

OPINION 6

POLLUTING A RIVER
IS A SIN AGAINST IT!

WORLD 9

US CARRIER, S KOREA SHIPS LAUNCH
DRILLS AMID NORTH'S THREAT

MONEY 10

INDIA'S GDP TO GROW
AT 7.3% IN '23: S&P

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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PAK BEAT ENG
BY 3 RUNS IN
4TH MATCH
12 SPORT

Raj revolt leaves Cong on razor's edge, may defer call on CM pick

Gehlot says sorry
to Kharge, but
loyalist MLAs
defiant; Makan
briefs SoniaPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The Rajasthan crisis has forced the Congress high command to defer the move for a change of guards in the poll-bound State even as all eyes are on Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi to take a call on the rebellion staged by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his loyalists.

The Congress's high command has limited options given the fact that Rajasthan is the lone big State where the party is in power. Source-based reports kept trickling throughout Monday that Sonia will take action against some Rajasthan leaders for defying the high command. But experts feel that she is unlikely to get into any such misadventure that could further destabilise the State Government and keep the pot boiling.

Sources said that to diffuse the cruises, the Congress high command may defer the entire process to elect a new leader in the State. This seems a high probability since Gehlot may be pulled out of the race for the Congress president.

While Gehlot has now apologised to the AICC observer and senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge, but that may not mean anything. It is well known that



Congress leader Ajay Maken addresses media after meeting Congress president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday PTI

the rebellion had his blessings, and he did not do anything to restrain the MLAs.

The crisis continued even on Monday with the MLAs loyal to Gehlot refusing to separately meet Kharge and Maken. They held a parallel meeting and demanded that Gehlot should remain the Chief Minister.

Gehlot met Kharge at a hotel in Jaipur before they left for Delhi. The CM is believed to have apologised and said he had nothing to do with the rebellion by MLAs close to him.

The Gehlot loyalists said they have conveyed to Kharge and Maken that any decision on the next Chief Minister should be taken after the party's

presidential election on October 19 and in consultation with Gehlot.

They also want someone to the top post who stood with the Congress Government during a political crisis led by Sachin Pilot in Rajasthan in 2020. Gehlot and Pilot were at loggerheads over the Chief Minister's post soon after the Congress won the 2018 Rajasthan Assembly polls. In July 2020, Pilot, along with 18 party MLAs, rebelled against Gehlot's leadership.

Party observers Mallikarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken returned to Delhi and reported to Sonia.

Talking to reporters after a nearly hour-long meeting with Sonia, Maken said they

apprised the party president of the developments in the State after which she sought a detailed report on it.

Maken slammed the Gehlot loyalists for setting conditions for a party resolution, terming it a "conflict of interest", and said their decision to hold a parallel meeting amounted to indiscipline. "In the 75 years of the Congress' history, there has never been a conditional resolution. A resolution is only a one-line document. Everything is told to the Congress president and then a decision is taken," Maken told reporters in Jaipur.

"A resolution should not have any conflict of interest. Those who are contesting elections tomorrow might become the party president, if they get to decide on the resolution, it is a conflict of interest. So, it is

wrong," he said, without naming Gehlot.

He said it was "unfortunate" that the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting could not be held and termed the move of pro-Gehlot loyalist MLAs and ministers as "indiscipline". The AICC observers kept waiting for the party MLAs in Jaipur on Sunday night but they did not turn up.

He added that the CLP meeting was kept after Gehlot's consent and the place and time were set as per his request. He said the MLAs and ministers loyal to Chief Minister Gehlot cannot pose conditions to the party leadership as they amount to a "conflict of interest".

"Kharge ji and I have apprised the Congress president of the CLP meeting in Rajasthan. The Congress president has sought a written report on the entire chronology, which we will submit by late night or tomorrow," Maken said.

"Some representatives of MLAs, ministers came and put forth three demands. Their condition is that the CLP leader be elected after October 19 and any decision should be taken after that... This cannot happen as those who are moving the resolution after October 19 would themselves take the decision and this would amount to a conflict of interest," Maken briefed.

"It is unfortunate that after all this, the CLP meeting could not take place. When the CLP official meeting is kept, no parallel meeting should take place and it primarily amounts to indiscipline," he added. The Congress has 108 MLAs in the 200-member Assembly.

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F-16s to Pak for anti-terror op? Lame excuse, India tells US

PIONEER NEWS
SERVICE/AGENCIES ■
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

India has raised doubts about the US selling F-16s to Pakistan in a deal worth over 450 million dollars to "fight terrorism" and said the USA is not "fooling anybody by saying these things."

Giving this terse message in the US capital days ahead of his meeting with US Foreign Secretary Antony Blinken and others, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar late on Sunday said America's relationship with Pakistan has "not served" either of the two countries.

Raising questions on the Biden administration's approval of a USD 450-million sustenance package for F-16 fleet, Jaishankar said in an interaction with the Indian-Americans there, "Very honestly, it's a relationship that has neither ended up serving Pakistan well, nor serving the American interests. So, it is really for the United States today to reflect on what are the merits of this relationship and what do they get by it."

Referring to the argument made by the US that F-16 sustenance package is to fight terrorism, he said everybody knows where and against whom F-16 is used. "You're not fooling anybody by saying these things," he said in response to a question.

Early this month, the Biden administration approved a USD 450 million F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme to Pakistan, reversing the decision of the previous Trump administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad for providing safe havens to the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network.

In a notification to the US Congress, the State Department made a determination approving a possible for-



eign military sale for sustainment and related equipment for an estimated cost of USD 450 million, arguing that this will sustain Islamabad's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet.

Jaishankar's remarks about the F-16 package came days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in telephonic talks with his US counterpart Lloyd Austin on September 14 had expressed India's concerns.

"I conveyed India's concern at the recent US decision to provide a sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Look forward to continuing dialogue with Secretary Austin to further consolidate India-US partnership," Rajnath tweeted after talks.

On September 23, the US

said "it (F-16) is not designed as a message" to New Delhi for its neutral stand on Russia regarding the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

Making his country's stand clear regarding the issue, Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, said its decision to provide a package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet is associated with America's defence partnership with Islamabad which is primarily focused on counterterrorism and nuclear security.

He also said the US has a limited security partnership with Pakistan. However, New Delhi says Pakistan's F-16s are not used for counter-terrorism operations and instead pose a threat to India.

Continued on Page 2

Gehlot's bid to head Cong in peril as loyalty to Gandhis in question

Raj Min Dhariwal
accuses Maken
of plotting to
make Pilot CMPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

If Ashok Gehlot can stage a rebellion even before he became the Congress president, how would he treat the Gandhis after taking up the reins of the party, has worried the Congress high command.

Gehlot may have apologised to party's observers Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge for the display of defiance by his loyalists, but that is unlikely to help him put the clock back. A section of senior party leaders and Gandhis are report-



ed to be very upset with the Rajasthan Chief Minister for scripting the entire drama. They feel Gehlot has done serious damage to the efforts made by Rahul Gandhi to revive the party through the Bharat Jodo Yatra route.

After the Rajasthan crisis unfolded on Sunday, Gehlot has not spoken a word about filing his nomination paper. It's obvious that unless he is able to resolve the crisis to the expectation of Sonia Gandhi, the Congress High command is

unlikely to forgive him.

Sources said disciplinary action is being considered against Gehlot's loyalists. Sonia has been reportedly very upset with the way the Gehlot handled the entire Rajasthan crisis by not holding the CLP meeting.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Minister and key Gehlot-loyalist Shanti Dhariwal on Monday launched a frontal attack on Congress' State in-charge Ajay Maken, alleging that he was talking to party MLAs in a partisan manner and canvassing for Sachin Pilot.

Soon after Maken briefed Sonia in Delhi about the political developments in the State, Dhariwal called a press conference at his residence here and hit out at party general secretary Maken.

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Devotees offer prayers at the Mata Longa Wali Devi Temple on the first day of 'Navratri' festival, in Amritsar on Monday PTI

CAPSULE

SNOWDEN GRANTED RUSSIAN CITIZENSHIP

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin has granted Russian citizenship to former US security contractor Edward Snowden, according to a decree signed on Monday by the Russian leader.

GHULAM NABI LAUNCHES DEMOCRATIC AZAD PARTY

Jammu: Former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday launched Democratic Azad Party coinciding with the first day of Navratri festival, exactly a month after ending his five-decade long association with the Congress.

P5

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ GRANTED INTERIM BAIL

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday granted interim bail to actor Jacqueline Fernandez in a ₹200 crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar.

Rupee plunges 58p to close at all-time low of 81.67 per \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 58 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the US dollar on Monday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, escalation of geopolitical risks due to conflict in Ukraine, a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the currency close at an all-time low of 81.67 against dollar.

Detailed report on P10

15 dead as man with Nazi symbol opens fire in Russian school

AP ■ MOSCOW

A gunman opened fire in a school in central Russia on Monday, killing 15 people and wounding 24 others before shooting himself dead, authorities said.

The shooting took place in School No. 88 in Izhevsk, a city 960 kilometres (600 miles) east of Moscow in the Udmurtia region.

Russia's Investigative Committee identified the gunman as 34-year-old Artyom Kazantsev, a graduate of the same school, and said he was wearing a black t-shirt bearing "Nazi symbols." No details about his motives have been released.

Continued on Page 2

Ankita's murder: Mother says body not shown to her before last rites

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A day after Ankita Bhandari's cremation, her mother has claimed that she was not shown the body before cremation. In a video shot in a hospital, she alleges that she was tricked into going to the hospital where she was put on a drip.

Ankita worked in a resort owned by Pulkit Arya, the son of a now expelled BJP leader. Arya, along with two others, has been arrested by as the accused in the case.

Meanwhile, the SIT has collected evidence from the resort and also inspected the murder scene on the banks of the Chilla canal from where her body was recovered on Saturday.

Govt blocks 45 videos on 10 YouTube channels for hate, lies on Agnipath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Based on inputs from intelligence agencies, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed YouTube to block 45 videos from 10 YouTube channels for spreading false information related to the country's national security, foreign relations, and public order.

Some of the videos blocked by the Ministry were being used to spread disinformation on issues related to Agnipath scheme, Indian Armed Forces, India's national security apparatus and Kashmir among others. The content was observed to be false and sensitive from the perspective of national security and India's friendly relations with foreign States.

"These channels had con-



tent that spread fear and misconception among communities," I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said.

According to the statement issued by the Ministry, the blocked videos had cumulative viewership of over 1.30 crore.

"The content included fake news and morphed videos circulated with the intent to spread hatred among religious

communities.

Examples include false claims such as the Government having taken away the religious rights of certain communities, violent threats against religious communities, declaration of civil war in India, etc. Such videos were found to have the potential to cause communal disharmony and disrupt public order in the country," it said.

Continued on Page 2

50% of tweets asked by Govt to be blocked 'innocuous', Twitter tells Karnataka HC

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Twitter on Monday claimed before the Karnataka High Court it was being asked by the Government to block accounts, rather than just a tweet that was deemed improper, because of its political content. As a platform it was affected by the Centre asking it to take down accounts without issuing notice to the alleged violators. Twitter said about 50-60 per cent of the tweets being asked to be blocked were "innocuous."

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NCR PULSE

ALL 27 GATES OF OKHLA BARRAGE OPENED BY DDMA



New Delhi: All 27 gates of the Okhla Barrage were opened by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) as the Yamuna River remained to flow above the warning level as the water level was recorded 204.94 metres at 4:00 pm, at Old Railway Bridge. Special Officer of the DDMA, Sushil Singh said that they are ensuring the smooth flow of water by opening gates of the Okhla Barrage. We will open all the 27 gates of the Okhla Barrage, so that the water coming from the Hathnikund Barrage goes straight out of the city.

36TH NATIONAL GAMES 2022 BEING ORGANISED IN GUJ

New Delhi: NDMC Vice Chairman, Satish Upadhyay on Monday informed that 36th National Games 2022 is being organized in Gujarat in the month of September-October 2022 and players from the Delhi team will participate in these games. He informed that 500 sportspersons and 100 officials will participate in these prestigious games.

MCD TO ORGANISE FREE RABIES VACCINATION CAMP

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will organise a free anti Rabies vaccination camp for pet and stray dogs on the occasion of World Rabies Day on September 28th, 2022. This free of cost vaccination campaign is being organised by the Veterinary Services department of MCD in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry department of Delhi Government.

5 ARRESTED FOR DUPING MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested five men for allegedly duping more than 500 people on the pretext of providing them benefits of lapsed life insurance policies. The accused have been identified as Aakash (25), a resident of Madhubani district in Bihar, Amit Kumar (32), a resident of Tilak Nagar, Rahul Kumar (32), a resident of Narela, Samir (30), a resident of Gulabi Bagh and Akhilesh (25), a resident of Wazirpur.

FOUR FAKE CALL CENTRE OPERATIVES ARRESTED

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested four men from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh (UP) for allegedly duping more than 1,000 people on the pretext of getting them jobs through a fake call centre. The accused have been identified as Pranshu (27) and Himanshu (20), both residents of Farukhabad district in Uttar Pradesh, Pankaj Pandey (27), a resident of Faridabad in Haryana, and Deepak Kumar Yadav (28), a resident of Badarpur in Delhi.

AAP MLA INAUGURATES GRAND RAMLILA AT PATPARGANJ

New Delhi: Delhi Jal Board Vice Chairman and MLA of Greater Kailash, Saurabh Bhardwaj inaugurated a grand Ramlila being organized in Patparganj Vidhan Sabha constituency. Along with the grand Ramlila, a sizable fair is also organized here every year which employs swings, multiple food stalls and a number of toy shops for children for entertainment.

FORENSIC SCIENCE LAB BEGINS FIRST TRAINING PROG

New Delhi: Rohini's forensic science laboratory on Monday kick-started its first training programme on the basics of cyber forensic for police personnel. The training programme is titled 'Basics of Cyber Forensic and Seizure and Collection of Digital Exhibits from the Scene of Crime'. The day-long programme was conducted by the Cyber Forensic Laboratory cum Training Centre Wing of the FSL under the scheme of Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC), Ministry of Home Affairs. During the training, cyber forensic experts shared their vast experience in the field and imparted training on the subject.

3 SECURITY GUARDS ATTACKED WITH AXES AND STICKS

Gurugram: Three security guards were injured after a group of men allegedly attacked them with axes and sticks at a builder project site in sector 106 in Gurugram. According to the complaint filed by guard Girdhari Lal, native of Lalgarh in Uttar Pradesh, the incident happened in the wee hours on Saturday. At that time he along with guard Sugandhi, one other and supervisor Rajesh were on duty at the builder project site.

Govt blocks 45 videos on 10...

From Page 1

Certain videos depicted erroneous external boundary of India with parts of J&K and Ladakh outside the Indian territory. Such cartographic misrepresentation was found to be detrimental to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. The content blocked by the Ministry was found to be detrimental to sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, India's friendly relations with foreign States, and public order in the country," said the statement issued by the Ministry. "Orders to block the con-

cerned videos were issued on September 23, 2022 under the provisions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021," the Ministry said in its statement.

The content was covered within the ambit of section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the Ministry said, adding the Government remains committed to thwarting any attempts at undermining India's sovereignty and integrity, national security, foreign relations, and public order.

F-16s to Pak for anti-terror...

From Page 1

Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs reportedly expressed its concern during a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu. He was here to take part in the Quad Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). Responding to a question, Ratner said the recent US action with Pakistan on F-16 is not designed as a message to India as it relates to its relationship with Russia. "The decision inside the US government around the F-

16 issue was made predicated on US interests associated with our defence partnership with Pakistan which is primarily focused on counterterrorism and nuclear security and as the (Defence) Secretary Lloyd Austin made clear to (Defence) Minister Rajnath Singh during their call last week, this case did not include any upgrades or munitions," he said.

"We have been engaging with our Indian counterparts, both in advance of the announcement to preview it

BJP tried to incite riots in Delhi with fake news: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Monday said that the BJP tried to incite riots in Delhi by spreading fake news and a proof has been submitted to Lieutenant Governor.

AAP MLA, Somnath Bharti said that on September 16, BJP released a video through which they tried to mislead the audience about land jihad and the photo shown in the video by BJP is of Mohammed Shahbudeen who was jailed in Tihar and died during Covid.

"This photo was taken in the cemetery behind ITO. A BJP politician who used the picture to churn out fake news from it that AAP is about to build another cemetery. By showing this picture, BJP tried to spread riots in Delhi but they failed miserably at it. They are thirsty for blood and stoop to



any level for political gains," said Bharti.

"I have submitted a letter to LG and told him that BJP's failed attempt to create violence in Delhi is exposed. All the pictures shown by them were fake," said Bharti.

Shedding light on the corruption done by BJP, he said, a BJP councillor Shailendar Singh Monty, in 2007 didn't have enough funds to campaign for himself but in 2020, when this person stood for assembly elections, he showed his wealth as Rs 28 crores of white money.

"Which machine has the

BJP installed to produce so much money and amass so much wealth despite being in public life? In 2007, he did not have a penny and in 2020 he holds Rs 28 crores," said Bharti.

"It has been 36 hours since I submitted documents to the L-G and he is yet to take any action. Since Monet is a BJP leader, CBI and ED will not dare to take any action against him," said Bharti adding that he demands L-G to direct the CBI and ED to initiate investigation against Shailendar Singh Monty.

"He has grabbed DDA's land and if the L-G is actually concerned about DDA's land, then he should take strict action against him. All his illegal structures, be it hotel, mansions or bars, should be demolished and lands should be freed from encroachment. A case should be registered against him," said Bharti.

Court grants ACB 14-day custody of Amanatullah Khan

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Rouse Avenue court granted 14-day judicial custody of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan to ACB (Anti Corruption Bureau) in connection with a case related to alleged irregularities in the Delhi Waqf Board recruitment.

Special Judge Vikas Dhull passed the order and posted the bail hearing for Khan on Tuesday.

Earlier, on September 21 the court had extended the custodial interrogation of Khan by five days.

Khan is accused of corruption during his tenure as the chief of the Delhi Waqf Board. The Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) arrested Khan after conducting raids at his premises on September 16. An FIR was already registered in connection with the alleged wrongdoings in the board. According to the FIR, Khan illegally recruited 32 people by violating all norms and government guidelines. The ACB claimed that five of Khan's relatives were appointed to the board, while 22 were from Okhla, which he represents in the Delhi assembly.

Delhi Govt inoculating cattle to stop LSD spread

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Monday started vaccinating healthy cattle to prevent the spread of lumpy skin disease, which has so far infected 571 animals in the national capital. A total of 275 animals have recovered from the infection in Delhi so far, and the number of active cases stands at 296.

According to an official of the animal husbandry department, they have procured 25,000 doses of goat pox vaccine from Indian Immunologicals Limited and have started vaccinating healthy cattle in Delhi from Monday.

"These doses will be administered free of cost. It will take around a week to complete the vaccination drive. The government will adopt the ring vaccination strategy in which healthy cattle in a five-km



radius of the affected areas will be inoculated with the Uttarkashi strain of the virus, the official said.

Most cases of lumpy skin disease have been detected in the southwest Delhi district -- in the Goyla dairy area, Rewla Khanpur area, Ghumanhera and Najafgarh. No cattle death has been reported in the capital due to the infection so far.

The authorities reported 173 cases of the lumpy skin disease in the capital on September 11. The first case was detected at the end of August.

The Delhi government has deployed four mobile veterinary clinics and set up 11 rapid response teams to collect

samples. Four teams are creating awareness of the virus among people.

The city government has also set up a special control room with helpline number 8287848586 for queries related to the disease.

An isolation ward has been set up in Rewla Khanpur Gau Sadan in southwest Delhi for stray cattle suffering from the lumpy skin disease. The cow shelter can accommodate 4,500 cattle.

Lumpy skin disease is a contagious viral disease that spreads among cattle through mosquitoes, flies, lice and wasps by direct contact, as also through contaminated food and water. It does not transmit from cattle to humans.

The symptoms include high fever, reduced milk production, skin nodules, loss of appetite, increased nasal discharge and watery eyes, among others.

Raj revolt leaves Cong on razor's edge, may defer...

From Page 1

Earlier, Rajasthan Minister and key Gehlot-loyalist Shanti Dhariwal launched a frontal attack on Congress' state in-charge Ajay Maken, alleging that he was talking to party MLAs in a partisan manner and canvassing for Sachin Pilot.

With the bitter internal feud in the party spilling into the open, Maken, who was sent as a central observer, had earlier in the day criticised MLAs loyal to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for placing conditions for the resolution to be taken up in the legislature party meeting on deciding the next CM.

He had also said that holding a parallel meeting and not attending the official meeting of the legislature party is "indiscipline".

Soon after Maken briefed Sonia Gandhi in the national capital about the political

developments in the state, Dhariwal called a press conference at his residence here and hit out at party general secretary Maken.

"If the party general secretary and in-charge have come up with a mission to make such people (who rebel against the party) as the chief minister, then the MLAs are bound to be angry,"

Party observers Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge Kharge, who came to Jaipur for the legislature party meeting, kept waiting for the MLAs at the chief minister's residence and the legislature party meeting could not take place. Both the leaders returned to New Delhi on Monday and apprised party president Sonia Gandhi about the developments.

The CLP meeting was called after Gehlot declared his candidature for the party president's post.

Class 10 Dalit student dies after assault by teacher in Auraiya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Brutal assault in the name of corporal punishment took its toll when in a fresh incident, a Class 10 Dalit student was fatally beaten up by his school teacher in Auraiya.

The student died during treatment in a hospital.

The victim, Nikhil Dohre, was beaten up by his social science teacher on September 7 as he had made a mistake in an exam. His health deteriorated after that and he was being treated in a hospital. The teacher also contributed to the treatment.

On September 24, Nikhil's father, Raju Dohre, lodged a report in the Achhalda police station against the teacher for not cooperating in the treatment and for using caste-indicative abusive words.

He made a complaint after Nikhil died during treatment on Saturday.

The FIR was registered against the accused, Ashwini Singh, at Achhalda police station and teams have been formed to arrest the accused.

Auraiya's Superintendent of Police Charu Nigam said, "We have talked to Etawah chief medical officer to set up a panel for autopsy to find out the cause of death and get the autopsy and videographed. Further action will be taken. Three teams have been formed

to arrest the accused."

In another incident, a Class IV employee of the BED department committed suicide in a classroom of the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University.

The employee, identified as Vibhuti Prasad, ended his life by hanging himself from the ceiling. When the teachers saw him hanging, they immediately informed the Cantonment police, and the cops rushed to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem.

During the investigation, police recovered a suicide note from the pocket of the deceased. The suicide note, purportedly written by the deceased, read, "I am writing the suicide note so that people know why I have hanged myself. My wife is dead and I have been suffering from stomach disease for two years. I have cancer in my stomach, there is a lot of pain, so I am committing suicide."

Vibhuti is survived by his sons Kaushal Kumar Gaur and Pramod Gaur.

The police sent the body for post-mortem and further investigation is underway.

In Etawah, a 25-year-old man died after allegedly falling off a moving train, officials said on Monday.

Yashvardhan Rana, a basketball referee, was travelling in the Sangam Express when he



fell from the train on the intervening night of September 24-25 between Ekdil and Bharthana railway stations in the Kanpur-Tundla division.

Rana, who was also an instructor at the Modi Sports Academy in Meerut, was going to Kanpur for the 61st Uttar Pradesh Basketball Competition at Chaudhary Harmohan Singh Yadav Paramedical College, along with the Meerut team.

According to Etawah Superintendent of Police (City) Kapil Dev Singh, Rana, a resident of Civil Lines in Meerut, was in S-5 coach while the basketball team was travelling in the S-3 and S-7 coaches. When the train reached Kanpur station on Sunday morning, a search operation was launched after Rana was not found inside the coach. Later, a body was found lying on the side of the railway track near Bharthana station of Etawah district.

Officials from the Basketball Association reached the spot and identified the body.

Anti-India forces shut out of country, conspiring on foreign soil...

From Page 1 "This is something which we need to be aware of. It is

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ccroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-20/2022-23

1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:

2. Nature of work : Road & Bridge works
3. No. of work : 12 Nos
4. Tender Paper cost : Rs. 10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : A Class/ Special Class/Super Class
6. Available of bid document : From 10.00 A.M. of 01.10.2022 to 5.30 PM of 20.10.2022
7. Date of opening of Bid : 21.10.2022 at 11.30 AM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

OIPR: 34111/11/0045/2223 **Sd/- Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha**

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‘Plan your commute for next 10 days’

Major rush of people and traffic expected in Delhi for Navratri, Ramlilas, warns Traffic Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police issued an advisory on Monday, urging commuters to plan their journeys carefully for the next ten days due to the ongoing Navaratri rush of devotees at temples and the Ramlilas being organised across the national Capital from September 26 to October 5. There are 46 main venues in the city where Ramlilas will be organised.

These areas include the Netaji Subhash Marg, Nishad Raj Marg, JLN Marg, Ambedkar Nagar, Sarojini Nagar, Greater Kailash, South Avenue, Sadar Bazar in Delhi Cantonment, Sector 5 in RK Puram, Dwarka South, Dwarka North, Uttam Nagar, Punjabi Bagh, Kirti Nagar, Hari Nagar, Vikasपुरi, Nairana, Jalebi Chowk in Sultanpuri, NSP Lala Jagat Narayan Marg, Keshav Puram, Near Kushal Cinema in Jahangirpuri, Shalimar Bagh,



Devotees offer prayers at the Jhandewalan Temple on the first day of Navaratri festival, in New Delhi on Monday. RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

Madhu Vihar, Seelampur, New Usmanpur, Anand Vihar, Kailash Nagar in Gandhi Nagar and Bihari Colony in Farsh Bazar.

In addition to the main venues which will see a huge rush of people, Ramlilas may also be organised by RWAs and residents of colonies in market areas and open grounds.

Some Ramlila Committees may also take out processions in their localities. Traffic move-

ment may be affected in such areas due to the huge public gatherings, the Traffic Police stated, and advised commuters to avoid several roads and stretches from 6 PM to 11 PM, as traffic movement may be affected due to the huge public gatherings of devotees and spectators.

“Further, there may be restrictions on movement of general traffic on Netaji Subhash Marg, Nishad Raj

Marg (New Darya Ganj Road), Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg and Turkman Gate depending on the crowd situation after 5.00 PM from September 6 to October 5, as major Ramlilas will be staged at Ramlila Ground and Red Fort in Delhi and important dignitaries are expected to be present there,” stated the advisory.

The Traffic Police also advised people to avail of public transport to help decongest

the roads. “Park your vehicles only at designated parking lots and avoid roadside parking as it causes hindrance to normal flow of traffic and follow the instructions of Delhi Traffic Police officials on duty,” it said.

“In case any unusual/unidentified object or person is noticed in suspicious circumstances, information should be given to the nearby Police Post, PCR Van or staff deployed on duty,” the advisory added.

Similarly, Navaratri will be celebrated till October 5 and the six main temples, which attract a large number of devotees, are Jhandewalan Mandir, Durga Mandir in Kailash Colony, Pahari Wala Mandir/Mahavir Mandir in Greater Kailash-1, Adhya Katyayani Shaktipeeth Mandir in Chhattarpur, Kalkaji Mandir on Outer Ring Road from Nehru Place to Modi Mill and Kali Badi Mandir on Mandir Marg, the advisory stated.

The Traffic Police advised that people going to IGI Airport, New Delhi Railway Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, Nizamuddin Railway Station and ISBT should leave before their scheduled time to accommodate possible delays.

RBI assessing fiscal stress, risk of ‘freebies’

Central Bank seeks replies from States, UTs on subsidies given by them

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of a raging debate on the culture of freebies and its adverse impact on the State exchequer, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is carrying out an assessment of “fiscal stress and risk” of different States and Union Territories and sought details of the subsidies given by them on agriculture, food and power among others.

As all departments remained unresponsive, the Delhi Government’s finance department shot off a reminder to departmental heads on September 22, urging them to answer the six-point questionnaire of the RBI.

The central bank wants to know whether the State Government has bailed out any troubled financial institutions municipal corporations/non-financial companies in the last five years and its

financial impact; if it revoked any bank guarantees; number of State Government employees, etc. As per the mail sent to the finance department by the RBI the answers to the questionnaire have to be sent to the Manager, Kirti Gupta, but there has been no response till date. “Did guarantees extended by the State Government realise/invoke in the last 5 years? Did the State Government face natural disaster in the last 5 years? What are the number of State Government employees in the age group of 50-55 years and 55-60 years (cadre-wise)? (For assessment of the pension burden in the next 10 years),” read the mail.

“What is the cost to the State Government due to farm loan waivers in 2019-20 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23? What is the amount of subsidy given by State Government with respect to agriculture, food, power sector and other subsidies from 2019-20 to 2022-23?” the questionnaire stated.

The detailed information has been sought by the Department of Economic &

Policy Research, Government of India as the RBI Governor wants a detail assessment of fiscal stress/risk of the different States/Union Territories.

“Considerable time has already been elapsed but no information has been received from your department/organisation till date. It is therefore, once again requested to look into the matter and direct concerned officer to furnish requisite detailed compiled information to this department within a week on priority basis,” read the communiqués by Gupta. The AAP Government led by Arvind Kejriwal is giving free water and electricity to users of certain limit and free rides to women in DTC buses. The AAP Government in Punjab has also provided free electricity and AAP leaders have promised free electricity, loan waivers in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in recent times hit out at the competitive populism of distributing ‘revdis’ (free gifts), which not only waste taxpayers’ money, but also cause economic losses.

Delhi University commences 2nd phase of admission for UG courses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University (DU) on Monday commenced the second phase of the admission process for undergraduate programs that will allow candidates to choose their program and college combination preferences. Phase II and Phase I, which started on September 12, will remain open till October 10. The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores will also be required in both phases.

To ensure a hassle-free admission process this year, the DU is giving mid-entries to spot admissions, and conducting webinars to introducing helpline services.

Further, DU has announced that in the first round of seat allotment, each programme in each college will have an additional 20 per cent allocation in the unreserved category, OBC-NCL,

EWS categories and 30 per cent in SC, ST, PWBD categories.

According to the statement issued by varsity, the candidates who have completed their application process of Phase-I must proceed to make their preferences for programs and colleges. “The candidates who have yet not completed Phase-I can do so now and proceed to Phase-II,” it added.

DU launched the portal for admission through CUET in its UG programs for the academic year 2022-23 on September 12. This year admissions are being done in 79 UG programs across 67 colleges, departments and centres, which includes 206 combinations for the BA programme as well.

Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS-2022) is being conducted in three phases, the first phase will be to apply to the University of Delhi, the second phase will be preference filling and the third phase will

be seat allotment-cum-admission. Explaining the process of phase II, the university said the candidate will first map their CUET (UG)- 2022 test papers, followed by subjects they have passed in Class-XII Boards. “The candidate will be able to see his or her program-specific CUET score, based on the CUET’s normalised score, for all the programs in which (he or she) is eligible,” the varsity said.

These program-specific CUET scores will be auto-calculated and displayed on the dashboard of the candidate,” it added. In the subsequent section of “preference selection”, the varsity said the candidates can select and order their preferences. The “available preferences” tab will display all the possible program and college combinations the candidate may choose from. The candidate can use the “advanced filter” option available at the top



to filter the colleges as well as programs, it said. “The candidate will have to choose and order the preferences as per his or her choice. The order to selection will also determine the preference order. The candidate can use ‘top, bottom, preference number’ icons to reorder his or her preferences,”

varsity said. “The final order of preferences, as filled and saved, will then be reflected in the ‘selected preferences’ tab. Once satisfied with preference order, the candidate must ‘save changes’ to submit his or her preferences,” it added. The varsity has advised students to choose maximum number of

preferences and said adding or editing the programs and colleges after the deadline for the preference-filling phase will not be allowed. The university also informed that it would be conducting a series of public awareness webinars from Tuesday onwards to orient the candidates on CSAS-UG 2022.

JNU to launch CUET UG admission portal today

New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is planning to launch the admission portal for the undergraduate admission (UG) 2020 through Common University Entrance Test (CUET) on September 27. This year the university is taking admission to its various programmes based on scores on the CUET.

“JNU is planning to launch the JNU portal for UG admissions Tuesday,” a varsity official said. The announcement comes days after the result of the debut edition of the CUET for undergraduate admissions was declared by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Soon after the result, the JNU Deputy Registrar,

Admission, Jagdish Singh, issued a notice stating the admission branch is processing data and details of candidates provided by the NTA and portal will open shortly on its website. “Consequent upon the declaration of CUET UG 2022 by NTA, the admission branch is processing data, details of candidates provided by NTA and shall open portal shortly on JNU website for candidates seeking admission in JNU to fill application form by paying the processing fee,” the notice dated September 16 read. The university offers around 10 UG and 34 PG courses. The varsity is offering a total of 342 UG and 1025 PG seats in various schools and disciplines.

PICTALK



The water level rises in the Yamuna River in New Delhi on Monday. It is expected to rise further owing to rain in catchment areas

RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

‘NDMC has taken many steps to fight air pollution’

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Monday announced that it has already implemented several measures in the area under its jurisdiction to fight the air pollution menace in the national Capital.

To begin with, the council has deployed 18 water tankers or trolleys with 5,000 liters to 10,000 liters capacity for sprinkling on the main roads.

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will be implemented in the national Capital from October 1 to curb the air pollution menace.

According to the Vice-Chairman of the NDMC, Satish Upadhyay, “NDMC has deployed seven Mechanical Road Sweepers (MRS) in two shifts with GPS tracking and wet sweeping.

“Monitoring of route, kilometer length covered running of MRS also monitored by 24x7 through Smart City Integrated Command and Control Centre.”

“One anti-smog gun/mist spray machine has been procured by the council and being used on an as and where basis in the area under the NDMC’s jurisdiction,” Upadhyay said.

“NDMC has deployed 18 of water tanker/trolley of 5000 Ltr. to 10000 Ltr. capacity of water by making around two to three trips for water sprinkling on trees and shrubs along the main roads using Sewage treatment plant (STP) treated water,” Upadhyay informed.

“A team of the NDMC officers under the control of Director (EBR) for the large construction sites has been constituted for inspection and to check that they are enforcing dust mitigation measures. A total of six challans amounting Rs. 3 lakh have been issued from April, 2022 till the date by the council,” the NDMC Vice-Chairman said.

“Construction and Demolition waste in NDMC area is collected on daily basis and is being sent to Shastri Park C&D recycling plan,” Upadhyay stated.

15 focus points to combat winter air pollution: Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to upgrade the ‘Green War Room’ and ‘Green’ application created by the AAP Government to monitor air pollution levels, its sources and address public grievances. “The Winter Action Plan for this year is structured around 15 focus points including pollution from dust, controlling stubble burning within Delhi, burning of waste, industrial emissions, vehicular emissions, pollution at the ‘hotspots’, real-time source apportionment study that will be done this winter, smog towers, firecrackers, increasing “green areas”, and “dialogue with the Central Government and neighbouring States. The DPCC has

been directed to work on the main focus points, which are dust pollution, industrial pollution, upgrading of the war room and green app, smog tower, and real-time apportionment study,” Rai said.

At a meeting with DPCC officials, the Minister directed them to ensure that all construction and demolition projects larger than 500 square metres are registered on the construction and demolition (C&D) portal and that a special drive is launched to accomplish this, an official statement said.

The portal was launched in October last year in a bid to control dust pollution in the Capital. The project proponents have to self-audit their compliance with dust control norms and upload a self-declaration on the portal on a fortnightly basis.

CM hosts Gujarat sanitation worker at his house

For first time in 75 years, a leader has invited a common man to have a meal at his residence, says Harsh Solanki



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal hosted a sanitation worker and his family from Gujarat over lunch at his residence in the national Capital on Monday.

Harsh Solanki, a sanitation worker from Gujarat and his family also visited a Delhi Government school and a hospital. Solanki presented a portrait of BR Ambedkar to Kejriwal.

During the Aam Aadmi Party’s (AAP) Town Hall meeting with sanitation workers, predominantly from the Dalit community, in Ahmedabad on Sunday, Solanki had been invited by Kejriwal to have a meal at his house.

“Today, Harsh Solanki, his mother Lata Solanki and sister Suhani Solanki have come to visit Delhi from Gujarat. They came to my residence on my invitation to have lunch with my family. My family and I had a splendid time while having lunch with them. I thank them for travelling so far and giving us an opportunity to host them. I will go to their homes to have a meal with them when I visit Ahmedabad next time,” said Kejriwal.

Harsh Solanki said that it

was a proud moment for him that for the first time in 75 years, a leader had invited a common man to have a meal at his residence. “When I invit-

ed Arvind Kejriwal to have a meal at my place, not only did he accept my invitation cordially but to my surprise, he also invited me to have a meal

at his residence first. I am having a wonderful experience. Earlier, I went to a school and a mohalla clinic run by Delhi Government and I felt really happy to see the facilities there for the welfare of people of Delhi,” said Solanki.

“I am yet to believe that it is not a dream but reality. When I go back to Gujarat, I will tell the people about development brought by Kejriwal Government in Delhi,” said Solanki.

Earlier in the day, the AAP Rajya Sabha MP, Raghav Chadha had received Solanki and his family at Indira Gandhi International Airport. Solanki and his family also visited Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, West Vinod Nagar where they were received by the principal and the school staff.

Vote bank politics, scream BJP, Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP and Congress on Monday slammed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for doing “caste-based politics” after he hosted a sanitation worker and his family from Gujarat, at his residence.

The Opposition leaders dubbed it a “political stunt” and accused him of “hypocrisy” and told him to take care of Dalits living in the city. “Kejriwal is not a well-wisher of Dalits and sanitation workers,” charged BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri.

He said even the status of ‘Corona Warrior’ was not extended to sanitation workers during the pandemic. “About 82 per cent of the amount allocated for the welfare of these sanitation workers in the Delhi Government budget was not spent. Now by inviting a Dalit of Gujarat to Delhi, AAP is



indulging in gimmick and hypocrisy,” he charged. The Kejriwal Government did not release ₹1 crore compensation each to those who died during different waves of the pandemic, he alleged. “In the Delhi Government’s budget, ₹433.65 crore was allocated for various schemes for SC, ST and OBC people in 2020-21.

This allocation was reduced to ₹268.52 crore out of which only over 18 per cent was spent. The expenditure on these schemes was only ₹32.28 crore of the allocated ₹425.13



crore in 2021-22,” he claimed. Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar also termed the AAP convener’s move a “political stunt” to “mislead the Dalit community.” “Many Dalit sanitation workers serving during the Covid pandemic died due to the virus in Delhi but the Kejriwal Government did not honour its commitment of giving ₹1 crore compensation to the kin of the deceased,” he claimed. “Kejriwal is playing vote-bank politics to fool the people ahead of Assembly polls in Gujarat,” he charged.

We will work to boost Indo-Japan ties: PM

Modi leaves for Tokyo to attend Shinzo Abe State funeral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday left for Tokyo to attend the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday and is expected to be attended by representatives from around 100 countries. "I am traveling to Tokyo tonight to participate in the State Funeral of former PM Shinzo Abe. I will be conveying heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister Kishida and Mrs. Abe on behalf of all Indians," the Prime Minister said in a tweet message on Monday. "We will continue working to further strengthen India-Japan relations as envisioned by Abe San," he said.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said the duration of Modi's visit from the time of his departure from Delhi will be



Representational picture

around 12 to 16 hours. Modi will have a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and also meet Abe's wife, he said. Modi's visit to Japan will be an opportunity to honour the former prime minister Abe, Kwatra said.

Abe, Japan's longest-serving Prime Minister, was shot dead on July 8 while delivering

a political campaign speech in western Japan ahead of the House of Councillors election on July 10. Prime Minister Modi had a close relationship with Abe. He had condoled the demise of his "dear friend" Abe and said the former Japanese premier dedicated his life to making the world a better place.

Cong: Legal action in 5 cases against BJP's fake news on yatra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said it has initiated legal action in five cases of "fake and divisive news" peddled by BJP leaders and their "online hate factory" to hurt Bharat Jodo Yatra, asserting that it will not take this lying down.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also shared a police complaint by Kerala MP Hibi Eden against a particularly "vicious bhakt".

"We have initiated legal action in five cases of fake and divisive news peddled by BJP leaders and their bhakt online hate factory to hurt Bharat Jodo Yatra. Be warned! We will not take this lying down," Ramesh said.

In the police complaint shared by Ramesh on Twitter, Congress MP Hibi Eden complained against a social media post with two pictures. "The impression these pictures sought to convey was that INC leader Rahul Gandhi was posing with an individual who had been accused of sloganeering

'Pakistan Zindabad' on a previous occasion. However, as was made clear almost immediately, the individuals in the photographs were two separate and distinct people," Eden said. "The distortion was not an innocent one because it sought to falsely and maliciously suggest that former INC president Rahul Gandhi, who was on a yatra to unite Indians had demonstrated sympathy for individuals who supported Pakistan and approved their illegal sloganeering and was ultimately attempting to 'break India'," he said.

Thus, it is clear that this "malicious post" was designed to create a dangerously false impression in the minds of the viewers regarding the Congress leader's approach towards Pakistan and individuals involved in the illegal sloganeering in support of Pakistan; and to foment social tensions in the Bharat Jodo Yatra rallies led by Gandhi, Eden said.

He requested that an urgent and immediate FIR be registered by police under relevant IPC provisions.

Def Min honours kin of HP martyrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday felicitated the families of the brave soldiers of the armed forces, hailing from Himachal Pradesh, who laid down their lives in the service of the nation. The felicitation ceremony was organised at Badoli in Kangra district of the state.

Rajnath paid glowing tributes to the war heroes, including the first recipient of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) Major Somnath Sharma (1947); Brigadier Sher Jung Thapa, Maha Vir Chakra (1948); Lt Col Dhan Singh Thapa, PVC (1962); Captain Vikram Batra, PVC (1999) and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar, PVC (1999), the defence ministry said here.

He said the armed forces will always be a source of inspiration to the people, especially the youth, as they possess the traits of discipline, devotion to duty, patriotism and sacrifice and are a symbol of national pride and trust.

The defence minister said India is the only country which has given the message of peace to the whole world and its military is respected across the globe for its bravery. While maintaining that India has

SC asks Bombay HC to hear Deshmukh bail plea immediately

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed displeasure over the delay in hearing the bail plea of Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, arrested in connection with a money laundering case, and directed the Bombay High Court to hear and decide his case expeditiously.

The top court observed that any person who has filed a bail application has a legitimate expectation that his plea will be disposed of at an early date.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli noted that the bail plea of Deshmukh is pending in the high court since March 21. "We issue a direction and permit the petitioner to apply before the learned judge, to whom the case has been assigned, tomorrow.

The application shall be taken for hearing during the course of this week and decided expeditiously," the bench said, adding that keeping an application for bail pending is not consistent with the Right to

Life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The top court clarified that it has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the case. Justice NJ Jamadar of the High Court is hearing the bail plea of Deshmukh. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for 73-year-old Deshmukh, submitted that the hearing on the bail plea is being deferred and sought interim bail.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for ED, opposed the interim bail plea and said the top court should not pass any such order.

Deshmukh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in November 2021 and is currently in judicial custody. On April 8, the high court adjourned the hearing on Deshmukh's bail application while deprecating the practice of seeking urgent hearings of bail pleas citing medical emergencies.

The ED's case is that while serving as the Home Minister, Deshmukh misused his official position and collected Rs 4.70 crore from various bars in Mumbai through Sachin Waze, a police officer who has been dismissed.

Indian Navy to take part in CMF training exercise in Seychelles

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In an effort to forge closer ties with countries in the Indian Ocean region, an Indian Navy ship INS Sunayna has reached Seychelles to take part in the annual training exercise 'Operation Southern Readiness' of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

It is the maiden participation by the Indian Navy in the drill. The ship's participation reinforces the Indian Navy's commitment to maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, officials said here on Monday.

The ship is scheduled to participate as associate partner in the capacity-building exercises being conducted by CMF, the Defence Ministry said.

The joint training exercise is being attended by represen-

never attacked any country, nor has it captured an inch of foreign land, he assured the nation that if any attempt is ever made to disturb the harmony in India, a befitting reply will be given. On the sur-

gical strikes in 2016 and airstrikes in Balakot in 2019, Rajnath stated that India's new strategy against terrorism has broken the backs of those who try to hurt unity and integrity of the nation.

SC notice to Centre, TN over early release of Nalini in Rajiv assassination case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and the Tamil Nadu Government on a plea filed by Nalini Sriharan and RP Ravichandran, serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, seeking premature release.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna issued notices to the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government and sought their replies on the plea.

Both convicts challenged the June 17 order of the Madras High Court, which rejected her plea for early release, and cited the apex court judgment ordering the release of co-convict AG Perarivalan. The HC do not have the power under Article 226 of the Constitution to do so, unlike the Supreme Court



which enjoyed the special power under Article 142, the high court had said while rejecting their pleas.

Invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the top court had on May 18 ordered the release of Perarivalan, who had served over 30 years in jail, and said the Tamil Nadu governor ought not to have sent the "binding" advice made by the state cabinet for his release to the president.

The apex court had said the advice of the state cabinet is binding on the Governor in

matters related to commutation/remission of sentences under Article 161 of the Constitution. Under article 142, the top court may issue any verdict or order necessary to provide "complete justice".

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at a poll rally.

In its May 1999 order, the top court had upheld the death sentence of four convicts Perarivalan, Murugan, Santhan and Nalini.

However, in 2014, it commuted death sentence of Perarivalan to life imprisonment along with those of Santhan and Murugan on grounds of delay in deciding their mercy petitions. Nalini's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in 2001 on the consideration that she has a daughter.

Seva Bharti to award 25 renowned people for 'selfless social service'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RSS outfit, Seva Bharti, would award 25 distinguished people for their 'selfless social service' here on October seven.

One 'Seva Ratna' and 24 'Seva Bhushan' awards will be given away by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar at a special function here at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, according to Seva Bharti.

"The awards will be given for the priceless contribution in social work or providing funds for social development", said the organization. "In continuation of the high tradition set by ancient Maharshi Dadhichi, Raja Bali, 'danveer karna' and Bhama Shah there are many contemporary lights who have



given away everything they had in service to the nation", said president of Seva Bharti Ramesh Aggarwal.

Uttarakhand governor Gen (retired) Gurmit Singh will be the special guest on the occa-

sion. The event will be attended by many central ministers, senior RSS leaders, industrialists and social workers. Five hundred past awardees will also be invited to the function, the outfit said.

Medal for hurt officer not needed: Chief's quip irks CRPF men

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

While the CRPF has moved a proposal for the award of Shaurya Chakra for the gallant action of Assistant Commandant Bibhor Kumar Singh in an encounter with the Naxals in Aurangabad district of Bihar, outgoing paramilitary chief Kuldeep Singh's recent comment that there is no need for a gallantry medal to him because that was a routine incident has led to resentment among the cadre officers.

Bibhor Kumar Singh had to undergo amputation of both legs due to a blast during an

anti-Naxal operation 15 km southwest of Pachrukhiya village near Madanpur in Aurangabad district of Bihar in February this year. Shaurya Chakra is the third highest peacetime gallantry award.

On March 17, the CRPF chief, an IPS officer on deputation to the paramilitary, had said he will hold himself responsible for delays in air-evacuation of injured personnel but pointed out that sometimes "practical difficulties" crop up in executing such operations in a timely manner in the Naxal theatre.

The DG was talking about injured Assistant Commandant Bibhor Kumar Singh who had to undergo amputation of both his legs

post a blast while leading an anti-Naxal operation, due to delayed evacuation for over seven hours. The Naxal movement is being spearheaded by the Communist Party of India (Maoist) which a banned terror organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"If you ask who is responsible for this, I would hold myself responsible, it is my responsibility to ensure helicopters are provided to troops because it is me who directs and motivates troops to go out for operations.

If anyone is to be blamed, it is me. I cannot blame anyone else," Singh told a Press conference in March ahead of the Force's 83rd Raising Day.

There has been a longstanding demand for a dedicated air wing for the CRPF. "In operations, such incidents (of blasts and resultant injuries) are normal. In the CRPF and its specialized CoBRA Battalions, young officers like Assistant Commandants and Deputy Commandants and evn up to the level of Commandants lead the troops from the front.

In certain cases, DIGs also lead operations. In Maharashtra, Assistant Commandant Nitin Bhale Rao and Deputy Commandant Vikas lost their lives in IED blasts in Palodi (Sukma, Chhattisgarh). Similar blast has occurred in this case (of Bibhor Kumar Singh) and there is no provision of medals

for injury. Medals are for action and not injuries. If there is an element of action involved in the operation, medal can be definitely given," the DG had said at a Press conference on September 21.

Cadre officers of the CRPF mostly comprise the post of DIGs. Bibhor will be looked after for everything but medals are awarded on action and not on injury. Even deaths occur in the operations, then there should be more medals, he quipped sarcastically.

Veterans as well as serving cadre officers of CRPF took exception to the casual manner in which the sacrifice of the brave officers during action was mentioned by the paramilitary boss.



Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary presents a memento to Commander UAE Air Force & Air Defence, Major General Ibrahim Nasser Mohammed Al Alawi during a meeting

PTI Photo

Union Min launches JALDOOT App today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

You will soon be able to measure and capture the water level in your area with the click of the mouse or keypad of your mobile. Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh will on Tuesday launch the "JALDOOT App" that will be used across the country to capture the water level of selected wells in a village.

The App is being launched in view of declining levels of the groundwater, as also utilization of surface water sources, resulting in significant depletion of water levels causing distress to the community, including farmers. "Therefore measurement and observation of the levels of water tables across the country has become neces-



sary. "The Jaldoot app will enable Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) to measure the water level of selected wells twice a year (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon).

In every village, an adequate number of measurement locations (2-3) shall need to be selected. These will be representative of the ground water level in that village," said an official from the Ministry.

The app will facilitate panchayats with robust data, which can be further used for better planning of works. The ground

water data could be utilised as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GDPD) and Mahatma Gandhi NREGA planning exercises. Further, the data can also be used for different kinds of research and other purposes.

The official pointed out that in the last few years, various steps have been taken for improvement of water management both in the rural and urban areas, through watershed development, afforestation, water body development and renovation, rainwater harvesting and so on.

According to the Central Ground water Board (CGWB), with 230 billion metre cubes of groundwater drawn out each year for irrigating agriculture lands in India, many parts of country are experiencing rapid depletion of groundwater.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Family physicians have played a pivotal role in the prevention of diseases and their complications particularly in the backdrop of the Covid-19, but ironically they are facing 'identity crisis' as no training is being given to the MBBS students in the subject, the Academy of Family Physicians of India (AFPI) rued on Tuesday.

Seeking mandatory inclusion of 'training as family physician' in the MBBS course at all Indian medical colleges in the background of the Covid-19 pandemic, the members of the AFPI said that they act as single point of contact for all healthcare needs of a family and prevent unnecessary burden on secondary and tertiary

healthcare systems. "Family Physicians can deliver holistic treatment and prevent unnecessary burden on secondary and tertiary hospitals," Dr Raman Kumar, AFPI national president, said, adding that a family physician is not only a family doctor but acts as a guide, who helps a family in making informed healthcare decisions.

The occasion was the foundation Day of the Academy of Family Physicians of India (AFPI), which has also been declared 'National Family Medicine Day' The AFPI has been pushing for the revival of family physicians and popularising family medicine as a clinical specialty.

Dr Kumar said that Family Medicine is recognized in many developed countries where training is provided

through organized residency programs.

This should happen in India as well, he added. "Family medicine has been incorporated in the foundation course of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and is planned to be adopted in all medical institutes in India; however, the MBBS syllabus makes no mention of it." "There is a requirement for developing a comprehensive curriculum for family medicine to address the current health needs of communities.

The healthcare system should focus more on primary care and family medicine to provide affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare to people," the members said.

Prof Surekha Kishore, Director of AIIMS Gorakhpur, who was the chief guest, agreed

and assured to raise the issue of family physicians and their training with the National Medical Commission as its member. Dr SK Sarin, Director of Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Delhi, and president, National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), said, "Family physicians play a pivotal role in the prevention of diseases and their complications."

Director of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Alok Saxena emphasised on its revival and the integration of family physicians with the health system. He said, "Training MBBS doctors as family physicians is of paramount importance. There should be a structured course during MBBS as all doctors need not become hospital-based specialists."

Ghulam Nabi Azad launches Democratic Azad Party

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Veteran Congress leader and a former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad Monday launched his 'Democratic Azad Party', exactly a month after severing ties with the parent party, along with his supporters here in Jammu.

Unveiling the party flag, with three stripes in different colours—mustard, white and dark blue, Azad claimed his party will be based on the principles of democracy. "It will not be 'autocratic' but 'democratic'", he added.

Speaking to reporters, Azad said, "The mustard colour indicates creativity and unity in diversity, white indicates peace and blue indicates freedom, open space, imagination and limits from the depths of the ocean to the

heights of the sky".

Flanked by senior party leaders Azad also appealed to the people of both Jammu and Kashmir to join hands together and break the artificial walls being raised between them by the vested interests.

Azad had earlier declared the broader contours of his newly launched party in his maiden public rally in Jammu soon after exiting the Congress party in the first week of September. According to Azad the top most priority of his party will remain restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, protection of land and job rights of its residents, creating job opportunities for the unemployed youth and the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

After announcing the party name and unveiling the party flag he focused on the agenda

of the party in the days to come. While doing so, Azad made it clear. We will have no competition with any political party. "We will speak about our own policies and programmes and let others do their own and leave everything to the people who are the ultimate masters in politics," he added.

In the same vein Azad added, Democratic Azad Party will not be influenced by any outside leader or other party. It will have independent thinking and will stay independent in its decisions. It will not be autocratic and power will not be in one hand.

He also clarified his surname has nothing to do with 'Azad' in the party name.

After leaving the Congress party Azad had himself talked about launching a National party with a J&K unit ahead of beginning a new political

innings, however, none of the supporters, backing him from behind especially from the G-23 grouping, were present at the time of formally floating the party.

Responding to the allegations that he was working at the behest of BJP, Azad told reporters, "Many people accused me of having a prior alliance. We only have the alliance with heart and minds and people of J&K and nobody else. We have not consulted anyone before launching the party, neither regional nor national party." Our party will borrow from the ideas and principles of former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi.

"Our party policy will not be influenced by politics of religion, caste or creed. It will follow the roadmap of Gandhi, who got India independence.

Talking about his priorities Azad claimed the party will keep holding grassroots level elections for its structure. "We are here to compete at our own level. I have no competition with any party. Will compete like students compete with each other in a classroom. We don't have any enemy or foe," he said, adding "50 per cent of tickets will be given to women and youth". "Our priority is to get the party registered. But since elections (in Jammu and Kashmir) can happen anytime, related developments would continue".

On Article 370, Azad clarified that he never said it won't be restored. "I had only stressed that if someone can persuade Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah. I can't do that as I have no such strength at present," Azad explained.



Gehlot's rebellion dwarfed Sonia's stature, says BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of an apparent rebellion in the Congress Rajasthan unit over the selection of new Chief Minister, the BJP on Monday claimed that the developments have "considerably dwarfed the stature of Sonia Gandhi" and "demolished" the "aura of their invincibility".

BJP leader Amit Malviya said in a tweet in Hindi "Irrespective of whether Ashok Gehlot files or not his nomination for the post of Congress president his rebellion has considerably dwarfed Sonia Gandhi's stature."

He further said, "Now whosoever becomes the president of Congress, it is possible that there can be a rebellion again against the Gandhi family which has lost its aura of



invincibility," said Malviya hitting out at the opposition party.

Union Minister and BJP leader from the state Arjun Meghwal said there is virtually no government in the state and people have been left to fend for themselves.

Another BJP leader from Rajasthan Satish Poonia also took a dig at the Congress, saying none of its leaders wants to be the party's national president and prefer to be a state chief minister or a regional leader. "This drama of 'Kissa Kursi

Ka' (tale of CM's chair) started in Rajasthan in 2018 when slogans for Gehlot and Sachin Pilot were raised. It then continued for portfolio allocation and then for rooms in the secretariat in Jaipur," Poonia said adding throughout the entire episode, the people of the state suffered.

Echoing similar sentiments, BJP leader and MP from Rajasthan Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, said, "It's time to bring down curtains on this drama. It would be better if they really resign to give relief to the public. The Congress government has no moral standing to continue in power."

Rathore said everyone is suffering in the state, be it farmers, youngsters and females, adding, "Law and order in the state has completely collapsed".

No coercive action till Nov 17 against Anil Ambani: Bombay HC to I-T Dept

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Income-Tax Department not to take any coercive action against Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani till November 17 on a show cause notice issued to him seeking to prosecute him under the Black Money Act.

The I-T department had issued the notice to Ambani on August 8, 2022 for allegedly evading Rs 420 crore in taxes on undisclosed funds worth more than Rs 814 crore held in two Swiss bank accounts.

The department has charged Ambani (63) with "wilful" evasion, saying he "intentionally" did not disclose his foreign bank account details and financial interests to Indian tax authorities.

As per the department's notice, Ambani was liable to be



prosecuted under Sections 50 and 51 of the Black Money (undisclosed foreign income and assets) Imposition of Tax Act of 2015, that stipulates a maximum punishment of 10 years imprisonment with a fine.

Ambani earlier this month approached the HC challenging the notice, claiming that the Black Money Act was enacted in 2015 and the alleged transactions are of assessment years 2006-2007 and 2010-2011.

Senior counsel Rafique Dada, appearing for Ambani, said provisions of the Act cannot have a retrospective effect. Advocate Akhileshwar

Sharma, appearing for the I-T department, sought time to respond to the petition.

A division bench of Justices S V Gangapurwala and R N Laddha permitted the same and posted the petition for hearing on November 17.

"The Income Tax department shall till the next date not take any coercive action against the petitioner (Ambani) in pursuance to the show cause notice," the court said.

It also directed the I-T department to respond to Ambani's contention that provisions of the Black Money Act may not have a retrospective effect.

Dada told the court that an assessment order was passed by the department in March this year and the petitioner filed an appeal against the said order before the Commissioner of Income Tax.

HC won't stay dismissal order of IPS officer Verma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to stay the Centre's order dismissing senior IPS officer Satish Chandra Verma who had assisted the CBI in its probe in the Ishrat Jahan encounter case, a month before his scheduled retirement. The court, however, asked the Centre to file within eight weeks its reply to Verma's plea challenging his dismissal.

Verma was dismissed from service on August 30, a month ahead of his scheduled retirement on September 30, after a departmental inquiry found him guilty of various charges including "interacting with public media". Verma approached the HC following the Supreme Court's order allowing him to move the HC

challenging his dismissal.

The apex court had on September 19 stayed the Centre's dismissal order for a week and said it is for the high court to consider the question as to whether the stay or vacation of dismissal order is to continue. In the HC, a bench of Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva and Tushar Rao Gedela said, "We have perused the contents of the transcript of the interview that has been placed on record as also the enquiry report.

"We are of the view that at this stage the order of termination dated August 30, 2022 does not warrant any interference as the petitioner is to superannuate, in any event, on September 30, 2022. Consequently we are not inclined to stay or interdict the order of dismissal dated August 30, 2022 at this stage".

BJP chief lambasts Kerala Government

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala has become the epicentre of terrorism and anti-national activities, according to J P Naddha, all-India president, BJP. Addressing booth level party workers at Thiruvananthapuram on Monday, the national president of the BJP alleged that the chief minister's office itself has become the hub of gold smuggling. "Swapna Suresh, who was arrested in connection with gold smuggling, has named the chief minister and his family members for their active rolls in smuggling. Names of many CPI(M) ministers and party leaders have been disclosed by Swapna Suresh in her statement to the Court," said Naddha.

The BJP chief alleged that there was no ideology or ethics in the CPI(M). "The party has become a family dynasty party. Family rule and dynasty rule are the hallmark of the CPI(M). Kerala has also become the



hotspot of terrorism," he said. The BJP chief also came down on the State administration for its financial mismanagement. "Kerala is in a debt trap as its debts has crossed the Rs 3,40,000 crore mark. Over the last seven years, the debt of the State has doubled and this is a matter of concern. There is nepotism everywhere. Appointments in universities are meant only for the relatives of the ministers and party leaders. The CPI(M)-led government is trying to weaken the Lok Ayukta (whistleblower) to save the chief minister and other ministers from charges and allegations of corruption," said the party president.

President to inaugurate HAL ICMF in Bengaluru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday will inaugurate the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) state-of-the-art Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF) in Bengaluru.

The facility will cater to the entire Rocket Engine Manufacturing under one roof for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The facility will boost self-reliance in manufacturing of Hi-thrust Rocket engines.

The facility is set up over an area of 4,500 sqmts housing over 70 hi-tech equipment and testing facilities for manufacturing Cryogenic (CE20) and Semi-cryogenic (SE2000) Engines of Indian Space Launch Vehicles.

In 2013, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed with the ISRO for establishing the facility for manufacturing of Cryogenic Engine



modules at HAL, Aerospace Division. The MOU for the Cryogenic Engine facility was subsequently amended in the year 2016 for setting up of Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF) with an investment of Rs. 208 crores.

The commissioning of all the critical equipment for the manufacturing and assembly requirement is completed. The pre-production activities which involve preparation of the process plans, drawings, quality plan etc. has also commenced. The HAL will start realising the modules by March 2023.

The Aerospace Division of the HAL manufactures liquid propellant tanks and launch vehicle structures of PSLV, GSLV Mk-II, GSLV Mk-III and also stage integration for GSLV Mk-II. The Aerospace Division entering into manufacture of Cryogenic Engines is a major step in technology up-gradation cum modernization.

Cryogenic Engines are the most widely used engines world over in the launch vehicles. Due to the complex nature of the cryogenic engine, till date only few countries USA, France, Japan, China and Russia have mastered the cryogenic technology.

On January 5, 2014 India successfully flew GSLV-D5 with a cryogenic engine (made by ISRO through private industries) and became the sixth country in developing cryogenic engines. Space exploration in the future is mostly dependent upon cryogenic technology.



Devotees participate in a religious procession to install an idol of Goddess Sharada at Kudroli Sri Gokarnanatheshwara Temple on the first day of 'Navratri' festival, in Mangaluru on Monday . PTI

Passport applicants can apply online for PCCs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Passport applicants will now be able to apply for police clearance certificates (PCCs) at all online post office passport seva kendras, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday.

The MEA is the nodal ministry for the issuance of passports.

The PCCs are a pre-requisite for the issuance of passports to the applicants.

Often, the issuance of the PCCs by the local police takes time that results in a delay in the grant of passports.

"To address the unanticipated surge in demand for Police Clearance Certificates (PCCs), the ministry has decided to include the facility to apply for PCC services at all online Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) across India, starting from September 28," the MEA said in a statement.

Activist Sandeep Pandey, 3 others detained in Gujarat ahead of foot march planned in support of Bilkis

PTI ■ GODHRA

Police have detained social activist Sandeep Pandey and three others ahead of a foot march planned on Monday to express solidarity with Bilkis Bano, who was gang-raped and seven of her family members murdered during the 2002 Gujarat riots, police said.

Ramon Magsaysay award recipient Pandey and other activists were scheduled to participate in the foot march, titled 'Apologising to Bilkis Bano', planned to be taken out from her native village Randhikpur in neighbouring Dahod district on Monday under the banner of 'Hindu-Muslim Ekta Samiti'.

The march was to conclude in Ahmedabad on October 4.

"Sandeep Pandey and three others were detained from Godhra (in Panchmahal district) at around 10.30 pm on Sunday. They are still in detention," a B-division police station officer said.



The Hindu-Muslim Ekta Samiti in a statement condemned the police action.

It said the foot march was organised to apologise to Bilkis Bano, after the Gujarat government on August 15 this year released 11 convicts in her case under its remission policy.

The convicts were serving life sentence in the Godhra sub-jail on charges of gang-rape of Bilkis Bano and murder of seven members of her family in a post-Godhra riot case.

"We only wish to apologise to Bilkis for whatever has happened to her and wish such heinous acts do not happen in an otherwise peaceful state of Gujarat," the organisation said in the statement.

Strong possibility of Opp parties fighting 2024 polls together: Nitish

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is a strong possibility of Opposition parties coming together to fight the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said on Monday, stressing that he has had good talks with them and many will join hands gradually.

Speaking to reporters, the Janata Dal (United) leader also made light of the BJP's repeated swipe at the Opposition over its unity talks, saying the ruling party has many problems of its own. "All they can do is speak day and night," he said.

"Many parties will join hands gradually and there is a strong possibility that they can fight the 2024 polls together," he said, adding that he has had good talks with leaders of different parties.

Asked if the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, both having strong reservations against the Congress, will also be a part



of such a formation, he said once an agreement is reached in the Opposition about an alliance, only then something concrete can be said.

At the same time, he added that the media will be aware of all the leaders he has met.

Kumar had met AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his last visit to the national capital.

TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had also said recently that she together with Kumar, RJD's Tejashwi

CORRIGENDUM

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FIRST COLUMN

SOCIAL MEDIA SPURS SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

Excessive usage of social media could harm mental health of kids



JYOTI KAPOOR

With suicide cases being the second leading cause of death in the young population (10-24 years), influence of social media/internet is immense. Digital interventions among teenaged kids and young adults are significantly affecting their mental health and well-being, making them more susceptible to self-harm, suicidal ideation and later suicide attempts.

A study published in 2015 highlighted teens who reported using social media sites more than two hours a day are much more likely to report poor mental health outcomes. Besides, the suicidal thoughts, excessive social media usage results in a low self-esteem and poor body image are quite a frequent behaviour.

An addiction is identified from mild to severe using 11 criteria of addiction outlined in the ‘Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)-5’. A child can be termed as a social media addict if he/she meets two or fewer criteria.

The 11 criteria of addiction are more social media usage than wished for; having frequent urge or desire of checking social networking sites; usage of social media started conflicts in their immediate relationships with others; hampering his/her ability to function, work, or complete tasks; focussing more on social media and cutting back on activities which they previously used to enjoy; experiencing physical or emotional discomfort when you stop or cut back; stopping or cutting back on social media making them irritable; negative impacts to physical or mental health; continued use of social media despite



problems, consequences, or impairments; using in situations that are risky or hazardous (i.e. while driving or working); reduced real-world social interaction; needing more time/likes/follows to get the same amount of pleasure or enjoyment from social media.

Parents play an important role in the de-addiction regime of social media in their kids. Though it’s a tough job, if done in a friendly way then it can strengthen a parent and child bond. They need to build a positive and family environment at their home so that the child doesn’t get the urge of the virtual world. Parents should also take part in their social media usage by learning about the programs/apps, their child is using. Ask the child to teach you about the nuances of these platforms. Parents need to show interest in such activities and ask questions.

In order to monitor children’s online activities, the tablets and computers are placed in common areas, while a tab on child’s online accounts be kept. This will make them understand that monitoring their online activity would help keep them to stay protected from cyber bullying.

But be attentive as some children or teens may create a fake second account for their parents to follow. You can ask them in a friendly gesture about the people they are friends with online.

Showing genuine interest will help them feel comfortable talking about it. Explain that it’s easy for someone on the Internet to pretend to be someone they’re not. Talk about the importance of keeping online friendships in the online world. Make it clear that if your child wants to meet an online friend in person, it must be in a public place and with a trusted adult. Talk in detail about what’s okay and safe to post online, and what isn’t.

People do not always have control over what others post about them. Explain how information and photos found on the internet can resurface years later. Explain how autocorrect can sometimes result in misunderstandings and hurt feelings.

(The author is Founder & Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali)

Mainstream channels are the biggest threat

Edited version of speech by Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur at the Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) on Sep 20



I am extremely delighted to be amidst you at the AIBD (Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development) general conference meeting 2022 and address this prestigious assembly of the broadcasters from the Asia-Pacific region...

Firstly, I would like to congratulate AIBD for creating a desirable platform for broadcasters to put forward their opinions and comments to build a strong future for themselves.

I have been told that even during the difficult Covid period, when the world was facing fear and gloom, lockdowns had slowed the pace of life, economies were under severe stress, AIBD leadership kept the member countries connected online and maintained a constant dialogue on how media can mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

The member countries were immensely benefitted through sharing of information on the latest developments in the medical field, positive stories of Covid warriors and more importantly in countering fake news which was spreading faster than the pandemic.

If we talk about the theme of the event, it highlights the need for creating a stronger future for broadcasting in a post-pandemic era...

It is media which brought the world on one platform during this difficult phase and reinforced the spirit of one global family.

We have also seen the extensive use of media—both mainstream as well as new digital platforms—by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government during this exceptionally difficult phase of Covid-19.

Information was shared in a timely and transparent manner, ensuring a quick response, mitigating myths and spreading awareness about a pandemic that was both evolving as well as ever expanding.

Together with our media friends, we ensured saving millions of lives the world over, which otherwise could be lost, had timely information not flowed to the people about safety measures and protection from Covid-19 virus.

I would specially appreciate India’s Public Service Broadcaster, Doordarshan and All India Radio, as they very satisfactorily delivered on their mandate of public service and stood strong with the people during the testing times of the pandemic.

Even the other Indian broadcasters and Indian media in general ensured that Covid-19 awareness messages, important government guidelines and free online consultations with doctors reached everyone in nook and corner of the country.

Expert opinions through programmes like Doctors Speak and campaigns such as Mask-up India by the public broadcaster Doordarshan played a very significant role at the time when fake news on the epidemic became a menace.



IF YOU [NEWS BROADCASTER S] DECIDE TO INVITE GUESTS WHO ARE POLARISING, WHO SPREAD FALSE NARRATIVES AND WHO SHOUT AT THE TOP OF THEIR LUNGS, THE CREDIBILITY OF YOUR CHANNEL GOES DOWN

(The author is Information & Broadcasting Minister)



The media the world over played a very significant role in educating the people of the country about the vaccine availability and the benefits of being vaccinated against coronavirus.

It helped the health system in fighting the vaccine hesitancy...

The Covid-19 crisis has thrown up challenges as well as provided an opportunity not just to re-invent journalism, but to redefine the media as a trusted source of news and information.

Our mainstream media organisations have a great challenge to provide truthful accurate and reliable news faster, while preserving media ethics and values.

Real journalism is about facing the facts, presenting the truth and letting all sides the platform to present their views.

In my personal opinion the biggest threat to mainstream media is not from new age digital platforms, but rather the mainstream media channel itself.

If you decide to invite guests who are polarising, who spread false narratives and who shout at the top of their lungs, the credibility of your channel goes down. Your decisions regarding the guest, the tone and visuals define your credibility in the eyes of the audience.

The viewer may stop for a minute to watch your show, but will never trust your anchor, your channel or brand as a trusted and transparent source of news.

So my question to broadcasters present here today is this:

Are you going to watch the narrative be defined by soundbites, or redefine yourself and set

the terms for your guests and channel?

Are you going to watch as the younger audience switches and sweeps through the shrill on TV news, or are you going to bring back the neutrality in news and discussion in debates to stay ahead of the game?

Are you going to show visuals that grab eyeballs and inflame anger, or show restraint and project visuals in context to showcase the full picture?

And finally, how will you re-define and innovate your TV news content, presentation and dissemination to reach the new-age audience who is constantly being fed information via social media platforms?

Instead of compromising our values in this fierce competition, we must work hard to preserve professionalism.

I strongly believe that journalists are duty bound to report news without fabrication, despite temptations to compete with those who propagate false news.

The AIBD as a regional inter-governmental organisation must continue to train and equip media practitioners with the best professional skills to gain broader freedom for our media. India stands ready to support your efforts.

Another important area of cooperation is good quality content exchange among the member countries.

Prasar Bharati has been sharing DD India channel in the OTT platform of South Korea on reciprocal basis including exchange of several coproduction programmes. Prasar Bharati is also uplinking

Bangladesh TV on its Freedish platform. We have also partnered with Australia in the field of broadcasting in March 2022 through programme sharing.

The broadcasters of the two countries are also exploring opportunities in co-production and joint broadcasting of programmes spanning multiple genres.

I am happy to state that DD India with the objective to become Global Public Broadcaster channel is now available on OTT platforms.

Dear delegates, you have come to India at a time when we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Independence. It is the time for us to pay tribute to hundreds of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives and freed the country from the shackles of foreign rule.

This is the festival time for us which we call ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’. It has taken the form of a mass movement where people from all walks of life are participating in different programmes across the country.

Before concluding, I truly believe that media, in all its forms, has immense ability to shape public perceptions and perspectives as an effective tool of empowerment.

It is imperative to create an enabling environment for our journalists and broadcasters friends for making the space of media more vibrant and rewarding.

I wish the delegates from the member countries of the AIBD a very happy stay in India. I am sure that the deliberations which you are going to hold over the two days will be meaningful and bring new insights to the media industry.

Release of cheetahs significant in various ways

But there are as usual naysayers and armchair environmental critics who argue that bringing African cheetah is a bad idea



VK BAHUGUNA

(The author is former Director-General, ICFRE, Ministry of Environment & Forest)

civilisational message to bring back the lost heritage of biodiversity and celebrate the co-existence of all life forms on earth.

It is also a proud moment for the much maligned Indian Forest Service (IFS) which has been using the acronym IFS for over more than a century for getting back a priceless species it conserved against all odds before it went extinct due to the false notion of bravery by hunting with guns by the misguided Royals. Cheetah is the most charismatic, beautiful and fastest animal in the world.

Cheetah is capable of accelerating up to 120 kilometres per hour in just over three seconds. At top speed, their stride is 23 feet long which makes them fearsome hunters. The male and female cheetahs live



natural habitat. It thrives in grassland and in India the saddest part is that we have never given focus on grassland conservation.

Now there are as usual naysayers and armchair environmental critics who argue that bringing African cheetah is a bad idea. Today, if cheetah can find a new home akin to their home territory there is nothing wrong in it from the

point of view of biodiversity conservation. After all, the migration of animals and plants from one geographic area to another had routinely happened during the evolutionary process.

The real test of re-introduction will happen when these eight cheetahs adapt to their new home and start hunting and live in a natural style of their own so that the next batch of cheetah can be brought here. The good thing about Kuno is that it has a good prey base for them to survive.

The second issue is how the local people will see this introduction in future in terms of protection of their habitats.

The Madhya Pradesh government had already relocated 24 villages and the forest department though had made

adequate precautions for their protection and movements and had made arrangements for 24 hours vigilance but they will have to see that the tree climbing leopard do not enter their territory.

The leopard hunts by ambush but cheetah do not have retractable claws and hunt for a particular type of prey like medium sized antelopes, hares, calves of herd animals, birds through their speed and sudden galloping gait. Thirdly, the local people and scientific community from the Wild Life Institute and Universities need to be involved in the conservation process with liberal research and training grants.

Fourthly, the poachers must be kept at bay and for this forest department at field level must possess the best of the

equipment. The Central as well as the Madhya Pradesh Governments, therefore, will have to plan a long term strategy for the cheetah conservation in India so that in next few years the population of the cheetahs can grow.

The situation of manpower from forest guard to ranger level and infrastructure needs a review. We must understand that the manpower of the forest department and infrastructure like superior weapons and other modern gadgets are no match for the superior equipment of the poachers.

It will be a special challenge for the Park Director, because cheetah breeding requires proper attention and resources. A ‘Project Cheetah Scheme’ needs to be started on the pattern of Project Tiger.

DRONE ATTACK HITS UKRAINE; US VOWS 'CONSEQUENCES' OVER NUKES



AP ■ KYIV

An overnight drone strike near the Ukrainian port of Odesa sparked a massive fire and explosion, the military said Monday, hours after the United States vowed to take decisive action and promised "catastrophic consequences" if Russia uses nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

The airstrike was the latest in a series of drone attacks on the key southern city in recent days. This one hit a military installation and detonated ammunition when it struck. Firefighters were struggling to contain the blaze, the Ukrainian military's southern command said.

Concerns are growing that Russia may seek to escalate the conflict once it completes what Ukraine and the West see as illegal referendums in parts of Ukraine under its control.

The voting, which ends Tuesday, happened after thousands of residents had fled and has included images of armed Russian troops going door-to-door to pressure Ukrainians into voting, Russia is widely expected to declare

the results in its favor, a step that could see Moscow annex the territory and give it the pretext to seek to defend it as its own territory under the Russian nuclear umbrella.

Jake Sullivan, the U.S. National security adviser, made clear that Russia would pay a high price if it made good on veiled threats to use nuclear weapons in the conflict.

"If Russia crosses this line there will be catastrophic consequences for Russia. The United States will respond decisively," he told NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday.

Washington's message has been more detailed in private conversations with their Russian counterparts, he said, without elaborating.

"So, the Russians under-

stand where we are. We understand where we are. We are planning for every contingency" he said in separate comments to ABC's This Week. "And we will do what is necessary to deter Russia from taking this step."

Elsewhere, a Russian rocket attack targeted a village in southeastern Ukraine. The attack struck an unnamed vil-

lage and the regional center of Zaporizhzhia, regional military official Oleksandr Starukh said online.

He posted pictures of damaged buildings and said unspecified infrastructure also had been damaged and fires were sparked by the attack.

Meanwhile, the first batches of Russian troops mobilized by Moscow have begun to arrive at military bases, the British military said Monday.

In an online intelligence briefing, the British Defense Ministry said "many tens of thousands" had been called up. However, the Russians face challenges ahead.

"Unlike most Western armies, the Russian military provides low-level, initial training to soldiers within their designated operational units, rather than in dedicated training establishments," the British said.

Under normal circumstances, two battalions deploy while a third remains behind to train. But in the Ukraine war, even the third battalion is deploying, weakening that training, the British said.



they will be hurt either by the Russian military, or Ukrainian guerrillas and the advancing Ukrainian troops," Kobernik, 31, said in a telephone interview. As some Russian officials brought ballots to neighbourhoods accompanied by armed police, Kobernik said his 70-year-old father shut the door of his private house in the village of Novotroitske — part of Kherson — and vowed not to let anyone in.

The referendums, denounced by Kyiv and its Western allies as rigged, are taking place in the Russian-

controlled Luhansk and Kherson regions, and in occupied areas of the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

They are widely viewed as a pretext for annexation, and Russian authorities are expected to announce the regions as theirs once the vote ends on Tuesday. The Kremlin has used this tactic before.

In 2014, it held a hastily called referendum in Ukraine's Crimea region to justify annexation of the Black Sea peninsula, a move that was denounced as illegitimate by most of the world.

Ukrainians scared by Russia's preordained referendums

AP ■ KYIV

After seven months of war, many Ukrainians fear even more suffering and political repression as referendums orchestrated by the Kremlin portend Russia's imminent annexation of four occupied regions.

Many residents fled the regions before the so-called referendums got underway, scared about being forced to vote or potentially being conscripted into the Russian army.

Others described hiding behind closed doors, hoping to avoid having to answer to armed soldiers going door-to-door to collect votes.

Petro Kobernik, who left the Russian-held southern city of Kherson just before the preordained voting began on Friday, said the prospect of living under Russian law and the escalating war made him and others extremely jittery about the future.

"The situation is changing rapidly, and people fear that

Putin grants Russian citizenship to Snowden



AP ■ MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin has granted Russian citizenship to former US security contractor Edward Snowden, according to a decree signed by the Russian leader on Monday.

Snowden is one of 75 foreign nationals listed by the decree as being granted Russian citizenship. The decree was published on an official government website.

Snowden, a former contractor with the US National Security Agency, has been living in Russia since 2013 to escape prosecution in the US after leaking classified documents detailing government surveillance programs.

He was granted permanent residency in 2020 and said at the time that he planned to apply for Russian citizenship, without renouncing his U.S. Citizenship.

Snowden's lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena, told Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti that the former contractor's wife Lindsay Mills, an American who has been living with him in Russia, will also be applying for a Russian passport.

Lankan Govt designates high-security zones for ensuring stability: Official

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan Government on Monday defended its decision to declare several key locations in Colombo as high-security zones, saying the move is aimed at ensuring stability and not curbing freedom of expression, amid mounting criticism from rights groups.

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Friday declared several locations, including Parliament, the Supreme Court complex and the President's Secretariat among others, as high-security zones (HSZs), banning any kind of protest or agitation in their vicinity.

"HSZs are nothing new. We saw how the Presidential Secretariat came to be surrounded by groups recently. They blocked officials from functioning. If the main place where key decisions are made is blocked, we have to take decisions to prevent it," said Kamal Gunaratne, the secretary to the ministry of defence.

Sri Lanka's Presidential Secretariat was stormed in July by a sea of anti-government protesters who had been demanding former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation for the country's economic mismanagement.

The Secretariat resumed operations 100 days after the building's entry gate was blocked by security officials.

In an extraordinary gazette notification issued on Friday, the President's Secretariat said areas around Parliament,



Supreme Court Complex, High Court Complex in Colombo, Magistrate Court Complex in Colombo and Attorney General's Department, Presidential Secretariat, President's House, Sri Lanka Navy Headquarters and Police Headquarters have been declared as HSZs.

The Ministry of Defence and Sri Lanka Army headquarters, the Sri Lanka Air Force headquarters, the Prime Minister's Office, the Temple Trees prime minister's residence and the Official Residences of the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and the Commanders of the Tri Forces are also HSZs, it said.

According to the notification, protests and public gatherings in the areas declared as HSZ are banned while vehicle parking won't be allowed in the vicinity of any of the designated locations.

Human rights groups have condemned the move as part of the government's repression to crack down on peaceful protests against it.

that the threat or use of nuclear weapons by Russia should never happen." Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a regular news conference. Matsuno was responding

Japan bans export of chemical weapons goods to Russia

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan expressed grave concern about Russia's possible use of nuclear weapons against Ukraine as the top government spokesman on Monday announced an additional ban on exports of chemical weapons-related goods to Russia.

"As the world's only country to have suffered nuclear attacks, we strongly demand



to a question about US national security adviser Jake Sullivan's comments Sunday on CBS news that the United States will act "decisively" in case of a Russian nuclear attack on Ukraine.

Asked if Japan approves of the possible use of nuclear weapons by the United States against Russia, Matsuno refused to comment on the grounds that it was a hypothetical question.

Italy's EU partners vigilant as far right set to take power

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Italy's European Union partners are signalling discomfort, even vigilance, after Italy, one of the bloc's founding members, swung far to the political right. The result of Italy's latest election raises troubling questions about whether Rome will maintain its commitments to EU principles, laws and ambitions.

The French PM on Monday said her government, along with EU officials, would be watching to ensure that basic human rights are guaranteed in Italy after Giorgia Meloni's neo-fascist far-right Brothers of Italy Party topped the vote count in Sunday's parliamentary elec-

tion. "In Europe, we uphold some values and obviously we will ensure, and the president of the commission will ensure, that these values — on human rights, the respect of other people, especially the respect of the right to abortion — will be respected by all (member states)," PM Elisabeth Borne told French BFM TV.

Such statements among the longtime EU partners are highly unusual and follow European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's pre-election warning that Europe "has the tools" to deal with any country — and that means Italy too — if things go "in a difficult direction."

12 held after clashes outside Iranian Embassy in London

AP ■ LONDON

British police said on Monday that 12 people were arrested and at least five police officers were seriously injured after violent disorder broke out during protests outside the Iranian Embassy in London. Large crowds had gathered all week outside the compound to protest the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in custody in Iran after she was detained by the country's morality police.

The Metropolitan Police force said most protesters had been peaceful, but on Sunday a group of activists sought to confront police.

US, allies push for UN rights body debate on Xinjiang abuses

AP ■ GENEVA

The United States and several Western allies presented a proposal on Monday for the UN's main human rights body to hold a special debate over reported rights abuses and violations against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in China's western Xinjiang region.

A core group of countries including Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden were behind a draft resolution at the Human Rights Council that would call for a debate on Xinjiang at the council's next session in early 2023, diplomats said.



It amounts to the latest geopolitical salvo between the West and Beijing in the wake of recent tensions over issues like the future of Taiwan.


If approved, the resolution would mark the first time that human rights concerns in China have been formally put on the council's agenda.

Diplomats in Geneva, where the 47-nation council is based, have been on the lookout for whether Western coun-

tries might be able to muster enough political capital to present and push through a resolution on Xinjiang before the council's current session ends on October 7.

The draft resolution would only convene a debate in the council — which debates issues all the time — and stops short of calling for stronger tools in the council's arsenal to monitor rights abuses, such as convening independent experts to scrutinize countries' activities.

While less intrusive than it might have been, the draft proposal is likely to rankle China, which has pushed back on attempts to single it out and hold it to account over the Xinjiang rights issue.



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Website: www.yesbank.in **Email:** shareholders@yesbank.in **CIN:** L65190MH2003PLC143249

[Rule – 8(1)]

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of YES BANK Limited under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) ("**the said Act**") and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 ("**the said Rules**"), issued demand notices dated December 14, 2021, calling upon, Gyanmala Public Education Trust ("**Borrower 1**"), Mount Litera Education Foundation ("**Borrower 2**"), Zee Learn Education Society ("**Borrower 3**"), (Collectively referred as "Borrowers") and Digital Ventures Private Limited ("**Mortgagor**"), to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **Rs 27,52,31,549.64** (Rupees Twenty Seven Crore Fifty Two Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Nine and Sixty Four Paise Only) due from Borrower 1 as on December 14, 2021, **Rs 84,05,20,201.42** (Rupees Eighty Four Crore Five Lakhs Twenty Thousand Two Hundred and One and Forty Two Paise Only) due from Borrower 2 as on December 14, 2021, and **Rs 72,00,30,877.22** (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Seven and Twenty Two Paise Only) due from Borrower 3 as on December 14, 2021 together with further interest and charges thereon, at the contractual rates upon the footing of compound interest until payment/ realization, within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrowers and the Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, as detailed in the respective demand notice(s), notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, the Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession (symbolic) of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of the Section 13of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this the 20th day of September of the year 2022.

The Borrowers and the Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of YES BANK Limited for an amount of **Rs 27,52,31,549.64** (Rupees Twenty Seven Crore Fifty Two Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Nine and Sixty Four Paise Only) due from Borrower 1 on December 14, 2021, **Rs 84,05,20,201.42** (Rupees Eighty Four Crore Five Lakhs Twenty Thousand Two Hundred and One and Forty Two Paise Only) due from Borrower 2 as on December 14, 2021 and **Rs 72,00,30,877.22** (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Seven and Twenty Two Paise Only) due from Borrower 3 as on December 14, 2021 together with further interest and other charges, costs thereon as per the sanction terms till the date of payment.

The Borrowers' and Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (MORTGAGED PROPERTY)

All that piece and parcel of leasehold land admeasuring 43 Karnal 17 Marlas or 5.48 Acre (22169.70 sq mtrts) comprising in Khewat No 332/Min//317, Khatoni no 398/1, Rect No 76, Killa no 21/1 (3-8), Rect No 77, Killa no 23/2 (6-13), 24/2 (6-13), 25/2 (6-13), Khewat no 1012 Min //961 Min, 962 Min, Khatoni No 1254, Rect No 82, Killa no 3/1 (5-2), 4(7-7), 5/1 (5-2), 1/1/1 (2-19) in 8 Kittas situated in the revenue estate of village Kutail, tehsil and District Karnal, Haryana and bounded as under:

Towards North-Land of Amira Foods	Towards South-Sahara India	Towards East-Sahara India	Towards West-Rasta and land of owners /Lessors
-----------------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--

together with rights liberties and approvals attached thereto, present and future with all existing buildings, structures, erections and/ or constructions thereon and developments/additions thereafter from/after the date of respective mortgages and all the fixture and furniture's and plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future.

Date : September 20, 2022
Place: Karnal

Ninad Prabhu
Assistant Vice President
(Authorized Officer)
YES BANK Limited

US carrier, S Korea warships launch drills amid North's threat

AP ■ SEOUL

A US aircraft carrier and its battle group launched drills with South Korean warships off the Korean Peninsula's east coast on Monday in their first such training in five years, a day after North Korea test-fired a short-range ballistic missile in a possible response to the exercise.

North Korea could conduct more tests in coming days as it views US-South Korean military exercises as a practice to invade the county and often reacts with displays of weapons designed to attack its rivals.

The four days of drills are aimed at demonstrating the allies' "powerful resolve to respond to North Korean provocations" and improve their ability to perform joint naval operations, the South Korean navy said in a statement.

More than 20 US and South Korean navy ships, including the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, a US cruiser and South Korean and US destroyers, were mobilised for the drills, according to the navy statement. It said US and South Korean fighter jets and helicopters will also take part in the training.

It would be the first such



joint drills involving a US aircraft carrier near the peninsula since 2017, when the US sent three aircraft carriers including the Reagan for naval drills with South Korea in response to North Korean nuclear and missile tests.

The allies had since cancelled or downsized some of their regular drills to support now-dormant talks on North Korea's nuclear programme or guard against COVID-19.

The North Korean missile fired on Sunday flew about 600 kilometres at the maximum altitude of 60 kilometres before falling into the waters off the

North's east coast, according to South Korean estimates.

Some experts say North Korea might have launched a nuclear-capable, highly maneuverable ballistic missile and that its 600 kilometre-flight had enough range to strike a southeastern South Korean port where the Reagan was previously docked.

North Korea has performed a record number of missile tests this year as it steadfastly rebuffs US and South Korean calls to resume the nuclear diplomacy.

North Korea has said it won't return to talks unless the

United States drops its hostile policies in an apparent reference to US-South Korean military drills and US-led economic sanctions on it.

Earlier this month, North Korea adopted a new law that authorised the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in some situations, a development that showed its increasingly aggressive nuclear doctrine.

Some analysts say North Korea would eventually aim for arms control negotiations with the US to get sanctions relief and other concessions in return for a partial surrender of its nuclear capability.

Dependence on Russian def equipment not lack of trying on India's part: Jaishankar

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India's dependence on Russian defence equipment and the strong defence ties with Moscow is not because New Delhi did not approach the US to get those from the United States, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Sunday.

"One of the changes in our relationships has actually been the defence cooperation which has really come about in this current form maybe the last 15 years," Jaishankar told Indian Americans here during an interactive discussion with him organized by the US India Friendship Council and Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies.



"From 1965 pretty much for the next 40 years, there was no US defence equipment to India. This was, in fact, a period when the India Soviet, India Russia relationship became very strong," he said. "This was not due to a lack of trying

on India's part. I can vouch for it myself. I've had my relatives, my father, my grandfather, they worked with the defence ministry. So, I know firsthand what great efforts were made over those years to try to make the US understand that it was in American interest to have a strong, united, independent, prosperous India," Jaishankar said.

"At that time, they did not succeed, maybe the state of the world was such," he noted. "The change that started was really triggered by the nuclear deal that removed a very big obstacle to go forward and then to actually take the relationship to a new level requires leadership in India," that did not had reservations.

In Tokyo, US vice prez Harris calls US-Japan alliance 'a cornerstone'

AP ■ TOKYO

US Vice President Kamala Harris met with Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio on Monday shortly after arriving in Tokyo for the state funeral of his predecessor, Shinzo Abe.

Abe, who was assassinated in July, will be honoured on Tuesday, and Harris is leading a U.S. Delegation to pay its respects.

"The alliance between Japan and the United States is a cornerstone of what we believe is integral to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," she said at the Akasaka Palace. Kishida said Abe "poured his heart and soul" into strengthening ties between their two countries.

"I feel it is my duty to carry on his aspirations," Kishida said.

Abe forged closer ties with the United States at a time of increased concern about China's ambitions, and Kishida is continuing his push for a stronger national defence.

The potential for war over Taiwan, a self-governed island that China claims as part of its own territory, has troubled Japan, which would likely be pulled into such a conflict.

President Joe Biden said recently that the U.S. Would send its own troops to defend Taiwan if China attacked.

"The president has addressed that issue. And if it comes up, the vice president will align with the president," said a senior administration official, who requested anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

The official also said Harris would "make clear our ironclad commitment to Japan's security." More than 50,000 U.S. Troops are based there. Harris, who is scheduled to spend three nights in Tokyo, is visiting at a politically fraught moment. Kishida's decision to hold a state funeral for Abe, a conservative nationalist, has been controversial in a country where such memorials are uncommon, and some oppose honoring him in this way.

6 Pak Army personnel, including two officers, killed in helicopter crash in Balochistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Six Pakistan Army officials, including two Majors, were killed in a helicopter crash in southwestern Balochistan province, the military said on Monday, the second such incident after another military helicopter crashed in the same province last month.

The crash occurred near Khost in the Harnai district of the province on Sunday night during a flying mission, it said.

All the "six personnel on board, including two pilots" were killed in the crash, the Army said. No reason for the crash was given.

The accident comes more than a month after a similar incident occurred in Balochistan on August 1 when a Pakistan Army helicopter crashed, killing all six personnel, including a Lieutenant General, on board.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR),



the media wing of the Pakistani military, said on Monday that 39-year-old Major Khurram Shahzad (pilot) and 30-year-old Major Muhammad Muneeb Afzal (pilot) were among those killed in the crash.

The funeral prayers of the six army personnel were offered at Quetta Garrison, according to the ISPR. Balochistan corps commander as well as senior military and civil officials attended the funeral.

Renewed militia clashes rock western Libya; 5 killed

AP ■ CAIRO

A new round of infighting between rogue militias in western Libya has killed at least five people, including a 10-year-old girl, health authorities said Monday, the latest bout of violence to rock the North African nation mired in decade-long chaos.

The fighting broke out on Sunday between rival militias in the western town of Zawiyah, where armed groups - like in many other towns and cities in oil-rich Libya - are competing for influence. Along with the five who were killed, at least 13



other civilians were wounded in the clashes that continued overnight, the Health Ministry's emergency services said.

The fighting trapped dozens of families living in the area for hours, said Malek Mersat, a spokesman for the emergency services. Local media reported that one mili-

tia fired at a member of its rivals, wounding a militiaman who was taken to hospital.

The violence was the latest between militias in western Libya. In August, clashes in the capital of Tripoli killed more than 30 people, one of the deadliest bouts of fighting in Libya in many months.

Libya was plunged into chaos after a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. The oil-rich country has for years been split between rival administrations, each backed by rogue militias and foreign governments.

Indian climber among 12 injured as avalanche hits Nepal's Mt. Manaslu

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Indian climber Baljeet Kaur was among 12 climbers who were injured when an avalanche struck them at the base camp of Mt. Manaslu in Nepal on Monday, according to media reports.

Out of the 12 mountaineers, three were critically injured, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported.

The Department of Tourism confirmed that the avalanche hit at 11:30 am on Monday.

Sources told local media that Sherpa climbers from Seven Summit Treks, Satori Adventure, Imagine Nepal Treks, Elite Expedition, and 8K Expeditions, among others, were injured.

Pemba Sherpa from 8K Expedition said Indian climber Kaur and her Sherpa guide both suffered minor injuries and were safe, the report said.

The Tourism Department is yet to establish contact with the officials at the incident site, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported, quoting the Director of the department.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE XXI ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE ALLIKULAM COMPLEX, CITY CIVIL COURT CHENNAI

O.S. No. 4804 of 2019
M/s Chaganraj and Company
By its Proprietor..Plaintiff
Versus
M/s Swati Paper Convertor and 2 others...Defendants

To
D2 M/s Kashvi Papers, D97, Gali No.6, Garhi Maendur, Bajan Pura, Delhi-110053.

Take notice that the above Plaintiff has filed the suit against the Defendants for recovery of Rs. 20,83,820/- and further interest in the above Court. The above case came up for hearing on 21.09.2022 and the Honble XII Addl. Judge, City Civil Court Chennai was pleased to orderd Notice by substitute service to you returnable by 17.10.2022.

Hence be present on 17.10.2022 at 10.30 am in the above said Court to state your objections if any, failing which the above matter will be heard and decided in your absence as ex parte.

V.V.RAIVICHANDRAN, Advocate,
E.No.290/92, 437, New Addl. Law Chambers

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Silky Lamba R/o 17/81, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi have severed all relations with her Parents Anu Lamba And Harish Lamba, and Also With Her Brother Sohni Lamba. She has also disowned and debarred her Parents And Brother from all her movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her there risk and responsibility. And my client will not be responsible for act/deed/done by them.

SD/- Rajesh Aggarwal (Advocate)
Enrl. No. D/5046/16 Add:- 45/22, Bhushan Bhawan, Azadpur, Delhi-33

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that our client's customer Mrs. Annu is the owner of property no. S-d (old no. S-e), area measuring 42 sq. Yards, with all roof rights, out of Kharsa no. 826, situated in the area of Village Nawada, and the colony known as Ormihari, Phase-I, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 vide sale deed dated 05.07.2022as doc no. 16083 from Mr. Rinku Sharma S/o Jagjit Mohan Sharma who acquired the same vide G.P.A. (notary), ats & will dated 10.05.2009 from Mrs. Monika Maggo who acquired the same vide GPA (notary), ats & will dated 22.02.2008 from Mr. Bhagwan Dass, Mr. Lajpat Rai and Mr. Madan Gopal, who acquired the same vide Mr. Bhagwan Dass, Mr. Lajpat Rai and Mr. Madan Gopal as doc no. 1340 the said property is being mortgaged with M/s Aavas financers limited (formerly known as Au Housing Finance Ltd.) At office no. 707 7th Floor, Vikram Tower, Delhi, Rajendra Place hence this notice is hereby given that all the above said GPA's are active and not revoked till date and any person, banks or financial institution/s, or any parties, having any claim, charge, interest, title, demand, rights, of whatsoever nature in respect of or against the said property by way of inheritance, share, transfer, mortgage, possession, howsoever nature, are hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary support to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication, failing which the said claim of such person/s, if any will be considered as waived and settled.

Mr. Samir Kumar / Lalit Kumar (Advocate)
M/s. Excel Law Group
Office at address:- 87-D, on 3 Floor, Pocket-2, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi, Mbl-8130395390/91

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Name of work : Modification in Garibrath coaches & Power Cars for operation through HOG system as per RDSO Spec No. RDSO/PE/MS/AC/0051-2011 (Rev. 2) dt. 21.01.2016 with Amendment-1 dated 21.03.2017 or latest and Modification Sheet as per RDSO letter no. EL/1.6.9.22 dated:22.06.2020 or latest. **(Tender No.:** 30-Elect-11-Chg-2022-23: **Approx cost of the work in (Rs.):** 4.21,70,759.76; **Cost of tender form :** Rs. 0.00; **Address of the Office :** Sr. Divl. Elect, Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 3,60,900.00; **Period of completion of work :** 06 Months; **Last date & time of submission of tender :** 18.10.2022 up to 15.00 hrs. **And opening of tender :** 18.10.2022 at 15.01 hrs. **Website & notice board:** www.ireps.gov.in & Sr.DEE/Chg/DLI

2516/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Australia after data breach mulls tougher cybersecurity laws

AP ■ CANBERRA

The Australian government said on Monday it was considering tougher cybersecurity rules for telecommunications companies after Optus, the nation's second-largest wireless carrier, reported personal data of 9.8 million customers had been breached.

Optus said on Thursday it had become aware the day before of the cyberattack breaching details of 9.8 million people - within Australia's population of 26 million.

In the cases of 2.8 million current and former Optus customers, the breach involved "significant amounts of personal data," Cybersecurity Minister Clare O'Neil told Parliament.

"The breach is of a nature that we should not expect to see in a large telecommunications provider in this country," O'Neil said.

In some countries, such a breach would result in fines



"amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars," O'Neil said.

Australian law doesn't currently allow for Optus to be fined for the breach.

"A very substantial reform task is going to emerge from a breach of this scale and size," O'Neil said.

"One significant question is whether the cybersecurity requirements that we place on large telecommunications providers in this country are fit for purpose," she added.

O'Neil called on Optus to

offer compromised customers free credit monitoring to protect them from identity theft, a request that the Sydney-based company complied with later on Monday.

Optus announced it was offering its "most affected" customers 12-month free subscriptions to Equifax Protect, a credit monitoring and identity protection service.

Optus said the information that had been accessed by an unnamed third party included customers' names, dates of birth, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.

For a minority, the personal data also included identification documents such as driver's license and passport numbers. Police and other government security agencies had worked through the weekend to protect affected customers, O'Neil said.

Government agencies were also working with the banking sector to protect customers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these vehicle owners are informed to come to the company's office and claim the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise, all these vehicles will be scrapped in the next three days.

DL48AY0691,	DL4CND0142,	DL2CW8840,
DMK3154,	DL9CP7572,	DL10CF0455,
NOREG50,	DL1CL1191,	DL8SAG3660,
DL8SAK0559,	DL8CK3680,	HR20L6470,
HR51J8204,	DL4CS8864,	DL8SC0568,
DL8SN3595,	JH18A4117,	DL6SV9554,
DL8S25646,	DL4SBF3258,	DL1SL3875,
DL6SL3175,	DL3SAB7966,	DDX2439,
DL8SM9736,	DL4SAE1982,	DL6SR4326,
DL6SY4857,	KL01P6807,	DL8S9A456,
CH03J5556,	DL4SK8010,	DL8SA5611,
DL8SF4333,	JH05M7915,	DL9S07367,
DL48Y4968,	DL8SN4038,	DL2SG5844,
HR10E1513,	DL9SH8264,	DL4SFB1411,
DL9CR0291,	DL8SAE2495,	DL8SA8396,
M-013310,	DL1SP0144,	DL4SA9108,
DL8S56101,	DL8S04848,	DL5S8475,
DL8SG4374,	DL7SAH2457,	DL4CQ2038,
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India's GDP to grow at 7.3% in '23: S&P

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Monday projected India's economic growth at 7.3 per cent in the current fiscal with downside risks and said inflation is likely to remain above RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent till the end of 2022.

In its Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, S&P said India's growth next year will get support from domestic demand recovery after the coronavirus pandemic.

"We have retained our India growth outlook at 7.3 per cent for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and 6.5 per cent for the next fiscal year, although we see the risks tilted to the downside," it said.

Other agencies have cut India's GDP growth forecast amid higher inflation and rising policy interest rates. Earlier this month, Fitch Ratings slashed the growth estimate to 7 per cent for the current fiscal from 7.8 per cent pegged earlier. India Ratings & Research too had reduced its projections to 6.9 per cent from 7 per cent earlier.

Asian Development Bank has cut the projection to 7 per cent from 7.5 per cent earlier.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects the Indian economy to grow 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal (April-March). The growth last year (2021-22)



was 8.7 per cent.

Indian economy expanded 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter, sequentially higher than 4.10 per cent growth clocked in the January-March period.

On inflation, S&P Global Ratings pegged the average rate in the current fiscal at 6.8 per cent and projected it to fall to 5 per cent in the next fiscal beginning April 2023.

"India headline Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) is likely to remain outside the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent until the end of 2022. That's amid substantial weather-induced wheat and rice price increases as well as sticky core inflation. And food inflation may rise again," it said.

Retail or consumer price

inflation has remained above RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent for the eighth month in a row and was at 7 per cent in August. Wholesale price inflation remained in double digits for the 17th straight month and was at 12.41 per cent in August.

According to S&P Global Ratings, elevated core inflation would drive up policy rates further in India, and projected policy interest rates to be 5.90 per cent by the end of this fiscal.

To tame stubbornly high inflation, the central bank has already hiked benchmark interest rates by 1.40 percentage points to 5.40 per cent. In its monetary policy review on September 30, RBI is expected to hike rates by another 50 basis points to a three-year high level of 5.90 per cent.

OECD retains India GDP growth projection at 6.9% for FY-2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Economic grouping OECD in a report on Monday retained the GDP growth projections for India at 6.9 per cent for the current financial year despite the global economy losing momentum in wake of the Russia-Ukraine war.

The projection by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is lower than the Reserve Bank's growth forecast of 7.2 for 2022-23. The growth last year (2021-22) was 8.7 per cent.

Indian economy expanded by 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter, sequentially higher than 4.10 per cent in the January-March period.

"Softer external demand is a factor in India's projected slowdown from 8.7 per cent annual growth in FY2021-22 to around 7 per cent in FY 2022-23 and around 5% per cent in FY 2023-24, but this still represents rapid growth in the context of a weak global economy," the OECD's latest Interim Economic Outlook said.

In the June 2022 Economic Outlook, the OECD projected the GDP growth for India at 6.9 per cent.

The global economy has lost momentum in the wake of Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, which is dragging down growth and putting additional upward pressure on inflation worldwide, according



to the OECD's latest Interim Economic Outlook.

The outlook projects global growth at a modest 3 per cent this year before slowing further to just 2.2 per cent in 2023.

This is well below the pace of economic growth projected prior to the war and represents around USD 2.8 trillion in foregone global output in 2023, it said.

It further said growth in China has also been hit and is expected to drop to a projected 3.2 per cent in 2022.

Except for the 2020 pandemic, this will be the lowest growth rate in China since the 1970s, said the Interim Economic Outlook.

Inflation is projected to recede gradually through 2023 in most G20 countries as the tighter monetary policy takes effect and global growth slows.

Headline inflation is projected to ease from 8.2 per cent this year to 6.6 per cent in 2023 in the G20 economies, and fall from 6.2 per cent this year to 4 per cent in 2023 in the G20 advanced economies.

Sensex extends losses into 4th session amid negative global cues

IT stocks stand out

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks spiralled lower for the fourth session running on Monday, in tandem with a bearish trend overseas as hardening interest rates and prospects of a global recession darkened the outlook for riskier assets.

The rupee plunged to a fresh lifetime low against the US dollar amid foreign fund outflows, which further dented investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 953.70 points or 1.64 per cent to close at 57,145.22. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 311.05 points or 1.80 per cent to 17,016.30.

Maruti Suzuki was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 5.49 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, ITC, Axis Bank, NTPC, Bajaj Finance and IndusInd Bank.

In contrast, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Nestle India and Wipro were the gainers, climbing up to 1.28 per cent.

"Nifty fell for the fourth consecutive session driven by weak global cues and a falling rupee. Global risk assets including equities extended their sell-



off on Monday as fears of faster inflation and global recession continued to rise," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said the soaring dollar as a result of aggressive monetary tightening by the US Fed, slowing economic growth and rising demand from cautious investors are causing turbulence in the global equity markets.

"This is creating mayhem in the domestic market led by weakening INR, elevated bond yields and pessimistic trends of Asian peers. Only the IT sector, which exhibited the weakest performance in the last 1 year, defied the trend in anticipation that the global recession is mostly factored in the price and is trading at reasonable valuations," he noted.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 3.33 per cent and the midcap index fell by 2.84 per cent.

Sebi penalises 19 persons for fraudulent trading in Global Infratech & Finance shares

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has imposed a penalty of Rs 95 lakh on 19 individuals for indulging in manipulative trading in the shares of Global Infratech and Finance Limited.

They have been directed to pay the penalty within 45 days, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its order on Friday.

The regulator conducted an investigation in the scrip of Global Infratech and Finance Ltd (GIFL) for the period December 2017 to February 2018 to ascertain any violations of PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) norms.

In its probe, Sebi found that 19 persons have followed a uniform strategy of executing 3,266 trades in a substantial quantity of shares, constituting 12.86 per cent of total market volume in a synchronised manner through a large number of trades ranging from 87 to 458 trades on each day for 39 days.

"Such a repeated and uniform strategy of synchronised trades involving substantial quantity of shares was followed by notices in order to create a misleading appearance of trading, without any change of beneficial ownership, and thus was a fraudulent activity resorted to by notices in order to mislead investors," Sebi said.

Gold gains ₹138; Silver jumps ₹224



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices in the national capital rose by ₹138 to ₹49,786 per 10 grams on Monday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹49,648 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped by ₹224 to ₹56,514 per kilogram from ₹56,290 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,639 per ounce, while silver was trading flat at USD 18.67 per ounce.

Gold Plus Glass Industry, Uniparts India get Sebi's nod to float IPOs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Float glass maker Gold Plus Glass Industry and engineering solutions provider Uniparts India have received capital markets regulator Sebi's approval to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs).

The two companies, which had filed preliminary IPO papers with the Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in April, obtained observation letters from the regulator during September 22-23, an update with the markets watchdog showed on Monday.

In Sebi's parlance, the regulator's observation implies its go-ahead to launch an initial share-sale.

Going by the draft papers, Gold Plus Glass Industry's IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 300 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) up to 1,28,26,224 equity shares by promoters and existing shareholders.

As a part of the OFS, promoters — Suresh Tyagi and Jimmy Tyagi — will offer up to 10,19,995 equity shares each and investor PI Opportunities



Fund-I will sell up to 1,07,86,234 equity shares.

The company proposes to utilise net proceeds from the fresh issuance of equity shares towards funding debt, working incremental requirements and general corporate purposes.

Gold Plus Glass Industry is one of the leading float glass makers in India with a 16 per cent share of manufacturing capacity in fiscal 2021. The company's products cater to a range of end-use industries, including automotive, construction and industrial sectors, with a variety of applications.

The initial share-sale of Uniparts India is entirely an OFS of 1,57,31,942 equity shares by promoter group entities and existing investors, according to the draft papers.

Those offering shares in the OFS are promoter group entities — The Karan Soni 2018 CG-NG Nevada Trust, The Meher Soni 2018 CG-NG Nevada Trust, Pamela Soni -- and investors Ashoka Investment Holdings Ltd and Ambadevi Mauritius Holding Ltd.

Since the IPO would be entirely an OFS, the company will not receive any proceeds from the public issue.

This would be the company's third attempt to go public. Earlier, Uniparts had filed its IPO papers with Sebi in December 2018 and in September 2014. It also obtained the regulator's clearance to launch the IPO on two occasions but did not go ahead with the initial share sale.

Uniparts India is a global manufacturer of engineered systems and solutions.

It is one of the leading suppliers of systems and components for the off-highway market in agriculture and construction, forestry and mining and aftermarket sectors on account of its presence across over 25 countries.

₹ sinks all-time low to 81.67/\$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 58 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.67 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, escalation of geopolitical risks due to conflict in Ukraine, a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 81.47, then fell further to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the American currency, registering a decline of 58 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee slumped 30 paise to close at 81.09, its previous record low.



This is the fourth consecutive session of loss for the domestic unit, during which it has lost 193 paise against the American currency.

"Another day of large gains for the dollar versus the rupee as it fell for the fourth day in a trot amid risk-averse sentiments and unprecedented strength in the greenback following Fed tightening and recession worries," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Samsung eyes 2x growth in foldable smartphones this year; partners Axis Bank for credit card

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Samsung has partnered with Axis Bank to launch co-branded credit card to provide additional finance option to customers as it eyes two-fold sales growth in its ultra-premium foldable smartphones this year, a top official said on Monday.

Samsung India Senior Vice President for Mobile Business Raju Pullan said the company has focussed on making purchases affordable and it has seen about three times growth in transactions happening through Samsung Finance plus for buying its product.

"We believe that consumer expectations in India are get-

ting upscaled. It was visible in our latest Galaxy series Z Fold 4 and Flip 4. We will end up seeing this year almost 2X growth over last year on the new launches.

"It's really important to actually create various new platforms so that consumers are able to acquire the Samsung products across price points and upgrade themselves to newer technologies," Pullan said.

He said that the company has 30 million registered users of Samsung Pay, which was launched in 2017.

Samsung Finance plus provides finance options to consumers who are availing credit for the first time.



"We are seeing a tremendous response not only in tier 2 and 3 markets but the rural market as well. Last year, we used to do business of about ₹250 crore per month on the Samsung Finance plus. Almost 50 per cent of users were new to credit consumers.

"This year as we speak, we are averaging at ₹700 crore on

transactions per month. This means that if we provide the right platforms to customers to upgrade, they will get on to it. That's the genesis of our partnership with Axis Bank along with Visa," Pullan said.

The company claims to have sold over 12 lakh Galaxy smartphones worth more than ₹1,000 crore on the first day of online festive sales at Amazon and Flipkart.

Pullan said that the co-branded credit, for which registration has started, will offer cashback of up to ₹10,000 to customers throughout the year across all Samsung products and it will be over and above the offers available at that time.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The draft Indian Telecommunication Bill may not help accelerate the resolution process for insolvent companies in the sector, a domestic rating agency said on Monday.

The bill stipulates that the ownership of spectrum remains with the government, and hence implies that the value of spectrum cannot be sold by creditors under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, India Ratings and Research explained.

The draft law also mentions that the government reserves the right to take back the spectrum if the ailing telecom operator fails to pay government dues, which further

adds concerns to the operational viability of such telcos, the agency said.

The report further said even the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal had ruled that government dues must be cleared before a stressed telco is admitted to insolvency proceedings in an order passed in July 2021.

"Impact of the bill on the resolution process needs to be seen, given that the ailing telcos may not have the financial flexibility to clear government dues and/or have the operational cash flows to service the ongoing regulatory charges," the agency said.

The bill provides for a framework for placing revenues in a separate designated account for the telcos under

insolvency, which are unable to pay government dues, but the implementation of the same remains to be seen, it added.

The agency also said the bill intends to provide one-stop clarity on several key aspects that have affected the telecom industry over the past two years.

It aims to remove ambiguities over the ownership of spectrum for the corporates under insolvency/stress as well as the regulating body for over-the-top (OTT) and internet service providers, the agency said.

The bill also empowers the government to provide relief to stressed telecom companies through waiver/deferment/restatement of regulatory dues, it added.

Govt decides to extend Foreign Trade Policy by six months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday said it has decided to extend the existing Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) by another six months till March 2023. The current Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) was to end on September 30.

Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Amit Yadav, said there were demands from different quarters, including industry associations and export promotion councils, to extend the policy and not introduce a new policy at this time.

They have stated that currently there are challenges like global uncertainties and currency fluctuations.

Apple now manufacturing iPhone 14 in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



iPhones in the country including iPhone SE, iPhone 12, iPhone 13 and, now, iPhone 14.

Earlier this month, Apple Inc unveiled its latest iPhone series — the iPhone 14 models - with an improved camera, powerful sensors and satellite

messaging feature to send SOS texts in emergencies. The new lineup has four models: iPhone 14, Plus, Pro and ProMax.

According to sources, the Made-in-India iPhone 14 will begin to reach local customers in the next few days. Phones manufactured in India will be both for the Indian market and exports.

The iPhone 14 will be shipped from Foxconn's Sriperumbudur facility on the outskirts of Chennai.

High price of coal to adversely impact profitability of domestic non-ferrous metal companies: Icra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The high price of coal will adversely impact the profitability of domestic non-ferrous metal companies mainly operating in the aluminium and zinc space, Icra said on Monday.

The domestic e-auction premium on coal, though it has softened in recent months,

continues to remain high at around 300 per cent.

"In the domestic market, power costs have significantly increased for domestic base metal companies, owing to the lower availability of coal linkages to non-power sectors and elevated coal prices in both domestic e-auction and the international markets," Icra said in a statement.



Besides, the price of alumina decreased along with the

price of aluminium, giving some respite to the non-integrated players.

"Owing to the twin onslaught of corrections in metal prices and continued high coal costs, the estimated operating profitability of domestic players is likely to contract by 600-700 bps in FY2023 after a weak performance in Q1 FY2023," Icra

Senior Vice-President and Group Head, Corporate Sector Ratings Jayanta Roy said.

The high cost of coal remains a concern in the near term.

The rating agency said that it has changed the outlook of the base metal industry to stable from positive in July on account of this likely reduction in profitability, Roy stressed.

CROATIA, NETHERLANDS INTO NATIONS LEAGUE SF

AP ■ LONDON

Croatia and the Netherlands booked their places in the last four of the Nations League as holders France needed a favour to avoid relegation from the top tier on Sunday. Les Bleus lost 2-0 in Denmark to finish with just one win from their six group games, but Croatia's 3-1 win at Austria saved the world champions from the drop.

Didier Deschamps will be hoping to have a number of key men back from injury by the time France's defence of the World Cup begins against Australia on November 22.

"It was a young French team, which for the most part does not yet have experience of the highest level," said Deschamps.

"Tonight is a dose of reality and what will be waiting for us in two months."

France will also come up against the Danes in the group stage in Qatar and the Euro 2020 semi-finalists showed they are more than capable of causing more trouble in two months' time.

Both goals came before half-time as Kasper Dolberg stretched to turn home Mikkel Damsgaard's cross before Andreas Skov Olsen volleyed in from the edge of the area.

France were without Hugo Lloris, Jules Kounde, N'Golo Kante, Paul Pogba, Ousmane Dembele and Karim Benzema through injury.

But the star trio of Antoine Griezmann, Olivier Giroud and Kylian Mbappe failed to find a way back into the game for France.



We have to focus on winning against Spain: Santos

AP ■ BRAGA

Portugal coach Fernando Santos said his team would not settle for the draw they need to reach the Nations League finals when they host Spain in Braga on Tuesday.

Portugal, who won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2019, moved top of Group A2 on Saturday with a 4-0 victory over the

Czech Republic as Spain lost at home to Switzerland.

Santos' side now hold a two-point lead over their neighbours ahead of the final group match.

"We just have to focus on winning rather than reaching the final four," he said.

"I want the players to face Spain on their merit, as they do all opponents. Do that and we will always be

closer to getting where we want to go."

Manchester United right-back Diogo Dalot scored twice against the Czechs as Portugal bounced back from a defeat in Switzerland in June.

Santos has a near fully-fit squad to choose from, with Atletico Madrid forward Joao Felix having returned to training after missing last week-end's match.

Denmark's win meant Croatia needed to get all three points in Austria to top the group.

Luka Modric got the 2018 World Cup finalists off to a flying start, but they were quickly pegged back by Christoph Baumgartner's header.

Two goals in three second-half minutes proved decisive as Marko Livaja and Dejan Lovren headed in at the far post.

"Austria made our lives very hard, but in the end, the win was deserved," said Modric. "I am very happy that we are in the top four."

Defeat relegated Austria to League B.

The Netherlands made sure of top spot in Group A4 with a 1-0 win over Belgium thanks to Virgil van Dijk's header 17 minutes from time.

The Dutch just needed to avoid defeat by a three-goal margin after winning 4-1 in Brussels earlier in the group.

A Belgian revival never looked likely. Van Dijk settled the game when he was left completely unmarked to head in a corner inside the six-yard box.

In the same group, Wales were relegated after losing 1-0 at home to Poland.

Karol Swiderski scored the only goal in Cardiff from Robert Lewandowski's cushioned through ball.

Turkey were already guaranteed promotion from League C, but were still embarrassed by a 2-1 defeat to the Faroe Islands.

The Faroes led 2-0 through Viljormur Davidsson and Joan Edmundsson before Serdar Guler's late consolation for the side ranked 83 places higher in FIFA's world rankings.



India face Vietnam test in football tourney

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH CITY

The Indian men's football team will have its task cut out when it takes on Vietnam in the Hung Thinh Friendly Football Tournament here on Tuesday.

In their opener last Saturday, India were held to a 1-1 draw by lower-ranked Singapore.

Up against a confident Vietnam, who blanked Singapore 4-0 in their first match, the Blue Tigers will have to be extremely focussed.

"It will be a very different game against a much stronger opponent, so our approach will also change accordingly," said India head coach Igor Stimac said on the eve of the match.

"We need to be more

focused, especially on vertical football and quick transition.

"At the same time, we must maintain focus on our defence as well. They pose a real threat from long range shots, and from their crosses, and we need to be able to deal with that," said Stimac.

The India head coach has also closely followed the match between Vietnam and Singapore, and believes that their Tuesday's opponents are an organised unit.

"I've watched their first match against Singapore and they (Vietnam) are a very disciplined side," said Stimac.

"They have also had enough time after the first game for recovery, while we need to see how many of our boys will be available and fit to play."



Determined to make big contributions in World Cup: Gurjant

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Having played a vital role in India's Silver medal-winning feat at the Commonwealth Games, national hockey team forward Gurjant Singh is now looking to make an impact at next year's FIH World Cup.

"I am glad that I was part of the Silver medal-winning team at CWG. It's a huge honour for me to be an Olympic and CWG medal winner," Gurjant, who was part of the Olympic Bronze medal winning team in Tokyo, Hockey India said in a release.

"However, I have noted down the points that I need to improve on and I am determined to make an even bigger impact in tournaments such as the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

India are set to host the men's hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time jointly in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29 next year and Gurjant hopes to get an

opportunity of playing in front of the home crowd.

"Playing in the World Cup is every hockey player's dream. And I really hope I will be given the opportunity of playing the tournament at our home ground."

"There is always a great buzz and fanfare in Odisha and I am sure that the fans' support will motivate us to play at our best."

The 27-year-old said the Indian team's immediate focus is the FIH Hockey Pro League beginning next month.

"We are working very hard to put up a good show at the FIH Hockey Pro League. A good performance there will give us a huge confidence boost before the all-important World Cup in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

"We are looking forward to the challenge and are determined to keep getting better as a side."

India will face Spain and New Zealand in the FIH Pro League in Odisha from October 28.

Murray backs Federer as future Laver Cup captain

AP ■ LONDON

Andy Murray has backed Roger Federer as a future Laver Cup captain after Bjorn Borg indicated the sixth edition in Vancouver next year could be his last.

Federer bade farewell to professional tennis at the tournament in London at the weekend, playing doubles alongside great rival Rafael Nadal on Friday in his final competitive match, which ended in defeat.

Team Europe suffered a 13-8 loss to Team World in the Ryder Cup-style tournament to ensure Federer, 41, was denied one final trophy but a vacancy for the captaincy will open up when Swedish great Borg steps away.

Federer, who won 20 Grand Slams in his glittering career, said he had no immediate plans after hanging up his racquet but it is likely he will want to stay involved in the Laver Cup, which he helped to create.

"I'm sure Roger is going to



stay involved in the event in some capacity and maybe one day captain the team," Murray said.

"Look, he's great on the side (coaching). He watches a lot of tennis, he loves the game. I think for ex-players that go into coaching, I think that's important to sort of stay current and know a lot of the players."

Murray made his Laver Cup debut at London's O2

arena, joining other members of the "Big Four" -- Federer, Nadal and Novak Djokovic in competing for Team Europe.

Djokovic expressed his hope that Federer would turn his hand to coaching.

"I think that Roger can offer a lot," he said. "I mean... it's logical to expect him to be able to share so many useful and valuable things with anybody really."

Need to work on my fitness, says Tasnim Mir

PTI ■ RAIPUR

Teen Indian shuttler Tasnim Mir feels she needs to work on her fitness to match the speed and power of the Asian players as she looks to break into the world's top 50 in the senior circuit.

The 17-year-old from Mehsana, Gujarat, who won the Chattisgarh International Challenge on Sunday, will be one of the attractions at the National Games.

"I have to work on my fitness. I'm working on my rallies and stamina as I'm aware that Asian players are very good in rallies, power and speed. The game is becoming faster and we have to



play some quick rallies," she said in a press release.

"My focus is to improve my ranking. My target is to be in the top 50 so that I can compete in bigger international tournaments. I have to be consistent with my game to achieve that goal and then to rise to be among the top 20."

"My father (Irfan Mir) has played a crucial role in my evolution. I learnt the basics from him and continue to train under him."

Tasnim, who had become the first Under-19 Indian woman shuttler to be ranked world No. 1 in junior earlier this year, is currently ranked World No. 113 in the senior category.

"With some good players from Japan, Thailand, China competing in these tournaments, it gives us the necessary experience and the chance to rise in the ranking charts," she said.

Fresh from her win in Raipur, Tasnim is eager to soak in the joys of playing in front of the home crowd at the National Games.

"I have not yet competed in a major National-level tournament in my home state," she said.

"Surely, it will always be a big motivation when you play in front of a home crowd. The National Games will be a great platform for me to experience that."

Julius Baer Cup: Indian GM Erigaisi goes down to Carlsen in final

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Teenaged Grandmaster Indian Arjun Erigaisi went down against world No.1 Magnus Carlsen in the final of the Julius Baer Generation Cup online rapid chess tournament, losing the second match 0-2.

Having won the first match, the Norwegian had the advantage and he won the first two games of the second match to close out the finale early on Monday.

Having won the first match, comprising four games, 2.5-0.5, Carlsen needed to only draw the second to take the top prize. He won two games of the second match and shut out Erigaisi.

The final was a two-match affair with each match consisting of four games. If the players had won a match each, a blitz tie-break would have been required to decide the winner.

Requiring to win the second match to have a chance to push the final to a tie-break, the 19-year old Indian player found himself in trouble against the world No.1 in red-hot form. Erigaisi resigned on move 48 and slipped into further trouble.

The second game was over in 52 moves as Carlsen dashed the Indian GM's hopes.

Carlsen had been unstoppable in the preliminary phase and lost just one game, resigning after just two moves against Hans Niemann and subsequently dropping a game to Lev Aronian in the quarterfinals.

Carlsen's performance makes him the first player to hit the historic 2900 Tour Rating mark.

Erigaisi, with a fine performance in the Julius Baer Cup, part of the Meltwater Chess Tour, has qualified for the eight-player tour final in San Francisco later this year.

We need to have better academies & start early, says Lalengmawia

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Starting early and upgrading academies are crucial to lifting the standard of Indian football, feels Lalengmawia Ralte, who has returned from a two-week training camp with Mumbai City FC's sister club in Belgium, Lommel SK.

The prodigious midfielder, Apuia scored his first goal for the Islanders in the Durand Cup final against Bengaluru FC. Although Mumbai City FC ended the final on the wrong side of a 2-1 scoreline, the 21-year-old midfielder put in a stellar display in Asia's oldest football tournament and in the AFC Champions League earlier this year.

He suggested how Indian footballers can compete with foreign players.

"I think Indian players will be able to compete with or against them, but we need to have better academies. We need to start sending kids from a young age so that they can follow the style of Europeans and then we can compete with them at any level," Ralte said in a release.

"Training with Lommel SK in Belgium was a good experience for me. Learning new things with European players and being at the top of the game was a great experience. I gained a lot of knowledge, which is the most important thing for me."

The Aizawl native described a day in the life of the players at Lommel SK and said, "The training starts at 10 and ends around 11:30. At 12 they have lunch and then if there is a gym session, we have gym after lunch and later, they go back to their own homes."

One forgets ABCD of sport if he is away from training for 3-4 years: Vijay Kumar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having returned to top-flight shooting after a long sabbatical, Olympic Silver medallist Vijay Kumar feels athletes could "forget the ABCD of sport" if they stay away from action for three-four years.

London Games Silver medallist pistol shooter Kumar, incidentally, had taken a long break from shooting to focus on his career with the police in Himachal Pradesh. It included intense academic training, field training and border training, taking up most of his time and attention.

It was only last year that he returned to the sport, hoping to dominate it one more time.

"Spending time away was not a big deal since I was providing job security for myself. It is not a big deal, either, starting the sport from scratch," he said.

He conceded, though that muscle memory built over many years as a sport shooter was lost during police training.

"Technique goes for a toss. If one doesn't train and compete for three or four years, one forgets the basics, the ABCD of sport. When you return at the highest level, you realise you



have all but forgotten how to play," he rued.

Kumar has a clear target in mind for the upcoming National Games: emulate his

own five-Gold, one-Bronze medal haul during the 2015 edition in Thiruvananthapuram.

The upcoming edition is starting in Ahmedabad on September 29.

"That (performance) is a thing of the past. I believe I can push myself more and can even excel at the Olympic level once again. That single goal has fuelled my motivation," the 2012 Olympic medallist said, revealing that he has been preparing for the Gujarat Games for over six months.

"I am happy that within a year of my return to shooting, I have made it for my fourth

National Games. I will try to perform well here ahead of the World Championships," the 37-year-old said.

The World Championships will be held in Cairo from October 12.

"The competition at the National Games will be intense, since the best 16 shooters in each event will be there. We have all been on the circuit, competing in championships and National trials since November last year."

"Each has been shooting good scores and that will make the competition really absorbing," Kumar said.

Watford appoint Bilic as manager after Edwards sacking

AP ■ WATFORD

Championship club Watford on Monday appointed former West Ham and West Brom manager Slaven Bilic as their new coach after sacking Rob Edwards.

The club announced the arrival of Bilic minutes after reporting that Edwards had been fired after just 11 games in charge in all competitions.

The team, relegated from the Premier League last season, are 10th in the Championship, the second tier of the English game, with three wins from 10 league games.



"As with all decisions taken by the board, I believe this change to be in the best inter-

ests of the club," said Hornets owner Gino Pozzo.

"We felt Rob had enough time to show us the identity of his team. However, performances haven't reflected our hopes and ambitions."

"Now we must move forward, and, in Slaven Bilic, we have secured the services of an experienced coach who has recent experience of promotion to the Premier League."

Former Croatia international and national team coach, Bilic, 54, guided West Brom to promotion in the 2019/20 season and has since managed in China.

ROHIT KEEPING FAITH IN BHUVI & HARSHAL

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India skipper Rohit Sharma has backed pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Harshal Patel to hit form ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Following a disappointing Asia Cup campaign, the Indian team had something to cheer as it won the three-match series against Australia 2-1 after clinching a six-wicket win in the third game here on Sunday.

However, both Bhuvneshwar and Harshal, who made a comeback from injury, leaked runs in the series, ending with an economy rate of 12 plus.

"It's important that we give him (Bhuvi) that space because when you have a guy like him in the team and the quality that he brings, we know that he's had more good days than the bad days in the last so many years."

"We've been working on some plans, and hopefully, we can give him more options to bowl in the death. And then he'll be as good as he was before," said Rohit in the post match media interaction.

Despite the woeful run, Rohit said Bhuvneshwar is not short on confidence.

"I don't see that he is short in confidence. It's time for us to show that faith in him and keep backing his skillset



"From our side, we are trying to work out what are the things we can do because when you're bowling in the death you can't be predictable. You need to have options to bowl on both sides of the ground and set the field accordingly.

"And someone with that experience it'll be easy for him to grasp all that knowledge."

Harshal, who is coming off a long injury layoff, also struggled, giving away 99 runs in eight overs in the three games but Rohit said the death overs specialist is not being judged on

this series.

"Harshal is an important player for us without a doubt. Coming back after an injury is never easy. He missed cricket for close to two months. It's not easy (to come back), so we've not judged him on how he is performing in these three games, because we know his quality.

"He has bowled some really tough overs for us in the past and also for his franchise. It's important to keep showing that faith and I'm sure that you know he's also trying to rectify

those mistakes and he's not too far from his best."

Assessing the team's performance in the series, Rohit said "We want to tighten in all departments. I know our batting has been brilliant in the last eight or nine games that we played since Asia Cup.

"But we still want us to be more clinical, more aggressive, you know and play with that aggression. We want to keep doing that."

While the batting unit performed well, the bowlers struggled and the fielding from the

side was also substandard.

"Bowling is the main focus. Fielding is one aspect which will never stop. We want to keep improving as a fielding unit all the time."

Suryakumar Yadav played a special 69-run knock to pave the way for India's victory alongside Virat Kohli, who also scored a half-century in the third game.

"When it comes to Surya we all know his quality. He can play the shots all over the ground. And that is what makes him special.

‘Want to give DK more game time ahead of T20 World Cup’

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India skipper Rohit Sharma wants to give wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik more time in the middle before the team heads Down Under for the T20 World Cup next month.

India have been alternating between Karthik and Rishabh Pant in their playing XI.

While the young keeper was given the nod ahead of the veteran player in the Asia Cup, Karthik was picked for all three matches against Australia.

"I wanted both of these guys to have a number of games under their belt before the World Cup. When we went to the Asia Cup both of these guys were in the fray to play all games," Rohit said at the post-match press conference after India clinched the three-match series against Australia on Sunday.

"But I just feel that



Dinesh needs a little more game time. He hardly got to bat (this series). Just maybe three balls. So that's not enough time," Rohit added.

Karthik faced seven balls in total against Australia, while Pant played only one game where he did not get a chance to bat.

"Pant also needs game time obviously. But looking at how this series was it was important for me to just stick to that consistent bat-

ting lineup."

India take on South Africa for a three-match T20I series, starting Wednesday and Rohit said Karthik and Pant's inclusion in the playing xi will depend upon the situation.

"I don't know what we're gonna do against South Africa. We just need to go and see their bowling, what sort of bowling lineup they'll play with, and who are the best guys for us who can handle that bowling lineup. It all depends on that.

"We want to be flexible in our batting. So if the situation or if the thing demands that we need a left-hander, we will bring in a left-hander if we need a right-hander, we will continue to do that.

"But we'll try and manage those guys pretty carefully. I do understand that they need game time before the World Cup but there are only 11 players you can play, unfortunately."



T20I Rankings: India go 7 points clear at top

PTI ■ DUBAI

India went seven points clear of England at the top of the ICC T20 rankings following their narrow series win over Australia in Hyderabad.

Down 0-1 against the touring Australia, the Rohit Sharma-led India bounced back in style to level the series in Nagpur before Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav's fifties in the deciding rubber on

Sunday sealed a 2-1 win.

The six-wicket final over win improved their ranking by one point to 268 points, a seven-point lead over their closest rival in England in the ICC T20 rankings released on

Monday.

The upcoming three-match series against South Africa will give India a chance to consolidate their lead at the top ahead of the World Cup in Australia.

The Proteas occupy third place on the team rankings with 258 points, but could stake their claim when they in the upcoming series commencing at Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

Incidentally it was Pakistan's narrow three-run win over England in the fourth game in Karachi on Sunday that helped India increase their lead.

That series remains tied at two games apiece, with plenty of rankings points still to play for during the final three matches in Lahore.

Oz head coach reserves big praise for ‘outstanding’ Axar

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Ravindra Jadeja's absence from the T20 series was expected to weaken India but the hosts found an able replacement in "outstanding" Axar Patel, said Australia coach Andrew McDonald.

Left-arm spinner Axar, who was shoed in as a like-for-like replacement for the injured Jadeja, impressed everyone with his bowling, ending as the leading wicket-taker in the three-match series.

"Axar, in particular, had an outstanding series. With Jaddu out everyone thought that it might become a bit of a weakness for India, but they've found another one again, which tends to happen," McDonald said at the post-match press conference after India clinched the series.

The Australian bowling attack, comprising the pace duo of Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, was taken to the cleaners by the Indian batters.

Asked if it's a concern heading to the World Cup, McDonald said: "Across the series the run rate was high, it was entertaining cricket from the get-go. Bat dominated the ball, so there was really no place to hide for bowling units, in particular death.

"We worked our way through some plans. We saw some good results with some of the plans that we implemented that might be able to transition to the World Cup."

McDonald added that Australia will have reinforcements in the form of Mitchell Starc when they begin the defense of their World Cup title at home next month.



"The connection between here (India) and Australia might be slightly different, a little bit more bounce, different tactics. Mitchell Starc comes back into the picture being one of our best death bowlers. So, we feel like we'll get reinforcements there." McDonald feels most of the bowling attack is "under the pump" due to the skills of the batters.

"The conversations always going to be can you get better at your death bowling? The answer to that is yes.

"We encourage our guys to make good decisions and execute them. Sometimes the batter out-executes you and we've seen that with Hardik (Pandya) across the series.

"Suryakumar Yadav was

outstanding today and he's gonna be dangerous in the World Cup but he showed what he can do."

Australia were without a few of their World Cup-bound players due to injuries but the head coach feels the defending champions have enough depth to overcome the situation.

"It's fortuitous that some of the guys got the opportunity here. We got a couple of injuries which are concerning leading into a World Cup. You don't like to see some of your mainstay players out of the team leading in but we feel as though we've got some good options in depth."

In the absence of David Warner, who was rested, Cameron Green "embraced the

challenge of opening".

The all-rounder amassed 118 runs, including two bel-ligerent half-centuries to give Australia great starts.

"I've asked him to show great intent on top of the order and everything that we're seeing so far shows that he's doing that.

"It's probably opportunistic the way that he's come into the opening position with obviously David Warner not being here and a couple of other players from our World Cup 15.

"And that's all you can do, given an opportunity... Before we came over here we thought he had the skill sets to be able to succeed there, and he's taken on some of the best bowlers in world cricket."



We warned her multiple times: Deepti Sharma on controversial run out

PTI ■ KOLKATA

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma on Monday revealed that Charlie Dean was warned against backing up multiple times before she effected a controversial run out of the England batter in the third and final ODI.

The dismissal reignited an intense debate over the 'spirit of the game'.

"Woh plan tha hum logon ka, kyunki woh baar baar... Hum warn bhi kar chuke the usko. Jo rules mein hain, jo guidelines hain, uske according hi humne kiya (We had planned this as she was not paying heed to our repeated warnings. We acted according to the rules and the guidelines," Deepti told reporters upon her arrival here.

Reduced to 118 for nine in their pursuit of 170 in the third ODI, England's chase was led by their No 9 batter Dean who revived their hopes with her last wicket partnership with Freya Davies. With 17 needed to win, Dean was run out for 47 with the veteran Indian off-spinner deciding to clip the bails during her delivery stride to put an end to their 35-run partnership that gave India 3-0 sweep. It was also Jhulan Goswami's swansong game.

The run-out is currently listed in the 'Unfair Play' section of the laws but is set to be moved to the 'Run Out' section at the start of next month when an update in the ICC Playing Conditions comes into effect.

Deepti further pointed out that they had informed the umpires before running out Dean.

"Umpires ko bola tha hum logon ne, but still woh wahin par thi. Hum log kuchh nahin kar sakte the. (We did inform the umpires, but she continued to do it. There was nothing we could do)," the 25-year-old added.

The 39-year-old Jhulan, who has a record 355 wickets across formats, retired from international cricket in the final ODI as India secured their first-ever 3-0 sweep on English soil to give the legendary Indian pacer a fitting farewell.

Having made her debut in 2002, Jhulan ended up playing 12 Tests, 204 ODIs and 68 T20Is.

"Har team ko jeetna hota hai, aur last match mein hum chahte the ki hum jitke unko (Jhulan) acha farewell de, toh uske hisaab se, as a team, jo effort daal sakte the woh humne diya. (Every team wants to win and we as a team gave our best effort to win it for Jhulan Goswami," she said.

Jhulan and Deepti, who also plays for Bengal in domestic cricket, landed in the city to a rousing welcome at the airport by several women's cricketers.

Shahbaz & Shreyas in T20I squad vs SA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Yet to recover from COVID-19, Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of India's three-match T20I series against South Africa, while Bengal all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed came in place of the rested Hardik Pandya.

The series is starting on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram.

With all-rounder Deepak Hooda also out of the series due to back spasms, the national selection committee is set to recall middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer for the series.

"Shami hasn't recovered from his bout of COVID-19. He needs more time, and hence, will be out of the South Africa series. Umesh Yadav will continue as Shami's replacement for

the South Africa series," a senior BCCI source said.

However, when asked why Shahbaz has been picked in place of Pandya, the source said, "Is there any seam bowling all-rounder, who can replace Hardik? Raj Bawa is too raw and that's why we kept him in India A for exposure. He will need time to blossom. Tell me another name?"

With Hooda also out of the series, the selectors may have thought that a batting all-rounder would help serve the purpose. "Shahbaz is more of a batting all-rounder, who is more than a handy left-arm spinner. He is there just as back-up in case, Axar needs to be rested for a match with six T20I games in 10 days, including travel across the country," the source said.



Assam Cricket Association ‘rain-ready’ for India-SA T20I

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam Cricket Association has put in place elaborate arrangements to minimise time-loss in the event of rain, including importing pitch covers, for the T20 International between India and South Africa on October 2, a senior official said.

The last cricket match at Barsapara Stadium here between India and Sri Lanka in January 2020 was abandoned following heavy rainfall.

"Guwahati had experienced unprecedented rainfall in

the middle of winter, and that is why the match in 2020 had to be eventually called off.

"The weather forecast for October 2 is clear, but the weather is not within the control of anyone. We have all arrangements in place in case there is rain on October 2," ACA secretary Devajit Saikia said.

The ACA has imported two "extremely lightweight" pitch covers from the US, he said. It already has around 20 covers at its disposal.

"These imported covers ensure that water or moisture

does not seep into the pitch," Saikia said.

He said the ground had been handed over to the BCCI chief curator on September 16, and its staff is now in charge of the entire field, including the pitch.

Saikia said a capacity crowd is expected for the India-South Africa encounter, with the first phase of online ticket sales garnering good response.

"The first batch of online tickets has been sold out. We will open another batch on September 26," he said.

Rizwan, Rauf help Pak win 4th T20I

AP ■ KARACHI

Pakistan halted England with three wickets in six balls to take a sensational three-run win in the last over of the fourth T20I in Karachi on Sunday.

Haris Rauf grabbed three wickets as the hosts tied the seven-match series.

Earlier in-form opener Mohammad Rizwan struck a brilliant 88 as Pakistan made 166-4.

With England needing five for victory from 10 balls, Rauf dismissed Liam Dawson (34) and Olly Stone off successive deliveries in the 19th over.

Last man Reece Topley was then run out as Pakistan rescued victory from almost certain defeat at a packed National stadium in Karachi.

Dawson had silenced a 32,000 holiday crowd by cracking four fours and a six off pacer Mohammad Hसनain's 18th over.

When Topley was run out off the second ball of the last over it sent Pakistan players and



home fans into raptures.

The win made the occasion of Pakistan's 200th T20I more memorable. They are the first team to reach the milestone.

England were rocked by Hसनain (2-40) and Nawaz (3-35) and were staring at defeat at 130-7 before Dawson added 32 with Adil Rashid (three not out) to bring England back in the game.

But Rauf's two wickets, he finished 3-32, sealed the match for Pakistan.

The remaining matches are in Lahore (September 28, 30 and October 2).

England, who are on their first tour of Pakistan for 17 years, won the first and third games while the home team won the second and fourth -- all in Karachi.