from the increase in economic activity, is attributable to the marked increase in compliance demonstrated by the number of returns filed.

"The increase in compliance also stems from influencing behaviour like the sharing of details of income generating activity that taxpayers are being shown on the e-filing portal.

"It's expected that the trend will continue for now. While corporate tax returns are still to be filed for the last fiscal, advance tax collections show strong trends indicative of earnings," he said.

EY India Tax & Regulatory Services Partner Sudhir Kapadia said India Inc has seen a robust increase in profitable growth, aided to some extent by an increase in consumer prices due to higher inflation.

Robust increase in PIT



shows that earnings of individuals have been on the rise, as also those of proprietary and partnership businesses.

"The overall growth in India's economy along with the increasing digitisation of tax administration has ensured that an increasingly greater share of the economy is coming under the tax net," Kapadia pointed out. The Rs 8.36 lakh crore direct tax collection for the April 1- September 17 period includes corporate tax of Rs 4.36 lakh crore and PIT of Rs 3.98 lakh crore. After deducting refunds of Rs 1.35 lakh crore issued, there was a 23 per cent growth in net direct tax mop up, totalling Rs 7 lakh crore.

Experts said increased demand from consumers has also manifested itself in higher Goods and Services Tax (GST) mop up, with over Rs 1.40 lakh crore being the 'new normal' for collections every

month.

"Considering the upcoming festive season, it is expected that the tax collection will continue to ride a spree. However, there will be a looming risk of domestic as well as global price increase," Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co Partner Amit Singhania said.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the introduction of crypto-tax has aided in increasing the number of taxpayers and broadening the tax base, leading to a spurt in tax collections.

"TDS/TCS implementation on purchase of goods, rendering of business perquisites, technology-based transaction monitoring vide Annual Information Statement (AIS), interlinking of GST with Income Tax data have contributed to real-time capturing of high-value data points for plugging the tax leakage," Mohan added.

With comfortable coal stocks, no power crisis this festive season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is unlikely to see a repeat of the 2021 energy crisis this festive season as coal-fired power stations across the country have comfortable levels of the fuel stock to meet electricity demand of the world's fastest expanding major economy.

Learning lessons from the October 2021 energy crisis, when power stations were put on outage alert, due to coal stocks falling to the lowest level in years, the ministries of coal and power as well as railways this year have worked out a plan

to ensure adequate fuel stocks at electricity generating units, officials said.

With coal used to produce almost 70 per cent of electricity, officials are confident that the 2021 crisis will not be repeated this festive season that kicks in a week's time.

Electricity demand in India has soared with a rebound in industrial activity after easing of pandemic-related curbs. And the increased lightning needs during the festive season is likely to send the demand shooting.

According to a coal ministry official, the coal stocks at power



plants are at "comfortable" level as of now. The coal position in states like Haryana, Punjab which last year faced problems of coal shortages at their plants,

have comfortable levels of dry fuel at their units.

"The government is holding regular review meetings twice a week with coal companies to firm up strategies for enhancing both coal production and off-take," the official said. Moreover, the coal ministry is also coordinating with Railways for rakes for smooth supply of coal to the power sector.

Depleted coal stocks last year led to spot power rates surging and supplies of the fuel being diverted away from key customers including aluminum smelters and steel mills.

Electricity demand had surged 16 per cent during the festive season last year.

Late rains, however, have added to the challenge this year.

In May this year, several states suffered prolonged blackouts as scorching heat waves boosted energy demand at a time when coal stockpiles were low. That sent the officials to the drawing board to rework a coal supply plan to avert future crises. Coal-fired power plants were ordered to use imported fuel to operate at full capacity. Stock norms were also revised.

Eco activity still below pre-pandemic level; RBI to go slow on rate hikes till next year: ADB

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With economic activity still to reach pre-pandemic levels, the RBI may slow down the pace of rate hikes until next year to quell soaring inflation while supporting growth, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) says in its latest report.

The Manila-based multi-lateral funding agency has raised the inflation forecast for the current fiscal year ending in March 2023 to 6.7 per cent from its earlier projection of 5.8 per cent.

For the next fiscal year too, the forecast has been revised upwards to 5.8 per cent from 5 per cent earlier.

Inflation will remain elevated this year and the next, ADB said in an update to its flagship Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022 report.

"This Update forecasts the inflation rate averaging 6.7 per cent in FY2022 (fiscal ending in March 2023) before moderating to 5.8 per cent in FY2023 (ending in March 2024), just below the central bank target range of 2 - 6 per cent," it said.



Both forecasts are higher than ADO 2022's projections.

Even though supply pressures are expected to ease in the current fiscal year, upward pressure on inflation could continue because of demand-side pressures caused by

increasing economic activity, according to the ADB report.

The report says the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to increase policy rates even though economic activity is still below the pre-pandemic trend and inflation continues to be driven more by domestic supply conditions than international factors.

"The RBI may, however, consider slowing the pace of policy rate hikes until next year because economic activity, although increasing, remains below the pre-pandemic trend.

'Our research has to be very best in world'



PNS ■ KATTANKULATHUR

World is looking at India with admiration and expectations that we will contribute to solving global issues such as clean energy, water remediation, clean environment, said Professor Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India. This is certainly within our reach, said Professor Ajay. He was the chief guest at the 18th convocation day.

He was delivering the graduation day address at the 18th convocation day at SRM Institute of Technology at Kattankulathur near Chennai today. Founder Chancellor of SRMIST Dr T R Paarivendhar presided over the convocation in which over 7380 graduands from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology including 107 PhD Scholars received degrees and 77 students who have secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranks in their respective subjects were awarded gold medals.

Salesforce to increase India headcount to 10K by Jan next year

PTI ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Salesforce India will increase its headcount in the country to 10,000 by January next year from 7,500-plus currently, its chairperson and CEO Arundhati Bhattacharya has said.

Bhattacharya further said that in the order of priority, the focus areas for Salesforce in India are banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), manufacturing, services and social services.

"We are (Salesforce India's headcount) at about 7,500 plus. We are expecting that we will end FY23, which for us ends in January of 2023... We expect to be in the range of 10,000," she told PTI in an interview.

Currently, cloud-based services provider Salesforce has offices in six Indian cities of Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune, Gurugram and Jaipur.



Salesforce increased its headcount significantly in India during the pandemic to 7,500 from 2,500 in April 2020.

Replying to a question on flexible and hybrid work culture post-pandemic, she said, "We will see more and more workforce returning to the workplaces."

Bhattacharya pointed out that when people come back to offices, the sense of collaboration and belonging increases. "Because what we are also seeing is that if you don't get

them to come to the office and connect, then it becomes more and more difficult to create the DNA of an organisation," she said.

While also noting that some amount of working hybrid is important, she said there are multi-generational families at home and due to lack of space, it is a little difficult to work from home for many people.

In India, Bhattacharya said work culture will evolve into a kind of model where there will be more people coming to the office in more days, but work from home will also continue depending upon their convenience.

Asked what will be the next set of skills Indian youth need to learn, she suggested that they need to learn niche technology such as those that are used by Software as a Service (or SaaS) companies and cloud-based companies.

IPO-bound boAt parent to scale up local manufacturing for global expansion

PTI ■ MUMBAI

IPO-bound Imagine Marketing, the parent company of wearables brand boAt, has firmed up plans to become a made-in-India global lifestyle brand by increasing its overseas reach, according to a top company official.

The company is awaiting regulatory nod for a Rs 1,100-crore public issue, of which Rs 900 crore will be fresh issue and the rest offer-for-sale. It expects to manufacture 60 lakh units (nearly double its present output) in H1 of FY23 under its make-in-India strategy and scale it further as the demand and market reach grow, which will also help it launch products faster and at lower prices, Aman Gupta, the co-founder and chief marketing officer, told PTI.

Established in 2013 by Aman Gupta and Sameer Mehta in Mumbai, Imagine Marketing offers a product portfolio ranging from audio gear and smart wearables to per-

sonal grooming products and mobile accessories.

In the domestic market, it has been holding the pole position in the overall wearables category for the third consecutive year with over 40 per cent market share, according to IDC India's monthly wearable devices tracker for August 2022.

Imagine Marketing is seeking to expand into international markets primarily within its core audio and wearables categories, Gupta said.

It is also seeking to diversify supplier and contract manufacturer networks and invest more in this initiative, he added, without elaborating on the funding side.

The company already has strong relationships with established technology participants such as Qualcomm, which is also one of its shareholders, Bharat FIH (a Foxconn Technology Group company), Google, Dolby International AB, Airoha Technology Corp and Realtek Semiconductor Corp, Gupta said.

Samsung sells 12 lakh smartphones worth ₹1,000 cr on Day 1 of online festive sales

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Electronics major Samsung India on Sunday said it has sold over 12 lakh Galaxy smartphones worth more than Rs 1,000 crore on the first day of online festive sales at Amazon and Flipkart. Samsung has slashed prices of Galaxy series smartphones in the range of 17 to 60 per cent for the festive season sales.

"On Day 1 of online festive sales, Samsung sold more than 1.2 million Galaxy devices, creating a new record in India. Samsung Galaxy smartphones were among the most sought-after devices, thanks to never-seen-before offers on Amazon and Flipkart. In value terms, Samsung sold Galaxy devices worth over Rs 1000 crore in 24 hours," Samsung said in a statement.

Samsung has slashed prices of smartphones like Galaxy S20 FE 5G, Galaxy S22 Ultra, Galaxy S22, Galaxy M53, Galaxy M33, M32 Prime Edition and Galaxy M13.

For the premium Galaxy S22 series, the company has announced discounts in the range of 17 to 38 per cent.

"On Day 1 of Amazon's Great Indian Festival, Samsung was the number 1 smartphone brand, with every third smartphone being a Galaxy. Galaxy M13 was the number 1 bestseller," Samsung said.

On Day 1 of Flipkart's 'Big Billion Days' sale, Samsung said it doubled its market share on the platform.

SWISS SHOCK FOR SPAIN



AP ■ SEVILLE

Spain's shock 2-1 home defeat to Switzerland on Saturday leaves La Roja needing to beat Portugal away on Tuesday to progress to the semi-finals of the Nations League. Portugal went top of Group A2 with a comfortable 4-0 win in the Czech Republic as Diogo Dalot struck twice with Bruno Fernandes and Diogo Jota also on target. Spain have little time to iron out their flaws ahead of the World Cup in two months' time and a familiar combination of poor finishing and soft defending from set-pieces cost them against the Swiss in Zaragoza. Manchester City defender Manuel Akanji headed the visitors into a 21st-minute lead. The hosts responded when Jordi Alba latched onto Marco Asensio's pass to fire high into the net 10 minutes into the second half. But moments later another Switzerland corner was not properly cleared, allowing Breel Embolo to bundle in from close range. Portugal moved two points clear of Spain at the top of the group as they enjoyed a far smoother night in



Prague.

Dalot was the unlikely hero as he grabbed his first two international goals. The right-back found himself in a centre-forward's position to slot home the opener from close range before Fernandes rounded off a slick team move in first-half stoppage time. Dalot then curled brilliantly into the bottom corner on his weaker left foot seven minutes into the second period. Jota rounded off the scoring by heading in unmarked from a corner late on.

SCOTLAND FIGHT BACK

Scotland need just a point from their clash with Ukraine in midweek to be promoted to League A after coming from behind to beat the Republic of Ireland 2-1 and stay top of Group B1. John Egan had fired the Irish into an early lead at Hampden Park. But Scotland battled back to gain revenge for their 3-0 trouncing in Dublin in June. Jack Hendry headed in Ryan Christie's cross to level before Christie rolled home the winner from the penalty spot after Allan Browne han-

dled inside his own area.

Ukraine kept their chances of topping the group alive with a 5-0 hammering of Armenia with Artem Dovbyk scoring twice. Norway were made to wait to secure promotion to League A as Erling Haaland was upstaged by one of Europe's other rising stars Benjamin Sesko in a 2-1 defeat to Slovenia. Haaland pounced to open the scoring with his 21st goal in 22 international appearances, but Salzburg striker Sesko, who has already agreed a move to RB Leipzig next season, teed

up Andraz Sporar to equalise before hitting a long-range volley to win the game for the hosts in Ljubljana. Serbia moved level on points with Norway at the top of Group B4 as Aleksandar Mitrovic scored a hat-trick in a 4-1 thrashing of Sweden. Israel's late winner to beat Albania 2-1 secured their promotion to League A. Northern Ireland secured their first ever Nations League win thanks to Josh Magennis' stoppage-time header as Ian Baraclough's men came from a goal down to beat Kosovo 2-1 in Belfast.

Southgate insists he is the right man to lead England to WC

AP ■ LONDON

England manager Gareth Southgate says he is the right person to lead his country to the World Cup despite a five-game winless run that saw the team relegated from the top tier of the Nations League. Southgate has credit in the bank having reached the semi-finals of the 2018 World Cup and finished runners-up at last summer's European Championship. But he was booed by the travelling support in Milan after a 1-0 defeat to Italy on Friday.

England have just one more game, against Germany at Wembley on Monday, before their World Cup campaign kicks off against Iran on November 21.

"I think I'm the right person to take the team into the tournament. I think it's more stable that way, without a doubt," said Southgate.

"I don't think (the) performance (against Italy) was far off and I know that's going to get derision just because we're on the back of a run of defeats." England have failed to even score a single goal from open play in five Nations League games against Hungary, Italy and Germany. But Southgate defended his side as they experience a World Cup preparation unlike any other.

Just eight days will separate the final round of Premier League fixtures from England's opening game in Qatar, leaving no time for pre-tournament friendlies.



"We're playing and have been playing some top level sides and we will be better for that," he added. "In the past we've had runs of friendlies or whatever the matches are and then we've gone into tournaments and that's the first time we've hit high-level opposition and it's hit us in the face quite often." "Now we know the level, now we know what we've got to improve and we'll be better placed for that by having had the quality of matches that we've had."



Lozano lifts Mexico to 1-0 win over Peru

AP ■ PASADENA

Hirving Lozano's late strike lifted Mexico to a 1-0 victory over Peru at California's Rose Bowl on Saturday in a friendly international football match that is part of Mexico's World Cup build-up. Napoli forward Lozano sent the pro-Mexico crowd of 62,729 at the 1994 World Cup final venue into a frenzy with his 85th-minute strike. From a corner kick taken by Andres Guardado, a high ball flew Lozano's way and at full stretch he was able to loft it into the roof of the net. The winner ended Mexico's goal drought that stretched through their past three friendlies, although

coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino must still be concerned at the dearth of quality scoring chances in the contest. It also dealt a defeat to coach Juan Reynoso in his debut at the helm of Peru. Longtime coach Ricardo Gareca was replaced after the side fell to Australia in a penalty shootout in a playoff for a Qatar World Cup berth in June. Mexico, meanwhile, will open their World Cup campaign on November 22 against Poland in Group C, which also includes Argentina and Saudi Arabia. They will continue their preparations on Tuesday when they play Colombia in Santa Clara, California.

West Zone win Duleep Trophy, crush South by 294 runs

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

West Zone thrashed South Zone by 294 runs to win the 2022 Duleep Trophy here on Sunday, completing the formalities before lunch on the fifth and last day's play. Set an improbable target of 529 runs for an outright win, South Zone were bowled out for 234 in 71.2 overs, with left-arm Shams Mulani (4 for 51) picking up three of the four wickets to fall on the final day.

Resuming at 154 for six, South batters Ravi Teja and R Sai Kishore defied the West attack for nearly two hours. Most of the South Zone's experienced batters failed and fell to the pace duo of Atit Sheth and Jaydev Unadkat on the fourth evening, leaving the team in a hopeless situation. Teja (53) batted with resolve and was well supported by lanky Sai Kishore, who kept the bowlers at bay for 82 deliveries for his seven. The duo added 57 runs in 157 deliveries, handling the West bowlers with circumspection. While Teja got three boundaries and hit a six, Kishore was content in defending and spending time in the middle. Medium-pacer Chintan Gaja broke through with the score at 203 when he had Kishore caught by Priyank



Panchal.

Karnataka off-spinner K Gowtham who joined Teja made sure the West bowlers were made to work hard for more success. They added 23 runs and threatened to extend the game past the lunch break. Mulani trapped Ravi Teja leg before wicket after he had scored a half-century. Basil Thampi (0) was the next to go, caught by Sarfaraz Khan off Mulani before Tanush Kotian had Gowtham (17) to end South's resistance. "The way everyone contributed was magnificent. Just looking to play one game at a

time, not thinking too much for the future. Excited about the season ahead, first full season after Covid, looking forward to playing for Mumbai," winning captain Rahane said. The Duleep Trophy returned to the zonal format this season after an experiment with three teams for a few years. "I think zonal cricket is very important for those players who have been doing well for their states - Ranji Trophy, Irani Trophy and Duleep Trophy are very important for picking out Test cricketers for India in the future," Rahane added.

Rahane asks Jaiswal to leave field for sledging rival batter

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

In a rare act, West Zone skipper Ajinkya Rahane ordered his teammate Yashasvi Jaiswal to leave the field for disciplinary reasons, setting an example on the fifth day of the Duleep Trophy final against South Zone here. The 20-year-old Jaiswal had a great time with the bat, smashing a brilliant double century to set up a big win for West Zone in the summit showdown. After being spoken to earlier, Jaiswal came under

However, the same cannot be said of his time on the field as he found himself at the centre of controversy on Sunday. He was asked by his captain Rahane to leave the field for going overboard with sledging against South Zone batter Ravi Teja. South batter Ravi Teja had apparently complained about the verbal volleys that Jaiswal was consistently firing at him as he was fielding close to the bat. After being spoken to earlier, Jaiswal came under

fire again in the 57th over when the on-field umpire complained about the young batter's alleged verbal volleys. Jaiswal appeared to be animated when Rahane had a word with him with regard to his action and sent him off, leaving West Zone with 10 men on the field. Jaiswal returned to the field after being away for seven overs. He was later declared Man of the Match after West won by 294 runs.

Samsonova beats Zheng in Tokyo final



AP ■ TOKYO

Russia's Liudmila Samsonova won her third title in four tournaments by beating China's Zheng Qinwen 7-5, 7-5 in the final of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Sunday. The red-hot world number 30 triumphed in Washington and Cleveland in August and she produced a string of giant-killing upsets in the Japanese capital on the way to another title. Samsonova beat

Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina and two-time Grand Slam winner Garbine Muguruza and did not drop a set all week. Fast-rising teenager Zheng was appearing in her first WTA final after knocking out top seed Paula Badosa in the second round. The 19-year-old went toe to toe with Samsonova in a tight match but had her service broken late in the first set to let the Russian take control. Both players traded breaks

Alexandrova shines in Seoul for 3rd title

AP ■ SEOUL

Ekatrina Alexandrova overcame nerves to win the third title of her career as she dismantled injury-hampered top seed Jelena Ostapenko 7-6 (7/4), 6-0 in the final of the Korea Open on Sunday. The two battled to a lengthy tiebreaker after an evenly matched hour-long first set in front of more than 10,000 spectators, a record for the Seoul event. But everything changed in the second set as Russia's second-seeded Alexandrova dominated the former French Open champion from Latvia, who required a medical time-out at 3-0 down for a foot problem. "I think it was tough for



me to start because I was really nervous and I couldn't find the rhythm in the first couple of games," said Alexandrova, 27. "But the longer we played, the better I felt on the court.

midway through the second set but the decisive moment came when Samsonova took a 6-5 lead to serve for the match.

The 23-year-old calmly picked off her opponent in the final game and sealed the deal when Zheng hit a return wide.



Kipchoge beats world mark at Berlin Marathon

AP ■ BERLIN

Kenyan great Eliud Kipchoge has beaten his own world marathon record by 30 seconds, running 2hr 01min 10sec in Berlin on Sunday. At the halfway point the back-to-back Olympic champion in Rio and Tokyo looked set to become the first to officially run under the elusive two-hour mark. But despite slowing slightly the 37-year-old held on to best his own record from Berlin in 2018. Kenyan Mark Korir finished second behind his countryman with a time of 2:05:58, while Ethiopian Taduo Abate came third with 2:06:28. Kipchoge became just the second man to win four Berlin Marathons, joining Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie who owned the event from 2006 to 2009.

KULDEEP, SHAW HELP INDIA 'A' SEAL SERIES

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav's sensational hat-trick and Prithvi Shaw's quick-fire half century (77) set up a four-wicket win for India 'A' against New Zealand 'A' in the second unofficial ODI to clinch the three-match series here on Sunday. Electing to bat, New Zealand 'A' were all out for 219 in 47 overs as Kuldeep picked up the last four wickets, including the hat-trick. From 210 for 6, the visiting team collapsed to 219 all out as Kuldeep ran amok. After dismissing Sean Solia for his first scalp of the match, Yadav picked up the wickets of Logan Van Beek, Joe Walker and Jacob Duffy to complete a memorable hat-trick. India 'A' chased down the target with 16 overs to spare to notch-up a series-clinching win, reaching 222 for 6 in 34 overs. Rachin Ravindra (61 off 65 balls) and Joe Carter (72 off 80 balls) set the platform for the Kiwis before Kuldeep got into the act. Chasing a modest 220 to win and seal the series, Shaw got off to a flier and smashed the ball around as the Indian score reached 50 in the seventh over. There was no stopping the diminutive Shaw as he reached 50 from 26 balls with a sweep shot. He hit 11 fours and 3 sixes in his superlative 48-ball knock. Gaikwad, who was sedate in comparison, fell for 30 off 34 balls. The in-form Rajat Patidar then fell for 20 at team score of 131 for 2 while Shaw



fell to Walker two runs later. Skipper Samson went after the bowling and hit 37 off 35 balls, studded with four boundaries and two sixes before a superb diving catch by Chad Bowes cut short his stay. Tilak Varma and Bawa fell for ducks and India 'A' appeared to be in some trouble but Rishi Dhawan (22 not out off 43 balls) and Shardul Thakur (25 not out off 24 balls) saw the team home.

Capitals beat Gujarat Giants in LLC match

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Zimbabweans Solomon Mire and Hamilton Masakadza once again played key hands as the India Capitals overcame the Gujarat Giants' challenge in the seventh match of the Legends League Cricket (LLC) on Sunday.

The win at the Arun Jaitley Stadium was the Capitals' second of the League and they now occupy the top spot in the standings. The Giants have also won two matches, but they are placed second by virtue of having an inferior net run rate than the Capitals.

Chasing a 153-run target, after electing to bowl first, the Capitals were off to a good start with captain Gautam Gambhir and Mire combining well. They raced to 48 in four overs before Gambhir was trapped lbw by Giants spinner KP Apanna.

Mire did not last long thereafter, but his brisk innings provided the Capitals with an ideal platform to launch their chase. The 33-year-old former Zimbabwe batter slammed 41 off just 23 balls with five boundaries two huge sixes.

Masakadza then picked up the baton from compatriot Mire to keep the Capitals on track. Along with former West Indies international Denesh Ramdin, Masakadza shared a 52-run partnership to propel the Capitals closer to the target.

Masakadza made 50 off 34 balls with seven fours and a six and by the time the Giants managed to get rid of him, the Capitals were only 25



runs away from the target. They completed the chase in 18.5 overs.

Earlier, the Tillakaratne Dilshan, who was leading the Giants, played a captain's knock. Opening the innings, he remained not out on 75 from 59 balls to guide the Giants to a respectable total.

That No.8 batsman Graeme Swann's 26 was the next-best score in the Giants' innings speaks of the significance of Dilshan's effort.

The Giants had begun well with Irishman Kevin O'Brien unleashing his boundary shots, but the Capitals bowlers, led by 50-year-old Pravin Tambe, put a lid on their scoring by scalp- ing regular wickets.

While the Giants were 47 without loss after the fifth over, they slipped to 57/5 in the ninth over. The mid innings collapse hurt them badly and they never really recovered from that though Dilshan played a masterful knock.

Alongside Tambe (2/30), Ashley Nurse too bowled well, picking up 2/28.ss

Virat, SKY script T20I series win

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Virat Kohli's scintillating stroke-play found its match in maverick Suryakumar Yadav's batting pyrotechnics as the duo fashioned India's series-clinching six-wicket win over Australia in the third and final T20 International here on Sunday.

Kohli (63 off 48 balls) and Suryakumar (69 off 36 balls) shared a 104-run partnership to lay the platform for the Indian victory. India won the three-match series 2-1.

Cameron Green (52) scored upfront while Tim David (54) provided the final flourish as Australia posted 186 for six after being invited to bat.

With the pitch offering grip and turn, Axar Patel (3/33) picked three wickets, while also executing a sensational run out. Yuzvendra Chahal (1/22) was also in his element, bowling an economical spell.

Chasing 187, India didn't have the best of starts as openers KL Rahul (1) and Rohit Sharma (17) were out inside the first four overs.

But Kohli and Suryakumar batted with authority, hitting boundaries and sixes at regular intervals to keep the required run rate in check as Australian bowlers struggled to find answers.

While Suryakumar orchestrated the carnage, Kohli played the second fiddle.

At the halfway mark India needed 96 with eight wickets in hand.

Suryakumar soon brought his fifty as the duo plundered 15 off Adam Zampa's 13th over.

Australia fashioned a comeback, ending Suryakumar's outstanding innings with India needing 53 off the last six overs.

Kohli, however, continued to go about his business, whacking Pat Cummins for a six in the very next over. He brought his first fifty of the series in 36 balls.

Australia bowled some tight overs to keep themselves in the hunt.



But Hardik (25 not out) and Kohli slammed a couple of sixes but the latter was out leaving India in need of five runs from four balls.

Earlier, Green was on the offensive from the start. He smashed the second delivery to square leg for a

sixes, including one that went to the second tier much to the dismay of the partisan crowd.

With Australia going over 13 runs per over, Axar provided the home side with the first breakthrough as he bowled a slower one, forcing Aaron Finch (7) to mistime the shot with Hardik collecting the ball at mid-on.

Green brought his 50 in 19 balls in the fifth over, his innings studded with seven fours and three sixes. But the opener was soon sent packing by Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/39), who bowled slightly wide only for the Australian to slash the ball to KL Rahul.

Australia plundered 66 runs for the loss off two wickets from the Powerplay.

But Glenn Maxwell's (6) woeful run continued as Axar executed a brilliant run out with a direct hit from the boundary.

There was some doubt whether it was a run-out as wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik's glove had knocked out one bail but in the end the decision went in India's favour.

Just before the halfway mark Karthik stumped Smith (8) who was deceived by Chahal's wrong'un as the Australian innings seemed to fall apart.

But Josh Inglis (24) and David steadied the Australian innings as the visitors made a comeback.

Skipper Rohit Sharma introduced Harshal Patel (1/18) in the 13th over but his struggles continued. The medium pacer was first hit for six, which was followed by a no-ball and a wide.

Rohit then brought Axar back into the attack and the left-arm immediately repaid the skipper's faith by getting rid off Inglis and danger-man Matthew Wade.

The strapping David slammed two consecutive sixes and a four off Bhuvneshwar, who missed his length in the 18th over.

Sloppy fielding from India towards the end only added to Australia's total.

Green smashes third fastest fifty for Australia in T20Is

IANS ■ HYDERABAD

He was promoted as an opener as a gamble in the absence of bigwigs David Warner and Mitch Marsh but Cameron Green made the spot his own during the 2022 T20I series in India, hitting the third fastest half-century in the shortest format of the game for Australia.

Green, who opened the innings with Aaron Finch for the third consecutive match in the 3rd T20I at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Uppal, here on Sunday, raced to fifty off 19 balls, hitting seven boundaries and three sixes.

This is the third fastest half-century for Australia in T20Is behind David Warner and Glenn Maxwell, both of who achieved it off 18 deliveries.

In terms of runs, this is the second fastest as Warner struck his fifty off 18 balls and Maxwell did that twice.

Warner scored his half-century against the West Indies in Sydney in February 2010 while Maxwell did it first against Pakistan in Mirpur in 2014 and then repeated it against Sri Lanka at R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo in 2016.



'Hope I've been able to contribute to growth of women's cricket'

PTI ■ LONDON

Retired from all formats of the game after a glorious two decade-long international career, legendary pacer Jhulan Goswami on Sunday hoped that she had been successful in inspiring the next generation of players in India and the world to play the "beautiful game".

The 39-year-old Goswami was on Saturday handed a fairy-tale ending to her illustrious career as India Women beat England by 16 runs in the third and final ODI at the Lord's to record their first clean sweep on English soil.

"I have always been honest as a cricketer and hope, I have been able to contribute to the growth of women's cricket in India and the world. I hope I have been successful in inspiring the next generation of girls to play this beautiful game," Goswami wrote on a farewell note posted on her social media handle.

"To my cricket family and beyond. So, the day has finally arrived! Like every journey has an end, my cricket journey of over 20 years ends today as I announce my retirement from all forms of cricket."

One of the greatest fast bowlers to have ever played the game, Goswami left the scene as women cricket's highest wicket-



taker, having started her journey way back in 2002. She finished with 44 wickets in 12 Tests, 255 wickets in 204 ODIs and 56 wickets in 68 T20Is.

"As Ernest Hemingway said, 'it's good to have an end to journey towards, but it is the journey that matters in the end'. For me, this journey has been the most satisfying. It has been exhilarating, thrilling to say the least, adventurous," Goswami wrote.

"I have had the honour of donning the India jersey for over two decades and serving my

End of an era, BCCI says after one of greatest Jhulan's retirement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI has described Jhulan Goswami's two decade-long international career as "monumental", saying an era has come to an end with the retirement of one of women's cricket's greatest players.

"With Jhulan announcing her retirement from international cricket, an era has come to an end. She took immense pride in representing India and always put her best foot forward as she served Indian cricket with distinction," BCCI president

Sourav Ganguly said in a press release.

"She was the leader of India's bowling attack and her feats will continue to inspire the present and budding cricketers. Her contribution to the game has been monumental.

"While her inspiring presence on the field will be missed, her achievements will continue to motivate the upcoming cricketers," Ganguly added.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah said that Jhulan Goswami is one of the greatest to have ever graced the game.



Auger-Aliassime downs Djoker as Team World eye Laver Cup

AP ■ LONDON

A victory for Tsitsipas would set the stage for a winner-takes-all decider between Casper Ruud and Team World's Taylor Fritz.

Djokovic had won his first match for two months on Saturday when the Wimbledon champion defeated Tiafoe in straight sets.

The 21-time Grand Slam winner, who missed the recent US Open due to his unvaccinated status, also joined forced with Matteo Berrettini to win a doubles match on Saturday.

"It's one of the best performances of my career. I've been close a few times against these great champions, so it feels to great to get a win like this," Auger-Aliassime said.

Felix Auger-Aliassime stunned Novak Djokovic to put Team World on the brink of winning the Laver Cup for the first time on Sunday.

Auger-Aliassime handed Djokovic his first defeat since May as the Canadian youngster powered to a 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) victory over the Team Europe star at London's O2 Arena.

Team World led 10-8 in the Ryder Cup-style tournament and need one win from the last two matches to lift the trophy.

France Tiafoe of the United States can clinch the title if he beats Team Europe's Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Whatever we have done I don't think it was any crime: Harmanpreet

PTI ■ LONDON

India women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur says her side had committed "no crime" after completing a first-ever whitewash in ODIs on English soil with a legal yet debatable run out.

Harmanpreet was responding to questions on the run out effected by her bowler Deepti Sharma at the non-striker's end to claim the crucial wicket of Charlie Dean, after the batter had backed up too far, and end England's innings 17 short of the target of 170 in the third and final ODI here on Saturday.

Batting at number nine, Dean had staged a dramatic recovery with a fighting 47 and shared a 35-run stand with No. 11 Freya Davies to put England within reach of the target after the hosts had slipped to 65 for 7 and then 103 for 8.

"Today whatever we have done I don't think it was any crime," Harmanpreet said at the post-match press conference.

"It is part of the game and it is an ICC rule and I think we just need to hope our player. I'm actually very happy she was aware of that, and the batter she is taking too long a stride I think. I don't think she has done

something wrong and we just need to back her."

The India skipper, who was named the Player of the Series, did not agree that the controversy took the sheen off the legendary Jhulan Goswami's farewell game.

"I don't think so, because, like I said, I don't think we have done any crime. I don't think we need to talk about that because the first nine wickets were also very important and everybody was working so hard.

"It was a chaseable total but the way our bowlers bowled and the whole team putting in the effort, there were a lot of things to celebrate other than just talking about the last wicket."

Harmanpreet was annoyed with the line of questioning at the presentation ceremony, when the presenter kept harping on the run out, instead of the Indian team's historic series triumph that was built on the back of a terrific all-round display.

"Well, to be honest I thought you will ask about the nine wickets which was not easy to take as well. It's part of the game. I don't think we have done something new. It shows your awareness, what batters are doing," Harmanpreet said.

"I will back my players, she has-



n't done something outside the rules. After the first game we discussed, we wanted to do really well, we have that much potential. We want to continue this kind of cricket."

At the post-match presser, she also pointed out how India suffered when Smriti Mandhana was given out in the third match of their T20I series, which England won 2-1,

despite the ball touching the ground after Sophie Ecclestone went for the catch.

Very recently only the ICC reiterate the dismissal was completely

legitimate, moving it from 'unfair play' to 'run out'.

The MCC Law 41.16.1 states: "If the non-striker is out of his/her ground at any time from the moment

the ball comes into play until the instant when the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball, the non-striker is liable to be run out."

How about awarding wicket to bowler for presence of mind: Ashwin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Sunday said wickets ought to be credited to bowlers' accounts when they run out batters at the non-striker's end for backing up too far, as it requires 'presence of mind'.

Going by the ICC manual, India all-rounder Deepti Sharma's run out of Charlie Dean in the third ODI was perfectly legal, but it still divided opinion with many backing it while Englishmen, such as Stuart Broad, James Anderson and Sam Billings, expressing their annoyance.

Joining in the debate Ashwin,

who has often objected to these kind of run outs being termed 'Mankading' (named after former India player Vinoo Mankad), recommended a bravery award for the bowler.

Responding to a tweet by English cricketer Billings who asked Adnderson, "Imagine how many more wickets you could get James," Ashwin wrote on his Twitter handle, "In fact that's a great idea. How about awarding that wicket to the bowler for 'presence of mind' under immense pressure and of course knowing the social stigma that he/she would have to deal with post doing it. How about a bravery award to go with it too."