

OPINION 6

THE KEY TO WILD
LIFE CONSERVATION

WORLD 8

NATO BELIEVES BALTIC SEA
GAS LEAKS WERE SABOTAGE

MONEY 10

INDIA 'STAR' EMERGING
MARKET ECONOMY: S&P

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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BUMRAH OUT
OF ICC MEN'S
T20 WC 2022
12 SPORT

'All women entitled to safe, legal abortion'

Now, SC extends provision of MTP at 24 weeks to single ladies too

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark order, the Supreme Court held on Thursday that all women are entitled to safe and legal abortion till 24 weeks of pregnancy under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, and making any distinction on the basis of their marital status is "constitutionally unsustainable". The apex court also said that the meaning of offence of rape must include marital rape for the purpose of the MTP Act.

A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, JB Pardiwala and AS Bopanna said the rights of reproductive autonomy give similar rights to unmarried women as that to married women.

The Bench, in its verdict, said the distinction between married and unmarried women under the abortion laws is "artificial and constitutionally unsustainable" and perpetuates the stereotype that only married women are sexually active.

Under the MTP Act provisions, the upper limit for the termination of pregnancy is 24 weeks for married women,



THE CATEGORIES OF WOMEN MENTIONED IN RULE 3B OF THE MTP RULES FRAMED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- Survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest
- Minors
- Change of marital status during the ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce)
- Women with physical disabilities, major disability as per criteria laid down under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- Mentally-ill women including mental retardation;
- The foetal malformation that has substantial risk of being incompatible with life or if the child is born it may suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities to be seriously handicapped;
- Women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency situations as may be declared by the Government.

special categories including survivors of rape and other vulnerable women such as the differently-abled and minors.

However, the time period

is 20 weeks for widows and unmarried women, who are or were in consensual relationships, for allowing abortion under the statute.

The Bench delivered the verdict on the interpretation of the MTP Act and whether unmarried women or single women can be allowed like their married counterparts the benefit of abortion up to 24 weeks.

The Bench, on August 23, had reserved its verdict on interpretation of the MTP Act provisions which makes a distinction between married and unmarried women on the issue of abortion.

Observing there is a need to "fine-tune" the provisions in the MTP rules, the top court had also said it would like to add a category of women, who suffer desertion irrespective of marital status, to the seven categories of women eligible to seek abortion till 24 weeks of pregnancy.

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Gift to women came just after Safe Abortion Day

The SC's decision was a gift to women on International Safe Abortion Day. After the judgment was pronounced, a lawyer informed the Bench that September 28 happens to be the International Safe Abortion Day.

"I had no idea that this would coincide with safe abortion day. Thank you for informing us", Justice Chandrachud said.

Cong looks for 'suitable boy' for party prez poll

Ashok Gehlot apologises to Sonia, but fate uncertain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress leadership on Thursday continued to battle with a two-fold crisis: Deciding the fate of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, and picking up an "official" candidate for the party president's election. Gehlot on Thursday met Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, tendered an apology for the revolt in Rajasthan Congress, and offered to step down if Sonia so desired.

However, the party seemed in no mood to forgive him. He was signaled to pull out of the presidential race and asked to wait for a decision on his continuation as the Chief Minister. Congress general Secretary KC Venugopal said the party president will decide on the Rajasthan Chief Minister's post within a day or two.

Gehlot echoed the same view. Asked if he will continue as Chief Minister, Gehlot said Gandhi will decide on the issue. "I have apologised to Sonia ji because a simple resolution, which is our tradition and which we always pass could not be passed as a situation emerged. I, as a CLP leader, whatever the reasons, could not get the resolution passed," he said.



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot addressing media persons after a meeting with party interim President Sonia Gandhi, at 10 Janpath in New Delhi on Thursday

Gehlot, a three-time Chief Minister, described himself as a disciplined soldier of the party and expressed his sadness over the turn of events in the State.

"In the last 50 years, I have worked as a loyal Congress soldier from the time of Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Narasimha Rao, and Sonia ji, be it becoming a Central Minister or State unit chief, general secretary, or Chief Minister for the third time, I cannot forget that. The events that happened (on Sunday) have shaken all of us. Only I know how hurt I am because a message went out that I want to remain Chief Minister," Gehlot said.

Gehlot's bete noir Sachin Pilot also met with Sonia late in the evening and told media persons that the party chief is committed to solving the Rajasthan crisis and his main goal was to bring the Congress back in power after the 2023 Assembly polls.

Sources said during the Sonia-Pilot meeting, former chief Rahul Gandhi joined them virtually from his night halt container in Tamil Nadu. Both Sonia and Rahul heard Pilot and are believed to have assured him that they would take steps to address his grievances.

"I met Congress president. She listened to me calmly. We

held a detailed discussion on whatever happened in Jaipur, Rajasthan. I told her my sentiments, my feedback. All of us want to win the 2023 polls (in Rajasthan) by working hard. We'll have to work together," Pilot said briefing the waiting media outside the residence of Sonia.

Meanwhile, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh on Thursday picked up the nomination papers for the party president's post and is likely to formally join the race.

However, it was unlikely that he could be the party's "official" candidate.

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₹5 cr fine on PFI for damage during Kerala strike: HC

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Popular Front of India (PFI), which was banned for five years by the Union Home Ministry on Thursday, got another jolt in the form of an order by the Kerala High Court (HC) to deposit ₹5.2 crore with the Additional Chief Secretary (Government of Kerala), towards the damages estimated by the State Administration as well as the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation on account of its flash strike on September 23.

The PFI observed the strike across Kerala to protest arrests of its leaders from different places in the State on September 22.

A Division Bench of Justices AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and CP Mohammed Nias ruled that the PFI and its general secretary were "wholly and directly" responsible



Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR) and Bandi Mukti Committee members being detained by police during a protest against the ban on PFI and its affiliate organisations, in Kolkata on Thursday

for the injuries inflicted by their supporters on the citizens as also for the damage caused to public and private properties.

The PFI activists had rioted across the State on September 23 and forced shop-

keepers to down their shutters and blocked roads.

They damaged commodities stored in the shops of traders who refused to oblige them.

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Oracle fined \$23 mn for bribing officials in India, Turkey and UAE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on September 27 fined tech giant Oracle \$23 million for violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) in 2019 for creating slush funds for bribing officials in India, Turkey and the UAE.

This is the second time Oracle has been accused of engaging in corrupt practices in India. In 2012, the SEC had fined Oracle for corrupt practices in India in relation to the contracts with the Ministry of Information Technology in 2006-2008.

As per the 10-page order by SEC, \$3,92,000 (₹2.8 crore) was the slush fund created by Oracle India to bribe an Indian Railway-owned transport firm

in 2019. Detailing the company's India operations, the SEC said Oracle India's employees used "an excessive discount scheme" in connection with a transaction in 2019 with a transportation company owned by the Ministry of Railways.

However, the order by SEC did not specify the name of the transport company that had been bribed.

Page six of the SEC's order details Oracle's operations in India with a headline 'Improper Conduct at Oracle India'.

It said that in 2019, Oracle India sales employees also used an excessive discount scheme in connection with a transaction with a transportation company, a majority of which was owned by the Indian Ministry of Railways (Indian SOE).

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175 drug peddlers held after CBI raids on narco networks

Nationwide raids held to dismantle, disrupt networks with int'l linkages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday carried out a massive countrywide crackdown on narcotics networks in coordination with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Interpol and police in multiple States. The searches led to the arrest of 175 alleged drug peddlers and seizure of drugs.

The CBI carried out the raids as part of 'Operation Garuda' which started earlier this week to "disrupt, degrade and dismantle" drug networks with international linkages, the CBI said in a statement.

The global operation was planned through a "rapid



exchange" of Intelligence on narco-trafficking and coordinated actions with enforcement agencies across international jurisdictions through Interpol, the CBI said.

The police of eight States and Union Territories, including Punjab, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Maharashtra, and the NCB tracked around 6,600 suspects

during the operation. The agencies filed 127 FIRs and arrested 175 people, including six absconders and proclaimed offenders, the CBI said.

The agencies targeted smuggling of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, with a special focus on the Indian Ocean Region, the statement said.

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CAPSULE

INTEREST RATES HIKED ON SMALL SAVING SCHEMES

New Delhi: The Government on Thursday raised rates on some small savings schemes by up to 30 basis points in line with the hardening interest rate in the economy.

SC ORDERS NAVLAKHA'S HOSPITALISATION

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Taloja Jail Superintendent to immediately shift activist Gautam Navlakha, jailed in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case, to Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital for treatment. **P5**

TWIN BLASTS RATTLE UDHAMPUR

Udhampur: The garrison city of Udhampur, housing Indian army's Northern command headquarters, was rattled by the twin bomb blasts inside passenger buses. **P5**

6 airbags in cars mandate put off by one year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Friday announced that the implementation of "the proposal mandating a minimum of six airbags in passenger cars (M-1 category) would be from October 1, 2023." Earlier it was planned to be implemented from this October.

"Considering the global supply chain constraints being faced by the auto industry and its impact on the macroeconomic scenario, it has been decided to implement the proposal mandating a minimum

of six airbags in passenger cars (M-1 Category) w.e.f October 01, 2023," Gadkari said in a statement released by the Ministry.

The Road Ministry had earlier announced mandatory six airbags from October 1, 2022.

Earlier in September, MoRTH issued draft rules to make it mandatory for car makers to install an alarm system for rear seat belts.

Besides, there has to be a speed alert system to check over-speeding and manual override for the central locking system.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of 36th National Games in Ahmedabad on Thursday

4 regions of Ukraine to be annexed by Russia today; Kyiv defiant

KYIV ■ AP

Russia confirmed on Thursday it will formally annex parts of Ukraine where occupied areas held Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" on the living under Moscow's rule that the Ukrainian Government and the West denounced as illegal and rigged. Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend a ceremony on Friday in the Kremlin when four regions of Ukraine will be officially folded into Russia, spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Peskov said the pro-Moscow administrators of the regions will sign treaties to join Russia during the ceremony at the Kremlin's St. George's Hall.

Administrations in the four regions of southern and eastern Ukraine claimed on Tuesday night that 93 per cent of the ballots cast in the Zaporizhzhia region supported annexation, as did 87 per cent in the Kherson region, 98 per cent in the Luhansk region and 99 per cent in Donetsk.

Continued on Page 2

NCR PULSE

2 GIRLS INJURED AS TEMPLE WALL COLLAPSES ON THEM
New Delhi: Two girls were injured after the wall of a temple in southwest Delhi's Kishangarh collapsed on them. According to police, the incident took place on Wednesday when the girls were passing by a temple and its wall caved in on them. They were rushed to AIIMS Trauma Centre for treatment.

30-YR-OLD MAN STABBED BY 3 JUVENILES, DIES
New Delhi: A 30-year-old man who used to snatch their money to buy drinks and often thrashed them. On Wednesday at 8.24 pm, police got information from Sanjay Gandhi Hospital that a man had been admitted by his sister with serious stabs. The victim was identified as Ajay, a resident of the Labour Colony, Sultanpuri.

‘STUDENTS WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATION’S PROGRESS’
New Delhi: The students of Delhi Government schools not only consider themselves as “the future of the country” but also wish to “contribute for the progress of the nation”, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Thursday. Reviewing the curriculum-related activities at a government school, Sisodia said that the confidence in students has gone up and that they now have a “vision to improve their careers.”

CHARRED BODY RECOVERED FROM BURNT CAR
New Delhi: A charred body was recovered from a burnt car in northwest Delhi's Kanjhawala area on Thursday. The body, which was completely charred, is yet to be identified. Police said that a PCR call was received around 6.40 am regarding a burning car in Kanjhawala. On reaching the spot, the car was found on the route from Majra Dabas to Jatkhot. The body and the car were completely burnt. The police are analysing CCTV cameras in the vicinity to ascertain the sequence of events.

NBW ISSUED AGAINST OWNERS OF IVF FIRM
New Delhi: A non-bailable warrant (NBW) has been issued against Dr Reeta Bakshi and her son, Sarthak Bakshi, the owners of Embryo Health Private Limited, located at Delhi's Green Park by the Tees Hazari Court. The non-bailable warrants have been issued in the case filed by Dr Seema Bajaj who has alleged that the cheque issued by the IVF firm owners worth Rs 52 lakh bounced due to insufficiency of funds. Besides, they have also been charged with cheating and fraud.

LABOURER DIES AFTER FALLING INTO 40-FT DEEP BASEMENT
New Delhi: A labourer died after he allegedly fell into a 40 feet deep under construction basement at Safdarjung railway station redevelopment site here on Thursday morning. The deceased, identified as Shamsheer, is a resident of Araria district of Bihar. Police said that around 6 am, an information was received at Sarojini Nagar police station that the labourer while working on a construction site near the railway station fell and got trapped under the debris.

GLOBAL LEADERS URGE FOR URGENT, TARGETED INVESTMENT
New Delhi: Global leaders at the annual PMNCH Accountability Breakfast highlighted the need for urgent, targeted investment in programmes and policies to tackle the devastating social and economic impact of these crises on the health and wellbeing of vulnerable women, children and adolescents. The issues explored and lessons learned apply across the world, including in South Asia. Data from WHO and UNICEF shows that in 2021 alone, 25 million children did not receive the basic vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis, a marker for immunization coverage in general.

Shinde wanted to ally with Cong, NCP to topple Maha BJP-Sena Govt: Chavan

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a shocking revelation, the Opposition Congress and Shiv Sena claimed that the current Chief Minister and Shiv Sena's rebel faction leader Eknath Shinde—who was part of the then Sena-BJP alliance—had reached out to the Sonia Gandhi led-party in 2014 and 2017 for an alliance to form a new Government in the State.

In a disclosure that sought to establish that rebel Sena leader had been trying to move from the saffron alliance Government and form a new Government in alliance with the Congress and NCP, senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan said that Shinde was part of a delegation that had met him in 2017 to topple the then Devendra Fadnavis

Government in alliance with the then Opposition Congress-NCP combine.

Talking to media persons at his home town of Nanded, Chavan claimed that the meeting had happened at a time when the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance was on the verge of breaking ahead of the 2017 municipal elections in the state. Both the saffron allies fought the civic body polls separately “Ahead of the municipal corporation elections in the state, Shinde had met me along with others in my office in Mumbai with an offer that he would support the Congress and NCP to form a new government in place of the then Devendra Fadnavis government. I had then told Shinde and other leaders present in the delegation to consult NCP chief Sharad Pawar first. I don't

if they consulted Pawar saheb or not,” Chavan said.

Simultaneously, Shiv Sena's former minister Chandrakant Khaire said Chavan's claim and said that, Shinde along with a group of around 15 Sena MLAs had met Congress with a proposal to form a Sena-Congress-NCP government in the state.”But nothing happened afterwards,” Khaire said.

Another senior Sena leader Vinayak Raut also alleged that Shinde wanted to “snap ties with the BJP” and ally with the Congress-NCP.

The revelations by Chavan and Khaire should be seen in the light of the oft-repeated claim by Shinde that he had rebelled against he had led the rebellion against Shiv Sena President and former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray he did not like the Sena chief's

decision to go against the Hindutva ideology and ally with the Congress-NCP alliance to form government in the state.

It may be recalled that in the third and fourth week of June this year, hinde had led the rebellion within the Shiv Sena with the support of 40-odd party MLAs. leading to the resignation of Uddhav Thackeray as the chief minister and fall of the MVA government in the state.

Having played a crucial part in the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA Government in Maharashtra, the BJP on June 30 anointed rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde as the chief minister and its own former chief minister and senior party leader Devendra Fadnavi as the deputy chief minister.

Cong looks for ‘suitable boy’...

From Page 1
To begin with, he had no meeting with Sonia Gandhi on Thursday, something is seen as a must if the party was going to field him in the race.

Secondly, Diggy Raja is seen as the poster boy of “appeasement” politics, something the Congress could ill afford to put up with at a time when the BJP is riding high on the Hindutva wave. That leaves the field open for a wild card entry. There are speculations that Maharashtra Dalit leader Mukul Wasnik could be that wild card.

Wasnik is the son of the late Maharashtra leader and former

MP Balkrishna Wasnik.

Meanwhile, talking to the media at the AICC headquarters Digvijaya Singh said he has collected the nomination papers and will most probably file them on Friday. Asked if he was acting at the behest of the party leadership, he said, “I am responsible for myself.”

More than 10 Congress legislators from Madhya Pradesh will reach Delhi to be the proposers for Digvijaya Singh when he files his nomination. Singh, arrived in Delhi late Wednesday night leaving the Bharat Jodo Yatra midway.

Singh met the party MP from Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday after collecting nomination papers for the polls.

“Received a visit from Digvijaya Singh this afternoon. I welcome

Govt blocks 67 porn sites

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has ordered internet service providers (ISPs) to remove 67 pornographic websites in response to court rulings and for violating new IT guidelines announced in 2021.

In an email to internet service providers, the Department of Telecom (DoT) requested that they block 63 websites based on a Pune court decision and four websites based on an Uttarakhand High Court ruling and Ministry of Electronics and IT orders (MeitY).

“MeitY in compliance of the said (Uttarakhand High court) order read along with rule 3(2)(b) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, and in view of certain obscene material available in the below mentioned website that tarnish the image of modesty of

women, has directed to immediately take down (block) the ... websites/URLs,” the DoT order dated September 24 said.

The IT Rules 2021 invoked by MeitY mandates IT companies to remove or disable access to content hosted, stored or published by them which “shows such individual in full or partial nudity or shows or depicts such individual in any sexual act or conduct” and also content which is allegedly impersonated or artificially morphed.

Earlier, on Wednesday the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Delhi Police had blocked 23 accounts on Twitter for showing child pornographic content.

On September 20, the DCW had issued summons to Delhi Police and social media platform “Twitter” regarding presence of several tweets on Twitter which were displaying child pornography.

4 regions of Ukraine to be annexed by Russia...

From Page 1
Presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak insisted that nothing would change on the battlefield if Russia moves to incorporate four regions of southern and eastern Ukraine. “We will liberate our territory by military means,” Podolyak said. “And for us, our actions depend not so much on what the Russian Federation thinks or wants, but on the military capabilities that Ukraine has.”

The official annexation was widely expected following the votes that wrapped up on Tuesday in the areas under Russian occupation in Ukraine and after Moscow claimed residents’ overwhelming supported for their areas to for-

mally become part of Russia.

The US and its Western allies have sharply condemned the votes as “sham” and vowed never to recognise their results.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Thursday joined other Western officials in denouncing the votes. “Under threats and sometimes even (at) gunpoint people are being taken out of their homes or workplaces to vote in glass ballot boxes,” she said at a conference in Berlin.

“This is the opposite of free and fair elections,” Baerbock said. “And this is the opposite of peace. It's dictated peace. As long as this Russian diktat prevails in the occupied territories of Ukraine, no citizen is safe. No citizen is free.”

Oracle fined \$23 mn for bribing officials in India, Turkey...

From Page 1
“In January 2019, the sales employees working on the deal, citing intense competition from other original equipment manufacturers, claimed the deal would be lost without a 70 per cent discount on the software component of the deal. Due to the size of the discount, Oracle required an employee based in France to approve the request,” the SEC order said.

“The Oracle designee provided approval for the discount without requiring the sales employee to provide further documentary support for the

request. In fact, the Indian SOE's publicly available procurement website indicated that Oracle India faced no competition because it had mandated the use of Oracle products for the project,” said the order.

“One of the sales employees involved in the transaction maintained a spreadsheet that indicated \$67,000 was the “buffer” available to potentially make payments to a specific Indian SOE official. A total of approximately \$330,000 was funneled to an entity with a reputation for paying SOE officials and another \$62,000 was paid to

an entity controlled by the sales employees responsible for the transaction,” said the SEC order on the bribery in India by Oracle. The SEC order requires Oracle Corporation to pay more than \$23 million to resolve charges that it violated provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) when “subsidiaries in Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and India created and used slush funds to bribe foreign officials in return for business between 2016 and 2019,” the SEC said in a statement on Tuesday evening.

6 airbags in cars mandate put off...

From Page 1
The Government has been considering enforcing the use of rear seatbelts against Cyrus Mistry, the former chairman of Indian conglomerate Tata Sons, died in a car crash recently. He was sitting in the rear seat and did not have his seat belt on, local media reported, citing police officials.

According to the proposal, seat belt reminders or alarms will be mandatory in M and N category vehicles, with an audio-video warning in case the seat belts, including the rear ones, are not worn.

175 drug peddlers held after CBI raid on narco...

From Page 1
“Drug trafficking networks with international linkages require law enforcement cooperation across international jurisdiction.

Operation Garuda, CBI-led global operation, seeks to target drug networks with international footprints for action against handlers, operatives, production zones and support elements,” it said.

The CBI and NCB worked with intelligence agencies and police of different States for information exchange, analysis and oper-

ational information, they said.

“Illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, including 5.125 kg heroin; 33.936 kg ganja; 3.29 kg charas; 1,365 gm Mephedrone; 33.80 gm smack; around 87 tablets, 122 injections and 87 syringes of Buprenorphine; 946 Alprazolam tablets; 105.997 gm Tramadol; 10 gm hash oil; 0.9 gm Ecstasy pills, 1.150 kg opium, 30 kg poppy husk; 1.437 kg intoxicant powder and 11,039 pills/capsules were recovered,” the agency added in its statement.

₹5 cr fine on PFI for damage during Kerala...

From Page 1
The justices said that the hartal on September 23 was a violation of the Kerala High Court order of January 2019 that made flash hartals and bundhs illegal since these caused great hardship to the poor who toil from morning till evening to meet the ends of life.

The State Administration represented by the Secretary to the Department of Home told the Court that despite taking preventive measures, the PFI had indulged in violent incidents such as blocking public pathways, preventing vehicular traffic, attacking vehicles, pedestrians, shops and other establishments and throwing bombs at few places.

“The hartal sympathizers also obstructed the police by applying force with an intention to deter them from carrying out their official duty... In addition to the heavy losses suffered by the KSRTC, private

vehicles and establishments also suffered from the wrath of the hartal sympathizers,” the justices quoted the State Administration as saying in their reply to the Court notice.

The Court asked the PFI leadership to deposit the amount of Rs 5.2 crores within a period of two weeks from September 29 with the additional chief secretary to the Government of Kerala.

“The amounts so realized shall be purely provisional and shall be duly accounted for and held by the State Government in a separate and dedicated account for disbursement to those claimants who are identified by the Claims Commissioner as entitled to such accounts. The respondents (General secretary and PFI) shall also be liable to such further amounts as are found to be payable to the claimants in the adjudication proceedings before the Claims Commissioner,” said the Court order.

<div> <div> <div></div> <div>कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल</div> </div> <div> <div>यांत्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.एल.)</div> <div>निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र</div> </div> <div> <div>/या.वि./2022</div> <div>भोपाल, दिनांक .09.2022</div> </div> </div> <div>निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत टेकेदार परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदाये निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।</div>						
क्र.	ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	घरोहर राशि	प्रपत्र राशि	कार्य हेतु निर्धारित एम.ओ.आर.
01	2022_UAD_224658_1	CONST OF CC ROAD AT PRIYANKA NAGAR, SUMITTRA PARISAR 610 QUARTER, INDUS TOWN, HARI GANGA NAGAR ANUJA VILLAGE APROCH ROAD PIPALIYA KESHU VILLAGE POLICE COLONY APROCH ROAD HOSHANGABAD ROAD, NATRAJ COLONY NEAR VASHNO DEVI TEMPLE AND DRAIN AT INDUS TOWN P	1,69,00,343/-	84,501/-	12500/-	MPUADD ISSR 2021
02	2022_UAD_224659_1	CONST OF CC ROAD AT DEHRI VILLAGE, SEMRI VILLAGE, 40 JHUGGI APPROACH, PIPALIYA KESHU NEAR TEMPLE AND RETAINING WALL AT DEHRI KALAN VILLAGE, PAVER BLOCK AT SHUBHALAYA PARISAR AND FENCING WORK AT PARK NEAR GANESH MANDIR PRIYANKA NAGAR WARD 84, ZONE	84,50,762/-	63,381/-	10000/-	MPUADD ISSR 2021
03	2022_UAD_224632_1	CONST. OF C.C. ROAD AT LIBERTY COLONY, BARRAI VILLAGE, SAMARDHA, BAGLI VILLAGE, MASKI VILLAGE, KATARA, DEEPDI VILLAGE, CHHAN VILLAGE, KRISHNAPURAM COLONY, WARD 85, ZONE 19	1,69,34,990/-	84,675/-	12500/-	MPUADD ISSR 2021
04	2022_UAD_224619_1	CONST. OF C.C. ROAD AND DRAIN AT RAJHARSH COLONY, ANKIT PARISAR, LALITA NAGAR, OM NAGAR, ABBAS NAGAR, SANKHEDI VILLAGE, FINE AVENUE NEAR SASTA BHANDAR AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PLACES IN WARD 83, ZONE-18	1,67,32,239/-	83,661/-	12500/-	MPUADD ISSR 2021
05	2022_UAD_224642_1	CONST. OF C.C. ROAD AT GEHUKHEDA, RAJVED COLONY, AKBARPUR, DOLATPUR PEERBALLI, BAIRAGARH CHICHLI, KANHAKUNJ PHASE-II GARIB NAGAR AND AMRAI JHUGGI BASTI AND CONSTRUCTION OF DRAIN AT AKBARPUR GARIB NAGAR BAIRAGACH CHICHLI, NEAR MADHUVAN PARK, W-81	1,69,20,346/-	84,602/-	12500/-	MPUADD ISSR 2021
06	2022_UAD_224633_1	CONST. OF C.C. ROAD AND DRAIN AT DAMKHEDA A SECTOR, SARVDHARAM A SECTOR, SAINATH NAGAR, AMBEDKAR NGAR SANJAY NAGAR AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PLACES IN WARD-80, ZONE-18	1,64,81,821/-	82,409/-	12500/-	MPUADD ISSR 2021
07	2022_UAD_224620_1	CONSTRUCTION OF C.C. ROAD AT BRAHMAPURI COLONY, BALAJI NAGAR, VISHAL NAGAR, SAI NAGAR, KRISHNA PURI, JAGANNATH PURI, AND OTHER PLACES OF NEELBAD, WARD 26 ZONE 06	1,69,49,132/-	84,746/-	12500/-	MPUADD ISSR 2021
08	2022_UAD_224641_1	CONST. OF C.C. ROAD AND DRAIN AT DAMKHEDA B SECTOR, SARVDHARAM B AND C SECTOR, MANDAKINI COLONY, GANPATI ENCLAVE DANISH KUNJ, BANJARA VILLAGE, J.K. TOWN AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PLACES IN WARD 82, ZONE-18.	1,68,39,318/-	84,197/-	12500/-	MPUADD ISSR 2021
<div> <div>1- निविदा प्रपत्र को निर्धारित राशि एवं घरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे एवं अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।</div> <div>2- किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा।</div> </div>						
<div> <div>कार्यपालन यंत्री (सिविल)</div> <div>नगर निगम भोपाल</div> </div>						
<div> <div>नि.क्र. 694/022/023</div> </div>						

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of MR. YOGESH KUMAR SHARMA who purchasing the PLOT NO. RZ-H-3, LAND AREA MEASURING 65 SQ. YDS. OUT OF TOTAL AREA MEASURING 200 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO.80/141, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE PALAM, ABAD, KNOWN AS MAHAVIR ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI from Mr. Subhash Chand Yadav who is the owner of the abovementioned property vide Notarized General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sale & WILL, dated 25.08.1993 and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. That the last page of the notarized General Power of Attorney dated 25.08.1993 executed by Mrs. Jyoti Pd. Jain in favour of MR. SUBHASH CHAND YADAV in respect of abovementioned property are's Lost/Misplaced. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext. II, New Delhi-49
Contact# 011-40046316

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow- 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)
SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. NO. 553/2022
[Summons to defendants under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993]
ICICI Bank Ltd.Applicant
Versus
Mr. Dinesh Malik & Others ...Defendants
To, Defendants :
1) Mr. Dinesh Malik, S/o. Sri. Roshan Lal Malik, Resident of H. No. 24, 1st Floor, Saini Vihar, PH 4, Baltana, Zirakpur, Chandigarh-140604, Punjab.
ALSO- Flat No. TB-105, 1st Floor, Tower-B Unnati, The Aranya, Plot No. GH 02, Sector-119, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar- 201301 (U.P.).
2) Mrs. Renu, W/o. Mr. Dinesh Malik, Resident of H. No. 24, 1st Floor, Saini Vihar, PH 4, Baltana, Zirakpur, Chandigarh-140604, Punjab.
ALSO- Flat No. TB-105, 1st Floor, Tower-B Unnati, The Aranya, Plot No. GH 02, Sector-119, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar- 201301 (U.P.).
3) M/s. Unnati Fortune Holdings Ltd., Reg. Office at T-07-LL-02, Commonwealth Games Village, New Delhi- 110092.
In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in paper book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorised agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 25/11/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
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ICICI Bank Ltd.Applicant
Versus
Mr. Harendra Kumar & Others ...Defendants
To, Defendants :
1) Mr. Harendra Kumar, S/o. Shri Mangali Prasad Sinha, Resident of 604, Semwing A Shipra Shrit, 6th Floor, Ahinsa Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad- 201010 (U.P.).
ALSO- Flat No. E-12A06, 13th Floor Tower- E Gayatri, Aura Plot No. GH-11 Sector-1 Greater Noida- 201307 (U.P.).
2) Mrs. Sangita Sinha W/o Mr. Harendra Kumar, Resident of 604, Semwing A Shipra Shrit 6th Floor, Ahinsa Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad 201010 (U.P.).
ALSO- Flat No. E-12A06, 13th Floor Tower-E, Gayatri, Aura Plot No. GH-11 Sector-1 Greater Noida- 201307 (U.P.).
3) M/s. Gayatri Hospitality and Realcon Ltd. Reg. Office-9/5298, Old Seelampur, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031.
In the above noted application you are required to file reply in paper book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorised agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 25/11/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

‘All women entitled to safe...

From Page 1
The Centre, represented by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, had told the top court that discrimination, if any, is not in the Act passed by Parliament and if the court is willing to intervene, then it should do so in the MTP Rules, 2003. Bhati, appearing for the Centre and assisting the court on the issue, had said there is no discrimination under the MTP (Amendment) Act of 2021 and that categorisation has been provided in the relevant rules under the Act.

She had said experts have their own views on these issues and according to them categorisation has been done to avoid the misuse of laws including the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC-PNDT) Act due to sex determination of the foetus. “One thing, we should make it clear that we are going to draft our judgment in such a way that we are not going to dilute the provisions of PC-PNDT Act”, the court had said.

On July 21, the top court had expanded the scope of the MTP Act to include unmarried women and allowed a 25-year-old to abort her 24-week pregnancy arising out of a consensual relationship. “A woman's right to reproductive choice is an inseparable part of her personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution and she has a sacrosanct right to bodily integrity,” said the apex court. “Denying an unmarried woman the right to a safe abortion violates her personal autonomy and freedom. Live-in relationships have been recognised by this Court,” added the SC

3 premises used by PFI to be sealed: MHA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three premises used by the Popular Front of India (PFI) in Delhi have been ordered to be sealed and its funds will be frozen, according to a Union Home Ministry notification.

The move came a day after the Central Government banned the PFI for five years for allegedly having "links" with global terror organisations like the ISIS and trying to spread communal hatred in the country.

The premises which were ordered to be sealed are F-30/1B, Ground Floor, Zaid Apartment, near Royal Hotel, Shaheen Bagh; N-44/A-1, Hilal House, Ground Floor, Abul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar; and B-27/2, 3rd Floor, Thokkar No-7, Jamia Nagar.

The notification said Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora issued the order after the Home Ministry on Wednesday delegated the powers to all State and Union Territory authorities to exercise two specific provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to take action against the PFI and eight of its associate organisations which were also declared outlawed.

The two provisions of the

Act are related to sealing of premises and freezing of funds used by a banned organisation. "I, hereby, also empower the SHO, or any other Inspector of PS Shaheen Bagh to take all actions necessary for the execution of this notification," the commissioner said in the notification.

Earlier, on Wednesday the Centre banned PFI and several of its associates/fronts for five years under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, accusing them of having "links" with global terror groups like ISIS and Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and involvement in radicalisation.

The PFI was accused of indulging in "disturbing" communal and secular fabric of the country and "posing a grave threat" to the national security by advancing its radical ideology and calling for establishment of political Islam in India besides allegedly carrying out targeted killings of Hindu activists.

The PFI, the Home Ministry alleged, is encouraging and trying to enforce a terror-based regressive regime, continue to propagate anti-national sentiments and radicalising a particular section of society to create disaffection

against the country, aggravating activities which are detrimental to the integrity, security and sovereignty of the country.

Besides PFI, the associated outfits banned under the UAPA include Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imams Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation, National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala.

With the ban, the PFI joins a dubious club of 43 proscribed outfits notified by the Union Home Ministry including Communist Party of India (Maoists), Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizbul Mujahideen, Al Badr, global terror groups Al Qaeda and ISIS, Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, a host of Khalistani terror groups like Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) and several insurgent groups of the Northeast.

The notification banning the PFI will be followed by a number of actions against the outfit, including seizure of its properties, freezing of bank accounts and a complete prohibition of its usual activities.

Activities on social media will not be considered for ECA admission: DU

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the rising trend of the social media among youth in the country, Delhi University (DU) on Thursday announced that the activities including YouTube uploads, Facebook and Instagram reels, and 'vlogs' will not be considered public performances for markings during admission under 'Extra Curricular Activities' (ECA) quota.

Admission through the ECA quota for the academic year 2022-23 will be done in 14 ECA categories, said the officials during a webinar, adding that candidates can apply for a maximum of three ECA categories. However, admission will be offered in only one category.

During the webinar, Deepti Taneja, Joint Dean, Cultural Council Office, "YouTube uploads, Facebook and Instagram reels, vlogs, and other similar uploads on other non-peer reviewed video streaming sites will not be considered for marking as part of public performance for admission under ECA categories," said.

"Jigs in restaurants or other private platforms, not involving peer-reviewed mechanisms, will not be considered for marking," she said, adding public performance implies



performance through some group or organisation for mass public viewing," Taneja said. "For admissions under the ECA supernumerary quota, a candidate's Combined ECA Merit (CEM) score will be considered," Taneja said.

The CEM score of a candidate will be the summation of 25 per cent of the highest program-specific CUET percentage score of all the programs in which s(he) has applied and 75 per cent of the highest ECA score obtained from the ECA categories for which the candidate is being considered.

The candidates are required to upload the relevant ECA certificates at the time of filling up the Common Seat Allocation System-2022 application form. "The uploaded certificates will also have to be brought for the offline trials," she said. For an ECA score of

75 marks, for all 12 categories (except NCC and NSS), 60 marks shall be awarded based on physical trials and 15 marks shall be awarded based on the submitted certificates. The certificates are divided into four categories: participation, prizes in competitions, training/examinations, workshops, public performance, published works and exhibition.

On Monday, the university had commenced the second phase of the admission process for undergraduate programmes to allow candidates to choose their programme and college combination preferences.

Phase I, which started on September 12, and Phase II will remain open till October 10. The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores will also be required in both phases.

IMD: Monsoon has withdrawn from city

NEW DELHI: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday announced that the southwest monsoon — which gave highly uneven rainfall this year — has withdrawn from Delhi. The national Capital recorded an overall rain deficit of 19% this monsoon season. Up to 19 percent of deficient and excess rain is considered 'normal', according to the IMD.

Usually, the monsoon starts retreating from northwest India by September 17 and withdraws from Delhi within a week. The capital recorded 164.5mm of precipitation against a normal of 125.1 mm in September. "The southwest monsoon has withdrawn from Punjab; some parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, west Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan and entire Delhi," IMD said. The Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, logged 516.9 mm of rainfall this monsoon season, less than half of the precipitation received last year (1169.4 mm).

The IMD data showed that north-east Delhi has rain deficit of 55 percent; west Delhi 48 percent; central Delhi 9 percent; New Delhi 21 percent; north Delhi 3 percent; north-west Delhi 20 percent; south Delhi 4 percent and south west 12 percent this monsoon season so far. Only East Delhi was

an exceptional case which received 30 percent excess rainfall. Delhi stared at a much larger rain deficit till September 20. However, a late spell of incessant rains from September 21 to September 24 — due to an interaction between a cyclonic circulation and a low-pressure system — helped it cover the margin to a large extent.

The rainfall recorded at the Safdarjung Observatory swung from a 49% deficit on September 21 to a surplus of 39% on September 24. The capital recorded 164.5mm of precipitation against a normal of 125.1 mm in September.

Weather experts said that Delhi is an arid zone, which often sees less rain days. "Delhi is a dry area and the axis line of the monsoon trough is towards the south of its normal position. Hence, the city has received less rain," experts said.

Though the country as a whole has received excess rainfall, the distribution has been uneven with the desert state of Rajasthan reporting 36 per cent more rains than normal and north-east region, which witnesses copious showers, receiving deficit rainfall.

IMD classifies rainfall in deficit when it is over minus 19%. If the rain falls between minus 19 and 19%, it is classified as normal but anything between 20 and 59% is considered 'excess' rainfall. SR

AAP objects to delimitation commission's draft report

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Thursday objected to the delimitation commission's draft report flagging wide variations in the number of electorates in different municipal wards in Delhi and demanded equal distribution of voters across seats.

The AAP raised multiple objections to the recommendations made by the delimitation committee set up by the Centre to re-carve municipal wards in Delhi, and also demanded that the civic polls be held "at the earliest".

The AAP delegation including AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhargava, AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak and Azadpur Mandi Chairman Adil Khan. "We had two major concerns on the recommendations of the committee. Firstly, as per report, some of the newly created wards will have a population around 90-95 thousand while the others will only have



a population of 30 thousand. Every ward gets the same amount of funds and this will create a problem in governing wards with a large population," said Pathak. "We suggested that every ward should have a uniform population so that the elected councillors are best placed to serve the citizens of their constituency," said Pathak. "Secondly, they have created island type of areas which are completely cut off from their main wards and landlocked by another ward from all directions. There are

also some discrepancies related to the names of the wards as well. We have submitted comprehensive feedback to the Committee," said Pathak.

Further, in its letter submitted to commission, the AAP has alleged there were several constituencies where the number of wards were neither increased nor reduced, but certain areas have been moved from one ward into another ward. "The Delimitation Committee has to tell the rationale behind this move to the people of Delhi. Previously, the population was uniformly spread across the wards in the respective Assembly Constituencies and they had almost similar populations," the letter stated.

"The Committee has arbitrarily changed the boundaries of the wards and now, some wards have a population which is as less as 35 thousand while some wards have as much as 93 thousand people.

Delay in nod for cutting trees for AIIMS redevelopment project: LG says he will take up issue with CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The work on the redevelopment of AIIMS is expected to start by the end of this year, after permission for cutting trees is granted by the city government's forest department.

Expressing "displeasure" at the "inordinate" delay in getting the permission for cutting trees that could affect the project, Delhi LG V K Saxena said he would take up the matter with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to ensure its early resolution, according to the statement.

The LG chaired the fourth meeting of the Apex Committee constituted to facilitate approvals for the implementation of Master Plan of Redevelopment of the AIIMS into a World Class Medical University, as approved by the Union Cabinet.

During the review, officials informed Saxena that 18 out of the 20 statutory approvals from multiple agencies were already

in place and only two of them were pending.

The only major pending approval was that of tree cutting permission by Delhi government's Department of Forest and Environment.

Saxena was told that this approval was pending for about a month-and-a-half despite 26 hectares of land in Aaya Nagar and 6 hectare of land in Sultanpur having been identified for compensatory afforestation and tree transplantation, it said.

As for the other pending matter of five land parcels to a single land parcel being allotted to a single lessee by L&DO, it was informed that the same was a procedural issue which will get completed within a few days, it said.

It is expected that with the approvals in place, work on the redevelopment project will start in the right earnest by the end of this year, the statement said.

DCW urges hospitals to conduct HIV tests of rape victims

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has recommended hospitals to conduct mandatory HIV tests of sexual assault survivors on their first visit. The recommendations come in the backdrop of the panel learning that several hospitals were not conducting HIV tests of all sexual assault survivors. The DCW had issued a notice to the Delhi Government's health department seeking information regarding the number of cases in which HIV tests were conducted for survivors and the accused and the steps and Standard operating procedures (SOPs) being followed to prevent transmission of HIV in survivors.

According to the data received, it was observed that several hospitals were not recommending HIV tests to all sexual assault survivors, the panel said. The panel cited the example of Deep Chand Bandhu

Hospital, which reported that of the 180 medico-legal examinations conducted on survivors, HIV tests were done in only a few cases. "Hospitals like Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital and Rao Tula Ram Hospital do not even maintain data pertaining to HIV tests of rape survivors. Furthermore, follow-up HIV testing and counselling, which must be done after three and six months, is not being done for most survivors and neither is the data for the same being maintained by hospitals," the panel said.

It also claimed that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rao Tula Ram Hospital, and Jag Pravech Chandra Hospital said they had no data available on follow-up tests for survivors.

Only two hospitals, Acharya Shree Bhikshu Govt Hospital and Guru Gobind Singh Government Hospital from the west district, have informed that Delhi Police provided them information regard-

ing the HIV status of the accused, the DCW said.

The women's panel also said the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) functioned only from 9 am to 4 pm, forcing many survivors to return the day after the incident for HIV tests. "Many hospitals reported a lack of SOPs being followed to maintain confidentiality of the survivors' identities and HIV test results," it noted.

The panel further alleged that many hospitals did not maintain data on administration of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), the first line of defence against HIV.

The DCW has recommended that the government and police must ensure immediate preventive care and treatment of HIV for survivors of sexual assault. "The commission has recommended that all hospitals should mandatorily ensure HIV testing of sexual assault survivors, at the first visit as well as at follow up visits at three and six months," it added.

Discoms to provide temporary power connections ahead of festivals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) will provide 'Tatkal' temporary electricity connection for Pujas, Diwali Melas, Ramlilas and marriages.

"Getting them is not only hassle free, it is also cheaper, safer, noise and pollution free," the statement said. Under the scheme, a consumer will be able to get a temporary connection the same day of applying and completing the requisite commercial formalities. Normally, it can take up to seven days for a temporary connection, it stated.

To get a 'tatkal' temporary electricity connection, a consumer has to contact BSES call centre numbers 19123 (BRPL) and 19122 (BYPL) or visit the customer care centre/digi seva kendra at the division office and complete formalities.

They can also apply and make payment for the temporary connection online on BSES' website (www.Bsesdelhi.Com) and from BSES' mobile app, the statement said. According to a BSES official, "Our entire machinery is geared up to make 'same day' connections possible.

Our advanced IT capabilities and processes will play a major part in facilitating this. This scheme is our way of joining in the celebrations and tackle air pollution in Delhi as it will curb the use of diesel generators."

"To ensure reliable power supply during festivals, BSES discoms are undertaking several measures, including putting its operations and maintenance teams on high alert," the official said.

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GRAP from October 1 to contain pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 'finer' Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) — a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the national Capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation — will come into from October 1 and environment experts believe advance action this year will lead to lesser incidences of severe pollution. Earlier, GRAP would come into effect from October 15.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), a statutory body established in August 2021, for management of air quality in Delhi-NCR decided to imple-

ment GRAP early, considering suggestions from the public and experts that advance action can prevent drastic deterioration in air quality. Under the revised GRAP, curbs can be imposed on polluting activities up to three days in advance based on forecasts.

Earlier, the authorities would implement the measures only after the PM2.5 and PM10 concentration touched a particular threshold. This time, restrictions will be based on air quality index (AQI) values rather than PM2.5 and PM10 concentration. Sunil Dahiya, an analyst at Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, hoped that advance

action would lead to lesser incidences of severe air quality. "However, only sustained awareness campaigns and continuous engagement with all stakeholders will resolve the problems such as stubble burning.

Action just before the stubble burning period is unlikely to yield good results," he said. In Delhi, officials said the environment department will be using the new real-time source apportionment system which will help ascertain the contribution of all pollution sources in real time.

The green war room will monitor violations and redress complaints and grievances in keeping with the practice

being followed for the last two years. Dr Mahesh Narang, the head of the farm engineering department at Punjab Agricultural University, said the "finer" GRAP and pre-emptive curbs will prevent a repeat of the air quality crisis seen on Diwali and the following days last year due to the convergence of emissions from farm fires and firecrackers.

"Stubble burning peaks in November and Diwali is on October 24. This is a crucial factor. So, it may not lead to a severe situation on Diwali provided all other measures are followed strictly," he said. "The government has provided more machines for the management of stubble this

year. We hope for better results," Narang said. GRAP has now been classified under four different stages of adverse air quality in Delhi: Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV - 'Severe Plus' (AQI >450). Under Stage I, the CAQM has recommended strict action against polluting industries, vehicles and biomass burning.

The use of coal and firewood, including in tandoors in hotels, restaurants, open eateries, and diesel generator sets, except for emergent and essential services, is banned under Stage II.

Traders urge Excise Dept to allow sale of unsold booze

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) has written to the Excise Department of the Delhi Government seeking its urgent attention for the disposal of the unsold stocks.

The Delhi Government had on November 17, 2021 brought Excise Policy 2021-22, which ended the near absolute monopoly of the Government in sale of liquor, opening the tightly guarded revenue stream to private players, with the city for a brief period seeing opening of fancier liquor shops. This policy was withdrawn in July after the Lieutenant



Governor recommended a CBI probe in its implementation accusing government of committing irregularities. The old

excise Policy, operational before November 17, 2021, was brought back from September 1. "The matter of stocks leftover

in L1 warehouses of companies on 17 November 2021 when the policy changed is yet to be resolved. "Excise department had allowed companies to transfer these stock to their new L1 licensees but permission to sell it was not granted despite such assurance," said Vinod Giri, Director General CIABC.

"Both leftover stocks are partly due to the fact that on both policy changeover occasions, the companies responded to the appeal by the government to ensure sufficient product supplies during the transition periods and thus it is only fair that the government resolves this matter on priority," said Giri in his letter to the

Excise Commissioner.

A senior Delhi government officer said that the matter was under consideration and a decision was yet to be taken about the leftover stock. "The stock comprised about 70 lakh bottles of liquor.

The Excise department was learnt to be in favour of allowing sale of stock of liquor brands registered under excise policy implemented from September 1. "A decision about stock of those brands that were yet not re-registered is yet to be taken," said officer. If the stock is not allowed to be sold, then it will require to be destroyed as liquor can not be sold without a legitimate license, officials said.



The water in Yamuna River receded slightly on Thursday but it is still above the danger mark of 205.33 metres and the affected people will have to wait for a few more days before they can return to their homes in low-lying areas along the river in Delhi. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

No efforts made for decades to develop Guj coastline, says Modi

PTI ■ BHAVNAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said although Gujarat has the longest coastline in the country, no attention was paid for its development for decades post-Independence, but "honest attempts" were made in the last 20 years by the BJP Government to turn it into the country's "door of prosperity". He said the BJP Government in Gujarat implemented several big-ticket projects along the state's coastline without wasting money on publicity. Modi also said the BJP always fulfils the promises it makes because it believes that



power is only a means to serve the people. He was addressing a public rally at Jawahar Maidan in Bhavnagar city of Gujarat's Saurashtra region after inaugurating and performing the ground-breaking ceremony of projects worth more than Rs

6,000 crore meant for Bhavnagar, Botad and Amreli districts. Some of these projects in Bhavnagar included the world's first CNG terminal, development of a brownfield port and a cargo container manufacturing unit. "Gujarat has the longest coastline in the country, but no attention was paid for its development for decades after India gained independence. As a result, the coastline created challenges for the people living along it," he said in a veiled attack on the Congress. But honest attempts were made in the last 20 years to turn the State's coastline into India's door to prosperity, he said the massive gathering.

Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014. Since May 2014, he has been serving as the Prime Minister of the country. "We have developed many ports and modernised several others. Today, there are three LNG terminals and a petrochemical hub on the Gujarat coast. Apart from playing a crucial role for the export and import sector, Gujarat's coastline has created employment opportunities for lakhs of youths," the prime minister said. According to him, the State's coastline has now become synonymous with the renewable energy sector and hydrocarbon ecosystem.

DREAM city project will make Surat safest, convenient diamond trading hub: PM
Surat: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said once the Diamond Research and Mercantile (DREAM) city project is completed, Surat will emerge as the safest and convenient diamond trading hub in the world. Addressing a rally after laying the foundation stone and inaugurating a host of projects here in Gujarat, Modi said in the last 20 years Surat has progressed by leaps and bounds. **PTI**

Twin blasts in 8 hours rock Udhampur

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The garrison city of Udhampur, housing Indian Army's Northern command headquarters, was rattled by the twin bomb blasts inside passenger buses in a span of 8 hours in which two civilians received injuries in the last 24 hours. According to Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh, "the first blast took place late wednesday night around 10.30 p.m inside a bus parked near the petrol pump in Domel chowk of Udhampur while the second blast was reported early Thursday morning around 6.00 am at an old bus stand in Udhampur". In both the cases the passenger buses were empty and



no loss of life was reported. Singh said, both the injured were out of danger. They have been identified as Sunil Singh and Vijay Kumar, both the cleaners. They were present inside the bus when the first blast was triggered. Due to the intensity of the blast several buses parked in the close vicinity also suffered major damages. The fact that the blasts took place ahead of the three day long visit of the Union

Home Minister Amit Shah to Jammu and Kashmir beginning October 3 is keeping the entire security apparatus on its tenterhooks across the region. This is the third incident of a similar bomb blast in the Udhampur city this year. Earlier, a street vendor was killed when a blast ripped apart his cart leading to his death and injuries to atleast 17 others present in the busy market area of Udhampur on March 9.

100 workers hospitalised after ammonia gas leak in Aligarh meat factory

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a shocking incident in Aligarh, about one hundred of workers, mostly women, fell ill after inhaling ammonia gas that leaked in a meat factory on Thursday morning. The workers were rushed to a nearby hospital after they complained of breathing difficulties following leakage of ammonia gas. DIG Range Aligarh Deepak Kumar said, "Around 60 female workers were admitted to hospital and all of them are stable currently." The incident took place at the Al-Dua meat factory that falls under the jurisdiction of



Roravar police station. Several women are engaged in the factory for packaging-related work. Sources, however, maintained that about 100 workers were rushed to different hospitals of Aligarh after they started fainting following ammonia gas leakage. "Information was received about an ammonia gas leak in

a meat factory in the Roravar area where women workers are engaged in packaging work. Around 60 workers were admitted to a medical college hospital after they complained of breathing difficulties. Doctors confirmed that everyone is stable," DIG Range Aligarh Deepak Kumar said. The doctors said that everyone who was in the factory was brought to the medical college hospital and they are being treated. "Everyone is out of danger and there is nothing to worry about as of now," they said. The fire brigade personnel were also summoned to avert any eventuality.

The factory is reportedly owned by one Haji Zaheer and the local police so far managed to pick up one of the managers to grill him regarding the cause of the gas leakage. It may be mentioned that in a similar incident in 2020, two senior officials working at the Phulpur plant of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) in Prayagraj died while 13 others fell sick following a gas leak. The PF-1 unit of the IFFCO plant located around 25 km from Sangam city in the trans-Ganga area of Prayagraj had developed an issue and ammonia gas began to leak. The leakage was later stopped by experts at the plant.

'Foreign ultras in Valley below 200'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Outgoing CRPF DG Kuldip Singh on Thursday said despite a slight upward trend in the number of foreign terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir post the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan last year, the overall strength of jihadis in the Valley is just below 200. He said all the security forces operating in Kashmir are working in a coordinated manner and terrorist incidents have gone down post the abrogation of Article 370 from the erstwhile State in 2019. "This is a challenge... After Afghanistan, this challenge has grown in many forms and you can see it... Also like the number of foreign terrorists



goes up and sometimes down. However, the total number of terrorists in J&K is less now... It is under 200 now as compared to the earlier times when it used to be 230-240," Singh said when asked during a Press conference about the killing of locals and Kashmiri Pandits by lone wolf terrorists.

Farewell parade for outgoing CRPF DG stirs row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The farewell parade for the outgoing CRPF DG Kuldip Singh has stirred a row with a section of officials pointing to the violation of the BPR&D manual for drafting over a battalion strength of the Force for his send off. As a custom and tradition, outgoing chiefs and three services and also of

the Paramilitary Forces such as BSF, CRPF, CISF etc are given ceremonial farewell on the day they demit office. The instructions for such farewell parades have been given and institutionalised in BPR&D Drill manual 2012, which stipulates a designated strength of officers and jawans for such farewell parades.



Last phase of Cong's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kerala ends

PTI ■ MALAPPURAM

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday concluded his Kerala leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which entered the State on September 10 and will resume the foot march from Tamil Nadu in the afternoon. After the yatra ended its Kerala phase at Vazhikaddavu here, Gandhi and senior Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Digvijaya Singh thanked the KPCC and UDF leaders, party workers and everyone else who participated in the foot march during the over 18 days it spent in the state. "Home is where you get love, and Kerala is home for me. No matter how much affection I give, I always get more in return from the people here. I am forever indebted. Thank you." "I would also like to wholeheartedly thank the Congress & UDF leaders and workers, Kerala police, media personnel & every individual who has been part of the #BharatJodoYatra in this beautiful state. The support you have given us makes our resolve firmer & our strides stronger," Gandhi, who was accompanied by a huge crowd of sup-



porters in the morning phase of the yatra, tweeted. Ramesh, the AICC general secretary in-charge communications, tweeted, "Day 22 of #BharatJodoYatra is last day in Kerala. Padayatrīs are walking from Nilambur to Vazhikaddavu this morning. From Vazhikaddavu we cross to Gudalur in Tamil Nadu by vehicle thro' Nilgiris hills. We are extremely grateful to people of Kerala for their goodwill and response." Senior Congress leader and national coordinator of the yatra, Digvijaya Singh tweeted, "All PCCs in other States should come and learn the organisational work of Kerala PCC. Finally a Big Thank You to the People of Kerala and all Congressmen of Kerala for their tremendous support and response. #BharatJodoYatra @INCkerala @INCIndia @Jairam_Ramesh." He also said in his tweet that

"today we leave Kerala after 22 days of warm hospitality of PCC Kerala. The tremendous response of the people of Kerala was most encouraging." "All our Bharat Yatrīs loved the lovely green terrain and also enjoyed the Boat Race. Thank you PCC President K Sudhakaran ji and our most active State Coordinator K Suresh ji for responding to all our requests," he further said. The foot march -- which resumed from Marthoma College Junction at Chungathara here -- took a break at KHS Manimooly at Vazhikaddavu after covering around 8.6 km. According to the itinerary of the yatra, from Vazhikaddavu, Gandhi would travel to Government Arts and Science College at Gudalur in Tamil Nadu by car as the route goes through a forest reserve and it is not possible to go on foot there, Congress party sources said.

Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta Institute of Technology & Management
(Formerly Northern India Engineering College(NIEC))
Approved by AICTE & Affiliated to GGSIPU, Delhi
FC-26, Shastrī Park, New Delhi – 110053.
Website: www.adgimdelhi.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTICE
UNDER MANAGEMENT QUOTA for Academic Year 2022-23
B.Tech.(F/T - 4 Yrs.) & B.Tech. {2nd Yr.(LE) – F/T - 3 Yrs.}
Applications from Qualified candidates fulfilling the Educational Qualifications and eligibility criteria laid down in the "Admission Brochure for the Academic Session 2022-23" issued by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU), Delhi for "Management Quota" & respective guidelines of DTTE Govt. of NCT Delhi are invited for Admission under Management Quota under various categories of seats in the following Courses as prescribed by GGSIPU:

B. Tech. (1st Shift) (Course Code - 131)	B. Tech. (2nd Shift) (Course Code - 131)	B. Tech. (Lateral Entry) (Course Code - 128 & 129)
Computer Sc. & Engg. Information Technology Electronics & Communication Engg. Civil Engineering Mechanical Engineering Artificial Intelligence & Data Science Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	Computer Sc. & Engg. Information Technology Electronics & Communication Engg. Civil Engineering Mechanical Engineering Artificial Intelligence & Data Science Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	Computer Sc. & Engg. Information Technology Electronics & Communication Engg. Civil Engineering Artificial Intelligence & Data Science Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

Application Forms (hard-copy only) can be obtained from & submitted to the **Admission Cell** of the Institute during the working hours as notified by GGSIPU. The last date to fill up the management quota seats will be nine calendar days after the last date for regular admissions in the University announced by the GGSIPU for above Courses respectively. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.** Admissions shall be on the basis of Merit. The Merit list of the Applicants will be displayed on the Website and Notice Board of the Institute within 2 days of closing date for submission of the application forms for respective courses. Accordingly the 1st Round of Counseling at the Institute's Campus will be held within 3 days of drawing up of the Merit List of qualified management quota applicants. The Candidates thus provisionally selected shall be required to complete all the Admission Formalities as per the rules & regulations laid down by GGSIPU in its Admission Brochure 2022-23. The 2nd Round of Counseling shall commence only after 12 hrs after provisional admission through 1st round of counseling. Candidates must ensure to follow the latest COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs, Govt of India during Counselling & Reporting at the Institute.

DIRECTOR

Shift Navlakha to hospital for treatment, SC tells Taloja jail superintendent

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Taloja jail superintendent to immediately shift activist Gautam Navlakha, jailed in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case, to Mumbai's Jaslok hospital for treatment. The top court said receiving medical treatment is a fundamental right of a prisoner. A bench of Justices K M Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy also allowed Navlakha's partner Sabha Husain and sister to meet him in the hospital. "Having heard the counsel for parties, we are of the view that receiving medical treatment would be a fundamental right. We direct that the petitioner be taken immediately for thorough medical check-up.

"Accordingly, we direct Superintendent Taloja jail to take the petitioner to Jaslok hospital so that he is able to undergo requisite medical check-up and receive treatment. We make it clear that the petitioner will remain in police custody," the bench said. The 70-year-old activist linked to Maoists has appealed the apex court against the April 26 order of the Bombay High Court dismissing his plea for house arrest over apprehensions of lack of adequate medical and other basic facilities in Taloja jail near Mumbai where he is lodged.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors / firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh Tender Work:

S. N	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	11/GM/SM(WC-4)/ET/2022-23	M/o Road (C/o RCC Central verge road between sector-63 and 69) Noida.	56.23
2	31/GM/SM(WC-10)/ET/2022-23	D/o Sector-151 (Laying Interlocking C.C. Paver Block in footpath of 24 mtr. wide road in sector-151) Noida.	78.01
3	05/GM/SM(WC-2)/2022-23	M/o Road (Demolishing & Laying C.c. Interlocking tiles on roads Patris in sector-26), Noida.	82.07
4	07/GM/SM(WC-2)/2022-23	M/o Road (Repair of Brick work, Plaster & Chequered tile along Parallel road from Atta Peer crossing to DLF Mall near MP-2 road) Noida.	87.41
5	15/GM/SM(WC-2)/2022-23	M/o Drain (Improvement of footpath & raising of drain in sector-29 & 37 MP-3 to Brahmputra Market T-Point) Noida.	81.04

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **13.10.2022** up to **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on dated **14.10.2022** at **11.00 AM**.

Principal General Manager
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Ajay Grover, Satnam Grover, 741, Pocket- E, Mayur Vihar Phase-II, New Delhi, Delhi- 110091. A/c No:-LBDEL00001916232	E-1506, Assotech Windsor Court, Gh-04a, sector-78 , Noida Uttar Pradesh Gautam Buddha Nagar.	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 43,22,187/-	16-04-2022
2.	Asha Gupta, Ila Devi H, No.361, Fortabad-19 Sec-3 Rohini Delhi-110085 A/c No:- LBDEL00000946884	H. No. 361, Blk.E, Pkt.19, Rohini Residential Scheme, Sec- 3, Rohini, Delhi .	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 1,89,443/-	06-04-2022
3.	Harpreet Kaur, Jaswant Singh, Flat No-W-1/502, Lifestyle Homes, Vatika India Next, Sector 83 Haryana Gurgaon-122004 A/c No:-LBDEL00003197802	Flat No- 502, 5th Floor Tower W1, Life Style Homes, 33 A, Homes Avenue, Vatika India Next, Sector 83, Haryana Gurgaon	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 54,08,975/-	08-05-2022
4.	Jaideep Goel, Venu Goel C - 2, Divine Park View Apartments, Abhay Khand- 3 Indrapuram Shipra Suncity Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad- 201014 A/c No:- LBND000003098547	Flat No. 1206, Tower- F, 12th Floor, Bulland Elevates Plot No. GH-03 A, Sector-16 C Uttar Pradesh, Noida	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 42,74,024/-	04-05-2022
5.	Jay Paudyal, Surabhi Paudyal A-3/112, 2nd Floor, Sector 11 Rohini Delhi- 110085 A/c No:- LBDEL00004303684	Flat No. 701, 7th Floor, Tower- 9, Goa Paradise, Rio De Goa, Block 9, Survey No. 215/1 Sanaale Murgumga, Goa, Margao.	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 45,33,233/-	21-05-2022
6.	Mohit Kohli, Arpita Dhupar 14 Ground Floor, D 01 Block South City 02, Sohna Road Haryana Gurgaon-122018 A/c No:- LBGUR00003216356	Flat No. 2408, 24th Floor Tower-5, Village Badshapur, Sector- 68, Haryana, Gurgaon.	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 34,14,444/-	06-05-2022
7.	Neeraja Sharma, Vinay Kumar 504 Vrindavan Garden Sec 5, Rajendra Nagar Sahibabad Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad- 201010 A/c No:- LBND00002198890	E-201 2nd Floor, Tower- E, Officer City, Nh- 58 Raj Nagar Extn., Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad.	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 29,07,743/-	06-05-2022
8.	Pankaj Bhati, Shashi Bhati Flat Villa O Bldg 821 Road 824 Rd Name R824 Indrapuram, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad- 201014 A/c No:- LBFB000005183729	Unit No- B, Floor- 6, Tower- 4, Sector- 86, The Ozone Park Apartments, Village Basewla, Tigan Road, Haryana, Faridabad .	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 40,17,484/-	06-04-2022
9.	Ravindra Singh, kiran. House No-864 Sector- 64, Ballabgarh, Haryana, A/c No:- LBFB000005322484	Property, House, No-1088/ LIG-1 A, Sector- 62, Housing Board Colony, Haryana, Faridabad.	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 26,56,783/-	09-05-2022
10.	Rohit Bhardwaj, Shivani. 1014 Charms Solitaire, Ahinsa Khand 2 Geeta Colony East Delhi Delhi-110031. A/c No:- LBDEL00005234578	Flat No. 904, 9th Floor, Block No. 01, Type Tulip, Charms Solitaire, Kharsa Road, Sector 16, Village Mohindpur, Kanawani, Indrapuram, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 42,91,340/-	11-04-2022
11.	Suman Chawla, Manoj Kumar Chawla 151 Geeta Apartments Block 17, Geeta Colony East Delhi Delhi-110031. A/c No:- LBDEL00004364956	Flat No. 602, 6th Floor, Tower CS-7, Cape Town, Plot No Gh-01/A, Sector- 74, Village Noormagar Pargana Loni Tehsil, Ghaziabad.	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 42,87,760/-	06-04-2022
12.	Vinod Hans, Shri Hans A 5/63 Sector 16 Rohini Ground Floor Delhi Delhi- 110085. A/c No:- LBDEL00004132346	Plot No- 39, First Floor Without, Roof Rights, Sector-25, Pocket-02, Rohini Residential Scheme, Rohini, Delhi.	08-Aug-2022 Rs. 39,83,706/-	06-05-2022
13.	T Dhir, Hema B-151 A Ground Floor Pehladpur, New Delhi, Delhi, 110044. A/c No:- LBDEL00003111981	Flat No- L - 1/222- B, Dda Flat, 1st Floor, Kalkaji, Delhi.	09-July-2022 Rs. 43,89,403/-	30-09-2019
14.	Gaurav Kaushik, Beenu Sharma, Purshotam Das, Tif Digital Pvt Ltd, H No. 1504 Sector 21, Gurgaon Gurgaon-122016 A/c No:-LBGUR00004412343	Plot No-1504, Sector-21, Gurgaon.	09-July-2022 Rs. 45,18,073/-	15-10-2019
15.	Sumit Gulati, Poonam Gulati Plot No. B-47 Ground Floor, Sanjay Enclave Uttam Nagar New Delhi Delhi- 110059 A/c No:-LBDEL00002887786	201, 2nd Floor Tower C Apex Golf Avenue, Plot No. GH 3 Sports City Adjoining, Techzone Sec 1 Greater Noida, Noida.	09-July-2022 Rs. 33,35,102/-	05-04-2022
16.	Ravinder Dahiya, Shikha, H No. 532 B Village Bhadaga Sonipat, Haryana A/c No:- LBDEL00002421129	Flat No. 1104, 11th Floor Tower H KDP, Grand Savana KH No. 966 To 971, Village Noormagar Pargana Loni Tehsil, Ghaziabad.	09-July-2022 Rs. 31,48,948.08/-	06-04-2022
17.	Manju Bala Yadav, Ranju Bala Yadav, Sector 16 Rohini, Sector- 6 Rohini, Delhi, 110085 A/c No:- LBDEL00004903860, LBDEL00004932648.	Plot No. 285, Ground Floor, Without Roof Rights, Pocket 4, Sec 25, Rohini, Rohini Residential Scheme, Delhi.	06-Aug-2022, Rs. 26,07,874.82/- 10,22,320/-	06-05-2022
18.	Surendra Rao Malway, Durga Malway, C-27/165 Sector 3, Sec 3, Rohini, Delhi-110085. A/c No:- LBDEL00005680801, LBDEL00005680802.	Plot No.- 226, Second Floor, Without Roof Rights, Block- G Pkt- 26, Sector-3 Rohini, Delhi.	06-Aug-2022, Rs. 30,09,950/- Rs.13,32,068/- Rs.6,00,994.05/-	06-05-2022
19.	Vinod Kumar Sharma, Sukriti Sharma, WZ- 122 A, Minakshi Garden, Delhi, Delhi-110118. A/c No:- LBDEL00003442545, LBDEL00005314217, LBDEL00003957823.	Plot No. 72, Block- C, Sector 2, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida.	11-July-2022, Rs. 37,23,516/- 6,05,201.05/-	03-02-2022
20.	Gaurav Agrawal, Mangta Agrawal, F-232, 2nd Floor, Mangta Bazar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, Delhi- 110092 A/c No:-LBND00002891909, LBGHZ00002892455.	Appt No. 1815, 18th Floor, Tower Om Mahagan Mantra, Plot No Gh 01 B, Sec 10 Greater Noida, Noida.	11-July-2022, Rs. 30,85,639/- 2,27,635.87/-	30-09-2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : September 30 2022
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

FIRST COLUMN

INDIA HEADS G20
AMID FLUX

Multilateralism is pushed to the wall as world order looks fluid



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has been a busy man in the last few months, more so, last week when he managed marathon meetings at the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting participants suggest India's new foreign policy stance of finding allies and strategic partners around the globe. India met with its QUAD (US, Australia, and Japan) partners, also Libya, Syria, Cuba, renewed its commitment to France, India, Australia trilateral and France, India UAE strategic partnership.

France, Australia, UAE trilaterals with India are relatively new, born out of the need to find allies post pandemic and keep a check on China in the Indo Pacific region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a short visit to Japan this week to attend the funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The focus was Indo pacific, shared interests and building on the India Japan bilateral.

Clearly, the world order has undergone a significant shift since 2020 with two course altering events, the Covid pandemic and Russia's military attack in Ukraine, thereby shattering the myth of no war in the Eurozone.

If the Covid pandemic and the subsequent disruption in global supply chains (mostly concentrated in China) hadn't dented the existing order, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and subsequent push to annex territories has created a shock in energy and food prices around the globe. There are multiple streams of evolving partnerships which will forever shape the way planet earth emerges in the 21st century.



First, faced by a clear danger of nuclear-powered Russia in the backyard, the larger European countries are rethinking their nuclear strategies. Most of them except for France had given up the nuclear shield to be under US-led NATO providing them umbrella cover. Meanwhile in the eastern hemisphere, Japan faced by a belligerent neighbour, China, is also rethinking its nuclear celibacy strategy.

The US and the UK have already come together to provide Australia with nuclear capabilities in the Indian Ocean region to prevent China from being adventurous. The headwinds are a clear indication of a world again looking at nuclear weapons as a go to deterrent/safety net in case of full-fledged war.

Second, global energy prices, threatening to put almost all of Europe through a very cold and dark winter of 2022, will shape the way the hastily glued western alliance against Russia will behave in 2023.

A clear and present danger in Russia is forcing ideological shifts in Europe. Meanwhile, the energy and food prices have pushed a couple of nations (including two in India's neighbourhood) in Asia and Africa on the verge of economic breakdown and are looking at institutions such as the IMF for bailouts.

Third, there is a huge drop in acceptance for multilateral institutions as platforms for sorting global common problems. China has been persistently denying India and a couple of other large economies from taking their rightful positions as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.


There is a huge lack of consensus globally on ways to reap the dividends of a digital economy and therefore effectively tax the technology companies.

This leads to India's presidency of the G20 beginning towards the end of the year. The current Indonesia presidency ends in November and depending on the outcome the baton will be passed on to New Delhi to shape the global narrative. This will be at a time when India would be the most populous democracy, besides being the fifth largest economy in the world. It must find innovative ways of negotiating a consensus on most pressing world issues.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

BJP will play up the question of Modi-versus-who?

The Opposition dreams of unity but has a decisive disadvantage as it is still searching for a challenger to Narendra Modi



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

Political parties in India have begun advance planning for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. However, it is early yet; the ruling National Democratic Alliance and the Opposition parties have been vying with each other in their preparations. They are making and remarking strategies according to the political climate. The stage is set for the next general elections in 2024.

The regional parties might threaten the Bharatiya Janata Party. While the ruling BJP plans a hat-trick for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Opposition is trying to unseat him. Both sides are strengthening with a 350-plus target in a Delhi-versus-all scenario.

The Opposition dreams

Freebie powers the AAP Govt in Delhi

The State of Delhi stands out for all the ills plaguing the politics of freebies across the country, for many people have been deprived of basic amenities

To speak against distribution of freebies, of course, will attract the wrath of those who benefit from them. That is, if we say that electricity, water, travel should not be made free or that television sets or other types of temptations by political parties are wrong and they should end, then it is possible that people unaware of the possible consequences of announcements of such freebies may not like it.

After Independence, the emphasis has generally been on development, poverty alleviation, better social services, drinking water, road, rail, etc. But now some political parties have started making promises to provide electricity, water, transport, television sets and even mangalsutra, all for free, despite poor economic conditions of the states.

Result of such freebies is that states are coming under huge debts and the quality of public services is the major victim. Significantly, Delhi is a prosperous region of the country. The per capita income here is second highest in the country, after Goa. Due to this, the revenue of Delhi is also very high.

A large number of migrants also live in Delhi, who have migrated from other states in search of employment. Their economic conditions are not so good, which can be gauged from the fact that a large number of people had to leave for their villages, as soon as the lockdown was imposed due to the pandemic. The sight of a large number of migrants going on foot, on bicycle or in buses, with just one bag, still haunts us. Most of the migrant labourers are daily wage earners, or engaged in micro businesses. A large number of them live in horrible conditions, where even basic facilities are lacking.

In such a situation, there is usually no question of their families joining them. The number of such migrant labourers in Delhi is not less than 50 lakhs. The labourers who bring their families with them are living in very pathetic conditions in Delhi. Schools, colleges and other educational institutions are needed for them and their families.

There is also a need for a better sewerage system and good health facilities. Roads, flyovers, etc., are also needed for their movements. But all these works require huge expenditure. It is seen that due to lack of funds, Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi is not able to provide a budget for development and maintenance.

After assuming power in 2015, till date the AAP-led Delhi government has not been able to build any new school, college, hospital, flyover, etc. In such a situation, the plight of the poor can be easily imagined. The roads, water and sewage system are also not being taken care of properly. Lack of finances is the main reason for this. It is not that the



THE TOTAL REVENUE OF DELHI FOR 2021-22 IS ESTIMATED AT ₹53,070 CRORE, WHICH IS 3 PER CENT OF THE REVENUE OF ALL STATES. IN 2019-20, IT WAS ₹47,136 CRORE AND, IN 2014-15, IT WAS ONLY ₹29,584 CRORE

(The author is Professor, Department of Economics, DAV College)



revenue of Delhi is deficient. The fact is that the per capita revenue in Delhi is much higher than the rest of India and is increasing continuously.

The total revenue of Delhi for 2021-22 is estimated at ₹53,070 crore, which is 3 per cent of the revenue of all the states. In 2019-20 it was ₹47,136 crore and in 2014-15, it was only ₹29,584 crore.

But along with this increasing revenue, the expenditure on free electricity, water, and transport of the Delhi government is increasing. The expenditure on free electricity was ₹1639 crore in 2015-16, which increased to ₹2968 crore in 2021-22. The Power Department has demanded ₹3200 crore from the Delhi government for this power subsidy for 2022-23. That is, it can be understood that the burden on the budget is increasing in the name of making electricity free by the Delhi government and it has almost doubled between 2015-16 and 2022-23. By huge spending on free electricity, water and transport, there is always a shortage of funds for essential civic amenities.

As a result of the exercise of Delhi Government towards reducing water bills to zero, both the deficit and debt of the Delhi Jal Board are mounting. In the first three years of the Kejriwal government, the loss of Delhi Jal Board tripled from ₹220.19 crores in 2015-16 to ₹663 crores in 2018-19.

According to the CAG report, in 1998-99, ₹26,620 crore was lent to the Delhi Jal Board, out of

which only ₹351 crore was returned and till March 31, 2018, ₹26,269 crore was outstanding. Meanwhile, the Delhi government has given ₹41,000 crore as loan to Delhi Jal Board in the last five years. The deteriorating conditions of Delhi Jal Board can be gauged from the slow pace of its development works and poor water system. It is believed that the financial conditions of the Delhi Jal Board have become very bad due to the Delhi government and the free water policy.

Slow pace in water connection in unregulated colonies by Delhi Jal Board and poor conditions of sewer system is primarily because of poor financial health of Delhi Jal Board. The opposition parties have also been making allegations of alleged corruption in Delhi Jal Board.

Apart from this, free travel for women in Delhi Transport Corporation buses is yet another freebies scheme run by the Delhi government. Thousands of crores of rupees are lost by the government through freebies. It is natural that due to the limited resources, this freebies policy puts pressure on the government finances and many essential expenditures are sacrificed.

At present, the AAP, which is in power, promised in its election manifesto in the year 2015, about opening 20 new colleges in Delhi, providing free Wi-Fi, building 20000 public toilets, constituting women security force, installation of three lakh CCTV cameras,

expansion of health facilities, among others.

There were 69 such promises, including creation of eight lakh jobs, skill training of one lakh youth every year by Delhi Skill Mission, which either remained mere promises or in which progress was very slow. It may be noted that prior to AAP government, 15 years between 1999-2000 and 2014-15, growth in capital expenditure was 19.6 per cent per annum (increase from ₹ 510.5 crores to ₹7430 crores), which declined to hardly 9.2 per cent in the first five years of the AAP government (increase from ₹7430 crores to hardly ₹11549 crores). It can be easily understood that the main reason behind the stalling of Delhi's development was lack of resources, as more and more resources are being used for giving freebies.

If it is said that these freebies schemes are targeted at the poor, then it will not be right. In 2021-22, in Delhi, where per capita income at current prices was ₹401,982 per year, out of 54.5 lakh electricity consumers, 43.2 lakh people are being provided electricity either free of cost or at half price. A big chunk of those, who can easily pay for electricity, are also being given electricity free. The facilities are being badly affected and the debt on the government is increasing, so it cannot be justified.

Not only this, 20,000 liters of water per month is also being provided free of cost to 5.3 lakh households.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THERE IS ALWAYS DISCIPLINE INSIDE THE CONGRESS... SONIA GANDHI JI IS OUR PRESIDENT. I HAVE APOLOGISED TO HER.
—RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER
ASHOK GEHLOT



MAXIM OF ONE 'ONE PARTY, ONE POST' WOULD BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.
—CONGRESS LEADER
JAIRAM RAMESH

Gandhi's current Bharat Jodo Yatra might help the Congress if it clicks.

The Samajwadi Party, a solid regional party in UP, focuses on strengthening its organisational structure. On the other hand, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has targeted 75 seats for the BJP, which has 80 Lok Sabha seats.

The BSP has launched a massive membership drive with a target of making 75,000 members from each assembly segment as the first step. BSP chief Mayawati has been facing defeat after defeat in the past decade but has a solid Dalit vote bank.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has warned his MLAs to perform or perish. He has

North Korea fires missiles after Harris leaves South Korea

AP ■ PANMUNJOM, KOREA

In a show of defiance, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea on Thursday, hours after U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris flew home from a visit to South Korea during which she emphasized the "ironclad" U.S. commitment to the security of its Asian allies.

It was the third round of missile launches by North Korea this week, extending a record pace in weapons testing as it accelerates a push to expand its arsenal and pressure Washington to accept it as a nuclear power.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the North Korean missiles were fired nine minutes apart from an area near the city of Sunchon, just north of the capital, Pyongyang, and flew toward waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. It didn't immediately release more details.

Japan's military said it also detected a launch. North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles on Wednesday, while Harris was in Japan, and fired one before she left Washington on Sunday.

Harris earlier capped her four-day trip to Asia with a meeting with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and a stop at the Demilitarized Zone dividing the Korean Peninsula, where she addressed the threat posed by the increasingly hostile North.



There are also concerns that North Korea may conduct a nuclear test, which would move the country closer to being acknowledged as a full-fledged nuclear power. Visiting the DMZ has become something of a ritual for American leaders hoping to show their resolve to stand firm against aggression.

At the DMZ, Harris went to the top of a ridge, near guard towers and security cameras. She looked through bulky binoculars as a South Korean officer pointed out military installations on the southern side. Then an American officer pointed out some of the defenses along the

military demarcation line, including barbed-wire fences and claymore mines. He said American soldiers regularly walk patrols along a path.

"It's so close," Harris said. Harris then visited one of a row of blue buildings that straddle the demarcation line, where an American officer explained how the buildings are still used to conduct negotiations with North Korea. Sometimes they pass messages back and forth and sometimes they use a megaphone, he said.

"That's high tech," Harris joked, before adding, "We've stepped into history."

"It's still going," the colonel said.

Harris agreed. "The past and present are happening every day."

She then walked out of the building and up to the demarcation line. On the North Korean side, two figures dressed in what appeared to be hazmat suits peeked out from behind a curtain in a second-floor window. Then they disappeared back inside.

Harris described the North Korean missile launches as provocations meant to "destabilize the region" and said the United States and South Korea remain committed to the "complete denuclearization" of the North. "I cannot state enough that commitment of the United States to the defense of the Republic of Korea is ironclad," she said.

"In the South, we see a thriving democracy. In the North, we see a brutal dictatorship," she said before flying out of the border on a U.S. military helicopter.

Earlier, Harris met with President Yoon at his office in Seoul and reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to defend the South with a full range of its military capabilities in the event of war, Yoon's office said.

They expressed concern over North Korea's threats of nuclear conflict and pledged an unspecified stronger response to major North Korean provocations, including a nuclear test.

India can play stabilising, bridging role: Jaishankar

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said India can play a stabilising and a bridging role at a time when in the world it is not an "optimistic picture" and there is a "worried international community." Underlining the country's growing global stature, he also said late Wednesday in the US capital India can also contribute towards de-risking of the global economy and in political terms, in some way, help depolarise the world.

He said there are more than opportunities for India, because it is a very difficult situation. "I think there are contributions that India can make. I think we have today, a stabilising role today. We have a bridging role. We have a diplomatic role. We have to really see in economic terms, how can we contribute to the de-risking of the global economy? I think in political terms, how can we in some way help depolarise the world?" he said. "I think those are really expectations that a lot of other countries, especially countries of the global south have of us. Obviously, we will try and do what we can, and we remain in touch with all the bottom countries of the world," he said. During his just-concluded trip to New York to attend the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Jaishankar had nearly 100 meetings with world leaders and his counterparts from across the world.

"Today, there is an expectation and here I go back to my UNGA discussion. One of the reasons why there were so many meetings this time. Frankly, there was a lot of demand for meetings. Countries wanted to talk to us," he said.

US: China's overreaction to Taiwan spells danger to peace in Southeast Asia

PTI ■ BEIJING

China is endangering peace in Southeast Asia with its "overreaction" to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, America's envoy Nicholas Burns said on Thursday, while reiterating that there is no shift in America's 'one-China policy' as alleged by Beijing. Pelosi visited Taiwan on August 2, becoming the highest-ranking American official in 25 years to visit the self-ruled island claimed by China, which conducted a series of provocative military maneuvers in retaliation for her presence.

The US has not shifted its stance on Taiwan and remains committed to the 'one-China policy', but Beijing's "overreaction" to Pelosi's visit to Taipei risks a peaceful resolution, Burns said. Burns, who was appointed US Ambassador to China in March, said countries in Southeast Asia should also be concerned about China's aggression in the Taiwan Strait, given its importance as a major shipping route.

"If anyone has changed policy here, it's really the People's Republic of China, with their overreaction, for nearly two months now since Speaker Pelosi's visit," he said speaking at



the Milken Institute Asia Summit in Singapore.

"We've had a median line in the Taiwan Strait (separating between China and Taiwan) for 68 years; it has really kept the peace. [China] tries to erase that: they fired missiles over Taiwan into the Japanese economic zone, they simulated a naval blockade and air blockade," Burns was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post. For days, China has launched massive military drills encircling Taiwan, which it regards as a breakthrough province after Pelosi defied Beijing's warnings and visited the self-ruled island in early August.

It later suspended dialogue with the US on military and climate change matters. For its part, China earlier angrily responded to US preremarks that the US forces would defend Taiwan if Beijing tries to invade the self-ruled island, saying it will "strive" for the peaceful reunification of Taiwan with "utmost sincerity" but "reserve all options".

Japan's army issues rare apology over sexual harassment case

AP ■ TOKYO

In a rare admission of sexual harassment in Japan's military, its army chief apologised Thursday to a former soldier for suffering caused by a group of servicemen.

Yoshihide Yoshida, head of Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force, said an internal investigation found evidence that several servicemen were involved in the case brought by former soldier Rina Gonoï last month.

"Representing the Ground-Self Defence Force, I deeply apologise to Ms. Gonoï for the pain she had to suffer for a long time," Yoshida told a news conference.

"We offer a sincere apology." The investigation was ongoing and further details, including the assailants and their punishment, were not yet released Thursday.

Japan's Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada earlier this month ordered a ministry-wide investigation into growing reports of sexual assault after Gonoï brought allegations of harassment of her and others.

Gonoï came forward in late August to request a reinvestigation of an alleged assault on her in 2021 by former male colleagues.

She also said she had received information from 146 servicemen who said they had been harassed while on duty.



The ministry said the number of various types of harassment complaints rose from 256 in 2016 to 2,311 last year.

In a country where gender inequality remains high, sexual harassment is often disregarded and the #MeToo movement has been slow to catch on. But Japanese women have started to speak up.

Earlier this month, Gonoï submitted a petition to the Defense Ministry signed by more than 100,000 people seeking a reinvestigation of her case by a third party.

She said three senior male colleagues in August 2021 in a dorm at a training ground pressed the lower part of their bodies against her, forcing her to spread her legs, as more than 10 other male colleagues watched and laughed, but none tried to stop them.

Sri Lanka's Parliament to debate 22nd Constitutional amendment next week

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan lawmakers will debate next week on the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive president.

Party leaders agreed to take up the debate on the 22nd Amendment in Parliament on October 6 and 7, Communications Department of Parliament said on Thursday.

The decision was taken at the Business Committee meeting held at Parliament Complex on Thursday morning chaired by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena.

If enacted, the amendment would come to be known as the 21st Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka which was first adopted in 1978.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court ruled that the bill seeking the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution can be adopted with a two-thirds majority in the House but some clauses will require a nationwide referendum unless some of the



clauses inconsistent with the Constitution are left out of the Bill.

The government responded then saying that debatable clauses would be left out for its adoption in Parliament.

The draft bill on the 22nd Amendment was approved by the Cabinet and gazetted last month. The amendment was formulated amid the ongoing economic turmoil in the country which also caused a political crisis.

It is meant to replace the 20A adopted in 2020 that had given unfettered powers to ex-President

Gotabaya Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th Amendment. With protests raging calling for Rajapaksa's resignation since March end, the need to reform the Constitution to reduce absolute power in the office of the President was brought forward by the protest movement.

Rajapaksa had reversed through 20A the features of the 19A which had empowered Parliament over the presidency.

Rajapaksa was ousted in mid-July through the popular uprising against him for mishandling the country's economy.

Iraq summons Iranian Ambassador after drone bombing campaign

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Iraq summoned the Iranian ambassador on Thursday to deliver a diplomatic complaint following a deadly drone bombing campaign, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The Iranian drones targeted an Iranian-Kurdish opposition group in northern Iraq on Wednesday, killing at least nine people and wounding 32 others.

The strikes took place as demonstrations continued to engulf the Islamic Republic after the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman who died while in the custody of the Iranian morality police.

Iran's attacks targeted positions of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan in Koya, some 65 kilometres (35 miles) east of Irbil.

The group, known by the acronym KDPI, is a leftist armed opposition force banned in Iran.

The Foreign Ministry said in its statement that civilians were among those killed. It added that the Iraqi government condemned "this crime, which represented the continuation of Iranian forces' encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty."

The ministry also warned of repercussions on "the societal peace of both countries and on regional security and stability."

At least 6 people wounded in shooting at school in Oakland

AP ■ OAKLAND

At least six people were wounded in a shooting at a school in Oakland on Wednesday, officials said.

The scene of the shooting was "no longer active," according to Alameda County Sheriff spokesperson Lt. Ray Kelly. Paramedics had transported six patients to hospitals, all with gunshot wounds, according to Oakland Fire Department spokesperson Michael Hunt.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf tweeted that all of the



wounded were adults and the shooting happened at Sojourner Truth Independent Study, an alternative K-12 school that is located on the same block as three other

schools. Officials didn't say if any of the victims might be students age 18 or older.

Three of the wounded were in critical condition at Highland Hospital in Oakland, the other three were taken to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley and their conditions were not known, officials said.

John Sasaki, a spokesperson for Oakland Unified School District, said in a statement that district officials "do not have any information beyond what Oakland Police are reporting." He said the

Sojourner Truth Independent Study headquarters has no students. Television footage showed dozens of police cars and yellow tape on the street outside the schools and students leaving the campus.

City Council Member Treva Reid said investigators told her the shooting may be tied to rising "group and gang violence."

Oakland Police Capt. Casey Johnson confirmed in a brief news conference that six people were shot, and didn't answer any questions.

People trapped, 2.5M without power as Ian drenches Florida

AP ■ ST PETERSBURG (US)

Hurricane Ian left a path of destruction in southwest Florida, trapping people in flooded homes, cutting off the only bridge to a barrier island, damaging the roof of a hospital intensive care unit and knocking out power to 2.5 million people as it dumped rain across the peninsula on Thursday. One of the strongest hurricanes to ever hit the United States threatened catastrophic flooding around the state.

Ian's tropical-storm-force winds extended outward up to 415 miles (665 km), drenching much of Florida and the southeastern Atlantic coast.

Authorities confirmed at least one storm death in Florida. A 72-year-old man was found dead early on Thursday in water in a canal behind his home in Deltona near Daytona Beach, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

It said he appeared to be using a hose to drain his pool into the wide canal and fell down an incline that was "extremely soft and slippery due to the heavy rain."

Another Florida sheriff said he believed the death toll would be "in the



hundreds," Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno told ABC's "Good Morning America" that his office was receiving thousands of 911 calls from people needing rescue in the county that includes Fort Myers, but roadways were still impassable and bridges are compromised.

"It crushed us," Marceno said. "We still cannot access many of the people that are in need." Emergency crews sawed through toppled trees to reach people in flooded homes, but with no electricity and virtually no cell service, it was impossible for many people to call for help from the hardest hit coastal areas where the surge came in.

As Japan and China mark 50-year ties, moods are mixed

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan and China marked the 50th anniversary of normalization of their ties Thursday as their leaders Fumio Kishida and Xi Jinping stressed the importance of their strengthened relationship over the decades, though they still face difficulties.

On Sept. 29, 1972, then-Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai signed a communique normalizing their ties and pledging peace and friendship. In the communique, Japan expressed remorse over wartime damage on China and acknowledged Beijing as the country's only legitimate government.

Despite the milestone, the ceremony lacks a celebratory mood as the two countries remain at odds over disputed East China Sea islands and China's growing military and economic influence in the region.



Japan considers China a security threat and is promoting security and trade frameworks with the United States and other democracies as a counter to Beijing's growing influence. China's escalating tension around Taiwan is also a growing concern. While Japan-China relations today have a variety of possibilities, they face a number of issues and concerns, Kishida said in a message to Xi, which was shown on a big screen at a ceremony sponsored by Japanese influential business organisations and

friendship groups and held at a Tokyo hotel.

Kishida said he hoped to develop "constructive and stable relations" with China to fulfil a responsibility they share as major powers in contributing to regional and global peace and stability, looking ahead the next 50 years of their ties.

He said it is important to remember their starting point 50 years ago when the normalization was achieved. Xi, in his message sent to Kishida, said normalization of their ties in 1972 opened "a new chapter" in bilateral relations and the two countries have since deepened exchanges and cooperation, bringing welfare to both peoples and peace and development to the region and the world.

He said he attaches "great importance" to the development of their ties and is willing to work with Kishida "to build a China-Japan relationship that meets the requirements of the new era."

Hundreds of children from east Ukraine stranded in Russian camps

AP ■ IZIU, UKRAINE

The Russian occupation radio and newspaper ads promoted the camps as a summer break from the war for Ukrainian children under their control, free of charge. Hundreds of families agreed in the occupied east and the south, Ukrainian officials and parents say. One bus convoy left Izium at the end of August, with the promise that the children would return home in time for the school year. Instead, Ukrainian forces swept through in early September, driving the Russians into a disorganized retreat and liberating territory that had been in enemy hands for months.

Fifty-two children from Izium and around 250 more from other towns in the Kharkiv region, all between the ages of 9 and 16, are now scattered in camps, according to a Ukrainian intelligence official and a mother who hitchhiked into Russia to retrieve her daughter. Both, like nearly everyone involved in the issue, spoke on condition of



anonymity to describe a sensitive and fraught situation.

"Our main goal was to give the children a break from everything that was happening here, from all the horrors that were here," said Valeriya Kolesnyk, an Izium teacher whose 9-year-old is now in

Russia. "The problem is that the Russian side does not plan to return the children to us."

That doesn't seem to have been the initial expectation.

Kolesnyk said she had sent her elder daughter to a camp in July and the girl returned home with no complications. The

shifting front lines changed everything. About two dozen parents gathered Wednesday outside a closed café in Izium overlooking one of the town's countless bombed out buildings. Desperate, angry and almost crazed with worry, they say they need more help to

retrieve their kids. They are afraid they are seen as collaborators, willing participants in handing their children over to the enemy.

"We are simple people. We could never afford a seaside holiday for our children and we saw this as a chance," said one Izium father who has a 9-year-old child among the group. No town official was present at Wednesday's gathering.

The Washington Post first reported on the stranded children last week, but AP was able to learn the magnitude of the issue after speaking with 20 parents and officials in both Russia and Ukraine.

Families of the missing children said the Izium couple who organized the trip now tell them Ukraine is too dangerous for children. The couple are planning a permanent future in Russia. "I'm not going back," said the husband, Valeri Polyvoda, reached by phone in Russia. Polyvoda blamed the children's plight on local authorities in Russia. He refused to say how many children were with him.

US: Focus on new Russia sanctions on oil revenue, arms supplies

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Future sanctions over President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine must focus on depriving Putin of what he needs to fund and fight the war: revenue from Russia's oil and gas sales and access to global supply networks to replenish his military, two architects of the Biden administration's sanctions campaign told lawmakers on Wednesday.

While calling for stronger action against Russia, the State and Treasury department officials appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee faced complaints from both Democrats and Republicans that the first rounds of sanctions did not hit Moscow as hard or fast as the administration had forecast.

"What we were told was these were going to be the toughest sanctions ever on a country. That they were going to have certain impacts," said



Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a New Hampshire Democrat, recounting early predictions from administration officials that the sanctions would plunge the country into recession, send the value of the ruble plunging, and trigger unrest among Russians. "And we have not seen the full impact that was described to us.

"The frustration is we know that while we're playing the long game, Ukrainians are dying," Shaheen added.

Putin has vowed to press his offensive in Ukraine despite battlefield losses to motivated and NATO-supplied Ukrainian

forces. Within the past week, Russia has started calling up hundreds of thousands of civilian men to replenish its depleted forces in Ukraine and held sham referendums in Russian-occupied territory, as an expected prelude to claiming those lands for Russia.

In response to those referendums, the U.S. and its allies are preparing new sanctions that White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Wednesday would impose a "severe economic cost on Russia when they move forward with annexation."

Moscow tries to draft fleeing Russian men at borders

AP ■ LARSI, GEORGIA

Long lines of Russians trying to escape being called up to fight in Ukraine continued to clog highways out of the country on Wednesday, and Moscow reportedly set up draft offices at borders to intercept some of them.

North Ossetia, a Russian region that borders Georgia, declared a state of "high alert" and said that food, water, warming stations and other aid should be brought in for those who have spent days in queues. Volunteers

on the Georgian side of the border also have brought water, blankets and other assistance.

North Ossetia restricted many passenger cars from entering its territory, and set up a draft office at the Verkhny Lars border crossing, Russian news agencies said. Some media outlets released photos at the crossing showing a black van with "military enlistment office" written on it.

Another such draft checkpoint was set up in Russia along the Finnish border, according to the independent Russian news

outlet Meduza.

Tens of thousands of Russian men have fled in the week since President Vladimir Putin announced a mobilization to bolster struggling Russian forces in Ukraine. Although Putin said the callup was "partial," aimed at calling up about 300,000 men with past military service, many Russians fear it will be much broader and more arbitrary than that. There are numerous reports of men with no military training and of all ages receiving draft notices.

Alexander Kamisentsev,



who left his home in Saratov for Georgia, described the scene on the Russian side of the border.

"It's all very scary — tears, screams, a huge number of people. There is a feeling that the government does not know how to organize it. It seems that they want to close the border, but at the same time they are afraid that protests may follow, and they let people leave," he told the AP.

He said he decided at the last moment to leave "because I am not going to kill my Ukrainian brothers or go to

prison."

Protesters carrying Georgian and Ukrainian flags and signs like "Russia Kills" greeted Russians at the border Wednesday. Giga Lemonjava of the political party Droa, which organized the protest, said the evacuees threaten Georgia's security and economy.

One protester, Helen Khoshtaria, tweeted: "We organized a protest at the border today so that the incoming Russians know how we feel about their 'Russian world.'"

Russians have been crossing

by car, bicycle, scooter and foot. According to Yandex Maps, the traffic jam leading to Verkhny Lars, a town near the border between Georgia and North Ossetia, stretched for about 15 kilometers (over 9 miles) on Tuesday.

Georgia's Interior Ministry said over 53,000 Russians had entered the country since last week.

There also are long lines at the border with Kazakhstan, which has taken in more than 98,000 Russians in the past week.

NATO believes Baltic Sea gas leaks were sabotage



AP ■ COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

NATO said Thursday it would retaliate for any attacks on the critical infrastructure of the 30-member-countries organization as it suggested that damage to two gas pipelines off Denmark and would-be member Sweden in international waters in the Baltic Sea is the result of sabotage.

"Any deliberate attack against Allies' critical infrastructure would be met with a united and determined response," NATO ambassadors

said in a statement. They said that the damage to the pipelines between Russia and Germany "is of deep concern."

The alliance also said that "all currently available information indicates that this is the result of deliberate, reckless, and irresponsible acts of sabotage. These leaks are causing risks to shipping and substantial environmental damage."

The Swedish coast guard on Thursday confirmed a fourth leak on the Nord Stream pipelines off southern Sweden.

"We have leakage at two positions" off Sweden, coast

guard spokesperson Mattias Lindholm. There are two more off Denmark, he said.

Two of the leaks are on the Nord Stream 1 pipeline that recently stopped supplying gas, while the other two are on Nord Stream 2 that never started operating. Although they weren't running, both pipelines were filled with gas, which has escaped and bubbled to the surface.

The Nord Stream pipelines run through the Baltic to transport gas from Russia to Germany. The Danish and Swedish governments believe that the leaks off their countries were "deliberate actions."

Before the leaks were reported, explosions were recorded. A first explosion was recorded by seismologists early Monday southeast of the Danish island of Bornholm. A second, stronger blast northeast of the island that night was equivalent to a magnitude-2.3 earthquake.

Seismic stations in Denmark, Norway and Finland also registered the explosions.

Another top Chinese official indicted on bribery charges ahead of CPC's key meeting



PTI ■ BEIJING

The purge of top Chinese officials of the ruling Communist Party ahead of its key Congress next month in which President Xi Jinping is widely expected to get endorsed for an unprecedented third term, continued on Thursday with another top official being indicted over corruption charges.

Zhang Yongze, former vice chairman of the provincial government of Tibet Autonomous Region, has been indicted on charges of taking bribes, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

According to his indictment, Zhang took advantage of

his former positions and power to seek benefits for others in areas, including project contracting and personnel promotion, and illegally accepted a large amount of money and valuables in return.

The National Commission of Supervision had concluded its probe into Zhang's case and initiated a public prosecution against him at the Intermediate People's Court of Xi'an.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THAT IT BE KNOWN TO ALL, that M/s Sterling Motor Co., having its erstwhile workshops at 14/2 Mathura Road, Faridabad (HR) and GP-11, Sector-16, HSIDC Industrial Estate, Gurugram (HR) and carried on vehicle repair and body job work of the vehicles. Under mentioned vehicles are lying as scrap within the premises/workshop as unclaimed & abandoned since very long inspite of regular collection notices to owner. Now M/s Sterling Motor Co. are unable to take care & spend their time and money to look after such unclaimed vehicles/scrap. Hence through this public notice, owners of the under mentioned vehicle are hereby called upon to collect their vehicle from the workshop/premises after showing proof of ownership, job card order form of their respective vehicle and after making full payment of all the outstanding repair bills etc. along with parking charges from the workshop/premises latest with 7 days from date of this notice, and thereafter M/s Sterling Motor Co., will not be responsible for any liability of any type whatsoever and will be free to dispose the unclaimed vehicle's scrap to recover its dues.

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e-Tender Notice दिनांक: 29.09.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (C&M), MB-II, Joshiyara, Uttarkashi invites sealed Tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :

Tender No. : 15/EE(C&M)/MB-II/Joshiyara/2022-23

Name of work: Deployment of one number Retired Tehsildar and one number Revenue Inspector for proper upkeeping of Purchased and Acquired land and land records of M.B-II project at Joshiyara, Uttarkashi.

Estimated cost: Rs. 5,78,328.00 (Excluding GST)

Date of availability of bid document on : 30.09.2022 From 17:00 Hrs. website

Last Date for submission of bids on : 21.10.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs. website

For fuller & further details, kindly visit "e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>" Executive Engineer (C&M) MB-II Joshiyara

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कार्यालय नगर निगम, हरिद्वार

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S. No.	Scheduled/Information	Date	Time
1	Date of Online publication	30.09.2022	04:00 PM
2	Document Download start Date	30.09.2022	04:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	30.09.2022	04:00 PM
4	Bid submission End Date	07.10.2022	02:00 PM
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सहायक नगर आयुक्त
नगर निगम हरिद्वार

“AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY”

कार्यालय नगर निगम, हरिद्वार

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सहायक नगर आयुक्त
नगर निगम हरिद्वार

“AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY”

US candidate to lead UN telecoms agency after US-Russia race



AP ■ BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)

Doreen Bogdan-Martin of the United States was elected on Thursday to head the UN's telecommunications agency, winning a US-Russia face-off for the leadership of a key global agency that sets guideposts for radio, internet and television communications — ending a race that has been overshadowed by geopolitics in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Envoys from the 193 mem-

ber states of the Geneva-based International Telecommunications Union, selected Bogdan-Martin over lone rival Rashid Ismailov of Russia at the latest meeting in the Romanian capital of its policy-making body — which meets every four years.

Bogdan-Martin, who will begin her four-year term as ITU secretary-general on January 1, is a 29-year ITU veteran and the current director of its telecommunication development bureau. Her career began in the US Commerce Department.

She won the position in a 139-25 vote in which there were also a number of abstentions.

Speaking in the plenary hall in Bucharest after she was elected on Thursday, Bogdan-Martin described the leadership position as "an immensely important position" and said it will be an "honour for me and my country" to lead the organisation.

She is the first woman to head the ITU, and the first American in charge since the 1960s.

Ukrainian activist among winners of Alternative Nobel

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

The Right Livelihood Award Nobel — known as the "Alternative Nobel" — was awarded on Thursday to community activists and organisations working on three continents, including a Ukrainian civil rights activist.

Oleksandra Matviichuk and the Center for Civil Liberties that she heads were honoured "for building sustainable democratic institutions in Ukraine and modeling a path to international accountability for war crimes."

In a statement released by the award committee, Matviichuk said that "now we are going through a very dramatic time of Ukrainian history ... This award is a gesture of support for our struggle in general, and for my work, in particular."

Somalia human rights activists Fartuun Adan and Ilwad Elman, who lead community-based peacebuilding initiatives and provide support to marginalised groups, were cited



"for promoting peace, demilitarisation and human rights in Somalia in the face of terrorism and gender-based violence."

Two organisations were also honoured.

Cecosesola, a Venezuelan association of cooperatives, was cited "for establishing an equitable and cooperative economic model as a robust alternative to profit-driven economies."

The Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) won "for their courageous work for climate justice and community rights violated by extractivist energy projects in Uganda."

India ‘star’ emerging market economy: S&P

‘Estimated 7.3% growth in FY-2023’

European energy insecurity are hitting growth in almost every country, but India with an estimated 7.3 per cent growth this fiscal, would be the ‘star’ among emerging market economies. In a report, S&P said global macro performance over the next few quarters points towards growth slowdown with tightening financial conditions amid rate hikes by central banks. Most leading and sentiment indicators are pointing toward slower growth as well. Growth eased in the second quarter across emerging markets as inflation reduced real household income, business confidence deteriorated, and the external environment became more complicated, it said. Emerging-market central banks have been ahead of their advanced-country counterparts in hiking policy rates, and in Latin America they are now near the end of their tightening cycles. Elsewhere, core inflation continues to rise, suggesting there is more work to do. Large recent hikes by the US Federal Reserve are exacerbating balance-of-payment strains across emerg-



ing markets. “For the 16 emerging economies that we cover, excluding China, 2022 GDP growth will hit 5.2 per cent this year, in our view. This forecast is up 30 basis points from our previous round. India is the star of this group with growth of 7.3 per cent this fiscal year (ending in March 2023),” S&P said. The US-based agency said as central banks aggressively raise rates to fight inflation, our confidence is waning that they can avoid generating a sharp downturn. “We are now expecting a mild recession in the US,” it said, adding that rising rates, increased European energy insecurity, and the lingering effects of Covid-19 are hitting growth almost everywhere. “This may be the most anticipated economic slowdown on record, but the data have yet to fully fall in line,” S&P said.

Sensex slips for 7th day amid F&O expiry

RBI policy in focus

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices failed to bhold on to early gains and closed in the red for the seventh straight session on Thursday, with participants remaining in wait-and-watch mode ahead of the RBI’s interest rate decision. Unabated selling by foreign funds added to the pressure, though a modest recovery in the rupee cushioned the fall, traders said. After rallying in early trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex came under selling pressure in the afternoon session and closed 188.32 points or 0.33 per cent lower at 56,409.96. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty dipped 40.50 points or 0.24 per cent to end at 16,818.10. Asian Paints was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack, tumbling 5.22 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, TCS, Wipro and Bajaj Finserv. In contrast, ITC, Dr Reddy’s, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Nestle India, M&M and NTPC were among the major winners, climbing as much as 2.51 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India



(RBI) may take cues from its global counterparts, including the US Federal Reserve, to raise interest rate for the fourth time in a row on Friday to tame stubborn inflation. The RBI, which has since May raised the short-term lending rate (repo) by 140 basis points (bps), may again go for a 50-bps increase to take it to a three-year high of 5.9 per cent, say experts. “The initial uptick in the domestic market was short-lived due to its weak global peers and declining rupee. As the yield differential between India and the US fell to a multi-year low of 348 bps, foreign investors are still departing from the Indian market. “Amid the ongoing global trend of aggressive rate hikes, markets are braced for a 50 bps increase by RBI.

Adani Enterprises’ subsidiaries secure ₹10 K cr fund for Ganga Expressway Project in UP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Enterprises Ltd on Thursday said it’s three wholly-owned subsidiaries have achieved financial closure for the access-controlled six-lane greenfield Ganga Expressway Project in Uttar Pradesh under public-private partnership mode. The company in a statement said it has secured finances of Rs 10,238 crore from lenders, and the concession period of the project shall be 30 years with traffic link extension provision of six years, including three years of construction period.



primarily driven by restructuring and included exceptional items outgo of Rs 4,226 crore. Revenue from operations in FY22 stood at Rs 10,202 crore as against Rs

‘Retirement planning not topmost priority for urban India’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retirement planning is not the topmost priority for urban India but they worry that savings will not be enough to cover for old age life, with only one in three actively working to meet retirement goals, according to a study. Max Life Insurance in partnership with marketing data firm Kantar conducted a survey to assess the urban salaried class’ readiness for content and financially independent retired life. About 90 per cent of people above the age of 50 years in the survey regretted not starting early enough in life to save for retired life. In its second edition, the survey finds the India Retirement Index Study (IRIS) remaining at 44, pointing there is a lag in preparedness over the last one year among the urban salaried class for retired life planning. Conducted through a self-administered digital manner, the survey involved 3,220 male as well as female respondents across 28 cities, of which 6 were metro cities and 12 tier I and 12 tier II cities. Life expectancy is consistently rising over the years. “The objective here is to create a barometer or mirror through which we can keep observing how we are making progress. I think there are several questions when you start to consider about retirement,” Prashant Tripathy, Managing Director and CEO, Max Life Insurance said.

Current account deficit widens to 2.8% of GDP in Q1 of FY23



PTI ■ MUMBAI

India’s current account deficit, a key indicator of the balance of payment position, widened to 2.8 per cent of GDP at USD 23.9 billion in the first quarter of the current financial year, mainly on account of a higher trade deficit. As per the data released by the Reserve Bank on India’s Balance of Payments during the First Quarter (April-June) of 2022-23, the current account balance recorded a deficit of USD 23.9 billion (2.8 per cent of GDP) in the first quarter, up from USD 13.4 billion (1.5 per cent of GDP) in January-March

period of the last fiscal. India’s current account surplus stood at USD 6.6 billion, equivalent to 0.9 per cent of GDP in the first quarter (April-June) of 2021-22. “Underlying the current account deficit in Q1:2022-23 was the widening of the merchandise trade deficit to USD 68.6 billion from USD 54.5 billion in Q4:2021-22 and an increase in net outgo of investment income payments,” the RBI said. It also said net services receipts increased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, on the back of rising exports of computer and business services.

Flyers to get 5G services at IGIA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi is ready to support 5G services and passengers will be able to utilise the high-speed mobile service inside Terminal-3 (T-3) and its surrounding areas as soon as it is rolled out. Flyers having a 5G-enabled mobile phone and sim card can experience a better signal strength, seamless connectivity, negligible latency, and faster data speed at the Domestic Departure pier and International Arrival Baggage area at Terminal 3, and between T3 Arrivals and Multi-Level Car Parking (MLCP). According to the GMR group, passengers can avail these services once 5G is rolled out in the country. Apart from these, people visiting GMR Aerocity Delhi can also get a feel of the 5G network at GMR Square. “The 5G network offers a faster speed and lower latency. At the airport, this feature of the next-generation mobile technology will help improve

Govt lowers borrowing target for FY-2023

To borrow just ₹5.92 lakh crore in second half

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after doling out Rs 44,762 crore for free ration to the poor, the Government on Thursday cut its market borrowing target for the current fiscal by Rs 10,000 crore in signs of buoyant tax collections. In a statement, the finance ministry said the government will do total borrowing of Rs 5.92 lakh crore during October-March period of the current fiscal, including from issuance of its maiden Sovereign Green Bonds of Rs 16,000 crore. The government had in Budget for 2022-23 projected a gross market borrowing of Rs 14.31 lakh crore. Of this, the government decided to borrow Rs 14.21 lakh crore during 2022-23.



“Accordingly, the balance amount of Rs 5.92 lakh crore (41.7 per cent of Rs 14.21 lakh crore) is planned to be borrowed in the second half of the fiscal year 2022-23 through dated securities, including Rs 16,000 crore through issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) as per the announcement made in the Union Budget 2022-23,” it said. The government will continue to exercise greenshoe option to

retain an additional subscription of up to Rs 2,000 crore against each of the securities indicated in the auction notification. The amount raised through this option will be limited to 3 to 5 per cent of the gross issuance for second half and within the gross borrowing limit for the 2022-23. The gross direct tax collections till September 17 grew 30 per cent to over Rs 8.36 lakh crore.

Rupee rises 13 paise to close at 81.80 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled 13 paise higher at 81.80 against US dollar on Thursday, ahead of the RBI monetary policy decision scheduled to come out on Friday. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 81.60 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 81.58 and a low of 81.94 during the session. It finally ended at 81.80, up 13 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee plunged below the 82-mark for the first time in intraday trade before settling 40 paise down at 81.93 against the dollar. “In the last hour of trade, the Indian rupee strengthened along with the Chinese Yuan which appreciated after a report of China state bank may stock up for Yuan intervention. However, the month-end rebalancing, foreign fund outflows and dollar demand from the importers limited the gains in



the rupee,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. Traders remained cautious ahead of the RBI’s monetary policy decision. “In the near-term, spot USD-INR is having resistance near 82.40 and support at 81.30. A recent, parabolic up move in USD-INR in the last seven days warrants some retracement in the coming days but the directional trend remains up as long as it trades above 80.10,” Parmar added. The dollar index, which measures the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.55 per cent to 113.22.

BUSINESS BRIEF

RELIANCE RETAIL LAUNCHES LUXE BRAND ‘AZORTE’

Bengaluru: Reliance Retail on Thursday launched a large format premium fashion and lifestyle store brand ‘AZORTE’. The new store format includes several tech-enabled interventions such as smart trial rooms, fashion discovery stations, “endless aisles” and self-checkout kiosks, it said in a statement. “AZORTE will house the best of global trends and contemporary Indian fashion with an original take on style ranging from western and Indian wear to footwear, fashion accessories, home, beauty and more,” it added.

‘GOVT POLICIES UP DOMESTIC TOY PRODUCTION’

Chennai: The government policy on increasing customs duty on imported toys and making BIS certification mandatory for toys has boosted domestic toy manufacturing, an official of the Toy Association of India said on Thursday. The move by the government has also helped the industry to explore global markets enhancing exports, president of the association Ajay Agarwal said here. The Indian toy market is growing at over 12 per cent. Three years ago, nearly 80 per cent of the toys were imported, but, today, the scenario changed as imports dropped dramatically, he was quoted as saying in a press release. Citing data provided by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, he said imports of toys which stood at USD 304 million in 2018-19 fell to USD 36 million in 2021-22.

IOC FLOATS SUBSIDIARY FOR TREASURY OPERATIONS

New Delhi: State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has floated a wholly-owned subsidiary to carry out finance activities such as fund pooling and treasury operations, it said on Thursday. In a stock exchange filing, IOC said its board has accorded approval for formation of the subsidiary - Finance Company and opening its office in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (Gift City) in Gandhinagar. The unit will “carry out finance activities including activities like fund pooling of foreign companies and utilising the same for carrying out trade financing of IOC and group companies.” It would also do global treasury operation and utilising IFSC to raise capital and debt from overseas market.

‘Merger between LIC Mutual Fund, IDBI MF at an advanced stage’

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Merger between LIC Mutual Fund and IDBI Mutual Fund is at a “fairly advanced stage”, a top official said on Thursday. “The process is on, it is at a fairly advanced stage,” LIC MF’s managing director and chief executive T S Ramakrishnan told reporters, when asked about reports of the merger. Recent media reports have said that LIC Mutual Fund plans to absorb IDBI Mutual Fund following a regulatory diktat barring a single promoter from owning more than 10 per cent stake in two asset management companies. IDBI Bank, the parent of IDBI MF, is majority owned by LIC for the last few years. Ramakrishnan added that as and when LIC MF, the 22nd largest MF in the country with over Rs 18,000 crore in assets under management, is in a firm comment on the merger process, it will inform everybody.



According to reports, there were two attempts to sell IDBI Mutual Fund that could not be successful, and it resulted in the merger with a company owned by the same parent. Meanwhile, Ramakrishnan said the fund house is targeting to be among the top 10 by AUM (Assets Under Management) in the next five years, and will be taking specific steps like pushing its distribution efforts and investing in the brand.

It is aiming to increase the share of equity investments to the industry average of 45 per cent of the AUM by FY24 from the present level which is about 12-13 per cent lower, Ramakrishnan said. The fund house will play to its core strength of reach in the tier-II and tier-III cities which present the biggest opportunity of growth for the industry, he said, adding that focus on high net-worth individuals will also continue.

Ford India loss widens to ₹4,229 cr in FY-22

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian arm of US car-maker Ford, which had last year decided to exit from the country, saw widening of its loss after tax to Rs 4,229 crore in fiscal 2021-22, according to data provided by business intelligence platform Tofler. Ford India Pvt Ltd had posted a loss after tax of Rs 188 crore in 2020-21. The widening of loss was



primarily driven by restructuring and included exceptional items outgo of Rs 4,226 crore. Revenue from operations in FY22 stood at Rs 10,202 crore as against Rs

12,057 crore in FY21, down 15 per cent. The total revenue from operations included domestic sale of Rs 2,399 crore, which was 49 per cent lower than the prior year’s figure of Rs 4,742 crore, as per regulatory filings by Ford India Pvt Ltd. “Financial performance for the current year is largely impacted by restructuring decision announced in September 2021. The decision resulted in

exit from vehicle and engine manufacturing operations at Chennai and vehicle manufacturing operations at Sanand,” the company said. In terms of volume, Ford India sold 69,223 cars during 2021-22 as compared to 94,112 cars in the prior financial year, down 26 per cent. This included domestic sales of 15,870 cars, as compared to 48,042 units in the previous year, down 67 per cent.

TVS Motor signs MoU with FCDO to offer scholarships to aspiring individuals

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Two and three-wheeler major TVS Motor Company has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to offer Chevening TVS Motor Company Scholarships to candidates who show great potential to become decision-makers,

the company said on Thursday. The Chevening Programme, is a scholarship programme that aims to attract select students around the world who demonstrate great potential to become leaders, decision-makers in their own country. The United Kingdom government’s global scholarship programme is awarded to those individuals with strong



academic backgrounds who can also demonstrate their leadership potential, a company statement said here. “At TVS Motor Company it has been our endeavour to create future leaders and sup-

port them in their journey. Our collaboration with FCDO and the Government of United Kingdom is a testimony to this commitment,” TVS Motor Company MD, Sudarshan Venu said. “This partnership is an unique opportunity for the talented and dynamic minds in the country and we are excited to be a part of their growth,” he said.

Qatar says WC fans do not need Covid vaccination



AP ■ DOHA

Coronavirus vaccinations will not be mandatory for the million-plus fans going to the World Cup in Qatar this year, the Gulf state said Thursday. But players and match officials may be forced into a secure "bio-bubble" if Covid-19 cases take off again, with the threat of expulsion from the tournament for those who breach the secure environment, the health ministry said. The 29-day tournament will be the first major global sporting event with fans since the eruption in December 2019 of the Covid pandemic, which has since killed more than six million people. Qatari organisers, who have predicted that more than one million people will pack Doha for the matches, and football's governing body, FIFA, have said they want the event to be a sign the world is getting over the devastating pandemic. But Qatar's health ministry warned in its World Cup guidelines that special measures would be ordered "in the event of a worsening pandemic situation in the country", such as the emergence of a threatening new variant. With Covid-19 currently considered under control, "there will be no vaccination requirement for participants and visit-

ing spectators," the ministry said. All visitors aged over six will have to produce negative Covid-19 tests before taking flights to Qatar for the tournament that starts November 20. Fans will have to wear masks in public transport but authorities are only recommending the use of masks at the eight stadiums in the Doha region where matches will be played. Anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 in Qatar will have to isolate for five days, the guidelines added.

BIO-BUBBLE READY

Organisers and FIFA are most worried about the first two weeks of the tournament when four matches a day are planned and the peak number of supporters from the 32 competing nations will be packing stadiums, fan zones and tourist spots. Some estimates say there could be up to 350,000 visiting fans in Doha at the same time during the weekend of November 26-27. Officials say Doha airport and the city's roads will be facing peak pressure that weekend. Because of the pressure on accommodation, only fans with tickets can enter Qatar from November 1, though each person with a ticket is allowed to invite three guests. Each person entering the country must download a special fan pass, a Hayya card, and Qatar's anti-Covid health application, Ehteraz. The app has to be shown at the entrance to metro stations and most shopping malls. "If metro stations and malls want to check the app, then people need to be ready for some queues," said one tourism consultant who is advising a major chain of hotels in Qatar. Other measures may also be difficult to enforce because of the sheer numbers, experts said. The ministry is recommending a one metre (three feet) space between diners in cafes and restaurants.

MAX: I DON'T REALLY THINK ABOUT C'SHIP



AP ■ SINGAPORE

Max Verstappen on Thursday said he thinks he is "quite a long shot" to retain his Formula One world championship at this weekend's Singapore Grand Prix, even though it is mathematically possible. Red Bull driver Verstappen, who will celebrate his 25th birthday on Friday, is running away with the title battle but must win Sunday's race and then depend on his closest rivals faltering, or the fight will move on to Japan the following week. "I don't really think about the championship," said the dominant Dutchman, who has won 11 of 16 races in 2022 and the last five in a row. "It's quite a long shot and I just want to enjoy the weekend and of course try to win it," he told

reporters.

"I need a lot of luck for it to happen here so I don't really count on it." Verstappen admitted he knew the scenario required for him to secure back-to-back championships. "I need to win and Checo (Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez) needs to finish fourth or lower and (Ferrari's) Charles (Leclerc) eighth or lower. "So I mean it's a bit unrealistic for it to happen, so I don't really think about it," he said. Verstappen said he was more concerned about the single-lap pace of the Red Bull at Singapore, where qualifying in pole position is crucial on a track where it is almost impossible to overtake. "We really need to focus over one lap. This year we've never really been incredible over one lap," he said. "We've always been good in the race but around here we know that

one-lap performance is very important." Verstappen has never won Singapore's spectacular night race, which is returning to the calendar for the first time since 2019 because of Covid. The nature of the city centre circuit and Singapore's tropical heat and humidity means it is the most demanding venue on the calendar, both physically and mentally. Every running of the Singapore Grand Prix has featured a safety car and the race requires huge powers of concentration. There are no long straights to give drivers a breather and concrete walls line the bumpy tarmac ready to punish the slightest error. "We haven't been to Singapore for a while so it will be interesting to see how the track has evolved," said Verstappen, who has a 116-point lead

Hamilton 'feels for fans' as Verstappen runs away with title

AP ■ SINGAPORE

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton on Thursday said that he feels for the fans with Max Verstappen on the cusp of wrapping up the world championship early at this weekend's Singapore Grand Prix. Last year's title chase saw Verstappen pip Hamilton on the very last lap of a controversial final race of 2021 in Abu Dhabi. But Verstappen can clinch his second successive world championship for Red Bull on Sunday night with five races to spare if he claims a sixth consecutive win and his rivals finish down the field. After some patchy results in the first three races of 2022, after which Verstappen found himself 46 points behind Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc, the Dutchman has dominated. Verstappen has won 11 of 17 races and now has an almost unassailable 116-point lead over Leclerc with just six grands prix to go. "I definitely feel for the fans because, even for us, last year going right down to the wire was intense for everybody," said Hamilton, who has struggled all season in his Mercedes and is himself out of the championship running. "So it's never great when the season finishes early," he said. The 37-year-old Briton said he was "grateful" to have his 2008 season -- when he won his first world title -- right down to the last 17 seconds. "And obviously last year, pretty much much the same thing. Let's

hope for the future, it's a bit better," he said. Hamilton has grappled all season with a car that has suffered from instability over bumps and bouncing at high speed. But he said the team now understands the new 2022 car "100 percent" better than at the season's previous street races at Monaco and Baku, and that gives him hope for this weekend. "We've learned a huge amount about the car," he said. "I think we're very fortunate that we're in a much better place than I think we have ever been. So I hope we are not that far away. "We hope that the car works better here but it really depends how bumpy it is. The bumps often set the car off and upset the car in a lot of instances. We do know it will be bumpy. "They have resurfaced some parts of the circuit so hopefully it is not as bouncy as before. Maybe the car will be fine, maybe it won't." Hamilton is looking to keep his proud record of winning at least one race in every season since his debut for McLaren in 2007. "For me, we've still got six races, I'm still enjoying the challenge and proud of the strength and the growth in our team," he said. "Just seeing how hard everyone works is for me the most inspiring thing. Trying to come up with solutions, trying to crack the code. That's really impressive because it's just relentless. "I have no expectations at all, just going to try and have the best weekend with whatever we are faced with."

UWW gives 18 World C'ship quotas for Paris Olympics to World Qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The top-five and not top-six wrestlers at the World Championships will earn quota places for the 2024 Paris Games in each of the 18 weight categories, as the world governing body UWW has announced changes to the qualification process for the Olympics. The 18 quota places taken away from the 2023 World Championships, the first event offering quotas, have been added to the World Qualifiers, which will be the last chance for wrestlers to secure spots for the Paris Games. United World Wrestling (UWW) President Nenad Lalovic was quoted as saying by the official website of the world governing body on Wednesday that the changes are aimed at creating "further fairness in the distribution between the World Championships and the World Qualifiers." The World Championships is set to be held in Russia from September 16-24. Apart from the 2023 World Championships, the continental qualifiers (Asia, Africa, Pan-America, European) in 2024, and the 2024 World Olympics Qualifiers will also



offer quota for the Games.

Earlier, 108 quotas were awarded at the World Championships (six per Olympic weight) but now 90 quota places will be on offer. From India Bajrang Punia (65kg), Ravi Dahiya (57kg), Deepak Punia (86kg) and Vinesh Phogat (53kg) had qualified for the Tokyo Games through the 2019 World Championships in Nur Sultan while Anshu Malik (57kg), Sonam Malik

(62kg) had qualified through the Asian event in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Heavyweight wrestler Sumit Malik (125kg) had qualified through the World Qualifiers in Sofia, Bulgaria. In Russia next year, all four medalists (gold, silver and two bronze winners) will secure the quotas for their respective nations and the two bronze medal play-offs losers will contest for the fifth spot.

A total of 144 wrestlers will qualify for the Paris Games through the continental qualifying events (Asian, African, Pan-American and European). The top two wrestlers in each Olympic weight class will get one spot each for their NOCs. The quota winners at the 2023 World Championships will not be eligible to participate in the continental qualifiers unless they participate in a different style. At the World Olympic Qualifiers, three quotas in each Olympic weight class instead of the two previously will be at stake. Not just the gold and silver medal winners will secure quotas but the bronze medal winners will also get a chance to qualify for the Olympics. The bronze winners will fight it out for the quota in each of the 18 categories. Unused quotas due to withdrawal, doping offence, or non-participation, will be transferred to the next best wrestler of that weight category of the tournament. The deadline for the Olympic Games entries will be July 8, 2024. The wrestling competition will be held from August 4-11.

PM Modi declares 36th National Games open

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The 36th National Games was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a glittering opening ceremony here on Thursday evening in the presence of over 100,000 ecstatic spectators. In keeping with the Olympic convention, but with a modern twist, Gujarat's swimming star Maana Patel brought in the symbolic Torch of Unity into the arena and handed it over to the Prime Minister. Watched and applauded by several current and past sports icons, including Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, Olympic medalists PV Sindhu, Ravi Dahiya, Mirabai Chanu, Gagan Narang, former national hockey captain and new HI chief Dilip Tirkey along with World Championship medallist Anju Bobby George, the Prime Minister placed the Torch on the podium for it to be lit by augmented reality. When the PM rose to speak, a roar as loud as thousand lions echoed in the stadium, underlining his continued popularity in the state. "This sight, this ambience can't be described in words. In the world's biggest stadium, one of the world's youngest countries is witnessing India's biggest sports festival," he said.



Messi's form gives Nice defenders reason to fear PSG trip

AP ■ PARIS

Nice's defenders must be hoping their former coach Christophe Galtier is kind enough to rest Lionel Messi for Saturday's game at Paris Saint-Germain. Messi's two goals for Argentina against Jamaica on Wednesday — a typical solo goal followed by a free kick — made it nine goals in his past three games for the national team, taking his international tally to 90. So far this season Messi has four goals and a league-high seven assists for league leader PSG and his partnership with Neymar is looking much like their Barcelona days from 2013-17. "We have known each other for a long time, by heart, since Barcelona," Messi told sports channel TUDN in an interview this week. "We are happy to be together. I love playing with him." With Messi serving up scoring chances galore thanks to his rare vision of the game and exquisite passing, it is perhaps no surprise that Neymar is leading the league with eight goals and that France star Kylian Mbappé is next with seven. None of which is good news for a Nice side languishing in 13th place; weakened during the offseason by the sale of key forward Amine Gouiri to Rennes and by Galtier's departure to PSG after Mauricio Pochettino was fired. A rash of late summer signings seemed like a quick fix and

created an imbalance to the side that Nice coach Lucien Favre has yet to resolve. Losing Galtier after just one season in charge was a big blow. His arrival at PSG surprised some observers, as it marked a significant shift away from the club's habit of chasing big-name, fan-pleasing coaches. Galtier's credentials were etched in fact rather than any illustrious reputation. After all, he is a three-time French league manager of the year. He knocked PSG off its perch when he led Lille to the league title against the odds in 2021, before joining Nice and sending PSG out of the French Cup in Paris. In a combined five games as Lille and Nice coach, Galtier's sides were unbeaten against PSG without conceding a goal. A remarkable statistic considering the firepower PSG has, and proof of Galtier's shrewd tactical sense. The fact Galtier's made such a fine start to this campaign, with seven wins and a draw, is also because he knew just how to eliminate the same PSG weaknesses he had exploited. "I worked a lot on PSG's last season and previous seasons. I also had a lot of my own analysis on PSG," Galtier said. "I worked to find the best system possible to really bring out the incredible qualities of the players." That has certainly worked with Messi and also with Neymar, who is fitter, leaner and hungrier than for many years.

Injury-hit Barca visit Mallorca with hole in defence

AP ■ BARCELONA

When Xavi Hernández oversaw the remodeling of Barcelona's squad this summer, the coach made sure he was so well covered at right-back that his club could afford to loan out United States defender Sergiño Dest to AC Milan. But after a spate of injuries that has decimated Barcelona over the international break, Xavi may have a huge hole in his defense ahead of Sunday's game at Mallorca. Jules Koundé, Ronald Araújo and Héctor Bellerín, who have played at right back this season, are all out for an undetermined period of time. Koundé and Araújo, who can play at center back as well, were hurt while playing for France and Uruguay, respectively, in games to prepare for the World

Cup in November. Bellerín hurt his left leg while training for Barcelona. That leaves Barcelona waiting to see if veteran Sergi Roberto can recover from a muscle problem that has sidelined him for three weeks in time for the trip to the Balearic Islands. If not, Xavi may be forced to shoehorn a player with little or no experience at right back into the position, draft a player from Barcelona's youth team, or opt to play with three center-backs and two wing backs. Barcelona will also be without midfielder Frankie de Jong and forward Memphis Depay after they were both hurt while playing for the Netherlands. Neither has been a first-choice player for Xavi this season. Of the injuries, Araújo's appears to be the most serious. The 23-year-old defender



underwent surgery this week in Finland to repair an abductor muscle in his right thigh that he damaged in Uruguay's 1-0 loss to Iran on Friday. Over the next three weeks, Barcelona faces two Champions League group games against Inter Milan and a clásico against

Real Madrid on October 16. The only good news for Xavi is that Robert Lewandowski returned in perfect shape from his stint with Poland. The striker leads the Spanish league with eight goals in six games. Mallorca, coached by

Mexican Javier Aguirre, has lost 12 of the last 13 visits by Barcelona to its stadium. Its only win during that stretch came in 2009 with Barcelona already crowned the league champion. **BENZEMA BACK** Karim Benzema is back for Real Madrid after recovering from a tendon injury and a strained muscle in his right thigh that had kept him off the field for over three weeks. Benzema led Madrid to the Champions League and Spanish league double last season after scoring 44 goals in all competitions. But his team has not missed him much and has kept up its perfect record this season of nine wins in as many games in all competitions. Carlo Ancelotti's side leads the league by two points ahead

of Barcelona before it hosts fifth-placed Osasuna on Sunday. "I'm feeling very good, comfortable. I'm looking forward to the game on Sunday," Benzema said. "We've got a great team, although it could be said that we've got two teams. There's no difference between those who start the game and those who come on." A struggling Sevilla faces a tough test when it visits Atlético Madrid on Saturday. Pressure is growing on coach Julen Lopetegui and the club's leadership, which sold off talented players this summer, after the team has won just once in eight games overall. Third-place Real Betis plays at Celta Vigo on Sunday, while fourth-place Athletic Bilbao hosts Almería on Friday.

BUMRAH RULED OUT OF T20 WC

Jasprit will be forced out of action for six months due to a back injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was on Thursday ruled out of the T20 World Cup due to a back stress fracture, dealing a massive blow to team's chances at the ICC flagship event starting next month in Australia.

A BCCI official told PTI that Bumrah will be forced out of action for six months due to the back injury. "Bumrah is not going to play the T20 World Cup for sure. He has a serious back condition. It's a stress fracture and he could be out for a period of six months," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Stress fracture is a tiny crack in the bone, caused by overuse and is common in sports persons. When stress reaction (bone bruise) goes undetected for a considerable time, it develops into stress fracture.

Almost 50 per cent of sports injuries are caused by stress fractures.

Back stress fractures do not require surgery but a lot of time to heal. Rest is best solution to treat stress fractures.

It is understood that either Deepak Chahar or Mohammed Shami could replace Bumrah in the main squad. Both were named as stand-by players for the prestigious tournament by the BCCI.

Bumrah, who played the second and third T20 against Australia, had travelled with the team to Thiruvananthapuram for the series-opener against South Africa but left for Bengaluru to be at National Cricket Academy (NCA) for rehabilitation.

The 28-year-old fast bowler is the second senior star player to be ruled out after Ravindra Jadeja, who is recovering from a knee surgery.

The Indian team is already looking unsettled at the moment and



Bumrah's injury has only compounded the woes for skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid.

"Losing Bumrah and Jadeja will be huge for India. We didn't expect that things will pan out as they have. He was rested for the Asia Cup precisely to manage his workload management. Now it remains a question if he was

even fit enough to play the Australia series," the senior official said.

Many senior players have been given adequate rest, keeping in mind their workload.

What is more interesting is the fact that Bumrah has played only five Tests, five ODIs and as many T20Is in 2022 apart from IPL games for

Mumbai Indians.

"That's not a lot of cricket, considering that he was rested for Asia Cup, West Indies tour and also some of the bilateral cricket played in India. That's a lot of rest.

"As of now he is at the NCA and the rehab will be a long and arduous one. Yes, World T20 is important but

he is still young and India's biggest bowling asset. You can't take risk with him," the official said.

Bumrah, who has a slinging action, puts a lot of pressure on his back during loading. Former West Indies pace bowler great Michael Holding had assessed that Bumrah was always a candidate for back injuries.



Arshdeep's focus is on adaptability ahead of T20 World Cup

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Young India left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh said "adaptability" is the main focus of the team ahead of the T20 World Cup, starting next month in Australia.

The T20 World Cup will be held in Australia from October 16 to November 13, and Arshdeep said the Indian bowlers are geared up for the tough challenge that awaits them.

"Adaptability is the big motive of our team. The main motive is adapting to the situations and demands of the team, whatever the situations and conditions are," said the 23-year-old pacer, who made a sensational comeback after a disappointing outing in the Asia Cup recently.

"When we go there (Australia) we will see how the conditions are. I'm looking forward to doing well."

Arshdeep (3/32) and Deepak Chahar (2/24) broke South Africa's backbone to help India register an easy eight-wicket win over the Proteas in the low-scoring first T20I.

"We are trying to tick all the boxes in the practice sessions and trying to execute all our plans on the field. Today (Wednesday) was really a good example of showing a good power play bowling and we are looking forward to do amazing things in the coming days," Arshdeep said at the post-match presentation.

The left-arm pacer, a key arsenal in India's death bowling scheme of things for the ICC showpiece next month, missed the preceding three T20Is against Australia after he was sent to the NCA for conditioning.

"The purpose of the last 10 days was to get refreshed and come back stronger and fitter that will help me in my bowling. I feel really refreshed and look-

ing forward to doing good things on the field," Arshdeep said after his exploits with the ball.

Bowling with the new ball in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep came back with a bang, grabbing three wickets in five balls to reduce South Africa to 8 for 4 inside the second over.

Arshdeep, who made his debut in the tour of England in July this year, said he always strives to give his best on the field without bothering about selection.

"They told me you're 'in the plan' back end of the IPL, that I'm in the scene... I guess the main motive was to keep doing well whatever opportunities I get, that's my job and I don't think much about the selection part," he said.

Arshdeep had a forgettable Asia Cup campaign in the UAE, where he struggled to get wickets in the power-play and also made headlines for dropping a sitter in their loss to Pakistan in the 'Super 4' stage.

But with some assistance from the Greenfield track, he dismissed Quinton de Kock, Rilee Rossouw and David Miller in the second over to silence his critics.

"Getting the wickets early on was always a great feeling. The plan was really simple, the ball was swinging. I had to pitch it in the right places and it worked well. It was about hitting the right areas and making sure the line was good."

He also credited his senior teammate Chahar for holding up the pressure from the other end.

"We practice in every type of situation, our job is to adapt to the situations and do well for the team. Today (Wednesday) it was more about the new ball and we worked really well as a pair, a lot of credit goes to DC bhais as well," he signed off.



Rauf sends warning to India ahead of T20 WC opener

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf is banking on his knowledge gained from the Big Bash League to outsmart Indian batters in the marquee clash of the T20 World Cup at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on October 23.

The arch-rivals, who don't play bilateral series due to geo-political tensions, will clash for a fourth time in one year at the MCG.

"If I give my best, they won't be able to play me easily. For the upcoming World Cup match, I'm very happy because it is at the Melbourne Cricket Ground," Rauf, who plays for Melbourne Stars in the BBL, said in the post-match interaction after their six-run win over England.

"It is my home ground because I play for the Melbourne Stars, and I have an idea of how the conditions play out there. I've already started planning on how I would bowl against India," he said.

Pakistan took a 3-2 series lead in the seven-match T20I

series here on Wednesday.

Pakistan defeated India by 10 wickets — for the first time in a world tournament — in the last edition of the T20I World Cup in UAE. But recently in the Asia Cup, India secured a clinical five-wicket win before losing to Pakistan in the 'Super 4' stage.

The 28-year-old fed the Indian batters with short-pitch deliveries as he returned wicketless in their first match of the Asia Cup. But in the Super 4 stage, he accounted for the key wicket of India skipper Rohit Sharma.

The 28-year-old ended the Asia Cup with eight wickets from six matches. But in the ongoing series he's been at his best, leading the tally with eight wickets from five matches.

"The match between India and Pakistan is always a high-pressure game. In the World Cup last year, I was feeling so much pressure. But in the past two matches in the Asia Cup, I didn't feel much of it because I knew I just had to give my best," Rauf added.

SKY is now India's highest run-scorer in T20Is in single calendar year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Suryakumar Yadav's status as India's best T20I batter in recent times has been reaffirmed as he became the highest scorer in a single calendar year with 732 runs, surpassing Shikhar Dhawan's 689 back in 2018.

Suryakumar, who scored one of his finest T20I half-centuries against South Africa on a seaming track in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday, is only 24 runs short of completing 1000 runs in the format.

His strike-rate in 2022 is a whopping 180.29, while his career strike-rate is a stagger-

ing 173.35 across 32 games. He has already hit 57 sixes and 88 boundaries in his career so far.

Coming onto bat at No.4 position in the first T20I against South Africa with India being reduced to 17/2 in the seventh over, Suryakumar hit two sixes off his first three balls to give the innings a change in momentum after a slow start.

He remained unbeaten on 50 off 33 balls as India scaled the target with more than three overs to spare and eight wickets in hand.

With the two sixes early in the innings, Suryakumar also went past Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan to record the most sixes in any calendar



year in T20Is. Rizwan held the record for his 42 sixes in 2021 with Martin Guptill also smashing 41 sixes in the same year.

Suryakumar has taken his tally of sixes to 45 in 2022 already, a record in all T20Is, with three more months to widen the gap with Rizwan.

While Rizwan took 26 innings to hit 42 sixes, Suryakumar has broken the record batting five times fewer.

Suryakumar is up to second position in the latest MRF Tyres ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings with 801 rating points after his half-century in the third and final T20I against Australia in Hyderabad.

SA need to find ways to combat new ball: Maharaj

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

South Africa left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj feels the Proteas need to re-assess how to combat the new ball which swung 'prodigiously' in the first few overs of the series opener against India.

South Africa's batting unit crumbled as Indian seamers Arshdeep Singh (3/32) and Deepak Chahar (2/24) swung the ball both ways to set up an eight-wicket win for the hosts in the first T20I here on Wednesday night.

"I don't think it's a chapter we need to dwell too much on. However, we do need to chat about how we started," Maharaj said at the post-match press conference.



"The application we saw upfront, we need to re-assess that and find ways to combat the swing. The ball did swing prodigiously in the first couple of overs.

Maharaj, who top-scored for the visitors with a 35-ball 41, feels some adjustment and a change in mindset could help them combat the swing.

"Something that we need to address is the new ball, the way

we are playing it, there is a lot of swing in it. So maybe just adjust our plan and mindset and take it from there," he added.

South Africa were reeling at 9/5 within the first three overs before Aiden Markram (25) and Wayne Parnell (24) steadied the ship before Maharaj took them over the 100-run mark.

"We didn't expect the ball to swing so prodigiously. It wasn't an easy wicket to bat on, it was two paced, the odd balls skidded through, a lot of tennis ball bounce at various points," Maharaj said.

"I don't think we want to dwell too much on what has transpired, but it is something that we can address going forward and hopefully we can rectify that," he added.

Buttler & Moeen Ali not in favour of running out batters at non-striker's end

PTI ■ LONDON

England white ball captain Jos Buttler and his deputy Moeen Ali said that running out a non-striker for backing too is not 'their thing' and that they would rather call the player back if any of their teammates used it as a mode of dismissal.

Custodians of the laws of cricket MCC have re-affirmed that a non-striker's run out while backing up is within the laws of the game but there has been no end to the debate in the aftermath of the third and final women's ODI between India and England where Deepti Sharma ran out Charlie Dean to complete clean sweep for visitors.

"No, I am calling the batsman back," the 32-year-old Buttler, who is recovering from a calf injury ahead of the World Cup, told *TalkSPORT*.



Incidentally, in IPL 2019, Buttler was at the receiving end as Rajasthan Royals opener when he was dismissed in a similar fashion by veteran Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Aswhin, who was back then playing for Kings XI Punjab.

"No one wants to see them (mode of dismissal) in the game because they always create such a talking point when it should be about the battle between bat and

ball and watching great games of cricket. They always seem to happen at unsavoury times."

Moeen, the stand-in captain in their current T20I series against Pakistan, echoed similar sentiments: "No, it's not my thing."

"I don't think I'll ever do it unless I was really angry with someone. It's in the laws and there's nothing illegal so people that do it have the right, but I just

hope it doesn't become a common thing, or something that's regularly done," Moeen told the *Telegraph*.

"You are not really working to get a wicket. At least with a run-out, there's a bit of work that has to be done, and with all the other dismissals. This is just waiting for the guy and taking the bails off. Even when I played cricket as a kid in the garden, it's not my thing to do."

The mode of dismissal currently listed in the MCC's 'Unfair Play' section of the laws (41.16.1) is to be moved to the 'Run Out' section from October 1, when an update to the ICC Playing Conditions comes into effect.

"Whilst (the dismissal) was indeed an unusual end to an exciting match, it was properly officiated and should not be considered as anything more," a statement from the MCC has said earlier.

Naseem Shah tests positive for Covid

AP ■ LAHORE

Pakistan fast bowler Naseem Shah has tested positive for COVID-19 and will miss the remaining two T20s against England, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Thursday.

Shah was discharged from hospital on Thursday after being diagnosed with pneumonia and the PCB said the fast bowler was feeling "much better."

"Shah is back in the team hotel where he will follow all COVID-19 protocols," the PCB said in a statement.

Pakistan is due to leave for New Zealand next Monday to participate in a triangular T20 series also featuring Bangladesh. The PCB didn't clarify whether the fast bowler will accompany the team to New Zealand.

Shah played only one game in the seven-match series against England in Karachi.

Wicket was tricky, it was nice to play a game like that: Rohit



PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Skipper Rohit Sharma said the Indian team got to "learn a lot" while chasing a meagre target on a "tricky track" in the series-opener against South Africa.

Suryakumar Yadav's unbeaten 50 off 33 balls got India over the line despite KL Rahul's struggles on a track where South Africa were left tottering at 9/5 at the start of the game on Wednesday.

"The wicket was tricky. You learn a lot playing such a game. You understand what the team needs to do in tough conditions. It was nice to play a game like that," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"We knew the bowlers will get something seeing grass on the pitch, but we didn't expect help for the full 20 overs."

Rohit admitted that the pitch was a bit damp and that kept South Africa in the hunt despite a paltry score of 106/8.

"It was damp. Both teams were in the contest and the team that played better won the game. We started well, got five wickets in quick time and that was the

turning point. It was a perfect showcase of how to bowl when there is help for the pacers."

While Rahul scored a half-century (51) off 56 balls, Rohit said conditions need to be respected.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy. Got to respect the conditions. Lost two wickets and that partnership between KL and Surya got us home."

'SURYA'S HELP'

KL Rahul, whose scratchy batting got papered over by Suryakumar Yadav's regal half-century, said that his partner's attacking intent allowed him to take his own time.

It was because of Rahul's struggles that India scored only 17 runs in six Powerplay overs but Surya's imperious form didn't allow South Africa to make a comeback.

"Definitely, right up there (as the toughest pitch)," Rahul said when asked if it was the toughest strip he has batted on in T20Is.

"We have played in some difficult conditions like this but I haven't got runs. So this was hard work."

He was all praise for Surya's approach.

"It was unbelievable for Surya to come out there and play those shots. We have seen how balls were flying, nipping around, two-paced and everything that can be hard for a batter that was the wicket today."

"And for Surya to come with that approach after the first ball that hit him, he just woke up and wanted to play his shots, be aggressive and take on the bowling. That helped me take my time and play one end."

Rahul also praised young Arshdeep Singh, whose three wickets in his first over set-up the game.

"He's (Arshdeep) growing with each game and with each outing he gets better, he is somebody who has a big heart and I have seen him in close quarters while playing in the IPL. This season what he did for his franchise was phenomenal and to be the number one death bowler in a team (Punjab Kings) which has Rabada speaks highly of him."

"We always want a left-arm seamer and it is great to have someone like Arshdeep," he said.