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

Late City Vol. 11 Issue 261
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RAIPUR, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



INDIA BEAT ENG
BY 88 RUNS IN
SECOND ODI
11 SPORT

NIA, ED swoop on 93 PFI spots in 15 States

Raids on charges of terror funding, radicalisation, supporting ISIS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

laundering and links with banned groups, informed officials said.

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

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

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

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

Shah discusses action on PFI, terror suspects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

RSS chief visits mosque, madrasa in Muslim outreach

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

"Bhagwat visited on my invitation today. He's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

One man, one post, says Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/KOCHI

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

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

Rahul upheld the "one-man, one-post" stand in line with the Udaipur Declaration.

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

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

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

Punjab calls House session, to move SC against Guv order

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fortis ex-promoters get 6 months jail for sale of shares

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



Popocatepetl volcano puffs ash, seen from Cholula, Mexico on Thursday

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

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

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

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

The briefing, chaired by French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna, was held Thursday as



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with other dignitaries during the 10th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, in New York, USA

world leaders gathered in the UN headquarters for the 77th session of the UNGA.

Addressing the Council briefing were UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chinese Foreign

Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs James Cleverly and Foreign Ministers of other UNSC members.

US reiterates support for India as UNSC permanent member

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

Earlier on Wednesday, President Joe Biden in his address at the UN General Assembly reiterated his commitment to reforming the UN Security Council. Biden said he believes the time has come for the institution to become more inclusive



so that it can better respond to the needs of today's world.

Members of the UN Security Council, including the United States, should consistently uphold and defend the United Nations Charter and refrain from the use of veto, except in rare and extraordinary

situations, to ensure that the Council remains credible and effective, he said.

"That is also why the United States supports increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent representatives of the Council. This includes permanent seats

for those nations we've long supported," Biden said.

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

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

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

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

CAPSULE

6.8 MAGNITUDE QUAKE SHAKES MEXICO, 2 DEAD

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

MUMBAI REPORTS 98 COVID CASES, 2 DEATHS

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

RAIN LASHES DELHI; ROAD CAVES IN, TRAFFIC JAMS

New Delhi: A portion of a road caved in as incessant rains pounded Delhi leading to waterlogging and uprooting of trees that caused massive traffic snarls in many parts of the capital on Thursday.

In Jajpur Blind man's musical appeal to DM goes viral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ BHUBANESWAR

A blind man's appeal to the Collector for a house and a homestead land has grabbed the attention of the local administration after a video of his making the demand through self-composed songs has gone viral on social media in Jajpur district.

For the visually-challenged Prafulla Kumar Das, who belongs to Ragadi village under Korei block, using his musical streak to reach out to the Collector was a last resort after other ways failed to get his demand met.

Prafulla had the knack of stringing words into poetry. He used to turn the most



mundane of conversations into songs and play those with his harmonium. But after losing his eyesight, he faced odds of leading a normal life and started earning his livelihood by playing a harmonium and singing songs composed by him. As the money he earned through this only means was paltry, he

has been running from pillar to post demanding Government support for a house but to no avail.

Left with no option, he decided to turn to his only means of expression, music, as a means to voice his demand. He recently composed a song for the Collector in which he appeals for a land and a house.

Lecture 'Gandhi in 21st Century' at Ganjam College

PNS ■ CHHATRAPUR

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 153rd birth anniversary, an Extramural Lecture "Gandhi in 21st Century: An Ethical Talk" was organised at the Ganjam College with Satya Narayan Sahu, former Press Secretary to former President KR Narayanan as keynote speaker.

This programme was presided over by college Principal Dr Pravin Kumar Nanda. Head of Political Science Department Amar Prasad Bishoyee introduced Satya Narayan Sahu as a talented person who has compiled the essence of Gandhi's personality, achievements and biography. Thus, his speech discusses how



Gandhi's vision is useful for the 20th century, giving a comprehensive account of the importance of the word 'Swarajya' to protect and respect women in society.

Sahu said Gandhi published an article titled "A culture of tree plantation" in 1925 to solve the water shortage in Gujarat and

gave a speech in 1947 about "Rainwater harvesting" to solve the food grain problem at the Delhi prayer meeting.

Sahu, as a true Gandhian, filed a complaint in 1977 in the Supreme Court against the Jayshree Chemical for decontamination of water, air and soil.

IN BRIEF

FORMER CHHATRAPUR MLA SETHI PASSES AWAY (Pix)

Chhatrapur: Former Chhatrapur MLA Adikanda Sethi passed away at Khallikote in Ganjam district on Thursday. He was 70. Sethi had been admitted to the Khallikote Community Health Centre after he complained of chest pain. He died while undergoing treatment. Sethi was elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly in 2009 as a CPI candidate. He had later joined the BJD.



+2 FIRST YEAR CLASSES START

Bhubaneswar: Classes for +2 First Year students for the 2022-23 academic session started at higher secondary schools in the State on Thursday. Initially, induction classes will be held till September 24. The higher secondary schools have been asked by the state government to conduct separate stream-wise induction classes. Around 3.7 lakh students have taken admission in the first year so far. Form fill up will continue till September 27. The merit list for the second phase will be published on October 1 while the admission will take place between October 11 and 13. The admission process will be over by October 22. The seat strength for this year is around 5.07 lakh.

ODISHA-AP BORDER: MAOIST EXPLOSIVE DUMP UNEARTHED

Koraput: A joint team of the Special Operations Group (SOG) and District Voluntary Force (DVF) of Odisha police on Wednesday conducted an anti-Maoist operation in the tri-junction area of Koraput and Malkangiri of Odisha and Alluri Sitaram Raju district of Andhra Pradesh and recovered an explosive dump in a forest area. The operation led to the seizure of a large quantity of explosives, Rs 70,000 in cash and other articles. "We suspect that these explosives and other articles belong to the Maoist cadres of Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee," a police officer said.



CLASS-II BOY'S DEAD BODY FOUND IN ATHMALLIK

Athmallik: A dead body of a Class-II student was recovered from Pokanda village under the Thakurgarh police station of Athmallik subdivision on Wednesday. The deceased Suman (8) was the son of Loknath Nayak of the village. On Tuesday, Loknath had lodged a police complaint that Suman was missing after returning from school. But next day, the boy's body was found floating in his backyard well. Suman's death still remained a mystery. When asked, Athmallik DSP Chintamani Padhan said police have started an investigation into the incident and the truth would be known after postmortem report.



AM/NS INDIA CONDUCTS MOCK DRILL

Paradip: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) conducted a full-scale disaster management mock drill in the premises of its pellet plant here to improve the emergency preparedness at the plant. The on-site management team comprising safety officers and coordinators exhibited a synchronised effort to contain fire in high speed diesel and conveyor system. G Suresha, Executive Director, Odisha Asset, AM/NS India, said, "Emergency preparedness must be adopted inside plant premises to avoid and control any unforeseen situation."



FARMERS' TRAINING AT IFFCO

Paradip: A farmer training and visit programme was held at the Farmers' Training Center in Paradip IFFCO unit on Wednesday. It was discussed and explained to the farmers about the importance and use of IFFCO's Nano urea, DAP, Sagarika, WSF, Biofertiliser and IPM of paddy. HB Movva, JGM, IFFCO; Kulamani Majhi, Chairman, Cordet; SK Jena, Senior GM, Training; and Prasanna Kumar Beura, PRO, IFFCO, along with 80 progressive farmers, attended the programme. The farmers were informed about improved of paddy cultivation and production of fertilisers. Biofertiliser were distributed to the farmers.



INTER BATTALION SPORTS AT NDRF MUNDALI

Athagarh: The NDRF Inter Battalion/Zonal Badminton, Canine and Collapsed Structure Search & Rescue competition's opening ceremony was held at the 03rd Bn NDRF Mundali began on Wednesday and will continue till September 28. Sr



Commandant of 03rd Bn NDRF Jacob Kispotta inaugurated the ceremony. Approximately 110 personnel of 03rd Bn, 04th Bn NDRF Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu, 5th Bn NDRF Pune and 10th Bn NDRF Vijayawada participated.

In Kendrapada Drug seized; 3 held in separate cases

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

Excise officials on Thursday conducted a raid at Chahapada (Matia) village under the Patamundai police station in Kendrapada district and seized 36 grams of heroin.

They arrested a drug peddler identified as Kuna Mallick (46) in this connection. The officials also seized cash of Rs 12,000 from his possession.

Later, he was forwarded to court and sent to judicial

custody after his bail plea was rejected.

In another incident, excise officials on Wednesday arrested two drug peddlers and seized 44 gram of brown sugar from their possessions, while they were peddling the contraband at Chhagharia on the NH-5(A). The arrested duo were identified as Dharmendra Khatua (33), and Suman Ojha (36), of Ghodabandha village under the Marshghai police station.

Lapses under RTI Act ABDO, PEO fined Rs 5K each in K'pada

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

A former ABDO of Garadapur block and PEO of Madhusasan GP were fined Rs 5,000 each by the Odisha Information Commission (OIC) for failing to provide information as per the RTI Act.

Suvranta Kumar Mohanty of Naganpur village on September 22, 2016 had filed a petition before the Public Information Officer (PIO) of Garadapur block through

RTI Act seeking details of developmental work carried out in Madhusasan GP in 2015-16 FY under the 4th Finance Commission funds. But he failed to obtain information within the stipulated time.

Later, he filed petition before the BDO, who is the first Appellate Authority, on

November 2, 2016. But here also, he failed to get information. Lastly, he approached the Odisha Information Commission on February 10, 2017, alleging that not only the Block authorities failed to provide him information in stipulated time but also he was asked to pay Rs 500 in lieu of getting the information he sought, which was a violation of the RTI Act that mandates sharing of information free of cost.

During hearing, former ABDO -cum- the PIO of Garadapur block Debendra Nath Swain informed the OIC Commissioner that the petitioner denied to receive information, whereas PEO of Madhusasan GP Binaylaxmi Mallick informed that due to her sickness, she failed to provide information.

Vedanta sensitises students on ozone



PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

On the World Ozone Day, the Vedanta Aluminium conducted an awareness campaign for students at Jharsuguda, in association with the Regional Office of Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) and DAV Public School, Jharsuguda.

The campaign aimed at sensitising the students on ozone depletion, its impact on the climate and individual responsibility, aligned to this year's theme of 'Montreal Protocol@35: Global Cooperation Protecting Life on Earth'.

Regional Officer of OSPCB Er HK Nayak graced the occasion along with deputy environment scientists AK

Bhoi and Anusha Ekka. Principal of DAV Public School, Jharsuguda, Prashant Kumar Panda and District Session Judge, Women's Court, Jaipur, Anjali Machhkhanda were also present on the occasion.

The company also conducted various awareness drives across its operations in the subsequent days that reached out to hundreds of employees and business partners, reiterating the company's commitment to de-carbonisation of its operations in the long run.

Employees and business partners took a climate action pledge and were sensitized on ways to reduce carbon footprint at the operations to preserve the ozone layer.

UCCI holds Rural Livelihood Summit

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (UCCI) along with the HDFC Bank Parivartan and the Grant Thornton Bharat LLP as knowledge partner organised a 'Rural Livelihood Summit' here on Wednesday. UCCI president Brahma Mishra highlighted the immediacy of holding such a workshop in Odisha.

Principal Advisor to Chief Minister of Odisha Asit Tripathi; Chairman of Commission of Doubling Farmers Income, Government of India Dr Ashok Dalwai; Special Secretary, State Department of



Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Sanjeev Kumar Chadha; Utkal University Vice-Chancellor Prof Sabita Acharya; Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology VC Prof Pravat Kumar Rouli; and Grant Thornton Bharat Partner Prof V Padmanand offered their inputs in the inaugural session.

Tripathy elaborated on the role of Farmer Producer

Organisations (FPOs) in Odisha and Dalwai highlighted the strategy for doubling farmers' income. Padmanand elaborated on the services offered by a successful FPO in the States across India.

Expert speakers from industry and Government presented inputs on various aspects relating to credit, input supply, farm mechanisation, Common Facility Centres, infrastructure and marketing.

Host of issues discussed at BeMC meet

Tata Power's 'anti-consumer' stand decried
KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA
■ BRAHMAPUR

An emergency meeting of the BeMC was held on Tuesday to discuss various issues of public interest. BeMC Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai presided, while Brahmapur MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu, MLA Bikram Kumar Panda, BeMC Deputy Mayor E Vivek Reddy, Commissioner J Sonal, Deputy Commissioner Neelamadhab Bhoi and Enforcement Officer Tarunkanta shared the dais.

The meeting discussed threadbare several important issues like performance of Tata Power, appointment of



Chairman of various Standing Committees constituted by the BeMC and their functioning, low collection of taxes in some toll gates and consideration of a proposal of their privatisation besides problems related to ration card.

Sources said that most of Corporators expressed their serious dissatisfaction over the alleged dictatorial and customer-hostile attitude of the Tata Power authorities. Some alleged that the BeMC

is being asked by the TPSODL even to bear the cost of shifting of transformers and electrical poles from one place to the other.

The Corporators also alleged that several electric poles are lying idle on the bank of BeMC drains in different places in dangerous condition for months, posing a threat to the life of the local people. A resolution was adopted to bring the matter to the notice of the State Government in public interest.

Concrete drain built in uninhabited area in A'mallik

Demand for drain in waterlogged areas falls in deaf ears
SANGRAM MISHRA
■ ATHMALLIK

A concrete drain covered with concrete slab has been constructed in a non-residential area under Ward No.9 of Athmallik NAC.

However, though around 250 people have been living

in the area from Meru Chakka to Talasahi, but no such concrete drain has been constructed there.

Due to lack of proper drainage system in the area, it faces water logging problem most often. In rainy season, the problem gets worse with people finding it difficult to use the road.

Even after repeated complaints of the people, no drainage construction is taken up for these residents, though

a low quality concrete drain has been constructed near the road leading to the Mahanadi.

There are paddy fields on both sides of the drain and it lay sub-merged in flood water of Mahanadi this year. On the other hand, due to the concrete structure, the farmers are facing a difficulty in taking tractors or threshing machines to their fields.

The drain has been constructed at a cost of Rs 3 lakh, but without any use and

the information board has been turned down. Similarly, many new settlements have been built in the Ward No. 1 and No. 5 but no concrete drain has been found there. So many have questioned why the Athmallik NAC administration has constructed a concrete drain in an uninhabited area. When asked, NAC Executive Officer Kadambini Jena said a drain would be constructed in Ward-9 as soon as possible.

No forest nod: KBR railway project delayed

Centre yet to clear 68 km from Daspalla to Banigogchha
TATHYA ■ BHUBANESWAR

The much-awaited Khurda Road-Balangir (KRB) railway line project is being delayed due to non-issue of Stage-I forest clearance by the Union Government.

Out of the total length of 301 km of the Khurda Road-Balangir new railway project, 91 km from Khurda Road to Nuagaon has been

commissioned while work is in progress from Nuagaon to Daspalla (91 km to 106 km) and there is a target to commission it by March 2023, official sources said here on Tuesday.

The work from Daspalla to Buguda (106 km to 121 km) is very slow due to non-issue of Stage-I forest clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the sources said. Similarly, work from Buguda to Banigogchha is also yet to start due to non-issue of the Stage-I forest clearance.

In total, the Government of India is yet to issue required forest clearance from 112 to 180 km while the work from 180 to 275 km is in progress and work at 275-301 km has already been commissioned.

For forest clearance, the State Government has already sent its proposal to the MoEF Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. The issue was also raised during a recent meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee, the source informed.

The Odisha Government has given land free of cost

from 112 km to 301 km and bearing 50 per cent construction cost for the railway project. However, due to non-issue of the Stage-I forest clearance by the Central Government, the work cannot start in between 112 km to 118 km, an official admitted.

Earlier, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav had informed the Parliament that the completion time of the Khurda Road-Balangir new line project cannot be ascertained at this time.

Giving a written reply to

Rajya Sabha, Vaishnav had stated completion of any railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by the State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions, etc.

This project involves acquisition of 6,162 acres land and diversion of 1,844 acre forest land, out of which 5,208 acres land has been acquired and diversion of 170 acres forest land has been completed. Further, acquisition of 954 acres land and diversion of 1,674 acre forest land have been taken up, he had informed.

The project was sanctioned in 1994-95 and even Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Pragati Review meetings had already expressed concern for delay in completion of the project.

The project was sanctioned in 1994-95 and even Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Pragati Review meetings had already expressed concern for delay in completion of the project.

Ensure proper arrangement for paddy procurement: CS

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain asked officers to ensure necessary preparations and proper management at all paddy procurement centres.

Holding a virtual review meeting on Thursday, Jain said that paddy procurement from farmers will begin on minimum support price from November 1 for kharif marketing year 2022-23.

He reviewed farmers' registration, acreage, production, custom milling, transportation and financial arrangements. The target of



Paddy procurement from farmers will begin on minimum support price from November 1 for kharif marketing year 2022-23

paddy procurement is 1.10 lakh metric tonnes. The registration of new farmers will be on till October 31.

He asked officers to ensure adequate arrangements for gunny bags. Their distribution should be done at all the procurement centres based on their quantity of procurement.

The farmers who opted for crop rotation should be identified and their production verified by September 30.

The contract for transportation of paddy should be completed by October 15. A special team must be constituted to monitor the paddy procurement centres in the border areas of the state, Jain added.

Covid-19 vaccination stepped up in C'garh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government on Thursday urged all district Collectors to accelerate the pace of vaccination against Covid-19.

Health Secretary Prasanna R issued a circular desiring that the second dose as well as the precaution dose should be given to those who have not yet been vaccinated, said an official communication.

Prasanna reminded everyone that the vaccination helps to develop strong immunity against the infection.

The free doses of Covid-19 vaccine are being given to those 18 years and above at all the government vaccination centres. The



drive will continue till September 30.

The Collectors were asked to ensure vaccination of the maximum number of

people by holding periodic reviews.

Chhattisgarh has so far administered 4,93,06,646 vaccines.

Bank of Maharashtra bags "Kirti Puraskar"

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Bank of Maharashtra, a leading public sector bank, has bagged "Kirti Puraskar", the highest award for Rajbhasha given by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

The bank got the prestigious award in two categories -- "Better Implementation of Official Language" and "Best House Magazine" -- at a glittering ceremony on Hindi Diwas programme held at Surat, Gujarat.

Home Minister Amit Shah was the chief guest at the event.

K. Rajesh Kumar,



General Manager, Human Resource Management and Rajbhasha, Bank of Maharashtra, received the award for Better Implementation of

'Saur Sujala' reducing dependence on monsoon

STAFF REPORTER ■ BALODA BAZAR

The Chhattisgarh government's "Saur Sujala Yojana" is proving beneficial to farmers in increasing crop cultivation and income in Baloda Bazar district.

Demand for the solar pumps has increased in the district with the increasing awareness among farmers regarding their benefits.

A total of 4,305 solar pumps have been put up by the Chhattisgarh State Renewable Energy Development Agency (CREDA). Apart from fields,



these pumps are also being installed in Gauthans and pastures.

The "Saur Sujala Yojana" aims to assist the farmers

especially in remote areas where it is not possible to supply electricity. It also targets groundwater conservation and helps

strengthen rural economy. District Collector Rajat Bansal said: "The scheme has made life easy for the farmers. With solar pumps, they don't have to pay hefty electricity bills, reducing their input cost. It will also help reduce land exploitation and air pollution caused by diesel irrigation pumps."

The farmers are earning good profits by producing vegetables and seasonal crops besides paddy and wheat by using solar pumps for irrigation.

Paddy farmers in remote areas who were previously dependent on rains for irrigation are now growing green vegetables and cash crops along with paddy in their fields.

New portal to track, trap cyber criminals

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Cyber Crime Analysis and Profiling System (CyCAPS) portal has been developed to track and apprehend cyber criminals, a senior police officer visiting Chhattisgarh said on Thursday.

Devender Singh, Superintendent of Police (Special Cell, Intelligence) in the Telangana Police, was addressing while training Chhattisgarh Police officers



and employees on how to operate the system.

He said the arrest of cyber criminals will become easier from now.

The portal has been linked to the various databases like the National

Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), Cyber Safe and the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).

Singh said that it will provide information related to cyber criminals like

number of complaints, cybercrime hotspots, profiles, devices and financial activities and more in one platform.

The portal has the login ID (identification) of all the districts. It has been made so that all the units at the district level can get access to the portal.

Inaugurating the training session, Chhattisgarh Additional Director General of Police (Technical Services) Pradeep Gupta expressed concern about the high rise in cybercrimes.

Patwari held for accepting bribe



STAFF REPORTER ■ DHAMTARI

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested a Chhattisgarh government employee for accepting a bribe in Dhamtari district.

ACB Superintendent of Police Pankaj Chandra identified him as Bhubendra Dhruv, a Village Revenue Officer or Patwari in

Rakhigaon. Dhruv sought Rs 25,000 from the complainant in lieu of mutation work and allotment of ancestral property to his family. He had taken Rs 12,000 from the complainant. Patwari was caught when he was accepting Rs 9,000 more, Chandra said.

Jilted lover kills woman, arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ JASHPUR

A 22-year-old government health worker was on Thursday axed to death in broad daylight by her jilted lover in Jashpur district in Chhattisgarh.

Manoj Chakresh (23) killed Devki Chakresh, police said. Both were residents of Tangar village.

The victim was posted as a Community Health Officer at the Health and Wellness Centre in Katangkhar.

Manoj Chakresh confessed to the police to killing Devki Chakresh as she was in a relationship with someone else.

Action on party worker to save corrupt: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The arrest of Jairam Dubey, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Right to Information activist, in a false case is to save the corrupt and amounts to political vendetta, BJP leader Kedar Gupta said on Thursday.

Kedar Gupta said Dubey had filed more than 200 RTI applications seeking information, which have revealed many cases of corruption involving the state government.



Listing examples, he said one RTI application revealed that in Raipur Municipal Corporation limits Zone 1, 7 and 9, around 8,000 quintals of cow dung have been procured from residents.

But it was found that the beneficiaries are not residents of these three

zones. The BJP approached the police to file a FIR alleging pilferage of government funds. Till date no FIR has been lodged.

Also, an additional director level officer of the Health Department was involved in corruption during the Covid-19

pandemic. A departmental probe has found him guilty. But no action has been initiated, the BJP leader said.

RTI documents also show that excise and revenue losses are being incurred even after liquor prices have been hiked by 70 percent, he said. This is due to a higher sale of liquor illegally.

It is to silence the man behind these exposes that Dubey (45) was arrested on Wednesday in Rajnandgaon with 13 litres of liquor in his car, the BJP said.

Indian Bank Branch- DDU NAGAR RAIPUR (C.G.)

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)
[Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas:

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 05/07/2022 Calling upon the Borrower- Miss Akanksha Santwani, M/s Parampara The Legacy with our DDU NAGAR Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 20,26,589.00 (in words Rs. Twenty Lakh twenty six thousand five hundred eighty nine only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules on this 19th day of September of the year 2022.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs. 20,26,589.00 (in words Rs. Twenty Lakh Twenty Six thousand Five hundred Eighty Nine only) and interest thereon.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Kharsa No. - 292 (Part), Plot No 81, PH No. 135/03, Mauja Vill- Khilaura, Vardaan Green City (Madhav City), Area- 3110 sqft within the Registration sub-district Abhanpur and District Raipur. Bounded as per Deed-North: Plot no. 80, South: Plot No. 82, East: Road, West: Boundary wall

Date: 23.09.2022, Place: Raipur Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

Indian Bank Branch : Raipur Main (Chhattisgarh)

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
[Under Rules-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas:

The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 10/06/2022 calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 13,95,314/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Three Hundred Fourteen Only) Plus Interest w.e.f. 11.06.2022 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules, on the date mentioned below.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount mentioned below and interest thereon.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sl	Name of Borrower	Date of Possession
1.	Smt. Mugdha Vaishnav W/o Shri Amalraj Vaishnav and Shri Amalraj Vaishnav S/o Late Shri Kulandai Samy, Address - H.N. 20, Brahmanpara, Panchpathpara, Raipur (C.G.)	17.09.2022

Description of the Property: Property situated at "Harsh Bhoomi" Plot No. 223, Part of Kharsa No. 109, PH. No. 95/13, Area 1200 sq.ft., Mouza Dondekhurh, Khusha Bhau Ward No. 26, RNM Dharsawa, Tehsil and Dist-Raipur (C.G.) in the name of Smt. Mugdha Vaishnav W/o Shri Amalraj. Boundaries : North: Plot No. 224, South : Plot No. 222, East: Road, West: Plot No. 200

Place : Raipur, Date : 17.09.2022 Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

SBI State Bank of India RACPC- ZONAL OFFICE, BYRON BAZAR, RAIPUR (C.G) Ph-0771-4089154,4267586 | Fax: 0771-4040334

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property) [See rule 8 (1)]

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the STATE BANK OF INDIA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice date as below mentioned date calling upon the Borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 said rules on this the date mentioned below. The borrowers in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of STATE BANK OF INDIA, for amount mentioned below and interest thereon.

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

Sl No.	Name of the Borrower	Demand Notice Dt. Possession Notice Dt.	Outstanding Amount	Description of the Immovable Property
1.	Borrower:- MR. NANDLAL SAHANI S/O MR RAJPATI SAHANI	(1) 02.07.2022 (2) 19.09.2022	Rs. 12,88,785.00 + Interest & Other Charges thereon.	KHARSA NO-189/30, PH NO.-114/45, DR RAJENDRA PRASAD WARD NO.-46, AMLIDIH, AREA-800 Sqft, TEHSIL + DISTRICT- RAIPUR (CG) BOUNDARIES:- NORTH- HOUSE OF JITENDRA SOUTH- HOUSE OF RAVI BATRE, EAST- LAND OF KHANUJA, WEST- ROAD

Date: 23.09.2022, Place: Raipur Authorised Officer, RACPC Raipur, State Bank of India

ED attaches ₹2,747 cr assets of ABG Shipyard

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MoD signs pact for more Brahmos missiles for Navy



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea seeking modification of its 2017 order directing payment of final compensation of Rs 60 lakh to each of the families affected by the Sardar Sarovar project on the Narmada River.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said once the final settlement package has been determined as Rs 60 lakh per family, the modification would not hold as it would be a substantive review of the court's decision.

The directions issued by this court under Article 142 of the Constitution are not susceptible to clarification or modification in this applica-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Top Opp leaders to attend INLD rally in Haryana

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IN SHORTS

BIPLAB KUMAR DEB ELECTED TO RS
New Delhi: Former Tripura Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb was on Thursday elected to the Rajya Sabha on the lone seat in the state that went for by-election. His victory was a foregone conclusion given the BJP's strength in the assembly.

ALLOCATE LAND, EDU MIN TELLS MAMATA
New Delhi: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday wrote to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee seeking her intervention to ensure the state allocates land for permanent campuses of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in South 24 Parganas-1 and Malda.

RAILWAYS COMPLETES 1,353 TRACK KILOMETRES
New Delhi: The Railways on Thursday said it has completed 1,353 track kilometres (TKM) of new lines, gauge conversion and multi-tracking projects in the current financial year till September 21.

PCI TAKES COGNIZANCE OF ATTACKS ON MEDIA
New Delhi: The Press Council of India (PCI) has taken cognizance of an alleged incident of assault on some media persons by a police officer recently in Nabarangpur district of Odisha and called for a report on the case from the state government "at the earliest".

IRCS NEEDS TO MOVE WITH TIMES: MIN
NEW DELHI: The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) needs to move with times to refine and redefine itself to reach widest population through innovative and collaborative ventures, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday after inaugurating States and UTs Leadership Meeting of Society here.

EFFORTS ON TO SEE INDIA IN TOP 5 COUNTRIES: DEF SECY
New Delhi: Efforts are being made to "unleash energy" of the Make-in-India initiative in defence sector to see India among top five countries globally in defence production, Defence Secretary said.

General category poor large segment, not covered under any existing quota scheme: Centre to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday vehemently defended in the Supreme Court the 103rd constitutional amendment, which provides a 10-per cent quota in jobs and education to those in the economically weaker section (EWS) category, saying this was "necessitated" to benefit the general category poor, a "large segment" of population not covered under any existing reservation scheme.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit took note of the submissions made by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who said the 10-per cent quota for the EWS category has been provided without disturbing the 50-per cent reservation available to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The parliamentary wisdom, leading to a constitutional amendment, cannot be set aside without establishing that it violates the basic structure of the Constitution, Mehta told the bench that also comprised justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S Ravindra Bhat, Bela M Trivedi and J B Pardiwala.

The top court, which was hearing submissions for the sixth day on a clutch of pleas challenging the validity of the scheme, was told by the law officer that the amendment is "based on the recommendation contained in the report sub-

mitted by the Sinho Commission". "The constitutional vision of equality and equal opportunity is dynamic and evolving -- not in substance, but surely in form. The present amendment is in tune with this dynamic and evolutionary nature, taking the next logical step and providing balance and reasonability to the operative realities of reservations as a whole.

"The present amendment provides for an additional form of affirmative action, without changing the substance of the equality code, while balancing the other anomalies that may arise from the pre-existing forms of affirmative action," Mehta said.

"The impugned amendment Act was necessitated to benefit the economically weaker sections of the society, who are not covered within the existing schemes of reservation and who, as per statistics, constitute a considerably large segment of the Indian population," he added.

The solicitor general argued in detail on the State's power to take affirmative action to elevate the poor among the general category and said the amendment further and strengthens the basic feature of the Constitution and its validity cannot be tested on the grounds of some statistics.

"While analysing the basic structure, the principle guide is the Preamble. Considering the Preamble to the Constitution, the amendment does not destroy the basic structure,

rather it strengthens it by giving justice -- economic justice -- to those who have not been the beneficiaries of affirmative action like reservation," the law officer said.

The parameters of judicial review while deciding the validity of a constitutional amendment are very well settled and in case of every constitutional amendment, a change happens in the text of the document itself, he added.

"It is for this precise reason that the doctrine of basic structure has developed.

As per this doctrine, when the Constitution is amended, the validity of the amendment is tested only on the question as to whether it fundamentally changes the basic structure of the Constitution," Mehta said.

Since a constitutional amendment brings in a new provision altogether, it is never permissible to argue that the amended provision is unconstitutional since it is either different from or not completely in tune with other constitutional provisions, he said.

The solicitor general told the bench that a breach of the basic structure of the Constitution should not be a "mere violation" but should be "a shocking, unconscionable or unscrupulous travesty of the quintessence of the Constitution".

"The purported limit of 50 per cent on reservations has always been a rule of thumb, which could be exceeded if circumstances so allowed.

PM to attend Abe's state funeral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

during the visit.

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



Robotic kidney transplant done at Safdarjung Hospital, doctors claim first for a Govt facility

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A 39-year-old man underwent a robotic kidney transplant at Safdarjung hospital here, which doctors claimed to be the first such surgery to have been performed at a Central Government facility.

The patient, a native of Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh, had a kidney failure and was awaiting a transplant for the past five years, said Dr Anup Kumar, head of the department of Urology, Robotics and Renal Transplant, who performed the surgery.

He was on hemodialysis, doctors said. The patient's 34-year-old wife wanted to donate her kidney and were trying to get surgery done in other hospitals. Dr Kumar said while they could not afford surgery at private hospitals, there was a long waiting list at government hospitals. They approached Safdarjung hospital three months ago. Both the donor and

the recipient were evaluated and after completing all the protocols, the patient was posted for kidney transplant. Dr Kumar said. "As the patient was obese, conducting a traditional open surgery would have been difficult and so we decided to go for the robotic kidney transplant," Dr Kumar explained.

The surgery took place on Wednesday. In an open surgery, a long incision measuring 12 to 14 cm is required which can cause post-operative pain, infection and hernia formation, he said.

"Doing the robotic surgery in this patient provided the best outcome. During the procedure, four 8 mm incisions were made and the robot was docked over the patient," he said.

During robotic surgeries, surgeon sits on console and movements of his fingers are transmitted to the robotic arms which performs surgery, the doctor explained.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

government agencies demolished 62,330 houses and evicted over 331,560 people from January 1, 2021, to July 15, 2022. It added that over 25,800 homes have been demolished, affecting at least 124,450 people in India until July this year. It has cited incidents showing how demolitions were also used as "punitive measures".

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

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

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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



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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

SUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



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

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

The same Division Bench of Justices Harish Tandon and

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

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

The State advocates however said that an "appeal will be

preferred before the Honourable Supreme Court."

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

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

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

CPI(ML) slams fee hike in Allahabad Univ

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

Yogi sets tone for historic Assembly session dedicated to woman MLAs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, set the tone for a special session of the UP Assembly dedicated to women members. He said this session should have been held long ago but it took 75 years for women to assert their voice in the House.



The chief minister said the 47 women members of the UP Assembly represented half of the state's population of 25 crore and their suggestions would help the government take concrete steps. The chief minister said that the session in the country's largest legislature would set an example.

He initiated the day-long session during which only women members participated in the proceedings. Out of the total 47 woman MLAs, 40 were present in the House.

"Today (Thursday), the largest legislature of the country is moving towards creating

a new history. After 75 years of Independence, the voices of half the population will reach 25 crore people of the state through this House. At the same time, they will get an opportunity to put forward the problems and achievements of the state and other important issues in this House. In fact, this work should have been done long ago," Yogi Adityanath said.

The chief minister said this session would be an example for the country on what women members want to say, adding that any positive suggestions from them regarding the present, future and self-

reliance of the state would help the government take steps in that direction.

The 403-member Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly has 47 woman MLAs, including 22 first-timers.

Advocating that a member representing half the population should be given a chance to conduct the proceedings as presiding officer, even for a short time, Yogi Adityanath said this would help create the right atmosphere.

The chief minister also recited a few lines of Maharishi Ved Vyas dedicated to woman power.

"This is not the first time that an effort is being made to give equal status to women. After Independence, a lot of good efforts were made in this direction. ... The Constitution makers of India had given the right to vote to men and women from the beginning. In England and many other countries, women got this right later," he said.

'Parties must join hands to curb crimes against women'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Sand leader of opposition in UP Assembly, Akhilesh Yadav, on Thursday, welcomed Vidhan Sabha Speaker Satish Mahana and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the special women's session of the House in which only women members participated in the proceedings of the House.



"Women related issues are so big that a one-day session of women members is not sufficient to address the issues related to women. The Government and the Opposition will have to close ranks to address this issue and several sessions need to be organised to address the women related issues," Akhilesh Yadav said in the State Assembly on Thursday.

Lauding Speaker Satish Mahana for taking the initiative for the women's session, Akhilesh Yadav emphasised the need for the Government and the Opposition to work

together for curbing the rising tide of crime against women across the State.

"I welcome the assembly speaker for this session. However, the issues related to women are so big that a one-day session is not enough. Even if the whole session of the assembly is dedicated to women's issues it will not be adequate," Akhilesh Yadav said.

"We need to tackle the issue of crime against women in a non-partisan manner and rise above political affiliations. Even after the stringent laws legislated by Parliament, there is no let up in crime against women. Whether it be the incident of Hathras or of

Lakhimpur, such incidents should not happen in a civilised society," Yadav said and added, "If the opposition and government come on the same page then such heinous crime against women can be prevented."

Referring to the gang-rape incident in Moradabad on Wednesday, Akhilesh Yadav said, "I don't want to offend the government today and will not question the measures taken by the state government for women's empowerment, the incident in Moradabad is a shame for the whole society."

Offering his suggestion for curbing crime against women, Akhilesh Yadav said, "The government should adopt zero tolerance policy against hate crimes and there should be 33 per cent reservation for women in state police."

He said education for women from primary to post-graduate level should be made free and an independent women's unit should be set up in state police.

UP Govt to launch Matribhumi Yojana from Gandhi Jayanti

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

Over a dozen dead as rain plays havoc in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

and one girl, have died and compensation will be given to the family as per the norms," said Etawah District Magistrate Avnish Rai.

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

Similarly, 65-year-old Ramsanehi and his 63-year-old wife Reshma Devi died when a mud wall collapsed on them in Kripalpur village of Ikdlil. Besides, 50-year-old Jabar Singh died due to the collapse of roof and mud wall of his house in Majra Bungalow area of Andawa gram panchayat of Mahewa block.

The fourth such incident in the district was reported from Kalli Sultanpur village

under Basrehar police station. Three people were injured after the wall of a kutchra house in the village collapsed and they were buried under the rubble. All the injured were admitted to the local hospital.

In Kanpur Dehat, a farmer, Harishchandra, was sleeping in his kutchra house along with his wife Anita and 11-year-old son Sajjan in Kyotra village of Satti when the house collapsed at around 5 am on Thursday due to heavy rain. On hearing a loud noise, the people of the neighborhood rushed to the spot, pulled out the three from the rubble and took them to the community health centre at Pukhrayan where Harishchandra succumbed to his injuries.

In another incident, Mahendra and his pregnant wife Rachna were injured when the roof of their kutchra house collapsed in Pipri village of Bhognipur. After first aid in

CHC, he was sent to the district hospital.

Sunita Devi, wife of a hawker Suresh Kumar, was injured when the wall of a kutchra house collapsed in Ramganj in Akbarpur. The relatives admitted her to the district hospital.

In Banda too, houses collapsed at many places, in which a farmer died while an old couple were buried alive. The elderly couple sleeping in the room were buried under the rubble when the house collapsed in Tolakaji village in Marka due to heavy rain in the night. By the time they were pulled out, 75-year-old Jagmohan Nishad had died while his wife Sukhdeeya (70) was seriously injured.

In Kannauj, a worker died after being electrocuted by the current passing through a set-top box due to heavy rains. His son and daughter also received burns while trying to save



their father. Two children -- four-year-old Mehak and eight-month-old Adil -- died after the wall of Arif's house collapsed in Ghatiya Ajmat Ali locality of the city. Apart from this, eight-month-old Suhana also succumbed to her injuries. Arif's 28-year-old wife Chanda and 90-year-old Qadri, 90, were seriously injured in the accident. Both the women were rescued from the rubble and admitted to the district hospital.

In Shikohabad town of Firozabad, a child died after the roof of the house collapsed due to rain, while eight people were injured. The injured are being treated in the hospital.

Due to heavy rains, four women were seriously burnt in Cheraha Khurd village under Markundi police station of Chitrakoot when struck by lightning. They were admitted in hospital and their condition was stated to be critical.

75% of Covid patients recover within 12 months: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayawati takes to Twitter to raise public issues

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With Bahujan Samaj Party having only one MLA in the state assembly, party chief Mayawati has taken to Twitter to raise issues during the on-going monsoon session of the UP legislature.



Continuing her tweets, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, has drawn the attention of the Centre and the Yogi Adityanath government to farmers and agriculture with three tweets on Thursday.

The BSP supremo said that despite India being an agrarian country, the government's very little attention towards agriculture and farmers' interest had always been a

cause of great concern.

She said that now not getting a fair price for their produce, huge arrears of sugarcane farmers and loss of livestock etc. are plaguing rural India and the government should pay immediate attention to this.

The BSP chief said as the Uttar Pradesh government

had accepted in the assembly that the sugarcane farmers of the state had huge arrears, hence the government should take strict steps to ensure payment of these arrears as soon as possible, while fulfilling its responsibility.

She said the death of innumerable domestic animals in the grip of lumpy virus disease in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh had put poor rural India in a new trouble.

The BSP chief said livestock was the backbone of self-sufficient rural life and for this reason the governments of other states along with the government of Uttar Pradesh must provide proper financial help to the affected people.



A one-horned rhino grazes inside the Burapahar Range of Kaziranga National Park, on World Rhino Day, in Nagaon district on Thursday. PTI

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Curb hate speech

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

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

A few days ago, Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur had also desired moderation in TV channel debates. He wanted to bring "back neutrality in news." In fact, he went on to say that the biggest threat to the mainstream media is from mainstream media channels rather than new-age digital platforms. He was correct in his observation that if a news channel invites guests who are polarising, they would spread false narratives and who shout, thus damaging the credibility of the news channel. Unfortunately, the credibility of several news channels is very bad; they are widely regarded as sympathetic to one political party or the other. Debates on political topics suffer from not just the ill-mannered and semi-educated outbursts of various participants but also the irresponsible behaviour of anchors but also biases. Such TV programmes generate a lot of heat and dust but little light. Political parties, including that of Thakur's, should act proactively to ensure that political debate doesn't get further degraded. Action on the part of the media should also be oriented around self-regulation. News channels, the Press Club of India, the Press Council, and other organisations related to the media should come forward with guidelines to regulate the behaviour of news anchors and other media-persons. They should draw the red lines which journalists should never cross. There should also be interaction between the Government and the media for bringing sobriety and impartiality back to news. For the alternative, the rules set by the Government or the Supreme Court, is not very appealing. Such rules may curb hate speech but will also be detrimental for free speech. All stakeholders need to exercise caution.



PICTALK



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

Bye, Gajodhar Bhaiya!

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

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

Raju's story is the story of many youths from humble backgrounds in small towns of north India who to chase their dreams reach Mumbai. Many are lost in oblivion while others struggle to make a mark. Raju belonged to the second category He took struggle in his stride and never gave up on his dreams. His laughter came from his understanding of human nature and dealing with the common man. And that is why he is so relatable to each one of us. Raju's untimely death at 58, leaves a void that would be hard to fill. He was one of the faces of early standup comics who made it to everyone's heart. Though now stand up comedy is well established in the country and has gone through a metamorphosis with a lot of young comics trying their hand at it and enriching it in their own way, they owe it to Raju as he was the one who took comedy to the masses in the time when this genre didn't exist in the country. Raju never hesitated to crack a joke on the VVIPs in the audience. Raju is often criticised for joining politics which was not really his cup of tea. It divided his fans and took away his neutrality but he was quick to understand and tried to distance himself from it. Raju Srivastava rest in peace, your jokes will live on.



Indians making it big in Australia

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



ASHUTOSH MISRA

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

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

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



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

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



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

in agribusiness their role remains below par. But that may change rapidly as international education and student migration drive bilateral relationships. Indians were the largest source of skilled migrants in 2019-20 and the second largest source of international students in 2019-20 Australia. The DFAT report estimates that the diaspora's role in senior academic positions roles at the lecturer level and above has increased from 1.75 per cent in 2016 to 1.92 per cent in 2020. Of the 721,000 Indians (2016 census) approximately 88% are of working age and 61% are in full-time and 27% in part-time employment making them the second highest tax-paying migrant community after the UK-born migrants, contributing over \$12 billion to the Australian economy.

As of 2021, numbering over 780,000 Indian migrants have overtaken Chinese and New Zealand-born immigrants. Their numbers doubled during 1996-2006, quadrupled during 2006-2020, and were Australia's fastest growing large diaspora community in 2020. Australia's Department of Home Affairs has even established a Global Talent Officer

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIME FOR PEACE

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

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

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

DUSSEHRA RALLY

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

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

Fair chance for guilty?



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

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

CK Subramony | Kozhikode

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

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

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

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

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

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

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

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



Election strategist —Prashant Kishor

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

Russian President —Vladimir Putin

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



Actor —Ravi Kishan

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

Former cricket coach —Ravi Shastri

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



Supreme Court judge —KM Joseph

FIRST COLUMN
BANKS AS GROWTH CATALYSTS

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources



S **KALYANASUNDARAM**

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

(The author is a retired banker)

Equality remains an elusive dream

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



ISHANEE SHARMA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

(The author is a lawyer)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WHEN THE STUDENTS FACE THE WORLD, THEY WILL FACE THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRY. SO THIS (HIJAB) CAN BE A CHANCE TO PREPARE THEM.

—KARNATAKA HIGH COURT JUDGE SUDHANSHU DHULIA



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

—ADVOCATE VENKATARAMANI

New King of Britain has deep India connections

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

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



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

(The author is a senior journalist)

royal family visited India at various times.

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

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

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

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

plucking, basket weaving, and paddy harvesting.

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

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

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

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

Long-time patrons of the Asian Elephant Alliance, Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall wit-

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

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

has become part of the British crown jewels.

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

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

No let-up in hostilities in Ukraine despite prisoner swap

AP ■ KYIV

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

Russian missile strikes in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia left one person dead and five others wounded, Ukrainian officials said.

Officials in the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk said Ukrainian shelling killed at least five people.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

A video on the BBC news

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

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

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

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

act of weakness and desperation.

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

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

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

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

Moscow could also target Ukraine's Western allies.

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

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

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

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

Zelenskyy: Russia not serious about ending Ukraine war

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

what he views as the Ukrainian government's oppression; and to restore what he considers to be Russia's historical territorial claims on the country. Zelenskyy's speech was striking not only for its contents but also its context. It took place after the extraordinary mobilization announcement. It was the first time he addressed the world's leaders gathered together since Russia invaded in February.

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

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

delaying tactic, and that Moscow's actions speak louder than its words. "They talk about the talks but announce pseudo-referendums in the occupied territories of Ukraine," he said.

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

what he views as the Ukrainian government's oppression; and to restore what he considers to be Russia's historical territorial claims on the country. Zelenskyy's speech was striking not only for its contents but also its context. It took place after the extraordinary mobilization announcement. It was the first time he addressed the world's leaders gathered together since Russia invaded in February.

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Ukraine's Mariupol defenders, Putin ally in prisoner swap

AP ■ KYIV

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 681 Tender Notice Dated: 22/09/2022

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

BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and

In the matter of **AGRANTE DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at **DTJ-704, 7th Floor DLF Towers- B, Jasola New Delhi 110025**, Petitioner.

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

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

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

Date: 23/09/2022
Place: New Delhi

BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and

In the matter of **AGRANTE LEISURE PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at **DTJ-704, 7th Floor DLF Towers- B, Jasola New Delhi 110025**, Petitioner.

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

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

Date: 23/09/2022
Place: New Delhi

Baltics say no automatic asylum for Russians fleeing draft

AP ■ VILINIUS (LITHUANIA)

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

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

There was little sign of any

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

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

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



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

Meanwhile Lithuanian Defence Minister Arvydas Anusauskas said on Thursday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

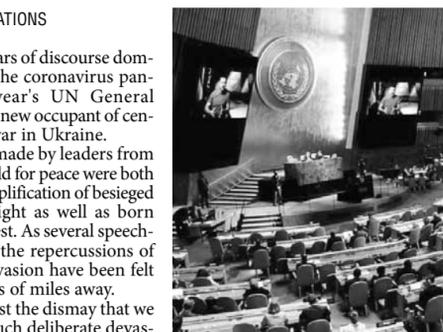
AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

House passes election law overhaul in response to Jan 6

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

The legislation would set new parameters around the Jan. 6 joint session of Congress that happens every four years after a presidential election.



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

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

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

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

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

The bill would clarify in the law that the vice president's role presiding over the count is only ceremonial and that he or she cannot change the results. It also sets out that each state can only send one certified set of electors after Trump's allies had unsuccessfully tried to put together alternate slates of illegitimate pro-Trump electors in swing states where Biden won.

"This bill will make it harder to convince people that they have the right to overthrow an election," Lofgren said.

object to trigger votes on the results in both chambers.

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

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

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

Nine killed as Iran protests spread over woman's death

AP ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

state-run and semiofficial media.

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

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

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

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

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



Contested Jerusalem holy site: Hamas threatens violence

AP ■ JERUSALEM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Khmer Rouge tribunal ends work after 16 years, 3 judgments

AP ■ PHNOM PENH (CAMBODIA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



than by my actual deeds as an individual."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.8 magnitude earthquake shakes Mexico, 1 dead



AP ■ MEXICO CITY

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

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

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

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

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said via Twitter that it was an aftershock from Monday's quake and was also felt in the states of Colima, Jalisco and Guerrero.



Uganda confirms 7 Ebola cases, races to halt outbreak

AP ■ KAMPALA (UGANDA)

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

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

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

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

outbreak, and neither have they discovered the key first case.

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

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

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

UK Govt formally confirms lifting of fracking ban

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION

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

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

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

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

Date: 23/09/2022
Place: New Delhi

BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION

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

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

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

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

Date: 23/09/2022
Place: New Delhi

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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E-mail id: complianceofficer@perfectpac.com

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

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

The above information is available on the website of the Company www.perfectpac.com and on the website of the stock exchange where the shares of the Company are listed, i.e., BSE Limited www.bseindia.com.

For Perfectpac Limited
Sd/-
Sanjay Rajgarhia
Managing Director

Place: New Delhi
Dated: 22.09.2022

Flagship schemes portal to help food processing units

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



ciaries under the PMFME and PMKSY scheme.

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

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

AIF, implemented by the Agriculture Ministry, is a medium to long-term debt financing facility started in July 2020

for the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and building of community farming assets. Benefits under the scheme include 3 per cent interest subvention and credit guarantee support.

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Fed turned more hawkish



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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, the dollar

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, the dollar



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

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

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

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

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

No sure-fire way to regulate fintech sector, onus on operators to act in balanced way: RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Executive Director Ajay Choudhary on Thursday said there is no "sure-fire way" to regulate fintech players, and made it clear that the onus is on such entities to operate in a balanced way.

He said entities in the sector ought to have the right intent while coming out with offerings and robust governance for the orderly growth of the sector.

"There is no sure-fire way to regulate the fintechs in a manner that maximises their positive impact while simultaneously protecting the financial system and customers against the risks," Choudhary said speaking at the Global Fintech Fest here.

"If the goal is protecting and furthering the interest of customers and orderly development of the financial system then the actor of the great balancing act has to be the fintech sector itself," he said.

"I believe to be in life or in business, balance comes from focusing on the right things. In my opinion it cannot come only from regulation. Regulation can only be a supporting constituent while fintech themselves have to drive the great balancing act," he added.

Choudhary said he would prescribe the fintech players to focus on customer centricity and governance, and not look at the latter as merely compliance.

The comments come at a time when the RBI has been upping its focus on the fintech sector and its recently released guidelines on digital lending apps have caused a flutter with some entities expressing concerns.

Earlier, Choudhary said regulators' key role is to find a balance and added that sustainability is about balancing the needs of the future with the wants of today.

Acknowledging that there is a tech-based transformation across the globe at present and that contribution of fintechs is phenomenal and satisfying, Choudhary said, "we also need to be mindful about the risk and safeguard the financial system."

"We are working on developing an appropriate framework for developing the fintech ecosystem to ensure innovation balanced with the stability of the financial system," he said.

Air India signs agreement with Willis Lease Finance Corp



PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

visit programme, the company said in a statement.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gold jumps ₹442; silver climbs ₹558

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

Loan disbursements by microfinance institutions rise in Q1 of 2023

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

The body's chief executive

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

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

Its chairperson Devesh Sachdev said the credit quali-

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

INDIA'S WAIT IS OVER

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

PTI ■ CANTERBURY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



asking was too tall as India recorded a magnificent win.

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

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

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

the unbroken sixth wicket stand.

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

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

PTI ■ CANTERBURY

The series already in the pocket, India women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur wants to give a befitting farewell to veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami by winning the "special" final ODI against England at the iconic Lord's on Saturday.

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

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

The last time the Indian women

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

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

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

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

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

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

improbable even though the pitch being a batting belter.

In the last three overs, the Indian team scored 62 runs, courtesy its skipper, who was in imperious touch while reaching her fifth hundred in WODIs.

The innings had Harmanpreet's trademark slog sweeps over cow corner which fetched him a couple of sixes while there were disdainful sixes over cover region.

With the pitch offering little help for bowlers, hitting through the line was very easy and England's bowling attack did suffer a bit with only off-spinner Charlie Dean (1/39) ending with respectable fig-

ures.

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

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

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

Federer teams up with Nadal at Laver Cup for farewell match

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



amazing experience for me.

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

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

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

Osaka withdraws from Pan Pacific Open, Pliskova loses

AP ■ TOKYO

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Raducanu surges into quarter-finals at Korea Open

AP ■ SEOUL

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

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

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

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

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



Mancini 'not worried' about injury crisis

AP ■ MILAN

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

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

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

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

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

as we did in the past."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Besides Aditi and Diksha, the Indian line-up also includes Tvesa Malik, Amandeep Drall, Vani Kapoor, Ridhima Dilawari, Gaurika Bishnoi and Neha Tripathi among others.

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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

While World Champion Magnus Carlsen finished with 34 points, way ahead of the second-placed Erigaisi, who had 25

points, American Hans Niemann took the third spot with 24 points.

Praggnanandhaa, who made a strong start with three victories on day 1, ended up with 23 points. His tally included five wins, eight draws and two defeats.

Carlsen was in stupendous form, winning his last five games including three on the final day of the preliminaries to end with 10 victories.

His only loss was to Niemann, against whom he

resigned after making only one move.

The 19-year-old Erigaisi endured a poor final day, losing to Vincent Keymer (Germany) and Dutch GM Anish Giri after beginning with a draw against Radoslaw Wojtaszek of Poland.

But despite a forgettable day, the Indian GM managed to finish second. He scored seven wins along with four draws and four losses.

The 17-year old Praggnanandhaa, on the other

hand, started the day with a defeat at the hands of USA's Levon Aronian before settling for a draw against Giri. His win over Croatia's Ivan Saric in the 15th and final round enabled him to finish a point behind Niemann on 23 along with Keymer.

Baskaran Adhiban, the third Indian in the tournament, finished 16th and last with a solitary win to go with seven draws and an equal number of losses. He secured 10 points.

'Want to capitalise on home advantage to end WC medal drought'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Senior men's hockey team forward SLalit Upadhyay wants to take advantage of the home conditions to end India's 48-year World Cup medal drought when the country hosts the game's showpiece event next year.

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

In the last edition of the event in 2018, India crashed out in the quarterfinals losing 1-2 to the Netherlands.

"Unfortunately, we conceded a goal in the dying minutes of the quarterfinal game in the previous World Cup in Bhubaneswar but since then the team has improved leaps and bounds, we are considered as serious

contenders for the title," Upadhyay said.

"Our aim now is to take advantage of the home crowd to showcase a scintillating performance and hopefully win a medal," he added.

India are placed in Group D in the World Cup alongside England, Spain and Wales.

Since making his debut in 2014, Upadhyay has so far turned out for India in 133 matches and was also a member of the team's historic Bronze medal-winning side at the Tokyo Olympics.

But Upadhyay, who has 31 goals to his name, is in no mood to take his place in the team for granted.

"I feel very proud while donning the Indian jersey every time I step onto the pitch, always keeping in mind that this could very well be the last



time I experience this.

"When I first joined, I worked really hard to make my place in the team and worked on my fitness to match the level of the team," he said.

"Over the last few years, I have gotten more consistency in my game and I'm proud that I'm considered one of the senior players in the team and embrace the added responsibilities that come along with it."

Prior to the World Cup, India will face Spain and New Zealand in the FIH Hockey Pro League matches to be held in Odisha from October 28.

"We have positive momentum from the Commonwealth Games and Olympics. The awareness among the general public for hockey in the last few years is a real motivation for us to give our best at the camp and the World Cup," Upadhyay said.

DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Jasprit Bumrah's fitness status will be a matter of attention when an out of sorts Indian team will look at course correction options against Australia in the second T20 International and strive to keep the three-match series alive, here Friday.

Bumrah, who has been out of action since the end of England tour, skipped the Asia Cup due to back injury.

However, to everyone's surprise, the team management didn't play him during the high-scoring first T20I in Mohali, raising doubts whether he has still attained peak fitness or not.

To compound the team's worries, the 'three-and-a-half' pronged pace attack, including Hardik Pandya, conceded 150 runs in 14 overs.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the seasoned pro, has already been taken to cleaners. He has leaked 49 runs in the three penultimate overs (19th) that he bowled against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

In this backdrop, a fit and fiery Bumrah is a pre-requisite for India as the home bowlers are increasingly being found out on batting belters.

The worst part about the team is that with five more official T20Is left before the opening T20 World Cup game against Pakistan on October 23, the Indian team looks highly unsettled.

If the approach of top three was a problem going into the Asia Cup, the bigger worry has been the bowling which has been exposed in good batting conditions.

Yuzvendra Chahal, who has been India's go-to spinner in all conditions, isn't looking menacing anymore. He has been expensive in the last few games and he will have to find a way to trouble the batters on wickets which doesn't offer much purchase.

However, all-rounder Axar Patel, who



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was shoed in as a like-for-like replacement of injured Ravindra Jadeja, has once again proved his worth with a three-wicket haul on Tuesday.

India were also sloppy on the field, as they were guilty of dropping three catches, which drew criticism from former head coach Ravi Shastri.

In batting, India's aggressive approach reaped dividends as KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav took the team beyond the 200-mark after top order batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were dismissed early.

Designated finisher Dinesh Karthik didn't get much chance on Tuesday and is likely to be given extended game time with the management looking to keep all options open going into the world cup.

Australia, on the other hand, have looked like a well-oiled machine, despite the absence of key players such as David Warner, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis and Mitchell Marsh.

All-rounder Cameron Green nicely slipped into the shoes of Warner with a sizzling fifty at the top in only his second T20I, while Steven Smith and debutant Tim David also gave the team the required impetus with crucial cameos.

The experienced Matthew Wade too lived up to the finisher's role with a stellar 45 not out off 21 and India will have to pull up their socks to stop Australia from going on a rampage.

Australia, however, would hope for a more disciplined show from their bowling unit after the pace trio of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Green bled runs in Mohali.

The wicket at VCA stadium, however, will be different than the Mohali track. It is expected to be on the slower side, which will make bowlers' role more prominent in this game.

With dew setting in the evening, teams will prefer to chase than defend totals.

4 injured in rush to buy tickets in Hyderabad

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Four people got injured when a stampede-like situation prevailed on Thursday at the Gymkhana Grounds in the city, where thousands of cricket-lovers gathered to buy tickets for the India-Australia T20 match scheduled here for September 25.

The injured people, including two women, were hospitalised and were fine, police said.

The stampede-like situation took place as a large crowd tried to get in at once when it rained, they said.

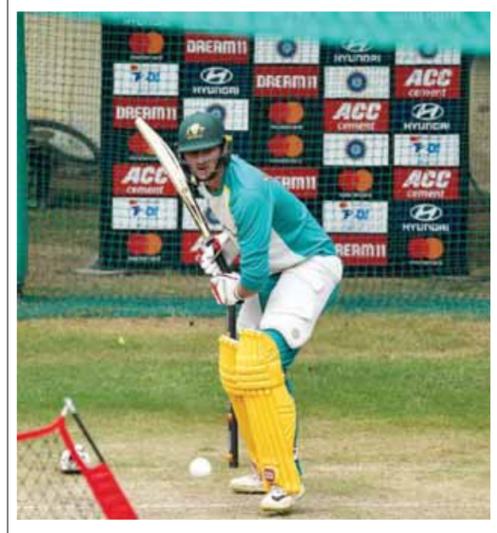
Police said they faced a tough time in managing the situation.

About 15,000 people gathered at the ground and some of them said they arrived there early on Thursday.

Some of them alleged that tickets were sold in black.

Telangana Sports Minister V Srinivas Goud on Wednesday said tough action would be taken against those selling tickets in black.

Media reports said the rush for tickets is because Hyderabad is hosting an international match after over two years.



Experience of playing IPL in India helped to stay calm: Tim David

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The experience of playing in Indian conditions during his IPL stint helped him to stay calm under pressure during the opening T20I, said big-hitting Singapore-born Australian Tim David on Thursday.

The 26-year-old made his IPL debut for Royal Challengers Bangalore in Sharjah against Chennai Super Kings last year. He was then bought by Mumbai Indians and played eight matches for the franchise this year.

"I think having had the experience of playing in India before and playing a fair bit of T20 cricket recently, I felt calm the other night because I knew that we're in a good position to be able to chase those runs," said David during a virtual press conference.

"And the way the pitch was playing so I think to get over the line, you know, that still has to happen. It doesn't just happen straight away. And that was some brilliant performances from our batsman, the chase that score down."

David scored a 14-ball 18 on debut and added 62 with Matthew Wade (45) to guide Australia to a four-wicket win in the first T20 on Tuesday.

"Having some good experience playing in India, I think finishing off games and understanding how it can go and how the pitches can play or when it kind of lights up in front of you, so you know, there can be an advantage batting second in Indian conditions."

"That was a good experience - that IPL - to draw on to the other night out there in the middle," added David, who is 6 ft 5

inches tall."

Talking about his role in the Australian team, David said: "I think my role on the team here is to be batting in the middle order. So that means that I'm not going to be facing a lot of balls in matches."

"And I'm probably going to try and put the foot down with my batting first or if we're chasing, trying to finish off the game. So I've got to tick off my boxes of trying to play powerful shots, trying to clear the boundary and I think that's a big part of my training."

"So I try and get volume in the nets because, let's say, in a three-match series here I like face 20 balls... So I've got a lot of my work done in the nets. And be prepared to kind of be on for every ball."

"I think it's pretty straightforward. It's very similar to what I've been playing T20 cricket over the last year and 18 months so I guess I'm trying to bring my experiences that I've had so far and just take the game on and help the team win games."

Asked if he had ever thought that he would be playing the T20 World Cup for Australia, David said: "To be honest, I didn't give it very much thought. It's just it kind of evolved naturally to be here at this stage. Yeah, I haven't thought about that too much."

"I just look to win a game which is in front of me and don't put any expectations on that."

"I just try and keep the game very simple. I don't look too far ahead of myself. I'm trying to stay pretty grounded and train harder than that and just improve as much as I can."

Absolutely nothing to worry about, Bumrah is ready: Surya



PTI ■ NAGPUR

India batter Suryakumar Yadav on Thursday played down concerns regarding Jasprit Bumrah's fitness, saying there is "absolutely nothing to worry about" and the pace spearhead is ready to return after recovering from his back injury.

Bumrah didn't feature in the opening T20I against Australia with the team management deciding to give the pacer a little more time since he was returning after recovering from a back injury.

The India pacer has been out of action since the end of the England tour and also skipped the Asia Cup due to the injury.

"Actually I am not aware of any such communication, it is not my department, you should not ask me about it (laughs), these are for physios and team management to answer."

"But in the team, the environment is good and all are first-class fit and ready for second T20I," Surya said when asked about Bumrah's match fitness and also where Umesh Yadav fit in the scheme of things.

When he was probed further

on Bumrah, Suryakumar said: "Absolutely, he is ready, nothing to worry."

India, sans Bumrah, put up a shoddy performance as they failed to defend 208 in the series opener, with the pacers going for 150 runs.

However, Suryakumar came out in defence of the bowlers.

"Actually after the last game, we didn't have any discussion but as you have seen last day the match went on long and there was also dew, and you also have to give credit to them, they kept attacking, we are trying our best," he said.

In his comeback match, Harshal Patel conceded 49 runs for no wicket, which included a 22-run 18th over.

Asked if Harshal's variations are becoming predictable, Suryakumar said: "He is very deceptive. I don't bat in net sessions much, but as much as I have played him and also Bhuvni (Bhuvneshwar) bhai is also difficult to decipher..."

"But Harshal's slower balls and his different variations are really deceptive and he has just come from an injury, so this much benefit of doubt should be allowed."

Indrajith, Gowtham take South past West's score

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Baba Indrajith's scintillating hundred and Krishnappa Gowtham's rearguard 43 took South Zone past West Zone's first-innings total on an interesting second day of the Duleep Trophy final.

Indrajith's 118 off 125 balls, along with contributions from Manish Pandey (48) and Gowtham (43 off 55 balls), ensured that South finished the second day on 318 for seven - 48 runs clear of West Zone's first innings score of 270.

The match did turn out to be interesting when South were

in a spot at 243 for six, but all-rounders Gowtham and T Ravi Teja (26) added 63 for the seventh wicket in just 16.2 overs, and in the process, surpassed West's total.

However, with the final being a five-day affair South are still some distance away from ensuring a healthy lead, which might not happen with only Teja remaining among the recognised batters.

He has R Sai Kishore (5/86 in 35.3 overs) for company, but the left-arm spinner would be more happy that he could grab a fifth five-for and deny young Het Patel (98) a chance to get to



the coveted three-figure mark. Mayank Agarwal pounced his catch, but later, when he came on to bat, he was caught in the slip cordon by Yashasvi

Jaiswal off seamer Atit Seth's delivery. Hanuma Vihari (25), whose Test batting slot is in line was then caught plumb in-front,

but Indrajith was more dominant during their stand of 61.

The Tamil Nadu right-hander played some gorgeous drives but was equally adept while working the deliveries pitched on his legs.

His 13th first-class hundred had 14 fours in it and the 105-run partnership for the fourth wicket, with the seasoned Pandey, put South in the driver's seat.

Pandey, who had quickly hit four fours and a couple of sixes, should have converted it into a big score but Tanush Kotian, the Mumbai off-spinner, castled him two short of fifty.

ICC chairmanship not in my hands: Ganguly

PTI ■ KOLKATA

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Thursday said the ICC chairmanship is "not in my hands", playing down strong speculation that the former India captain could head to Dubai. In July, the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board approved the process to elect the next chairman of the world body in November.

After the meeting in Birmingham, it was decided that with Greg Barclay ending his tenure this year, the election will be decided by a simple majority and the term of the Chair will be for a two-year period between December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2024.

Ganguly's name has been doing the rounds since then. But when asked about it, the elegant batter of yesteryear just had this to say: "ICC chairmanship is not in my hands."

PNB Housing Finance Limited
Appendix-IV-A - E-AUCTION PUBLIC SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/(IES)

E-Auction-Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Registered Office: - 9th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan, 22 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110001. Phones:-011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414, Web: - www.pnbhousing.com
PNB Housing Finance Ltd. Office No. 111-112, First Floor, Plot No. 1, Block No. 9, DB Corporate Park, Rajbandha Maidan, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) and guarantor(s) indicated in Column no-A that the below described immovable property (ies) described in Column no-D mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/Physical Possession of which has been taken (as described in Column no-C) by the authorized Officer of M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" as per the details mentioned below. Notice is hereby given to borrower(s)/mortgagor(s)/Legal Heirs, Legal Representative, (whether Known or Unknown), executor(s), administrator(s), successor(s), assignee(s) of the respective borrowers/mortgagor(s) (since deceased) as the case may be indicated in Column no-A under Rule-8(6) & 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 amended as on date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.pnbhousing.com. Branch: Raipur

Sl No.	Loan no. Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor(s)/Legal heirs (A)	Demand/ Amount & Date (B)	Nature of possession (C)	Description of the Properties mortgaged (D)	Reserve Price (RP) (E)	EMD (10% of RP) (F)	Last Date of Submission of Bid (G)	Bid Incremental Rate (H)	Inspection Date & Time (I)	Date of Auction & Time (J)	Known Encumbrances/ Court Case, if any, (K)
1	HOU/RAIPUR0317/367401 JITENDRA HINDUJA	1810083.80 & 08-02-2022	Physical	"15.na.avinash Capital Homes Phase - II, Avinash Capital Homes Phase - II, mouza Saddu, Ph.no.109/93, Tehsil And Dist.raipur- Cg, Behind Amubuja Mail, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India-492001"	2,719,000.00	271,900.00	19-10-22	10,000	27-10-2022 At 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM	28-10-2022 At 11:00 AM to 2:30 Pm	NIL

*Together with the further interest @18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. incurred upto the date of payment and/or realization thereof. **To the best knowledge and information of the authorized Officer of PNB Housing Finance Limited, there are no other encumbrances/ claims in respect of above mentioned immovable/secured assets except what is disclosed in the column no-K. Further, such encumbrances to be catered for by the successful purchaser(s)/bidder(s) at his/her end. The prospective purchaser(s)/bidder(s) are requested to independently ascertain the veracity of the mentioned encumbrances. 1. As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction PNBHFL/authorized Officer of PNBHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets and status is mentioned in column no-K.2. The prospective purchaser/bidder and interested parties may independently take the inspection of the pleading in the proceedings/orders passed etc. if any, stated in column no-K. Including but not limited to the title of the documents of the title pertaining thereto available with the PNBHFL and satisfy themselves in all respects prior to submitting tender/bid application form or making Offer(s). The bidder(s) has to sign the terms and conditions of this auction along with the Bid Form. 3. Please note that in terms of Rule 9(3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the bidder(s)/the purchaser is legally bound to deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, (inclusive of earnest money) on the same day or not later than next working day. The sale may be confirmed in favour of (bidder/s) only after receipt of 25% of the sale price by the secured creditor in accordance with Rule 9(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The remaining 75% of the sale consideration amount has to be deposited by the purchaser within 15 days' from the date of acknowledgement of sale confirmation letter and in default of such deposit, the authorized officer shall forfeit the part payment of sale consideration amount within 15 days from the date of expiry of mandatory period of 15 days mentioned in the sale confirmation letter and the property/secured asset shall be resold as per the provisions of Section 4. S.M.M., would be assisting the authorized Officer in conducting sale through an e-auction/Public Auction sale. For any assistance related to inspection of the property or obtaining the bid documents and for any other query or registration, you have to co-ordinate with VIVEK KHARE - Mobile no: 9289360494. Authorized Officer/Person of secured creditor or refer www.pnbhousing.com

Date: 23.09.2022, Place: Raipur Sd/- Authorized Officer, M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Home Finance Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Anandhi Kuria Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Address: Office No. 105/101, Plot No. 582, 1st Floor, Au Plaza, M G Road, Indore - 452001
Branch Address: Sky Park, Ground floor, Unit No. 1, Near Canal Road Raipur - 492001

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction 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.	Yaqoob Ahmed (Borrower), Khilashwari Devi (Co-Borrower), Q.N. 2C Street 30 B Sector 7, Bhitai Civic Centre Bhitai-490006. NHDR00000834012	Apartment No. House Lig 63, Ground Floor Khasra No 201 Junwani, District - Durg Madhya Pradesh State - 491001. Bounded By- North: Being Flat, South: others, East: others, West: Others.	04-08-2022 Rs. 13,28,132/-	25-11-2016
2.	Preeti Sachdev (Borrower), Harsh Kumar Sachdev (Co-Borrower), House No.20 Avanti Garden Daldai Sector, CHhattisgarh 492007, NHRPR00001273053	216 Near Indus School Old Dhantari Road Kh No 4/1 4/2 4/2/5 5/1/2/5/6 6/1 7/1 4 8/1 P 8/3/4 10/1-6 11/1-11 12/1-8 19/1-17 20/1 12 21 22/1-2 12 23/1-4 24/1-3 25/115/6-8 Ric Abhanpur Ph No 12415 Abhanpur-493661.	08-08-2022 Rs. 68,12,703/-	05-05-2022
3.	Soni Devi (Borrower), Ranjit Pandey (Co-Borrower), Harihar Sharan Panday (Co-Borrower), Ward No 09 Metal Par Banjari Nagar Raipur 493221. LHRPR00001343539	498 Mouja Birgaon Khasra No 17 5 Rnm Dharisiva 1 Ward No 11 Lal Bahadur Shashtra Ward Phn 101 29 Ward No 9 House No 498 Aadarsh Nagar Birgaon Birgaon 101 29 Raipur-492001. Bounded By- North: Land of Gupta Ji, South: Road, East: Land of Pandeyji, West: Remaining Lanmd of seller.	09-08-2022 Rs. 1,27,652/-	05-08-2022
4.	Soni Devi (Borrower), Ranjit Pandey (Co-Borrower), Harihar Sharan Panday (Co-Borrower), Ward No 09 Metal Par Banjari Nagar Raipur 493221. LHRPR00001343540	498 Mouja Birgaon Khasra No 17 5 Rnm Dharisiva 1 Ward No 11 Lal Bahadur Shashtra Ward Phn 101 29 Ward No 9 House No 498 Aadarsh Nagar Birgaon Birgaon 101 29 Raipur-492001. Bounded By- North: Land of Gupta Ji, South: Road, East: Land of Pandeyji, West: Remaining Lanmd of seller.	09-08-2022 Rs. 6,81,036/-	05-08-2022
5.	Harihar Sharan Panday (Borrower), Soni Devi (Co-Borrower), Ranjit Pandey (Guarantor), So Ved Prakash Pandey Ward No 09 CHhattisgarh Adarsh Vidyalay Raipur 493221. LHRPR00001335149	498 Mouja Birgaon Khasra No 17 5 Rnm Dharisiva 1 Ward No 11 Lal Bahadur Shashtra Ward Phn 101 29 Ward No 9 House No 498 Aadarsh Nagar Birgaon Birgaon 101 29 Raipur-492001. Bounded By- North: Land of Gupta Ji, South: Road, East: Land of Pandeyji, West: Remaining Lanmd of seller.	09-08-2022 Rs. 21,25,004/-	05-08-2022
6.	Harihar Sharan Panday (Borrower), Soni Devi (Co-Borrower), Ranjit Pandey (Guarantor), S O Ved Prakash Pandey Ward No 09 Metal Par Banjari Nagar Adarsh Vidyalay Raipur 493221. LHRPR00001335150	498 Mouja Birgaon Khasra No 17 5 Rnm Dharisiva 1 Ward No 11 Lal Bahadur Shashtra Ward Phn 101 29 Ward No 9 House No 498 Aadarsh Nagar Birgaon Birgaon 101 29 Raipur-492001. Bounded By- North: Land of Gupta Ji, South: Road, East: Land of Pandeyji, West: Remaining Lanmd of seller.	09-08-2022 Rs. 10,60,386/-	05-08-2022
7.	Harihar Sharan Panday (Borrower), Soni Devi (Co-Borrower), Ranjit Pandey (Guarantor), So Ved Prakash Pandey Ward No 09 Metal Par Banjari Nagar Adarsh Vidyalay Raipur 493221. LHRPR00001335151	498 Mouja Birgaon Khasra No 17 5 Rnm Dharisiva 1 Ward No 11 Lal Bahadur Shashtra Ward Phn 101 29 Ward No 9 House No 498 Aadarsh Nagar Birgaon Birgaon 101 29 Raipur-492001. Bounded By- North: Land of Gupta Ji, South: Road, East: Land of Pandeyji, West: Remaining Lanmd of Seller.	09-08-2022 Rs. 1,18,125/-	05-08-2022

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 Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : September 23, 2022
Place: Durg, Abhanpur, Raipur

Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited