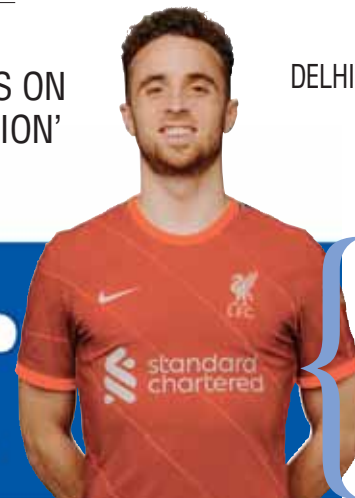


**OPINION 6**  
PREVENTING SCOURGE  
OF CHILD TRAFFICKING**WORLD 8**  
RUSSIA DECLARES UKRAINIAN  
MILITARY UNIT A TERROR GROUP**MONEY 10**  
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HIGHER URBAN CONSUMPTION'Published From  
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JOTA EXTENDS  
HIS STAY WITH  
LIVERPOOL  
12 SPORT

# US avenges 9/11, kills Qaeda chief Zawahiri

Drone eliminates  
Zawahiri in Kabul;  
Taliban protest

PTI ■ WASHINGTON/KABUL

Al-Qaeda's reclusive emir Ayman al-Zawahiri, who played a key role in the 9/11 attacks and later formed the group's regional affiliate in the Indian subcontinent, has been killed in a US drone strike in Kabul, in the biggest blow to the global terror network since its founder Osama bin Laden was eliminated in Pakistan in 2011.

Zawahiri, who assumed the leadership of al-Qaeda after the death of bin Laden, was killed in a drone strike carried out by CIA on Saturday evening at a house in a posh locality in the Afghan capital where he was sheltering to reunite with his family, US President Joe Biden said on Monday, declaring that "justice has been delivered and this terrorist is no more."

The 71-year-old Egyptian surgeon, on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist list, had a USD 25 million bounty on his head, was bin Laden's second-in-command during 9/11 attacks and took over as the head of al-Qaeda after his killing.

He remained a visible international symbol of the terror group, 11 years after the US killed bin Laden during a

raid in Pakistan's garrison city of Abbottabad in May 2011.

"My fellow Americans, on Saturday, at my direction, the United States successfully concluded an airstrike in Kabul, Afghanistan, that killed the emir of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri," President Biden said. "I authorised a precision strike that would remove him from the battlefield, once and for all," Biden, still isolating due to a Covid-19 reinfection, said in a speech from a balcony of the White House.

According to officials, Zawahiri was on the balcony of a safe house in Kabul when the drone fired two Hellfire missiles at him. Other family members were present, but they were unharmed.

"He was deeply involved in the planning of 9/11, one of the most responsible for the attacks that murdered 2,977 people on American soil. For decades, he was the mastermind of attacks against Americans," said Biden, referring to the victims of the 2001 attacks in which hijackers crashed passenger jets into landmark buildings in New York and Washington.

"Now, justice has been delivered and this terrorist leader is no more. People around the world no longer need to fear the vicious and determined killer," Biden said.

"The US continues to demonstrate our resolve and our capacity to defend the American people against those who seek to do us harm. We make it clear again tonight, that



In this 1998 file photo made available on March 19, 2004, Ayman al-Zawahiri, left, listens during a news conference with Osama bin Laden in Khost, Afghanistan

AP

no matter how long it takes, no matter where you hide, if you are a threat to our people, the United States will find you and take you out," he said.

Biden said the precision strike targeting was the result of the "extraordinary persistence and skill" of the nation's intelligence community.

The strike comes one year after Biden ordered the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, prompting Taliban forces to rapidly seize control of the war-torn nation.

**Continued on Page 2****Taliban under  
scrutiny now**

**Islamabad:** The US drone strike that killed al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri on the balcony of a Kabul safe house intensified global scrutiny Tuesday of Afghanistan's Taliban rulers and further undermined their efforts to secure international recognition and desperately needed aid.

**Haqqani tried to  
conceal al-Qaeda  
leader's safe house**

**New York:** Members of the dreaded terror group Haqqani network tried to conceal that al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri who was killed in a US drone strike was at a safe house in Kabul and restricted access to the site, a media report said on Tuesday.

## Price rise linked to global issues: Govt

**Opp raps Govt  
for rising price  
of food items**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday asserted that the price rise and the inflation are linked to global development beyond the control of any country even as the Opposition parties during a debate in the Rajya Sabha appealed to the Government to acknowledge the problem and provide relief to the poor.

While members from the Opposition benches raised concerns over the rising inflation in the country and its impact on the common man, members of the ruling BJP claimed that the inflation rate was only at 7 per cent and that too mainly on account of external factors such as the Russia-Ukraine war and global disruptions. They also hailed the Government for navigating the economy in the right direction in such a troublesome time.

Replying to the debate, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said while nobody is in denial about the price rise, India's macro-economic fundamentals are strong. "Indian economy, compared to the situation prevailing in many of our peer groups and in many of developed economies, is definitely much better," she said.

The Minister claimed the poor's consumption of any food item has not been taxed and 5 per cent GST has been



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha during ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament on Tuesday

PTI

levied only on pre-packed, labelled items and not on those items sold loosely.

"The more I listen to issues on the GST I am worried that the information is not reaching, rather there is misinformation. There's no GST on cash withdrawals; GST is paid by the bank which takes the cheque books from its printer. It's a matter of record that all States agreed to the proposal of GST on pre-packaged items. There wasn't one person who spoke against it, there wasn't a single disagreement," the Finance Minister said.

"Debates are something that we respect and want to participate and I am glad today that we had this debate. Every State taxed some or the other food items such as cereal, pulses, curd, lassi, buttermilk," she said. The Minister said today's economic distress throughout the world needed to be looked at holistically.

On the inflation, the Minister said ideally the inflation should be kept below 6 per cent. "The Government has a targeted approach to reach sec-

tions that desperately need help. We are not saying we will not do anything more," she said. Sitharaman said the RBI has registered its concern over the adverse effect of cryptocurrency on the Indian economy.

"At present, cryptocurrencies are unregulated in India. The Government has brought a comprehensive taxation regime for the transfer of virtual digital asset (VDA), including gifting of VDA. Cryptocurrencies are by definition borderless and require international collaboration to prevent regulatory arbitrage. Any policy framework on cryptocurrency can be effective only after significant international collaboration on evaluation of the risks and benefits and evolution of common taxonomy and standards," she said.

On the weakening of Indian rupee against US dollar, the FM said the exchange rate of the rupee is determined largely by the market forces of demand and supply.

**Continued on Page 2**

## ED raids Herald Delhi office, Cong cries 'vendetta politics'

11 other locations  
raided as part of  
PMLA probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday searched the head office of the Congress party-owned National Herald newspaper here and 11 other locations as part of an ongoing money laundering investigation against the daily.

The Congress condemned the raids as "vendetta politics" and said the action was part of the continued attack on the country's principal Opposition party.

ED officials searched the office of the National Herald located in the Herald House



Congress members raise slogans during a protest against the raid by Enforcement Directorate on Congress-owned National Herald newspaper office in the ongoing money laundering probe, in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

building at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg near ITO in Central Delhi. The office is registered in the name of AJL.

The premises of a shell

company in Kolkata involved in the case was also searched during the day, officials said without naming the firm.

**Continued on Page 2**

## Half marathon, bike rally to pep up Tiranga drive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has planned a host of programmes to celebrate "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" and "Har Ghar Tiranga" drive even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday changed his display picture on social media accounts to tricolour and urged people to do the same.

As part of the "Har Ghar Tiranga" drive, the Union Culture Ministry will organise a Tiranga bike rally from the Red Fort to Parliament Wednesday for MPs of all parties. A "Run for Azadi" half marathon will also be organised here on September 25 for employees of the Central and State Governments, according to a Personnel Ministry order.

Addressing the media persons, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlaad Joshi stressed Tiranga rally was a Culture



Ministry programme and not of his party, and urged MPs of all parties to join the exercise at 8.30 am.

At the BJP parliamentary party meeting, BJP president JP Nadda outlined a host of exercises for the party members to undertake during a week-long programme starting from August 9 in the run up to August 15.

He asked party members to take out "prabhat pheri" (morning procession) between 9 am and 11 am to publicise the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign.

Its youth wing would carry out Tiranga yatra on bikes across the country, Joshi said.

**Continued on Page 2**

## Rupee performance better than its peers, says Finance Min

It hasn't collapsed,  
comfortably placed:  
Nirmala SitharamanPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Amid weakening of the rupee against the dollar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday asserted the Indian currency has not collapsed and it is actually finding its natural course.

Making this point in the Rajya Sabha after some members expressed concern over the depreciation of the rupee, she also said the Reserve Bank of India is continuously monitoring the situation and inter-

vening if there is volatility.

Fielding questions of the rupee versus dollar value comparison during the Question Hour, which functioned smoothly for the first time since the Monsoon Session began on July 18, Sitharaman said in fact the performance of the local currency is much better.

"It is comfortably placed," she quipped.

"The RBI interventions are not so much to fix the value of the Indian Rupee because it is free to find its own course," the Finance Minister said, adding interventions that are happening from the RBI side are more for containing volatility that is happening between the Indian rupee and the US dollar and so on.

## 50 workers fall sick after gas leak in Andhra SEZ factory unit

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

More than 50 women workers of an apparel manufacturing unit in the Brandix Special Economic Zone at Atchutapuram near here fell sick on Tuesday due to what was suspected to be a mysterious gas leak, the second such incident in two months.

The real cause of the sickness was, however, not immediately established as medical examination was being conducted.

While some of the workers were administered first aid in the medical centre in the SEZ and released, some others were shifted to nearby hospitals.

Some of the workers who fell sick were said to be pregnant.

**Continued on Page 2**

## CAA rules will be framed after Covid jab drive ends, says Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday "assured" the West Bengal BJP leaders that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be implemented at the earliest and that rules regarding it will be framed after the Covid19 precaution dose vaccination exercise was completed.

The CAA seeks to provide citizenship to persecuted minority groups who crossed over from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan by December 2014. Bengal BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari said the Home Minister gave them the assurance during a meeting where they urged him for the implementation of the CAA.

**Continued on Page 2**

## Cash seized from Cong MLAs part of plot to topple J'khand Govt: Bengal CID

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
KOLKATA

The Jharkhand MLAs' arrest case has taken a scandalous turn with senior officers of Bengal Criminal Investigation Department (CID) suggesting that the cash recovered from their vehicle had its origin in Kolkata, but it was actually sourced from Assam, "perhaps through hawala route".

Three Jharkhand Congress MLAs Irfan Ansari, Rajesh Kachchap and Naman Bixal were on Saturday arrested by the CID after the officials intercepted their vehicle and recovered ₹49 lakh from it.

According to the officers, the Jharkhand MLAs had come to Kolkata twice on the pretext of purchasing clothes for some Adivasi festival.

"For the first time they



came on July 20 ... then they came on July 29... from here they went to Guwahati, where they met the Assam Chief Minister through a very senior BJP leader ... then they came back to Kolkata," the officials said, adding there was a "big game plan".

The Congress leaders who had since been suspended from their party were approached by the BJP leadership to engineer defection in the Jharkhand Government, sources quoting the officials said.

For this ₹10 crore was

promised to each of the defecting MLAs. Besides a "very senior position" was also promised to Ansari, sources said.

"The legislators told their handlers in Assam that 13 more MLAs would be willing to defect for which they needed some token amount," sources said, adding the money recovered from their vehicle could be a part of that token amount.

In Kolkata the MLAs had gone to a hotel for half-an-hour reportedly to use the toilet, sources said adding "during the stay in the hotel a Congress worker went out on a scooter and brought back cash from a share trading company at Bikaner Building near Lalbazar police headquarters in Kolkata. The officials suspect hawala links to the money.

## India's new 'Fab Four' bowls over fans with historic gold

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The Indian women lawn bowls team bagged a historic gold medal at the Commonwealth Games on Tuesday, an unheralded quartet pulling the sport from obscurity to limelight with its inspiring show.

The Indian team of Lovely Choubey (lead), Pinki (second), Nayanmoni Saikia (third) and Rupa Rani Tirkey (skip) overcame mid-match slump to beat South Africa 17-10 in the women's fourth final.

The team had got the nation hooked to the sport after its surprise win over New Zealand, and its incredible campaign culminated in the best possible manner.

**Detailed report on P11**

## As Pelosi reaches Taipei, China plans 'targeted' military hits around Taiwan

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday warned that US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan disregarding its stern warnings will have a "severe impact" on bilateral ties, as the official media here said that the military will launch a series of "targeted" operations to counter her trip.

Pelosi landed in Taipei on Tuesday night, according to the television footage shown by US networks. She is the highest-ranking US official to visit Taiwan in 25 years.

After Pelosi arrived in Taiwan, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a strong statement, saying that her visit is a "serious violation of the one-China principle and the provisions of the three China-US joint communiques".

China claims Taiwan as



Supporters hold a banner outside the hotel before the arrival of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in Taipei, Taiwan, on Tuesday

AP

part of the mainland and vows to integrate what it calls the rebel province even by force.

"It has a severe impact on the political foundation of China-US relations, and seriously infringes upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It gravely undermines peace and stability across the

Taiwan Strait, and sends a seriously wrong signal to the separatist forces for "Taiwan independence". China firmly opposes and sternly condemns this, and has made serious demarche and strong protest to the United States," the statement said.

**Continued on Page 2**



## NCR-PULSE

### JMI V-C INAUGURATES 5-DAY COVID VACCINATION CAMP

New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia Vice Chancellor Professor Najma Akhtar inaugurated a five-day free Covid vaccination camp on Tuesday and urged all adults to get themselves inoculated.

### WOMAN, FRIEND HELD FOR DUPING PEOPLE

New Delhi: A 35-year-old woman and her friend were arrested for allegedly creating fake profiles on matrimonial sites and duping people looking for life partners online of their hard-earned money. Renuka Gusain and Amos Gurang (42), both natives of Nepal, recently duped a woman of over Rs 34 lakh which she deposited into the bank account of a person she believed was her future husband.

### DELHI POLICE ARRESTS 2 FOR KILLING A PERSON

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested two men for allegedly killing a person over an extramarital affair, in northeast Delhi's Khajuri Khas area. The accused have been identified as Atin (26), a resident of Purnia in Bihar, and Ahsan (22), a resident of Jaitpur.

### 25-YR-OLD HELD FOR HIDING RELIGION FOR AFFAIR

Noida: The Gautam Budh Nagar police has arrested the 25 year-old live-in partner of a woman for allegedly hiding his religion to get into a relationship with her. The accused, who lived with the woman for six months, has also been booked under provisions of the Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020, the officials said.

### CONGRESS ANNOUNCE AZADI GAURAV YATRA

New Delhi: Ahead of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar on Tuesday announced that they have constituted a 26-member organizing committee for the Azadi Gaurav Yatra which will be headed by the former Delhi Minister Dr Narendra Nath. The Azadi ki Gaurav Yatra will be held from August 9 to 15 in all the districts of national capital.

## PM’s brother Prahlad Modi stages dharna at Jantar Mantar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi, who is also the vice president of All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation, on Tuesday staged a dharna here with various demands of the organisation.

Prahlad along with several other members of the All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation (AIFPSDF) gathered at Jantar Mantar, holding banners and raising slogans.

"A delegation of AIFPSDF will submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, listing our long-standing demands for the sake of our survival. With the current situation of hike in the cost of living and overhead expenditures for running shops, a raise of mere 20 paise per kg in our

margin is a cruel joke. We request the Union government to grant us relief and end our financial miseries," Prahlad said.

He further stated that AIFPSDF will hold a national executive meeting on Wednesday and based on that, their next course of action will be decided.

AIFPSDF national general secretary Biswambhar Basu told PTI that they also plan to meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday.

The AIFPSDF has been demanding compensation for loss on rice, wheat and sugar, and also for edible oil and pulses to be supplied through fair price shops.

It has also demanded that the 'West Bengal Ration Model' of free distribution be implemented across the country.

## DU to launch ‘Competence Enhancement’ scheme

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University is planning to launch a scheme 'Competence Enhancement' which will allow students from other universities or institutions to study various courses in the varsity from next year. The DU's academic council (AC) will discuss the implementation of the scheme during its meeting on Wednesday.

According to the agenda of the meeting, the scheme will enable people from "different walks of life" to enrol in the university to enhance their knowledge and understanding in any subject being taught in the varsity.

Admissions under the scheme will be merit-based and the candidates will be allowed to register for a maximum of two courses and eight credit subjects in a semester.

A candidate who fulfils

the eligibility criteria and pre-requisites can register for the course, the agenda mentioned.

"In addition to the minimum eligibility criteria, one must be able to demonstrate a genuine interest and enthusiasm for the courses proposed to study. The candidate must have the time and commitment needed to study the course along with the students studying in regular mode," the agenda mentioned.

The number of seats in a course open for this scheme will be a maximum of 10 per cent of the total strength of the class of that course, the agenda said.

The registration of candidates for a specific course will be valid for a semester only.

The credits earned from the courses will be transferred to a student account in the Academic Bank of Credits.

The Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) is a virtual store-

house which will keep digitally stored records of academic credits secured by a student. At the end of the course, students will get a certificate.

The agenda stated that the scheme will fulfil the objectives of the new National Education Policy, which provides an opportunity for students to design their academic pathways by studying a variety of courses from different academic institutions.

The teaching and evaluation pattern of such students will be identical to that of a regular DU student.

"Teaching or instructions shall be provided in the same mode and medium as that of regular students and evaluation pattern for these candidates shall be identical to that of regular students," the agenda read.

According to the agenda, a student who fails to pass or complete a course can re-register.

### Half marathon...

From page 1

Under the campaign, the Prime Minister urged everyone to hoist or display the national flag at their house between August 13 and 15. Party members will also undertake "prabhat pheri" down to the booth level between August 11 and 13, playing "Raghupati raghav raja Ram", Mahatma Gandhi's favourite devotional song, or India's national song "Vande mataram", he said. In the meeting Nadka asked BJP MPs to ensure their presence in the party programmes and called for working to strengthen the organisation during the week at booths where the BJP has not done well in recent polls. The party will also be observing "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" on August 14. Modi had announced it last year in the memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people during the country's division, saying the pain of partition can never be forgotten.

### ED raids Herald Delhi office...

From page 1

The move comes a week after Congress chief Sonia Gandhi was questioned by the agency in connection with the case.

The searches were conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to "gather additional evidence with regard to the trail of funds and they are against those entities who were involved in the National Herald-linked transactions", officials said, adding the action was undertaken in the wake of fresh evidence that emerged after the latest round of questioning of various people.

The National Herald is published by the Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL), and its holding company is Young Indian.

Condemning the raids, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet, "The raids on Herald House, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, are a part of the continued attack against India's principal Opposition -- Indian National Congress. We strongly condemn this vendetta politics

## 24 Central Vista workers hurt as 2 buses collide

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

More than 24 labourers were injured on Tuesday after a private bus carrying them to the Central Vista project site collided with a DTC bus in central Delhi's Patel Nagar.

Police said four more people -- including the driver of the private bus and three passengers of the cluster bus -- were also injured. Upon reaching the spot, police said they found that the bus carrying the labourers to the new Parliament building construction site had rammed into the DTC bus from behind at the main traffic light at Patel Nagar.

Police said the impact left a total of 28 people injured including the driver of the private bus, the 44-year-old Jagmohan. According to Shweta Chauhan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central district, on Tuesday around 8:58 AM, information regarding accident of two buses at main Red

Light Patel Nagar was received at Ranjeet Nagar police station.

"The police team on spot found that one orange color Cluster Bus was hit by white private bus from rear side and the injured persons were already taken to hospital by ambulances," said the DCP.

"On reaching Sardar Vallabhai Hospital, Patel Nagar, total 28 passengers including the driver of private bus were found being treated there. Out of these, 3 injured were from cluster bus who left the hospital after first aid," said the DCP.

"Rest injured persons who are labours being taken to the construction site of new Parliament Building, including drive of offending private vehicle have been referred to RML hospital for MLC's and further treatment, they are being shifted to RML hospital," said the DCP. "The driver of offending vehicle is Jagmohan (44) and he is still unconscious. Legal action as per law is being taken," police said.

### As Pelosi reaches Taipei...

From page 1

There is but one-China in the world, Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, it said.

Dismissing US Secretary Antony Blinken's assertion that US Congress functioned independently from the Government, the statement said the US "Congress, as a part of the US Government, is inherently obliged to strictly observe the one-China policy of the US Government and refrain from having any official exchanges with China's Taiwan region".

Citing the Ministry of National Defence spokesperson Sr. Col. Wu Qian, state-run Global Times reported that the Chinese military "will launch a series of targeted military operations to counter Pelosi's visit to Taiwan island, and resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

## US avenges 9/11, kills Qaeda chief

From page 1

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the world is a safer place following the death of Zawahiri as he accused the Taliban regime of grossly violating its commitments to the international community by "hosting and sheltering" the al-Qaeda chief in Kabul. Blinken said the US will continue to act against those who threaten the country, its people and its allies.

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Date: 02nd August, 2022  
**COMPANY NOTICE**  
In pursuance of Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that 01st/2022-2023 meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Leasing & Industries Ltd. will be held on Wednesday 10th August, 2022 at 12.30 PM, at R.K. Khanna Tennis Stadium Africa Avenue New Delhi -110029 to consider, approve and take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the first quarter ended 30th June 2022. Any other matter with the approval of Chairman.

For United Leasing & Industries Ltd. Sd/-  
Shashi Shekhar  
Compliance officer cum Company Secretary  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: 2nd August, 2022

From page 1

The government and RBI closely monitor the developments in the exchange rate of the Indian rupee, she said.

"The RBI regularly monitors the foreign exchange market and intervenes in situations of excessive volatility to curb it. It intervenes to maintain orderly conditions without targeting any specific level of the exchange rate. The Government and RBI calibrate macroeconomic policies on the exchange rate on a regular basis, the Finance Minister said.

Initiating the discussion, CPI (M)'s Elamaram Kareem said there has been a constant increase in prices of essential commodities in the last eight years of Modi Government. Despite record foodgrains, it is tragic testimony that farmers are fighting to get better prices and consumers are weighed down by high prices, he said, adding that the Government should have distributed the surplus stock to the poor through the public distribution system (PDS).

Accusing the Opposition of doublespeak on the Goods and Services Tax (GST), former Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the Opposition had "unanimously" agreed for 5 per cent GST on pre-packed food items in the GST Council Meeting, but when talking to media outside, the same tax became "Gabbar tax". For undertaking developmental work, he said funds are required. "Money does not come by printing but by generating income," he said.

Sudhanshu Trivedi of the BJP said India's current inflation is around 7 per cent, which is one of the lowest in the world. There are 63 countries where the rate of inflation is over 10 per cent.

Refuting Javadekar's claims, TMC leader Derek O'Brien said rising prices of essential commodities coupled with imposition of the GST on pre-packed food items, which was not agreed by Opposition in the GST Council, and unemployment is affecting the poor badly. On top of it, rupee appreciation has put pressure on the economy, he said.

"We appeal to the Government as a constructive Opposition, first, you have to acknowledge the problem. If you do not acknowledge the problem, how will you fix the problem?" he said.

## 50 workers...

Zawahiri comes from a distinguished Egyptian family, according to the New York Times.

His grandfather, Rabia'a al-Zawahiri, was an imam at the prestigious al-Azhar University in Cairo. His great-uncle, Abdel Rahman Azzam, was the first secretary of the Arab League. He played central role in the attacks on US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, and eventually helped to mastermind the deadliest terror attack on American soil, when hijackers turned US airliners into missiles.

In September 2014, Zawahiri had announced the creation of Al-Qaeda's regional affiliate - the Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), taking advantage of sanctuaries in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

## 50 workers...

From page 1

On June 3 too a similar incident occurred in the same place where more than 200 women workers fell unconscious after complaining of eyesore, nausea and vomiting.

It was then suspected that ammonia gas leaked from a nearby Porus Laboratories unit.

A team of experts from the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology in Hyderabad visited the lab and conducted tests to determine the cause of the leak while the AP Pollution Control Board ordered closure of the lab.

The Porus lab was shut down for a few days after the mishap but soon resumed activities.



LANDMARK THE HOMES 81

SECTOR-81, GURUGRAM (HARYANA)

**PROJECT APPROVED UNDER HARYANA GOVT. AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY 2013**

Online applications are invited from general public for booking and allotment of 74 residential apartments in Affordable Housing Project in the name of "LANDMARK THE HOMES 81" proposed to be developed by M/s SRV Automotives Pvt. Ltd., as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Govt. of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 and amendment thereof (details available at the department website i.e. www.tcpharyana.gov.in).

**PROJECT DETAILS:**

1. Project ID:	113
2. Colonizers/Developers:	M/s SRV Automotives Pvt. Ltd.
3. Project Approvals:	License No. 4 of 2021 Dated: 02.03.2021 Building Plans Sanctioned Vide Memo No. ZP-1466/SD (DK)/2021/12887 DATED 02.06.2021. RERA Registration No: 36 of 2021, Dated: 16.07.2021
4. Location:	Sector 81, Gurugram, Haryana
5. Project Area:	5.0 Acres comprising a total 694 nos. of apartments out of which remaining/surrender 74 nos. of apartments are available. 4 nos. of apartments are reserved for management quota. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2046.83 sq. ft. & One Aanganwadi cum creche of 2023.63 sq. ft.
6. Facilities:	Gated Entry, Security Post, Drop off Zone, Ample Parking, Kids play area, Water body, Badminton Court, Lawn tennis, Commercial Complex

**7. Details of Apartments offer for Public:**

Unit Type	Unit Carpet Area @ 4200 (Sq.ft)	Unit Balcony Area @ 1000 (Sq.ft)	Total price of Unit (Rs.)	At the time of Online Application (Rs.)	No. of Units
Unit-3 (2bhk)	559.82	179.33	2451264	117562.20	22
Unit-4 (2bhk) (3 units under MQ)	566.61	124.16	2479746	118988.10	9
Unit-6 (1bhk)	348.04	85.34	1547121	73088.40	37
Unit-7 (1bhk)	398.86	85.34	1760552	83760.60	5
Unit-2 (3bhk) (MQ)	644.86	152.34	2808412	135420.60	1

8. Applicable GST and cesses, levies & fees etc. shall be charged over & above the said total price of the unit.

9. **Payment Terms:**

I. With online application: Booking amount i.e. 5% of Total Price of unit

II. On Allotment: 20% of Total Price of unit

III. The balance 75% amount of the flat cost will be recovered as per stages of construction as prescribed in the Agreement for Sale. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment will bear penal interest as provided in Rule 15 of the HRERA, rules, 2017.

10. **Parking:** Two wheeler parking with each apartment.

11. **Broad Specification of Apartment:**  
**Flooring:** Vitrified/Ceramic Tiles, Wall Finish: Oil Bound distemper, Kitchen Details: SS Single bowl Sink, Granite top platform, Balcony Flooring: Anti Skid Tiles, Railing: M.S Steel, Window/External Door: UPVC/MS/Aluminum or equivalent, Door: Flush Doors, Bathroom Fittings: Chinaware or equivalent, C. P. Fittings: Modern & elegant, Electrical: ISI marked products for wirings, switches & circuits.

12. **Application Timelines:** Application will be filled online by registration on <https://edraw.tcpharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home> starting from **04<sup>th</sup> August 2022** and last date of submission of online application form is **27<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

13. **ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Any person can apply but an applicant in a specify colony shall make only one application. 2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna - Housing for all programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First Priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the state of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, Persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next Preference in allotment of flats. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice to retain only one flat. All such applicants shall submit an affidavit to this effect. 3. PAN Card & Aadhaar Card is mandatory.

14. **ALLOTMENT CRITERIA:**

1. . The allotment of apartments shall be done through online draw in the presence of Committee consisting Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned District and the representative of concerned colonizer. 2. After fixation of date for online draw, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicant about the details regarding date/time and venue of the online draw in the same newspaper in which the original advertisement was issued. For detailed criteria and time frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicant may also refer to the details in the affordable housing policy 2013 notified by No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (available at the department website i.e., [www.tcpharyana.gov.in](http://www.tcpharyana.gov.in))

2. In the event the purchaser(s) wants to avail a loan facility from any bank, financial Institution or his/her employer to facilitate the purchase of the flat, the developer shall facilitate the process but shall not be held liable for any delay in payment or refusal to grant the loan to purchaser(s).

**M/s SRV Automotives Private Limited, CIN: U70100DL2005PTC134174**  
**Corp. Office: Landmark House, Plot No. 65, Sector 44, Gurugram, Haryana – 122003**  
**Please Contact – 8929887878**

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# Tipplers get relief as restaurants, bars serve liquor

**GOVT SETS UP 2 PANELS ON EXCISE POLICY; 130-140 PRIVATE VENDS, STORES REMAIN CLOSED**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the Delhi Government notified the order extending the existing excise policy for a month, a majority of restaurants and bars started serving liquor in the city while around 130-140 private vends and stores remained closed on Tuesday as they were reluctant to get licences just for a month.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Government has formed two committees, including one for ensuring smooth transition from the existing policy to the old one. The other committee will formulate a new excise policy.

Top sources said that six zonal licensees have opted out of the extension and surrendered their licences, as a result of which, a total of 130-140 liquor vends will be closed now. This will further bring down the number from 468 to



330. A thin crowd was seen outside some of these vends which were opened in the early hours in different parts of the national Capital. A restaurant owner at Connaught Place said, "As the Government has extended the existing licence term for a month, we have decided to reopen it." Meanwhile, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage

Companies (CIABC) has urged the Government to find a permanent solution as short-term extension may destabilise the supply chain.

A private liquor vend owner said that "it would not be profitable business if we agree to sale of liquor/beer just for a month." "What will we do after August?" he questioned. The Excise Department of

the Delhi Government had on Monday issued orders for extension of retail and wholesale licences up to August 31, on payment of applicable fee for the period. From September 1, the Excise Policy 2021-22 will cease to exist and the Delhi Government will revert to the old excise regime and run liquor stores in the city through its corporations.

"Normalisation of trade with a clear and consistent policy perimeter is essential for supply chains to work efficiently. This is a loss to all stakeholders, be it the Government, manufacturers, traders or consumers.

We just hope that the Government works out a permanent solution very soon, for the rest of the year and for years ahead, which regains the sense of stability, predictability, and tranquility so vital for a vibrant trade and industry,"

said Vinod Giri, director-general, CIABC while commenting on the Delhi Government's decision to allow private vends till August end. "Start-stop-start mode or very short-term extensions, like a month, just disrupt the supply chain, creating stock pile ups or stock outs that take time to regain shape and flow," Giri said.

Meanwhile, some shops selling liquor remained closed. "Since the shops were closed on Monday because there was no order on the extension till late Sunday night, many workers scattered. Also, stocks had been sold out as our licences had expired on July 31. So, shops will reopen after these things are taken care of," said a zonal licensee.

A few people were seen outside a liquor shop in Janpath area. The vend employees said the licences were being renewed and liquor would be

stocked before business resumes normally. "There is liquor on the shelves, but they are not selling it and asking us to come later," said a customer outside the vend.

The four corporations—the Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC), Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Store (DCCWS), and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) have geared up to ensure supply of liquor through vends managed by them.

Officials privy to the development said that preparations are underway to chalk out a plan for sale of liquor at Government-run liquor vends managed by the four corporations. "Things will get clearer in the coming days," they said.

## Delhi Police not in favour of bars, restaurants remaining open till 3 AM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it was not in favour of places like bars and restaurants serving liquor in the national Capital being permitted to remain operational till 3 AM.

The court was hearing a petition by the National Restaurant Association of India seeking directions to restrain Delhi Police from interfering with the operation and running of restaurants and bars till 3 am in terms of the excise policy.

Police counsel submitted before Justice Yashwant Varma, that the agency was "saying no" to the extension of timings of operations beyond 1 AM. In its report filed in case, the police stated that in the meetings of the joint consultative group, its

officials objected to bars being permitted to operate beyond 1 am on several grounds, including that demography of Delhi has a "unique character", there are several offices and residence of importance and city has "reflected ugly and irresponsible behaviour of people under influence of alcohol late in night".

The report informed that women's safety was a big concern and given acute shortage of manpower in Delhi Police, operation timings of bars in restaurants and clubs should not be increased.

The report stated that it was suggested by police officials that since decision regarding increasing time for bars and restaurants was taken by Delhi government, the views of agency may be sent for re-consideration of timings by the competent authority.

## Lack of police NOC delays preparations for demolition of Supertech's Twin Towers



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Failure to get a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Noida Police has led to delay in starting the initial work that needs to be done before the demolition of Supertech's Twin Towers can take place on August 21.

Explosives were to be planted in both the towers from August 2 to August 20 but the work could not start on the set date. The officials had marked around 10,000 pillars in the tower to commence the work of planting explosives and by August 20 about 3,700 kgs of explosive material was to be filled in all the clues. Though the towers were supposed to be demolished on August 21, with the delay in placing the explosions, the final date might change.

According to information, the explosives did not reach Noida as the NOC could not be obtained from the Regional Office of the Explosive Controller located in Agra on Tuesday. Preparations are on in full swing to get the NOC.

Once it is issued, the explosives will be brought in two vehicles from Palwal to Supertech Twin Towers with a police escort at 4 A.M. on Wednesday. At the same time, gelatin rods will come in one vehicle and detonators in other vehicle. Every day 200 kg of explosives will be installed.

According to a senior official, the demolition of the twin towers located in Sector 93A of Noida is scheduled for 2.30 P.M. on August 21. The Supreme Court's deadline for the demolition of the nearly 100-metre tall illegal struc-

tures is August 28. The time from August 21 to 28 was kept as a buffer period.

As per the officials in the know of the developments, the charging – filling of explosives in columns of the skeletal structures – process was to begin on Tuesday and it would have taken around 15 days for the job to be completed safely. "However, the charging process could not begin as per the schedule. A couple of no objection certificates (NOCs) are still pending after which final preparations for the demolition process can begin," an official said.

According to sources, demolition firm Edifice Engineering, which has been hired by developer Supertech Group, was yet to provide replies to queries of the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), whose approval is needed for the charging process to start.

"Once a few pending reports are submitted to the CBRI and it gives its go ahead, the charging process would begin," a Noida Authority official said.

The Noida Authority would be officially reviewing the status of the project on August 6 after which the further course of action could be shared, the official added.

Over 3,500 kgs of explosive will be filled within 9,400 holes drilled in the columns and sheers of the nearly 100-metre-tall twin towers, according to officials. Supertech's Apex and Ceyane towers were ordered to be brought down last August by the Supreme Court, which noted that the structures had come up in violation of building norms.

## L-G slams ACB, Vigilance over delay in graft probes

Saxena asks officials for list of pending cases against Govt officials, reasons for delay

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena has taken a serious view of procedural lapses and delays by investigating agencies like the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) and the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV) in the course of an investigation into complaints/cases of corruption against Government officials.

He has also expressed displeasure over administrative departments not furnishing or delaying comments sought by the investigating agencies in complaints against their officials.

As per a statement released by Raj Niwas, to know the reason behind the pendency of corruption cases, the L-G has called upon the officers concerned of the ACB for an



explanation regarding matters, which are pending for more than one year and directed the department to furnish a list of pending cases along with the reason of pendency.

"Saxena also issued strict instructions to the DoV and all departments concerned to consider all cases and complaints referred to them for comments and examination and directed them to ensure that the same are provided within a fixed time-frame after judicious application of mind," it said.

"There were many cases of investigation pending since 2012 till 2017, in others, the administrative departments had not furnished their comments and in some the DoV had submitted self-contradictory recommendations for

grant of sanction," it read.

"Saxena advised the DoV to ensure that requests from the ACB are submitted for his consideration only after due diligence by the administrative departments concerned against whose official the complaint has been made," the statement said. "The L-G also directed that the comments of the administrative department should be put on record without any failure and it should be ensured that the recommendations made by various agencies are to the farthest possible extent, not in variance of each other and are not self-contradictory," it said.

"The L-G has underlined that while this will ensure speedy disposal of cases on one hand it will also ensure justice to the complainant as well as respondent," the statement further added.

The L-G's move came in the wake of several cases of alleged corruption against Government officials that were put up to him and displayed serious non-application of mind and inordinate delays by the departments and agencies concerned.

## 4 workers fall to death from 17th floor, 1 hurt

They fell while fixing a tower crane at a construction site in Gurugram without adequate safety equipment

**Gurugram:** In a tragic incident, four workers were killed and another was critically injured while fixing a tower crane on the 17th floor of an under-construction high-rise building on Tuesday evening at Sector-77 of Gurugram.

Officials said that the incident took place at around 5.00 PM at a construction site of Emaar Plam Hills where a residential project is coming up. According to the police the contract of the project was given to JJRS Contractors.

Of the five workers, four died on the spot and one was hospitalised in a critical condition. "All the victims were natives of Bihar," police said.

"The accident occurred as the victims were fixing the tower crane used to transport construction materials to the top of the housing project. They were on the 17th floor and they slipped and fell. While four of them fell to the ground and died, one of them fell on the safety equipment on the

12th floor. He was injured and is undergoing treatment," Suresh Kumar, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Manesar said.

Kumar said prima facie police found that the required safety equipment which was installed on the 12th floor by the contractor was not adequate. A detailed investigation into the matter will be carried out. Further details of the vic-

tims are yet to be established, police said.

"The Duty Magistrate and a scene of crime team will soon visit the site and after a detailed probe, an FIR will be registered against the persons handling the project as per the prescribe law," Kumar added. The bodies of the victims have been placed in the civil hospital and their next of kin have been informed.



## 70 Monkeypox isolation rooms set up at 6 hospitals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the national Capital reported its third case of Monkeypox the Delhi Government decided to set up 70 isolation rooms across six hospitals, including three private hospitals, to tackle the Monkeypox situation.

According to officials, 20 isolation rooms have been set up in Loknayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital and there are 10 isolation rooms each in GTB Hospital, Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Kailash Deepak Hospital, MD City Hospital and Batra Hospital in the city.

Speaking about the preparations being made by the AAP Government, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that "not many cases of Monkeypox have been reported in India, yet we are ready with all the preventive measures in place." A 35-year-old man of African origin with no

recent history of foreign travel has tested positive for Monkeypox in Delhi, making it the country's eighth case and the city's third. "The Delhi Government is keeping an eye on the complete situation of Monkeypox infection and has done all the preparations to fight back. Looking at the current situation, isolation rooms have been set up in three Government-run and three private hospitals," said Sisodia.

"To provide immediate treatment to the positive and suspected cases of Monkeypox, the Delhi Government has prepared 20 isolation rooms in Loknayak Jai Prakash Hospital, 10 isolation rooms each in GTB Hospital and Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital. Apart from this 10 isolation rooms each have been set up in Kailash Deepak Hospital, MD City Hospital and Batra Hospital, Tughlakabad," Sisodia added. "The number of rooms will be increased in future as

per the requirement. All the arrangements have been made as per the global standards to fight the infectious Monkeypox virus," he said.

According to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, if a person has

travelled to Monkeypox-affected countries in the past 21 days, has symptoms like swollen lymph nodes, fever, headache, bodyache, rashes, weakness, respiratory symptoms etc, then s/he might be a suspected case of Monkeypox.



## Car nearly collides with parked plane

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a shocking incident at Delhi airport when a Go First airline car went under an IndiGo A320neo aircraft and narrowly avoided collision with the plane's nose wheel on Tuesday.

The aircraft was readying to depart for Patna in the morning when a Swift Dzire car belonging to Go First airline went under it, narrowly avoiding collision with the nose wheel. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday ordered an inquiry into the incident.

The senior DGCA official said, "On Tuesday early morning Indigo aircraft VT-ITJ was parked on stand no. 201 of Terminal T-2 at IGI airport. It was to operate Indigo flight 6E-



2022 (Delhi - Patna). A Go Ground Maruti Swift Dzire

vehicle came close to this aircraft and stopped under the

nose area of the aircraft."

Video of the incident has surfaced on social media. The car can be seen just under the aircraft. The plane was getting prepared to take off for Patna on Tuesday morning when the car belonging to Go First Airline went under it.

The driver supposedly fell asleep. He was subjected to a breath analyser test to check if he had consumed alcohol and it was found to be negative. "There was no damage to the aircraft or injury to any person.

The driver has been subjected to Breath Analyser (BA) test for consumption of alcohol and it has been found to be negative." DGCA further said. The aircraft departed as per the scheduled departure time. Further investigation is being carried out by DAS-NR.

## Man carrying US dollars worth ₹15L held at IGI Airport

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has apprehended a Bangkok-bound Indian man at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport on Tuesday for carrying US dollars worth over Rs 15 lakh by allegedly concealing them inside layers of crunchy 'papad' packets

A total of USD 19,900 (worth about Rs 15.5 lakh at current value) was found concealed inside boxes marked as spices and between layers of 'papad' packets being carried by the passenger in his luggage

According to Arov Pandey, the Assistant Inspector General, CISF, on Tuesday around 5 AM, on the basis of behaviour detection, the CISF surveillance and intelligence staff at Terminal-3 of the IGI

Airport, noticed suspicious activities of a passenger "The man identified as Rishikesh, who bound for Bangkok by Vistara flight was diverted to random checking point for thorough checking of his luggage," said Pandey.

"On checking of his baggage through X-BIS machine, doubtful image of concealment of some foreign currency in the baggage was noticed. The matter was informed to senior officers of CISF and Customs officials," said the Assistant IG.

"On thorough checking of his bag, in the presence of custom officials, a total of 19,900 USD worth approximately Rs 15.5 lakh was detected concealed inside the spice boxes and between the layers of papad packets to avoid detection," said Assistant IG.





# India, Maldives ink six pacts

## India to give \$100 m aid for island nation's development

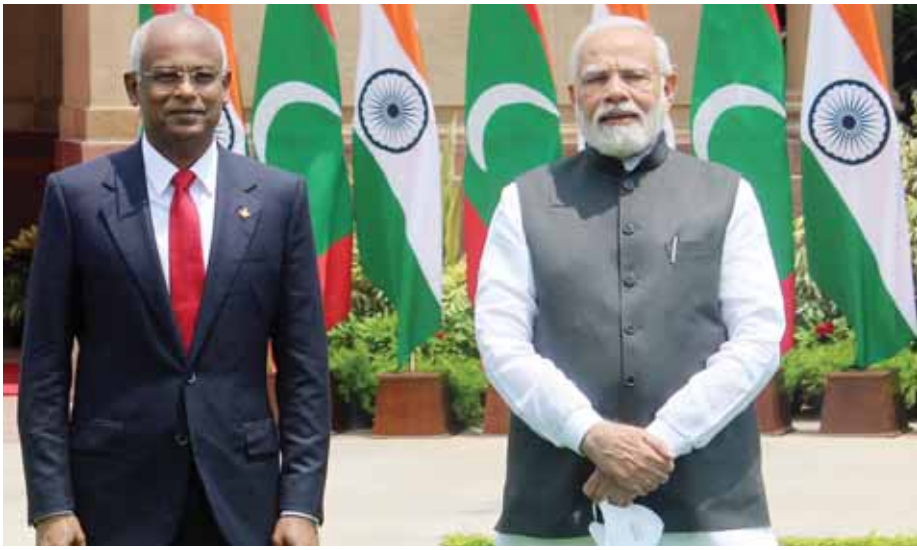
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to their bilateral ties in the fields of trade, defence and cyber security, India and Maldives on Tuesday inked six pacts with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing a 100 million dollar financial aid for infrastructure development of the island nation.

These agreements were signed between the two countries after talks between visiting Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and Prime Minister Modi. He said India will continue to be the "first responder" to any need or crisis facing Maldives.

After wide-ranging talks with Solih, Modi also said India will provide 24 vehicles and a naval vessel to the Maldivian security forces, besides developing police infrastructure in 61 islands in that country.

The Prime Minister in his statement, in the presence of Solih, said India "has been and will continue" to be the "first responder" to any need or crisis facing the Maldives. The bolstering of bilateral defence



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

and security ties including in the maritime domain comes in the backdrop of concerns over China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean region, which is strategically critical for India.

The Maldivian president, who arrived here on Monday on a four-day visit, said his government is fully committed to taking the bilateral ties to new heights. "Our relationship with India will always be of the highest priority."

The Maldives will always remain a true friend of India, firmly committed to our shared vision of peace and development in our countries and the region," Solih said. The six pacts inked between the two

sides will facilitate cooperation in capacity building, cyber security, housing, disaster management and infrastructure development in the Maldives. The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties including in areas of defence and security have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years.

Modi said the India-Maldives partnership is not only working in the interest of the citizens of both countries but also becoming a "source" of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The two leaders also virtually witnessed the pouring of the first concrete for

the ambitious greater-Male connectivity project.

In August last year, the island nation sealed a contract for the mimplementation of the India-funded connectivity project, billed as the largest infrastructure initiative being rolled out in the island nation. Under the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) project, a 6.74 km long bridge and causeway link will be built to connect the capital city Male with adjoining islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi. "We welcomed the beginning of work on the greater Male connectivity projects. It will be the biggest infra project."

We also reviewed projects

for the construction of 4,000 social housing units in Greater Male," Modi said. The Prime Minister said India will additionally provide financial support for 2,000 social housing units. "We have also decided to provide an additional line of credit of USD 100 million so that all projects can be completed in a time-bound manner," Modi added.

The Prime Minister said there has been a renewed vigour in the friendly relations between India and Maldives and the closeness has increased. He termed as "serious" the threat of trans-national crime, terrorism and drug trafficking in the Indian Ocean.

Therefore, close contact and coordination between India and Maldives in the field of defence and security are vital for the peace and stability of the entire region" Modi said.

The Prime Minister said India will also assist the Maldives in achieving its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Solih thanked India for its generous assistance when his country was reeling under the COVID-19 pandemic and said the two leaders also discussed the challenge of terrorism.

"We both reiterated our firm commitment towards work against terrorism and strengthen cooperation in the maritime safety and security in the Indian Ocean Region," he said. Referring to the cyber security pact, he said it is based on "equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit".

# ED attaches assets worth ₹113 cr of Surana Group of Companies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached 75 immovable properties including 67 windmills valued at Rs 113.32 crore belonging to the Chennai-based Surana Group of Companies on money laundering charges in connection with three cases of bank fraud involving Rs 3,986 crore of principal outstanding amount to the public sector banks.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of three FIRs filed by CBI against Surana Industries Limited and others, Surana Power Limited and others besides Surana Corporation Limited and others.

Investigation has revealed that these three companies of Surana Group have defrauded the banks by floating a web of shell companies wherein they appointed its employees/ relatives as directors/proprietors/partners and indulged in paper transactions with them without actual movement of goods.

The credit capital of the banks were round tripped/layered to personal accounts of promoters of company by projecting bank funds as unsecured loans from their associate shell companies and same funds were then subsequently infused in main Group Companies as part of Promoters contribution to enhance the DP limits. The

## SC seeks Centre, CVC's reply on extension of ED, CBI chiefs' tenure

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought response of the Centre and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in 10 days on a batch of petitions challenging the law providing extension of tenure up to five years for Directors of Enforcement Directorate (ED) and CBI.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli issued notices to the respondents, including the Centre, CVC and the present ED Director, based on as many as eight petitions, including the ones filed by Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala and Jaya Thakur and TMC's Saket Gokhale.

Lawyer M L Sharma claimed to have filed the first petition on the issue. Senior advocate A M Singhvi, appear-

ing for Surjewala, referred to the apex court judgements and said the fixed tenures are the "hallmark of independence" and the fact that an incumbent may get an extension will "demolish" the independence of the office.

Surjewala's plea has challenged the amendment made by the Central Government to the fundamental concept decided by the apex court in two judgements in the Vineet Narayan and the Common Cause cases which were on fixed tenure.

"...This amendment basically puts the incumbent on a fiduciary kind of pattern where one year, two year and three year extension at the discretion of the executive can be achieved."

The amendments provide that you can get extensions piecemeal," he said. The fact that an officer can get the extension in itself demolishes the independence, he added.

# Govt looking at cases of tax evasion by 3 Chinese mobile firms, says Sitharaman

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the Government is looking into cases of alleged tax evasion by three mobile companies of China and notices have been given to them. She also said the Government is taking action against dubious digital loan apps, including those originating from outside the country, and also Indians who helped in setting them up through shell companies.

Giving this assurance in the Rajya Sabha after Sushil Modi(BJP)flagged the issue of tax evasion by some Chinese companies, she said the three mobile companies issued notices include Oppo, Vivo India and Xiaomi. The Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has

issued a notice to mobile company Oppo for total customs duty of ₹4,389 crore on the grounds of mis-declaration of certain goods leading to a short payment in customs duty, she said, adding, "duty evasion we think is about ₹2,981 crore".

Undervaluation of imported goods for the purpose of payment of customs duty, that we think is an evasion of ₹1,408 crore," she said.

The minister said they have voluntarily come about to deposit ₹450 crore, much against the demand of ₹4,389 crore. Regarding the other companies, Sitharaman said Xiaomi is another mobile company which deals with assembled MI mobile phones. Three show-cause notices were issued to them and approximate duty liability there is about ₹653 crore. For the three show cause notices, they have

been issued, they have deposited only ₹46 lakh, the minister said. The third company is Vivo India, for whom also there is a demand notice issued for ₹2,217 crore for which they have deposited ₹60 crore as voluntary deposit, she informed the House.

Giving some details, the minister said the Enforcement Directorate(ED) is looking at 18 companies that were established by the same group Vivo and there they have voluntarily remitted ₹62 crore as deposit but the parent company outside of India has the total sales of 1.25 lakh crore.

"Of the ₹1.25 lakh crore total sales, Vivo has transferred through these 18 companies huge amounts of funds and it is believed that Vivo India has, in turn, remitted 0.62 lakh crore to its parent company which is outside India," Sitharaman said.

# Government constantly monitoring rising cases of Monkeypox: Mandaviya

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of one more Monkeypox case reported from Delhi on Tuesday, taking the total infections to eight in the country and three in the national Capital, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya assured Parliament the Government was constantly monitoring the rising cases of monkeypox and there was no cause for panic.

He said the disease is not serious and the centre has issued guidelines to all states to prevent its spread. He also said disease is not serious and centre has issued guidelines to all states to prevent its spread.

In a bid to allay the apprehensions of the Elders, he also informed the Rajya Sabha, the Indian scientists had isolated monkeypox virus and an expression of interest was floated by Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR)for producing the vaccine.

The minister informed House that 15 laboratories were activated all over country for testing monkeypox and more such facilities may be opened if need be.

Elaborating upon action plan to deal with the latest disease, he said eight cases have been reported so far in country and a national task force has been set up to monitor development of diagnostics and vaccines.

He also said five of the eight cases had foreign travel history. His statement came amidst a report that a 35-year-old man of African origin with

no recent history of foreign travel testing positive for infection in Delhi. The man was admitted to the Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital on Monday, doctors said, adding that he is in stable condition.

The first monkeypox patient in Delhi was discharged on Monday night. One patient has died in Kerala due to disease. In Parliament, Mandaviy said ICMR has successfully isolated the monkeypox virus and an expression of interest has been floated for research institutions, vaccine and diagnostic kits manufacturers in India to take virus strain for further research to develop a vaccine in country, he added.

He said central teams have been deployed, on the detection of confirmed cases, to the affected districts to assist in control and containment efforts by state authorities. In response to a supplementary question, Mandaviya said government has relied on the experience of tackling COVID-19, to be alert and prepared in advance to prevent the spread of any disease.

He said when disease was first reported globally in May, India had already started preparing to tackle it. While the first case in India was reported from Kerala on July 14, the minister said much before that on May 1, 2022 the Centre had given guidelines to all states, and not just for international airports, on surveillance mechanism and contact tracing, how to collect samples from suspected cases and sending it to recognised laboratories for testing.

# RBI monitoring rupee depreciation: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With constant weakening of the rupee against the dollar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday asserted the Indian currency has not collapsed and it is actually finding its natural course.

Making this point in the Rajya Sabha after some members expressed concern over the depreciation of the rupee and its collapse, she also said the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) is continuously monitoring the situation and intervening if there is volatility. Fielding questions of the rupee versus dollar value comparison during

the Question Hour, which functioned smoothly for the first time since the monsoon session began on July 18, Sitharaman said in fact the performance of the local currency is much better. "It is comfortably placed," she quipped.

"The RBI interventions are not so much to fix the value of the Indian Rupee because it is free to find its own course," the minister said adding interventions that are happening from the RBI side are more for containing volatility that is happening between the Indian rupee and the US dollar and so on. "Even the interventions being made by RBI are not so much to determine the value -

increase or decrease, of the Indian rupee. It is not for that. It is more to avoid the volatility and allow it to find its course. 'India, like many other countries, is not pitching its currency at a level exorbitantly. So the ways and which we want to strengthen...The RBI and the Ministry are fairly engaged in it," she said.

On suggestion made by Vivek Tankha(Congress) to allow the Indian workers to remit dollars into the Indian banks in countries like the UAE to boost the reserve, she said it is not an assurance that the Ministry of Finance will give but she can only pass on the suggestion to the RBI.

# Ultra-processed foods associated with high risk of Dementia: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

If you love gulping down high amounts of ultra-processed foods like soft drinks, chips and cookies having high fat, sugar and salt contents then, there are high chances that you may have a greater risk of developing dementia than those who eat the lowest amounts.

According to a study published in the journal Neurology, replacing ultra-processed foods in a person's diet with unprocessed or minimally processed foods was associated with a lower risk.

However, it mentioned that the study does not prove that ultra-processed foods cause dementia and only shows an association. "Our research not only found that ultra-processed foods are associated with an increased risk of dementia, but

it also found replacing them with healthy options may decrease dementia risk," said researcher Huiping Li of Tianjin Medical University in China.

Ultra-processed foods are high in added sugar, fat and salt, and low in protein and fiber. They include soft drinks, salty and sugary snacks, ice cream, sausage, deep-fried chicken, yogurt, canned baked beans and tomatoes, among others.

For the study, the team identified 72,083 people from a large database containing the health information of half a million people living in UK. Participants were 55 and older and did not have dementia at the start of study.

They were followed for an average of 10 years. By the end of the study, 518 people were diagnosed with dementia.

## BJP wearing blindfolds of arrogance: Rahul on inflation

**New Delhi:** A day after the debate on price rise in the Lok Sabha, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took to social media platforms to attack the Government where he alleged that the Government will not be able to see inflation as it is wearing the "blindfolds of arrogance" and selling the country's property in "free fund" to friends.

In an apparent reference to BJP leader and former Union minister Jayant Sinha asserting during the debate that the Opposition is looking for 'mehngai' but has been unable to find it, Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "Well, how will they see inflation? Wearing blindfolds of arrogance, they are selling the country's property in 'free fund' to 'friends'."

He said the BJP-led Government, busy celebrating 'Amrit kaal', said in the House that there is no 'mehngai' in the country. He also shared a table comparing the prices of essential commodities from 2019 to 2022.

Rahul's remarks were also a dig at BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's comments during the debate. Speaking in Hindi, Dubey had said Prime Minister Modi gave "free fund" food to 80 crore poor even in adverse circumstances.

The country is battling an "epidemic of unemployment" with crores of families left with no means of a stable income but the government is spending billions just to polish the image of an "arrogant king", Rahul added in a lengthy Facebook post in Hindi.

He said the Congress had tried to get the government to answer the questions of the people during the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament.

However, everyone saw how Opposition MPs were suspended, arrested for protests and House adjourned.



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

Notice is being issued in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between Bank of Rajasthan Ltd (hereinafter referred as "eBOR") and the borrower and co borrower mentioned below. As per the order dated August 12, 2010 the Reserve Bank of India has approved the scheme of amalgamation of eBOR with the ICICI Bank Ltd. (herein after referred as "the Bank"). Pursuant thereto all the undertaking of eBOR stands transferred to the and vested in favour of the Bank as going concern so as to become the properties, estates, assets, rights title, interest and authorities of the Bank.

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and payment of interest of housing loans obtained by them from eBOR and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets. A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (herein after referred as "the Act") on their last known addresses however it was not served and as 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.	Raman Chawla, Neelu Chawla, C- 26 B Paschim Puri Opp Road No. 33, Punjabi Bagh Extension Delhi- 110063 RBDEL00001865559	H No- 1-A 1 7767, Ward No- Fifteen, Ram Nagar, Pahar Ganj New Delhi Delhi- 110006	21/07/2022 Rs. 8,30,199/-	31-07-2020

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

**Date:** August 03, 2022  
**Place:** Delhi/NCR

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**



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

**Date:** August 03, 2022  
**Place:** Delhi/ NCR**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

## Ramesh on Irani bar case: Will give true account before court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former union minister Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday said they will present "a true and factual account" of events before court in case filed by Union minister Smriti Irani against them after they accused her daughter of illegally running a bar in Goa.

"Order of the Delhi High Court in Smriti Irani matter was served last night. Court has given us four weeks to reply and we'll ensure each and every one of observations in the Order are responded to."

Satyameva Jayate," Ramesh said on Twitter. The Delhi High Court had on July 29 issued summonses to three Congress leaders, including Ramesh, on a civil defamation suit filed by Irani who accused them of making baseless and false accusations against her and her 18-year-old daughter.

# MPs seek tough legislation on tobacco control as deaths rise

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With tobacco killing over 1 million people every year in India, accounting for 9.5 per cent of all deaths besides draining away the Treasury's finances in addition to lost productivity, more and more elected representatives, cutting across party lines, have been seeking assurance from Parliament for stringent tobacco-control legislation to save the youth and kids.

The MPs supporting the amendments in the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2020 are hopeful that the legislation will be tabled in the ongoing Monsoon Session, based on assurances to their representations and questions addressed



to the Union Ministry of Health. Data available from the Parliament Assurance Monitoring System indicates that there are at least seven assurances pending on tabling of the COTPA Bill 2020, in the two houses of the Parliament.

The Bill was put up for public comments way back in 2015, then withdrawn and reintroduced for public comments in 2020. Some of the elected representatives who have raised the issues are M Selvaraj (CPI), Harish Dwivedi, Maneka Gandhi, MV Rajeev Gowda, PL Puniya,

Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur (BJP) and P Bhattacharya (Congress) to name a few. Sources in the Union Health Ministry said that the government has taken a very timely step in initiating the COTPA Amendment Bill 2020 to protect Indians, especially youth and children from tobacco addiction, related diseases, and suffering. It may find light of the day in the current session, they said.

Some of the amendment proposals include a ban on Point of Sale advertisements of tobacco. "Unrestricted advertisement of these products attracts younger generation and innocent minds to experiment with these, while being unaware of the adverse consequences of consuming such addictive products," they said, adding that the Government has taken serious cognisance of this gap.



# Grenade attack on police post in Ramban; JKGF claims strike

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

The peaceful precincts of Police station Gool, located in the Ramban district early Tuesday morning woke up to the thunderous sound of a blast prompting the local police and Army authorities to immediately launch a cordon and search operation in the area. A high alert was also sounded to prevent any miscreant from taking advantage of the prevailing chaos and confusion. According to initial reports, a grenade exploded on the roof of the police post. No injuries were reported after the blast took place.

Confirming the incident of grenade blast, Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh in a written statement said, “A grenade blast has occurred near the premises of police post Ind,

which falls in the jurisdiction of police station Gool.”

The Jammu Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF) has claimed responsibility for the attack in a letter, the ADGP said.

The special operation group (SoG) and Army teams have been mobilised for cordon and search operations, he said. An alert has been sounded in the district and a case registered.

Meanwhile, in Jammu alert jawans of the Border Security Force opened fire at a flying object near the International Border (IB) in Kanachak sector late Monday night.

The unidentified flying object with a blinking light was detected at 9.35 pm on Monday as it tried to intrude into the Indian territory from across the border, Spokesman of BSF Jammu frontier said in a written statement.

The Border Security Force (BSF) troops opened fire and the blinking light was not observed thereafter, he added.

A search operation was launched in the area along with police and other agencies, the officer said, adding nothing has been recovered so far.

Earlier, police had busted three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) modules, arrested seven of its members and recovered a huge cache of arms, ammunition, and explosive material reportedly dropped by 35 drone sorties from Pakistan.

Later, Addl. Director General of Police Jammu Zone, Mukesh. Singh- IPS convened a meeting with Army/BSF/CAF/Intelligence agencies/Police Security wing and Civil administration to



discuss the Police/Security arrangements in the run-up to the Independence day celebrations.

In his address ADGP, Jammu Mukesh Singh highlighted the latest trends in terror activities and urged each agency to work towards mitigating the threat. He stressed on Anti-drone measures, Border deployment grid, launching of offensive operations in Rajouri and Kishtwar, besides preventive measures in other districts.

# Inaction against cheating co-op banks in Kerala adds to people's woes

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A macabre sit-in staged by the kin of a 70-year-old woman with her dead body in front of the Karuvannur Cooperative Bank in Thrissur district has once again brought to light the magnitude of the Cooperative Bank Scam in the State.

Philomina, a retired Government nurse, met with a sad end as her husband failed to mobilise money for her medical expenses. “Though I had deposited Rs 28 lakh with the Karuvannur Co-operative Bank, they refused to give back even Rs 50,000 for my wife’s medical treatment. The delay in getting medical aid led to her death as she was suffering from an infection in the brain,” said Devassy,

Kerala’s Minister for

Cooperation V N Vasavan had told the Legislative Assembly last Thursday that 164 cooperative banks in the State have gone bust and were not in a

position to return the money to depositors. Though R Bindu, Kerala Minister for Higher Education (who is also

the wife of the former CPI-M Secretary and LDF convenor) rushed to Thrissur and decried the sit-in as an attempt by the Opposition parties to politicise the issue, facts contradict what the Minister has said. TM Mukundan, a 59-year-old Congress leader had committed suicide in July 2021 following the bank’s decision to

“attach” his plot of land for his failure to pay back a loan of Rs 80 lakh which he had availed. But later on, it was disclosed by the Bank that he had availed of only Rs 25 lakh as loan.

The Cooperative Department had dissolved the director board of the Bank

which was full of CPI-M members and entrusted the administration to an assistant registrar. The sit-in staged by Philomina’s relations show that no action has been taken by the powers that be to bring the Bank back to normalcy. Jose Vallur, president, Thrissur District Congress Committee. “The Bank, which had cheated

its depositors to the tune of Rs 300 crore continues to loot them. The deaths of Mukundan and Philomiona were murders committed by the CPI-M controlled Bank,” said Vallur.

Since Thursday last many more persons have come out against the Bank for its refusal to pay back the money they had put in term deposits. On Jayanarayanan Namboodirippadu, a Thrissur based chartered accountant who is an auditor for many cooperative Banks said the Cooperative sector, especially the Banks were enmeshed in a cobweb of corruption. “There are more than 7.5 million members in the cooperative societies that control these banks. Karuvannur Bank is just the tip of the iceberg. More such scams would start coming out in days to come,” said Namboodirippadu.



# Woman hurls sandal at Partha for ‘looting poor’

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In an incident that can put arrested-and-then-deposed Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee in the same league with some other top politicians both in India and the US, an angry woman on Tuesday morning hurled her sandal at the former general secretary of the ruling Trinamool Congress for “looting and depriving the poor people and making merry at the cost of public money.”

The incident took place at Joka ESI Hospital in southern Kolkata where Chatterjee was brought by the Enforcement Directorate officers for a mandatory medical check-up. Subhra Ghorui a housewife who had come to the hospital for treatment suddenly hurled her sandal at the former minister before going back home barefoot shedding the other sleeper too by the road.

Luckily the footwear did not hit the senior politician,

who along with his close aide Arpita Mukherjee were now being probed in the school level recruitment scam. More than Rs 50 crore in cash, jewellery and foreign currency apart from deeds of prime properties were recovered by the ED officials from the residence of Mukherjee.

“I don’t understand why this man who has devoured crores of the common man, depriving them of their jobs is being brought in an air-conditioned car ... he should be brought here in ropes ... I was angry ... the anger suddenly soared when I saw him ... instantly I threw the sandal ... Unluckily it missed the target ... It would have been better had it landed on his bald head,” woman said, adding she would have been more pleased to greet the leader with a garland of shoes.

Reacting to the incident the Trinamool Congress leadership said the “incident was

unfortunate as he is still not been proven guilty.” Party general secretary Kunal Ghosh said “He is in ED custody and the agency is responsible for his security ... tomorrow if he is proven innocent then things will again flow in different directions.”

BJP State president Sukanta Majumdar said “though I do not support this incident the TMC leaders should be cautious now ... they must stop syndicate and cut money politics or more such incidents would follow.”

CPI(M)’s Sujan Chakrabatry said “the shoe was in fact hurled at Nabanna (state secretariat and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s office) ... more such incidents would follow ... more TMC leaders will face similar incidents if they do not mend their corrupt habits.”

Meanwhile, in related development Arpita on Tuesday followed her mentor’s



route disowning the crores recovered from her two apartments. However in doing so she tended to pass the ball in Chatterjee’s court even as she said: “The money does not belong to me ... I am in no way connected to the money thus recovered ... I did not know how it came ... it came during my absence ... people used to come to my flat and deposit the cash and go without informing me.”

Earlier Chatterjee too had said that the money did not

belong to him apparently suggesting that the wads of notes recovered from Arpita’s flat belonged to other persons -- in this case the party itself. Bengal opposition leaders like Adhir Chowdhury, Suwendu Adhikari and Md Salim have repeatedly said that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had made Chatterjee a scapegoat and that the money belonged to the party and had come via syndicate and cut-money route to be used during the elections.

# Media should self-regulate, carry fair criticism: Delhi HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Noting that it understands the freedom of speech “perfectly”, the Delhi High Court said on Tuesday media should self-regulate and carry criticism that is just and fair, while voicing displeasure over a newspaper article critical of a vlogger dragging his child into it. A Bench headed by Justice Siddharth Mridul pulled no punches, as it conveyed its unhappiness over the newspaper referring to the child of the social media vlogger, insisting children shouldn’t become a victim of propaganda.

“You can say whatever you want to about him. But don’t visit his family, saying that his child in all probability is going to be mentally challenged....The point is we are completely unhappy with any reference to that child,” remarked the bench, also comprising Justice Amit Sharma. The Court’s observations came in an appeal filed by the Hindustan Times about an article that appeared in the Mint newspaper against a single bench order.

“We understand freedom of speech

perfectly. But it is self-regulation and we are not saying so. A constitution bench of the Supreme Court, when it dealt with how to regulate media, said self-regulation. So, we expect you to regulate yourself and the standards of self-regulation have to be such that pass muster,” the court said. The court emphasised one should criticise the action and not the person.

“Please debate it but don’t visit the children. By all means you find his comments distasteful, please go ahead and express yourself but don’t take it any further than that,” the bench noted. Drawing an analogy, Justice Mridul said whenever an order is passed by a court, the criticism has to be of the order and not the judges.

“We are informed, we don’t know, that a lot is said about us (judges) and it is not limited to us. We don’t appreciate that....You criticise the order. You don’t criticise us. That is just and fair criticism,” he said. The court was hearing an appeal by the newspaper challenging an order of the single judge directing it to take down the allegedly objectionable article. The lawyer appear-



ing for the newspaper said the vlogger was a “public figure” whose “livelihood was based on posting videos of his and his family on internet”, and the article mentions the criticism that he has received from several others for his conduct.

The court noted that the article called the vlogger a “misogynist” and a “child abuser”, and asked the appellant to approach the single judge with all the record. “We were a little disturbed that you refer to somebody’s child. The child

shouldn’t become a victim of any propaganda. We can’t have that. Say what you will about the man. Criticise his actions, his speech but don’t visit his children with such remarks. It is troubling. That we found very offensive,” the court said emphatically.

“Don’t visit the children. They haven’t done anything. Don’t visit the family or the children, don’t do that. That is something that in an appropriate case will have to be determined,” it added.

# Lok Sabha passes Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill-2021, with Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav asserting that development and environment protection can go hand in hand and are not in conflict with each other. The bill was passed by voice vote after several amendments moved by opposition members were rejected by the House.

The bill which had undergone scrutiny of a parliamentary panel seeks to amend the principal Act for better management of protected areas and inserts an explanation to provide for certain permitted activities such as grazing or movement of livestock, bona fide use of drinking and household water by local communities.

The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 seeks to conserve and protect wildlife



through better management of protected areas and rationalise schedules which list out species under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. It was introduced in Lok Sabha in December last year.

According to the statement of objects and reasons of the bill, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, was enacted to provide for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants with a view to ensure the ecological and environmental security of the country. Responding to a debate on the bill, Yadav said awareness should be spread among people to boycott items such as

shawls and cosmetics which are produced by killing wild animals.

Earlier speaking on the bill, the Minister said a special chapter has been added to conform to the international treaty Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. He said the bill makes amendments for better management of protected areas and inserts an explanation so as to provide for certain permitted activities such as grazing or movement of livestock, bona fide use of drinking and household water by local communities.

# Ram Janmabhoomi Corridor to come up in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government has approved the proposal to construct Ram Janmabhoomi Corridor in Ayodhya akin to the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor to add to the grandeur of the temple. The decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Tuesday.

Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh told reporters that the cabinet approved the proposal of construction of the Ramjanmabhoomi Corridor at the cost of Rs 797.69 crore, including Rs 378.77 crore for acquiring land.

“The proposal to widen Saadatganj-Nayaghat road under the beautification scheme in Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya has been approved. The Public Works Department will carry out the construction work and

the acquisition of land and buildings should be done through CALA (Competitive Authority of Land Acquisition),” the minister said.

“Once the road is constructed, it will pave the way for easy movement of pilgrims and, in turn, will lead to tourism promotion in Ayodhya,” he added.

The cabinet also approved the proposal to expand the limits of Varanasi Municipal Corporation by including the entire area of Sujabad Nagar Panchayat and Ramnagar Nagar Palika Parishad in it.

“With the expansion of the Varanasi Municipal Corporation limits, better basic infrastructure facilities will be available to the residents of the areas to be included in it,” Urban Development Minister AK Sharma said.

“This expansion will also increase the income of the municipal corporation,” he said.

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The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Amit Saxena, Shashi Saxena, A-130, N.R. Nagar D. D. A. Flats New Delhi Delhi- 110008/ LBDEL00001150173	B- 80, 2nd Floor, Green Field Colony, Faridabad- 121001	01/07/2022 Rs. 4,49,278.07/-	07-04-2022
2.	Hari Prasad Singh, Pankaj Kumar Singh, SE- 426, Shashtri Nagar Ghaziabad- 201002/ LBND00000577504	Se- 426, Shastri Nagar, Ghaziabad- 201001	01/07/2022 Rs. 1,67,292/-	07-04-2022
3.	Jagpreet Singh, Ganbhir Constructions, A-5 239 (Kothi) 1st Floor Paschim Vihar New Delhi- 110063/ LBDEL00001710865	Plot No- 239, First Floor Block-A 5 Paschim Vihar Delhi- 110063	01/07/2022 Rs. 7,93,669/-	11-04-2022
4.	Jagpreet Singh, Bhupender Kaur, A-5 239 (Kothi) 1st Floor Paschim Vihar New Delhi- 110063/ LBDEL00001710865	Plot No- 239, First Floor Block-A-5 Paschim Vihar Delhi- 110063	01/07/2022 Rs. 7,93,669/-	11-04-2022
5.	Sunil Khantwal, Lalita Khantwal, A 538 Sec 47 Noida- 201301/ LBND000002105305	Flat No- Q 202, lind Floor, Tower- Q Ajnara Le Garden Plot No- Gh - 02, Sector- 16 Greater Noida- 201307	01/07/2022 Rs. 22,31,389/-	11-03-2022
6.	Mahesh Chandra Khulbey, Babita Khulave, 1/268- 6 Sec-1 Vaishali Ghaziabad- 201001 LBGHZ00001996033	Mig Flat No- M/6, 2nd Floor, Plot No- 1/268, Sector- 1 Vaishali Ghaziabad- 201010	01/07/2022 Rs. 1,86,896/-	31-07-2020
7.	Manju., Rajeev Kumar, A 61 Ashok Nagar Shadara Delhi- 110093/ LBDEL00002881373	Flat No- M-302, 3rd Floor, Anand Dham Opposite Tuli Niketan Pargana Loni, KH No- 454/1 444/2 M Vill Brahampur Alias Bhopura Ghaziabad- 201001	01/07/2022 Rs. 10,71,135/-	06-12-2021
8.	Rahul., Shilpa Kukreja, House No. 205 LIG Flats Sarita Vihar South Delhi- 110076/ LBFDB00004913847	Dda LIG, Flat No-160, Floor-3, Madanpur Khadar Sarita Vihar Delhi- 110076	01/07/2022 Rs. 7,39,820/-	06-04-2022
9.	Shashi Gaur, Pankaj Bhati, H No. D- 67, Azad Colony Ajronda Sec-15 A Escorts Nagar Faridabad- 121007/ LBFDB00002370853	Flat No- 37, 4th Floor, Block- B18 Pocket-1 Sector- 34 Rohini Delhi- 110085	01/07/2022 Rs. 6,54,239/-	06-04-2022
10.	Shahid Ali, Haji Sabir, Village Maharaj Pur, Ghaziabad- 201010/ LBDEL00001395269	Plot No- 141, G F Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad- 201001	01/07/2022 Rs.2,47,730/-	11-04-2022
11.	Raj Kumar Dewal, Rachana Devi, 5 C Block MU Pitampura New Delhi- 110034/ LBDEL00003674164	Dda LIG, Flat No- 5- C, 2nd Floor, Block- MU Pitampura Delhi- 110088	01/07/2022 Rs. 7,26,884/-	06-04-2022
12.	Raj Kumar Dewal, Rachana Devi, 5 C Block MU Pitampura New Delhi- 110034 LBDEL00003674173	Dda LIG, Flat No- 5- C, 2nd Floor, Block- MU Pitampura Delhi- 110088	01/07/2022 Rs. 6,46,875.07/-	06-04-2022
13.	Raj Kumar Dewal, Rachana Devi, 5 C Block MU Pitampura New Delhi- 110034/ LBDEL00003744522	Dda LIG, Flat No- 5- C, 2nd Floor, Block- MU Pitampura Delhi- 110088	01/07/2022 Rs. 3,02,074.07/-	06-04-2022
14.	Kavita Rani Kumar, Nitin Kumar, Flat No. 102 Maitri Apartment Sector 9 Rohini Delhi- 110085/ LBDEL00002831037	Flat No- 14, Ground Floor, Block- D, Pocket- 12, Sector 7 Rohini Delhi- 110085	01/07/2022 Rs. 15,09,607.95/-	03-02-2022
15.	Kavita Rani Kumar, Surinder Kumar, Flat No. 102 Maitri Apartment Sector 9 Rohini Delhi-110085/ LBDEL00002831037	Flat No- 14, Ground Floor, Block- D, Pocket- 12, Sector- 7 Rohini Delhi- 110085	01/07/2022 Rs. 15,09,607.95/-	03-02-2022
16.	Kavita Rani Kumar, Parikshit Kumar, Flat No. 102 Maitri Apartment Sector 9 Rohini Delhi Delhi- 110085/ LBDEL00002831037	Flat No- 14, Ground Floor, Block- D, Pocket- 12, Sector - 7 Rohini Delhi- 110085	01/07/2022 Rs. 15,09,607.95/-	03-02-2022
17.	Kavita Rani Kumar, Nitin Kumar, Flat No. 102 Maitri Apartment Sector 9 Rohini Delhi- 110085/ LBDEL0000283292	Flat No- 14, Ground Floor, Block- D, Pocket- 12, Sector- 7 Rohini Delhi- 110085	01/07/2022 Rs. 21,90,166.65/-	03-02-2022
18.	Kavita Rani Kumar, Surinder Kumar, Flat No 102 Maitri Apartment Sector 9 Rohini Delhi- 110085/ LBDEL0000283292	Flat No- 14, Ground Floor, Block- D, Pocket- 12, Sector- 7 Rohini Delhi- 110085	01/07/2022 Rs. 21,90,166.65/-	03-02-2022
19.	Kavita Rani Kumar, Parikshit Kumar, Flat No 102 Maitri Apartment Sector 9 Rohini Delhi-110085/ LBDEL0000283292	Flat No- 14, Ground Floor, Block- D, Pocket- 12, Sector- 7 Rohini Delhi- 110085	01/07/2022 Rs. 21,90,166.65/-	03-02-2022
20.	Vinay Arora, Anuradha Arora, 151 1st Floor Gaur Homes, Elegente Block- E, Govind Puram, Ghaziabad- 201001/ LBDEL00001822560	Apartment- 151, 1st Floor, Gaur Homes Elegente, Block-E, Govind Puram, Ghaziabad- 201001	01/07/2022 Rs. 8,51,346.23/-	11-04-2022
21.	Vinay Arora, Anuradha Arora, 151 1st Floor Gaur Homes, Elegente Block- E, Govind Puram, Ghaziabad- 201001/ LBDEL00002431494	Apartment- 151, 1st Floor, Gaur Homes Elegente, Block-E, Govind Puram, Ghaziabad 201001	01/07/2022 Rs. 8,213/-	31-01-2018
22.	Kailash Kumar, Narendar Kumar, C 39 C Block C, Old Slum Qtrs, Paschim Puri New Delhi-110063 LBDEL00002373025	Flat No- 30, 2nd Floor, LIG, Sec- 34, Pocket 3, Block A2, Rohini, Delhi	29/06/2022 Rs. 10,41,896/-	02-04-2022
23.	Brijesh Rao, H No-262 Third Floor Sector-19 Block- B, Dwarka Delhi Dwarka Delhi-110075/ LBDEL00005480110	Flat No- T-1, Plot No. 140 141, 3rd Floor With Roof Sukhija Vihar, Village Sirsi, Sirsi Road, Jaipur- 302012	29/06/2022 Rs. 20,97,618/-	06-04-2022
24.	Dalip Kumar, Shweta., 587 B/1 B/6 FFL/ Side Govind Puri New Delhi- 110019/ LBGUR00001938923	Flat No-1004, Floor-10, Tower H 1, Unitech, Unihomes Ph- II Situated In Plot No- GHP 0001 Sector-117, Noida- 201305	29/06/2022 Rs. 24,25,109/-	11-04-2022
25.	Deepak Kumar, Seema., H No- B-1/6 Phy Ayanagar Extn Aya Nagar Hauz Khas South Delhi Delhi- 110047/ LBDEL00002904482	Flat No. B/108, 1st Floor, Building Known As Tower- B, Molt City Situated At, Kh No. 502 Khata No. 02 Aurangabad Gadana, Pargana Jalalabad Tehsil Modinagar, Ghaziabad 201204	29/06/2022 Rs. 11,74,982.32/-	06-04-2022
26.	Surender Singh, Shweta., 194 Mig Pocket 2 Dda Flats Sector A10 Narela Delhi-110040/ LBDEL00002446891	Flat No- A- 507, 5th Floor Block A, Pocket- 61, Village Nagal Kalan, Sonipat- 131310	29/06/2022 Rs. 10,60,280.4/-	06-04-2022
27.	Vivek Chauhan, P- 24 Third Floor South Extension Part- 2, Andrewsganj Delhi Andrewsganj Delhi Delhi- 110177/ LBDEL00005312320	Flat No- 24, 3rd Floor Block P, South Extn Part II, Delhi-110049	29/06/2022 Rs. 22,21,584/-	06-04-2022
28.	Panchsheel Gautam, Sonia Gautam B- 1034 Mig Flats East Of Loni Road Delhi- 110093/ LBND000002422242	Flat No. 1207, 12th Floor, Tower- T 4, Block B, Unibera Towers, Plot No- GH-16 F, Sector-1, Greater Noida- 201307	29/06/2022 Rs. 20,96,097.77/-	07-06-2021
29.	Panchsheel Gautam, Sonia Gautam B- 1034 Mig Flats East Of Loni Road Delhi- 110093 LBGHZ00004868725	Flat No. 1207, 12th Floor, Tower- T 4, Block B, Unibera Towers, Plot No- GH-16 F, Sector-1, Greater Noida- 201307	29/06/2022 Rs. 75,198.77/-	07-06-2021
30.	Vivek Chauhan, Sheela Chauhan, P 24 Third Floor South Extension Part 2 Andrewsganj Delhi Delhi- 110049/ LBDEL00004222711	Flat No. 24, 3rd Floor, Block P, South Extn Part II, Delhi-110049	29/06/2022 Rs. 20,17,227/-	06-04-2022
31.	Vivek Chauhan, Sheela Chauhan, P 24 Third Floor South Extension Part 2 Andrewsganj Delhi Delhi- 110049/ LBDEL00005882116	Flat No. 24, 3rd Floor, Block P, South Extn Part II, Delhi-110049	29/06/2022 Rs. 11,97,466/-	06-04-2022
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 Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.				
Date : August 03, 2022			Authorized Officer	
Place : Delhi NCR			ICICI Bank Limited	





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Big blow to terror

This, however, doesn't mean the end of jihadist terror, for our neighbourhood remains as dangerous a place as it ever was

The killing of Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a US strike in Afghanistan is surely a big blow to the terrorist group he headed since its founder Osama bin Laden's death in 2011. One good consequence seems to be the absence of a successor. For all we know, the outfit may choose, elect, or select a successor, but he would not have the importance that al-Zawahiri, bin Laden's comrade, had. US President Joe Biden expressed his satisfaction over Zawahiri's death, hoping that this would bring "closure" to families of the 3,000 people killed in America on September 11, 2001. He would also be hoping to gain some credibility in the matters pertaining to defence and security, especially after the messy and bloody exit from Afghanistan a year ago. As many as 13 American soldiers had died in it. The retaliation brought even more flak for the US leadership: it killed 10 innocent people, including an aid worker and seven children. So, Biden was



extremely cautious this time; he reportedly "asked detailed questions about what we [security officials] knew and how we knew it." This time the target was neutralised, with no collateral damage—till the time of writing these lines no damage was reported. Al-Zawahiri's death raises some questions and highlights a few facts that India should never lose sight of.

First, how come that a terrorist, carrying a reward of \$25 million on his head, was living in Kabul and the Taliban, who promised the US of not hobnobbing with Al Qaeda, didn't about it? The possibility that the rulers in Afghanistan were sheltering and harbouring him is very high. This

also gives the lie to the belief, held by many in New Delhi, that we can do business with the Taliban 2.0. The fact, however, is that what we have in Kabul is Taliban II, not Taliban 2.0. Just men will be men (as the tagline of an advertisement says), the Taliban will be Taliban. There is also a possibility, though: someone in the Taliban, and someone very high in the hierarchy, betrayed al-Zawahiri, for \$25 million is a huge sum by any reckoning. At any rate, this doesn't show them worth doing business with: you can deal neither with incorrigible jihadists nor with quislings. Then there is Pakistan, the permanent trouble maker in the region. Its propensity to indulge in mischief, even when on the brink of an economic catastrophe, is enormous. It is highly unlikely that nobody in Rawalpindi had even a hint about the Americans' plans to kill the top terrorist. Did they sell him to the US? Washington, after all, has a lot of say in the workings of the International Monetary Fund? A few billion dollars would be a lot of relief for the Pakistani economy. The lesson we can learn from the killing is that our neighbourhood remains as dangerous a place as it ever was.

### PICTALK



Hindu devotees queue up to offer prayers at the Nag Vasuki Temple during "Nag Panchami" festival, in Prayagraj, UP

AP

## Hooch tragedy in 'dry' State

The loss of lives due to consumption of spurious liquor is deplorable. Despite tall claims, it flows freely across the country

At least 45 lives have been claimed by spurious liquor in Gujarat last week. Many are undergoing treatment in various hospitals as a result of consuming 'hooch', the illicit liquor brewed and sold by anti-social elements who enjoy political patronage. Politicians are vying with one another to prove that they are teetotalers and could not withstand the sight of liquor. Though Gujarat has declared itself as a dry State, spurious liquor is easily available. 'Prohibition' is an oxymoron term that has to be thrown out of the national narrative. The Government of India has issued license to liquor-manufacturing companies and they are operating efficiently. The Government that permits to manufacture and sale of liquor then asks people not to consume liquor! Then why are the liquor companies given the license to manufacture and sell spir-



its? All States in the country make a windfall selling liquor. Tamil Nadu's income from selling liquor for the year 2021-2022 stood at Rs 36,013 crore, an increase of Rs 2,202 crore from last year's income. Neighboring Kerala recorded a turnover of Rs 11577 crore in 2015-2016 while the figure shot up to Rs 14707 crore from 2019 to 2020. But the States treat the liquor business as a goose that lays golden eggs. States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have "nationalized" liquor businesses. The public sector is the monopoly liquor seller in most States. Tipplers stand in long queues in scorching sunlight or heavy downpour to get their daily quota of spirits. They are forced to consume what the bureaucrats and politicians decide. Toddy tapping is banned in Tamil Nadu while arrack manufacturing is not allowed in Kerala. This has led to the mushrooming of bootleggers who illicitly brew low-quality spirits from hazardous substances. It has been proved that toddy and arrack are good for heavy-duty workers if consumed in moderation. The ban on toddy and arrack draws tipplers to dangerous drinks which cause irreparable damage to their bodies. Those desirous of consuming alcohol should get their quota and the liquor business should be opened up. The earlier the Government does it, the better for the nation as well as the people. The powers that be are not enthusiastic about fighting the cigarette industry and bringing down the habit of smoking while they go all out to throttle the liquor industry. This happens at a time when whisky manufactured by Indian companies is giving their foreign counterparts a run for their money

# Preventing scourge of child trafficking

Strict laws are urgently required to stop child trafficking as new methods of the illegal trade challenge the existing system



DHANANAJAY TUNGAL

The recent case of rescue of a 14-year old minor girl from a village in Kaithal district of Haryana in May this year highlights a morally and socially unsettling case of "child trafficking" that is on the rise. The minor from Jehanabad district in Bihar, was first drugged and trafficked from Patna railway station and was then sold to a 19-year old man for Rs. 1.7 lakhs. The dismaying story not only jolted the morality of the society but also underscored the vulnerability of minor girls of being trafficked at ease. The girl was rescued following an inter-state operation involving Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), anti-human trafficking units (AHTU), police and district child protection units (DCPU) of Bihar and Haryana. Shockingly, it was found that the marriage was solemnized on fake identity cards showing false age.

In another case in August 2017, a 15-year old young boy from West Bengal Rehan (name changed) was trafficked to Delhi in lure of job and shelter. But he was sold to a factory owner in the outskirts of Delhi for forced labour. Rehan was forced to share a tin-roofed small shelter along with 20 other kids of his age. He and other boys were made to work for up to 18 hours a day without wages and rest. He was saved by BBA and other government agencies and a case was registered against the factory owner.

Such incidents highlight the magnitude of the problem of child trafficking and the increased threat to young girls from the most vulnerable sections of our society. Young children hailing from poor families in Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha and the North-Eastern states are trafficked to metropolises and big cities in lure of jobs and better life and then pushed into prostitution, forced slavery and other illicit activities. Apart from these "source states", young children from Nepal and Bangladesh are also trafficked. Majority of children have been



found to be trafficked by the Railways to the metropolises.

Majority of the so-called "placement agencies are unregistered and they hire ground agents to identify innocent children from these regions for trafficking. They sell the trafficked children to different categories of customers like - massage parlours/spa centres, rich families, prostitution rackets and escort services and families in Haryana as child brides.

These agencies cater to the interests of their customers with wide-ranging services including providing nurses, who are mostly untrained, house-maids, hotels and factory owners. In majority of cases age of the children are forged and they are forced to work as bonded labourers with unpaid wages, proper food and clothes, rest and health care. The rich and affluent believe that they have rescued the girls from drudgery and are obliging them by providing shelter and employment and enriching their lives. On the contrary, it has been observed in most cases, the financial condition of the victim's family remains same, while the trafficked child suffers both physically and mentally.



MAJORITY OF THE SO-CALLED 'PLACEMENT AGENCIES' ARE UNREGISTERED AND THEY HIRE GROUND AGENTS TO IDENTIFY INNOCENT CHILDREN FROM THESE REGIONS FOR TRAFFICKING

BBA has been campaigning against child trafficking since the early 1990's, when the terminology was not even used in the mainstream media to describe such incidents. It was in 1997, after BBA launched its "Mukti Caravan Abhiyan" in Bihar against child trafficking, the terminology came into common parlance. Village melas were organized where people participated in large numbers, these melas were used to gather information about missing children to track and identify their whereabouts. In 2007, Nobel Peace Laureate, KailashSatyarthi launched a "South Asian March Against Child Trafficking" from Kolkata to Kathmandu to raise awareness against the rising crisis. This was the first such march against child trafficking and brought the raging issue into the mainstream glare. Since its inception BBA has rescued over 1,00,000 children most of whom were trafficked from the source states to metropolises.

Additionally, the recent memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Railway Protection Force (RPF) in May has enabled in increase of raids leading to rescue of kids and arrest of traffickers. In the

last two months, BBA and RPF team's joint operations have succeeded in rescuing 338 children from traffickers. This has now lead the traffickers to change their mode of trafficking. The traffickers send private buses with tinted glass and curtained windows to source states to traffic children, in some cases trucks have also been used for trafficking. Women and couples are used to pose as parents of the children to hoodwink the government authorities. In worst cases, the trafficked girls are forced into selling their newborn infants to childless couples for lakhs of rupees.

The need of the hour is strict law that not only stops this illicit trade but also prevents rise of child trafficking in future. It's an urgent appeal to the government pass the draft bill Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 released during last year's monsoon session inviting comments and feedback. The bill among other provisions had widened the scope of the offences and also contains strict punitive action related to offences against child.

(The writer is Executive Director, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA))

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NE SPORTSPERSONS ARE NATION'S PRIDE

Sir — The long-neglected North East is proving to be a veritable treasure trove for sports in India as the inhabitants of this region have been winning many medals for India at International events. Jeremy Lalrinnunga is the latest to win gold in the 67kg weighting category.

Often derided for their appearances and cultural differences by the mainstream, they have outdone their critics with their performances in the field. Since Jeremy is not yet out of his teens, there is a long career ahead of him and he can win many more medals in the future. Let us wish him the best hoping he would continue making the nation proud in the future.

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

### VOTER ID CARD DELIVERY IS LAUDABLE

Sir — Though late, the State Election Commission made up its mind to implement the scheme of door-to-door delivery of voter ID cards of the Central Election Commission. Voter ID card of common people will reach their homes through the post. Complaints like non-distribution of voter ID cards, and not reaching the right person will now end. This system is being implemented for the identity cards of first-time voters. This decision can be called the right step taken belatedly. The Central Election Commission had given its guidelines to the states long back. The State Election Commission had signed a contract with the Indian Postal Department for this about four months ago. It is now being implemented. Now, No eligible person should be deprived of voting. Everyone should take responsibility for seeing this.

The political parties should also be active to protect this right of the voter. The State Election Commission has taken a lesson from the shortcomings and challenges faced in the recent elections. But along with political parties, it is time for society to pay attention to its responsibility.

Divyansha Sharma | Ujjain

## THE YOGI MODEL OF GOVERNANCE



More over three murders in Karnataka, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has expressed that if need be Yogi model of governance would be followed.

Revenge killings started after the hijab controversy broke out in Karnataka. The popular opinion among the people in Karnataka is that the Bommai government is soft-pedaling on the issue of revenge killings. Soft-peddling by the Bommai government has been failing to instill fear among

the criminals. Therefore the crime is going unabated. Bommai was criticized for saying that the Yogi model would be adopted. Yogi knows and believes that thorn has to be removed from thorn only. He has been governing in his style to keep the criminals under check. By saying that he would adopt the Yogi-model administration, he courted unnecessary controversies. The CM should do what he should do to keep the criminals under check doesn't matter even if it is the Yogi model of governance.

Bommai should not budge from the criticisms coming from the opposition parties because it is the nature of opposition parties to criticize the government both for doing and not doing. The statement of Bommai that if need be he would adopt the Yogi model has incensed the opposition camp. The very expression 'if need be' by Bommai is meaningless. How many more deaths have to take place before the matter is to be taken seriously? Security must be beefed up and further revenge killings have to be thwarted.

Prevention is better than cure is proverbially true. Stringent action on the perpetrators of crime can only deter future crimes.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

### ENSURE SAFETY OF PILOTS

Sir — The crash of the IAF MIG-21 Bison aircraft was sad news and questions the safety of Indian pilots on board. The series of crashing incidence and a high count of accidents caused due to, MIG aircraft for many years has nicknamed it as "Flying Coffin".

This is the only aircraft fleet in the IAF depository with both applauds and criticism. If MIG had a crashing history, at the same time, it had been the same aircraft fleet used by Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman to shoot down Pakistani F-16 aircraft back in 2019. But there are other drawbacks to MIG of course, which are responsible for the high rate of malfunctioning. IAF must appropriately crosscheck the rea-

sons with a serious count of inquiries to the setup. And we need to add more secure and advanced flights into our depository to fight the enemy without losing the life of our talented pilots on board. It is time to learn the lesson from multiple crashes and accidents that MIG had met, and IAF must switch from MIG aircraft to much secure and safe aircraft for our pilots, otherwise, if IAF keeps on relying on this Flying Coffin no one can estimate how many more of our pilots will lose their life due to MIG. It is appropriate to replace MIG with better technology aircraft to ensure the safety of pilots and the nation.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

Important laws are passed in Parliament without referring them to Parliamentary committees, Oppn MPs are suspended. Mockery of Democracy.

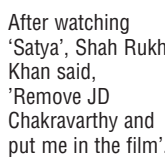


Activist-Lawyer  
—Prashant Bhushan



The only crime Sanjay Raut has committed is that he has not been covered down by the politics of intimidation of the BJP party. He is a man of conviction and courage. We are with Sanjay Raut.

Congress leader  
—Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury



After watching 'Satya', Shah Rukh Khan said, 'Remove JD Chakravarty and put me in the film'.

Actor  
—JD Chakravarty



Talent wins the game but teamwork and intelligence win the championship! Kudos to the team for the amazing face-off at India vs West Indies.

Cricketer  
—Shikhar Dhawan



I'm leading a Congressional delegation to the Indo-Pacific to reaffirm America's unshakeable commitment to our allies & friends in the region.


Speaker US senate  
—Nancy Pelosi



FIRST COLUMN

TEACH RAMAYANA FOR ETHICS, MORAL VALUES

Management curriculum should include the Ramayana




PRAMOD PATHAK

The Ramayana, the most widely read Indian epic, is not just a scholarly narration of the life and times of Lord Ram but also a treatise on management principles, the most modern of the applied social sciences. It has lessons on politics, strategy, economics, commerce, values and ethics, leadership and even the recent subject areas like CSR. Ramayana deals with all aspects of management practices in a very lucid, yet comprehensive manner. But it's quite a surprise that Indian business schools have not considered it as a text or even a reference in the course curriculum as suggested readings. This one piece of literature can offer valuable insights on different subjects that form the part of a typical business school curriculum.

While copious western literature finds place in a standard course structure of a business school programme, Ramayana that can offer vital clues to management practices to the students of business schools is found missing. Anyone who has gone through the text of Ramayana, either Ramcharitmanas by Goswami Tulsidas, or Valmiki Ramayana, would know that crucial management lessons are offered in this Indian epic through the actions of various role players like Lord Ram, his three younger brothers, his wife Sita and Hanuman.

The best part of Ramayana is that the main lead played by Lord Ram provides immensely valuable lessons on what ethical conduct is all about. Values and ethics these days are given great emphasis in the course content and form a significant portion of the curriculum in almost every business school as business organisations are emphasizing ethics and morality.



Raising the morality quotient has become a major concern today. It has become an important attribute of managerial quality gaining precedence over intelligence quotient. Lord Ram has led by example. He is an epitome of values and ethics and a role model to be emulated. He is also a picture of humility, commitment and character.

Humility, it may be recalled, is a highly thought after managerial quality. Similarly, his brothers also show what ethical conduct is all about. These are the times when everyone is hankering for power and pelf. But here is a person who, despite being the legitimate heir to the throne, is magnanimous enough to let go of the authority to rule just to keep his father's words. The entire population of the kingdom wanted him to be the ruler. But he declined.

The beauty of the whole Ramayana is that his younger brother Bharat, who was given the throne, is equally unwilling to occupy the throne, because he thinks it was not legitimate.

Ramayana also contains some very crucial lessons on statecraft. In fact, the dialogue between Ram and Bharat in Ayodhya khand is a treatise on administrative wisdom. No aspect of administration has been left out in that discussion. The Valmiki Ramayana presents this aspect very comprehensively. Duty, sacrifice, integrity, values and righteousness is reflected in behaviour of all leading characters. Not only this, there are strategy lessons to be picked up on teamwork, project management, human resource management and warfare.

It will be an understatement to say that Ramayana is a text that contains lessons for management practitioners. In fact, Ramayana is a complete text on social sciences dealing with all dimensions. It is a handy reference material and needs to be included in the Management program.

*(The author is Founder of The Goodness Movement and Kaizen Mantra)*

# Tier II, III cities gear up for digital revolution

Leading MNCs are embracing the idea of expansion in these cities due to multiple advantages, including cost-effectiveness, a large talent pool and low attrition rate

The world is witnessing the rise of 'New India', propelled by high aspirations, astonishing skilling, and unflinching diligence of millennials, who are the largest group of working population in the country. Besides the youth power, the growth story being scripted by India can be attributed to the swift penetration of the internet across the length and breadth of the country, which is stimulating digital revolution at an unimaginable pace.

People in the country, irrespective of their location, education, and age, are reaping the benefits of the digital storm, gaining immense thrust from tier-II and tier III cities. As tier-I cities have reached a point of saturation, now it becomes vital to boost the infrastructure of tier II & III cities, equipping them with all the required facilities to further augment the growth.

A report by IMAI-Kantar ICUBE 2020 estimates that active internet users will grow by 45 per cent in India over the next five years and reach 900 million users by 2025, up from 622 million in 2020. Tier-II & III cities constitute a larger part of the population that is joining the digital world steadfastly for its day-to-day needs.

According to reports, rural India will have more internet users than urban India by 2025. As a result, the digital ecosystem would have to adapt to cater to the needs of this new demographic.

The estimates of the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) Digital Adoption Index note that India is the second-fastest growing digital economy among the 17 leading economies of the world. A Nasscom report titled 'Future of Technology Services - Winning in this Decade' highlights that over 50 digital initiatives in diverse sectors such as finance and banking, healthcare, IT/ITES are fueling India's digital dream, while contributing eight per cent to the economy.

Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic too has accelerated digitization and tier-II and tier III cities are the strongest force behind this thrust in the digital economy of the country. Earlier, most of the business activities, especially IT/ITES, used to remain centered around metropolitan cities such as Gurugram, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, etc. With several conducive factors, including superior infrastructure and skilled workforce, tier-II and III cities have emerged as new loci of growth recently.

The groundwork laid by the Electronics Commission envisaged the creation of regional computing centers to spur software and intellectual capital development in India. The establishment of the National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development and New Telecommunication Policy provided the roadmap further to catalyze the growth of the IT/ITES sector.

Meanwhile, a spate of infrastructure development has also made these cities the most sought-after destinations for IT/ITES

“

ACCORDING TO AN ESTIMATE BY ZINNOV, A LEADING MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY, ABOUT 976 MNCs HAVE SET UP 1,257 GLOBAL IN-HOUSE CENTRES (GICs) IN INDIA, OUT OF WHICH 68 GICs ARE IN TIER-II LOCATIONS

*(The author is Director General, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI))*



investments and other businesses. Likewise, the Digital India and Startup India campaigns, the JAM trinity, and Smart Cities Mission have also accelerated the transformation of these cities.

It is estimated that there are more than 61,000 recognized startups in India, across 55 industries, with 45 per cent of them located in tier-II and tier-III cities. The state governments have undertaken various initiatives to attract IT firms and provide a conducive ecosystem by establishing industrial clusters, SEZ, and various skill development initiatives to stay ahead in the digitization process.

Industry bodies such as Nasscom, Assocham, TIE have created access to financial assistance, mentorship, incubation, and network opportunities to support path-breaking ideas from the hinterlands. According to an estimate by Zinnov, a leading management consultancy, about 976 MNCs have set up 1,257 Global In-house Centres (GICs) in India, out of which 68 GICs are in tier-II locations.

The relaxation in the Department of Telecommunications' compliance guidelines, allowing IT firms to work from anywhere amid Covid-19, are also set to provide a fillip to this trend. Moreover, with an aim to foster an IT ecosystem in tier-II and III cities, STPI has launched the India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS). This scheme seeks to incentivize the establishment of 48,300 seats in respect of BPO/ITES operations across India. The government provides financial support of up to Rs 1 lakh per seat under two plans - India BPO Promotion Scheme and North East BPO Promotion

Scheme. The scheme is distributed among each state in the proportion of State and population with an outlay of Rs 493 crores. There are special incentives in the scheme to promote employment for women and specially-abled persons, the participation of local entrepreneurs, setting up operations in non-capital cities, etc.

Such a combination of the rising middle class, a shift in the consumption patterns and technological innovation augur well for tier-II and tier-III cities to emerge as growth engines of the Indian economy. The upcoming large-scale developments such as Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Metro Neo and Metro Lite, Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor will bolster connectivity and put tier-II and tier-III cities such as Sonapat, Jaipur, Dehradun, etc., on the infrastructure map.

On the technological front, the proposed roll out of 5G technology also augurs well for the IT/ITES industry in these cities. A Datacenter Policy is also in the pipeline that will escalate the digital transformation process in India. Also, the 'work from home' model amid the Covid-19 pandemic has set off a trend of reverse migration. As a result, firms are moving to tap talent in Indian hinterlands instead of workforce migrating to tier-I cities for employment. It has led to the emergence of the 'hub and spoke' and 'edge' model wherein tier-I cities serve as hubs while tier-II and tier-III towns form the spoke network, and the edge implies the work that can be done remotely. This model allows

The leading IT firms to diversify their operations at comparative-

ly lower costs in tier-II and tier-III cities, while retaining their clientele in tier-I cities. Another emerging trend is the gig economy, wherein firms are looking to diversify their workforce through contract employees who impart flexibility and agility to their operational models.

Moreover, leading multinational firms are embracing the idea of expansion in these cities due to multiple advantages, including cost-effectiveness, lower land and labour costs, availability of a large talent pool, and low attrition rate of the workforce. Besides serving as a consumer market, the cities such as Jaipur, Indore and Lucknow have emerged as education hubs, thereby generating skilled human capital employed in various firms.

Bolstered by these factors, tier-II and tier-III cities will emerge at the forefront of the digital revolution, with multiplier socio-economic impact in terms of employment generation, curbing migration to metropolitan cities, boosting the local economy, improving living standards, and bridging regional disparities in economic development.

This will also lessen the burden of mega cities, which are facing problems due to limited resources and influx of people from around the corner of the country in the pursuit of quality life. However, it will be critical for these cities to sustain the digitization wave. Focusing on strengthening infrastructure, encouraging skill development among the youth, fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem, and catalyzing innovation through ground-breaking ideas, and augmenting industry-academia collaborations, efforts will help these cities to reap tangible benefits of digitization.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

MAHARASHTRA WILL BE LEFT WITH NO MONEY IF MEMBERS OF THE GUJARATI AND RAJASTHANI COMMUNITIES ARE 'REMOVED' FROM THE STATE. —MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI



THE HATRED THAT THE GOVERNOR HARBOURS AGAINST MARATHIS HAS COME OUT. THE TIME HAS COME TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SEND KOSHYARI BACK HOME OR TO JAIL. — MAHARASHTRA EX-CM UDDHAV THACKERAY

# Al-Zawahri killing: Taliban role under scrutiny

## The Taliban had promised in the 2020 Doha Agreement that they would not harbour al-Qaida members

The US drone strike that killed al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri on the balcony of a Kabul safe house intensified global scrutiny Tuesday of Afghanistan's Taliban rulers and further undermined their efforts to secure international recognition and desperately needed aid.

The Taliban had promised in the 2020 Doha Agreement on the terms of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan that they would not harbour al-Qaida members. Nearly a year after the US military's chaotic pullout from Afghanistan, al-Zawahri's killing raises questions about the involvement of Taliban leaders in sheltering a mastermind of the 9/11 terror attacks and one of America's most-wanted fugitives.

The safe house is in Kabul's upscale Shirpur neighbourhood, home to several Taliban leaders who had moved into mansions of former top Afghan officials of the toppled Western-backed government.

The Taliban initially sought to describe the strike as America violating the Doha deal, which also includes a Taliban pledge not to shelter those seeking to attack the United States—something al-Zawahri had done for years in internet videos and online screeds. The Taliban have yet to say who was killed in the strike.

Meanwhile, rumours persist of unease in the Taliban ranks—particularly between the powerful group known as the Haqqani network, which apparently sheltered al-Zawahri, and other Taliban figures.



“The killing of Ayman al-Zawahri has raised many questions,” said one Pakistani intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press as he wasn't authorized to speak publicly to reporters. Al-Zawahri took over as al-Qaida's leader after Osama bin Laden was killed in Pakistan in 2011, in an operation by US Navy SEALs.

“The Taliban were aware of

Taliban elite began taking some of the abandoned homes there.

The house where al-Zawahri stayed was the home of a top aide to senior Taliban leader Sirajuddin Haqqani, according to a senior US intelligence official. Taliban officials blocked AP journalists in Kabul from reaching the damaged house on Tuesday.

The UN Security Council was informed by monitors of militant groups in July that al-Qaida enjoys greater freedom in Afghanistan under the Taliban, but confines itself to advising and supporting the country's new rulers.

A report by the monitors said the two groups remain close and that al-Qaida fighters, estimated to number between 180 to 400, are represented “at the individual level” among

Taliban combat units.

The monitors said it's unlikely al-Qaida will seek to mount direct attacks outside Afghanistan, “owing to a lack of capability and restraint on the part of the Taliban, as well as an unwillingness to jeopardise their recent gains” such as having a safe haven and improved resources.

During the first half of 2022, al-Zawahri increasingly reached out to supporters with video and audio messages, including assurances that al-Qaida can compete with the Islamic State group for leadership of a global movement, the report by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team said.

IS militants have emerged as a major threat to the Taliban over the past year, carrying out

a series of deadly attacks against Taliban targets and civilians.

The Haqqani network is an Afghan Islamic insurgent group, built around the family of the same name. In the 1980s, it fought Soviet forces and over the past 20 years, it battled US-led Nato troops and the former Afghanistan government.

Sirajuddin Haqqani has also served as the first deputy leader of the Taliban movement since 2016. Since last August, he also served the appointed interior ministry of the Taliban government. The US government maintains a \$10 million bounty on him for “numerous significant kidnappings and attacks against US. And coalition forces in Afghanistan, the Afghan government and civilian targets.”

But the Haqqanis, from Afghanistan's eastern Khost province, have disagreed with others in the Taliban leadership, mostly from the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar. Some believe Sirajuddin Haqqani wants more power. Other Taliban figures have opposed the Haqqanis' violent attacks against civilians in Kabul and elsewhere.

“It seems to me that the power struggle within the Taliban is general. It's not necessarily about the US or about the international community. It's about the new regime, how to share power within the new regime, who gets what position, who gets to control what ministries, to decide the general policies and so on,” said Jerome Drevon, the International Crisis Group's senior analyst studying Islamist militant groups.

—(AP)



# RUSSIA DECLARES UKRAINIAN MILITARY UNIT A TERROR GROUP

AP ■ RUSSIA

The Russian Supreme Court on Tuesday declared Ukraine's Azov Regiment a terrorist organization banned in Russia, a designation that may expose Ukrainian prisoners of war held by Moscow to terrorism charges.

Azov, which played a key part in the defense of the southeastern Ukrainian city of Mariupol, has been repeatedly portrayed by Russian officials and state media as a Nazi formation allegedly committing atrocities against Ukraine's civilians. No evidence has surfaced to back up these assertions.

The Azov Regiment is a unit within Ukraine's National Guard. It grew out of a group called the Azov Battalion, formed in 2014 as one of many volunteer brigades that rose to bolster Ukraine's underfunded and questionably led military in the fight against Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.

The Azov Battalion drew its initial fighters from far-right circles and elicited criticism for some of its tactics. Its current members rejected accusations of nationalism and radicalism.

Russia's Prosecutor General's office filed a motion to designate the regiment as a terrorist organization in May.

Scores of Azov fighters are being held captive by Moscow.

The Russian authorities have



opened multiple criminal cases against them, accusing them of killing civilians.

Last week, dozens of Ukrainian

POWs were killed in an explosion at a barracks at a penal colony in Olenivka, an eastern town controlled by pro-Russian separatists.

Moscow and Kyiv have have traded blame for the strike, with Kyiv saying Russia blew up the barracks to cover up torture against the POWs.

# Sri Lankans bid time as leaders seek fix for economic woes

AP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankans who have endured months of fuel and food shortages are bracing for more pain as a newly installed government scrambles to find solutions to the Indian Ocean nation's economic emergency.

Like many others, fish monger Gamini Mallawarachchi says he is pinning his hopes on President Ranil Wickremesinghe's ability to revive the economy and restore stability after months of turmoil and protests.

"Things are really, really bad now and my life is almost ruined," said Mallawarachchi, who has given up on selling fish because he can't find fuel to get to the village where he used to buy it, and anyway his customers were buying less and less.

Mallawarachchi said he views Wickremesinghe's "last hope."

"I think he will do something. With his experience and knowledge, I believe he has the capability," said Mallawarachchi. "But, he must show some results before the end of this year, otherwise, he will also have to face protests from the people," he said.

Sri Lanka inched closer to ending its dire economic and humanitarian crisis with the July 20 appointment of Wickremesinghe's new government after months of protests and turmoil. But daunting hurdles lay ahead.

Lawmakers backed him in extending a national emergency that gives the president broad powers to crack down on any violence. That may buy him time to try to reach a deal with the International Monetary Fund on a requested USD3 billion bailout.

By his own admission, that's easier said than done.

On Saturday, Wickremesinghe said he has pushed back by a month his aim of getting an agreement by early August since talks with the IMF stalled amid recent political turmoil.

So far there are scant signs of progress in negotiations with Sri Lanka's other creditors on more than \$50 billion that it owes to lenders.

"Because public debt is assessed as unsustainable," the IMF's approval would "require adequate financing assurances from Sri Lanka's creditors that debt sustainability will be restored," the lending agency said in a statement.

That would require lenders, both public and private, to agree to accept smaller payouts on bonds, lower interest rates or extended repayment terms.

IMF conditions also would likely involve tax increases, better safeguards against cor-

## Sri Lanka's new Government to press ahead with 22nd Amendment: Minister

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The new Sri Lankan government will present to Parliament the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, which will be officially adopted as the 21st Amendment, the justice minister said on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka's Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapaksa told reporters that the 22nd Amendment sought to refine the 19th Amendment's shortcomings while annulling the 20th Amendment.

He said the 22nd Amendment, approved by the Cabinet on Monday, will be gazetted on Tuesday and will be "presented in the parliament as the first reading within seven days".

The Amendment was re-approved on Monday with some changes to its text as the same amendment was approved by the Cabinet of the previous government headed by Gotabaya Rajapaksa in June last week.

The move came as protesters, who have been demanding reform in the country's political system, needed the government to restore the 19th Amendment adopted in 2015.

Former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2020 adopted the 20th Amendment, giving himself full presidential powers in contrast to the 19th Amendment which had



empowered the parliament over the president.

Explaining the serial number confusion on the amendments, Rajapaksa said the main opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), which had presented the 21st Amendment to the Supreme Court, failed to win the sanctioning of the highest court without a national referendum.

The minister said the SJB had called for the total abolition of the executive presidential system. "This cannot be done without a process to adopt a brand new constitution", Rajapaksa told reporters here.

He said this was the reason why the government presented the amendment as 22nd Amendment. "But it will be up to the secretary general of the parliament to rename it the 21st Amendment once it is approved in the parliament," the Justice Minister added.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Yash Nagpal is the owner of Property bearing No. 27/103/2E-1, area measuring 65 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 2586/839/741, Situated at Village Chardarwalli @ Shahdara, in the abadi of (Jhads Nagar), Shahdara, Delhi by virtue of Gift Deed dated 18.04.2018, doc. No.6849. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its Sale/ Mortgage/ litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Yash Nagpal, 200, Indir Nagar, 23, Shivali Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi 15

PH: 011-411227-28, yashnagpalassociates@gmail.com

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is hereby given to general public that Sh. Ajit Singh Khosla S/o Late Vijay Mohan Singh Khosla who claimed to be owner & in possession of Flat No.161, Block-B-14, Himgini Aptt. Sector-34, Noida (Area measuring 93.03 sq.mtr) in the New Okla Industrial Development Authority, Gautam Budh Nagar(U.P.) by virtue of Mutation Letter issued by Noida Authority dated 07.06.2022 now Sh. Ajit Singh Khosla want to sell said property to Smt. Deena W/o Sh. Ram Krishan. If any one has have any objection he/she may submit his/her, objection in the Housing Department of Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the publication of this notice.

Sh. Ajit Singh Khosla S/o Late Vijay Mohan Singh Khosla R/o Flat No. 1-8, Pocket-C, SFS DDA Flat Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096

#### Ashnoor Textile Mills Ltd.

Regd. Office: Behrampur Road, Village Khandasa, District Gurugram, Haryana-122001  
E-mail: atml\_deli@yahoo.com

Phone: 91 0124 4809756  
CIN: L17226HR1884PLC033384

#### NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, inter-alia, to consider and approve Unaudited Financial Results of the company for the First Quarter ended June 30, 2022.

This information is also available on Company's website at [www.ashnoortext.com](http://www.ashnoortext.com) and also on the website of BSE, i.e. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).

By the order of Board  
Sd/-  
Suneel Gupta  
Managing Director  
DIN-00052084

August 2, 2022  
Gurugram, Haryana

**UJVN Limited**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun  
Tels: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866

**RO No. 479 DATE EXTENSION E-NOTICE-1 Dated : 02/08/2022**

Due to unavoidable reasons date of submission and opening of bids against Tender no. : E-CH(Maint.)-10/2022-22 are extended as given here below:-

Last date for receipt of bid in the portal: August 09, 2022, 18:00 hrs.

Last date of submission of document in hard copy: August 10, 2022, 12:00hrs.

Date of opening of bid on the website: August 10, 2022, 16:00hrs.

For Further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

Executive Engineer (Maint.)

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763508,  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

पत्रांक सं. 476 दिनांक 01.08.2022

#### e- Tender Notice

Office of the EE(IC&CM) Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-

e-tender No. 05/EE(IC&CM)/2022-23

Name of Supply : Supply of cable of different specifications for different power Houses/Sites of UJVN LTD.

Estimated cost : Rs 99,80,605.00 only (GST Extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website: 01.08.2022 from 16:00Hrs.

Last date for submission of bids on website : 22.08.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in".

Executive Engineer (IC&CM)

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

### NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const-I, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites **open e-tender** under **Two Packet System** for the under noted work:-

1.	Name of work and location	Baance work for the "Construction of Railway Offices and Rest House for Railway Operational use at Tilak Bridge, near ITO, New Delhi (Second call)"
2.	Completion Period of the work	11 (Eleven) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter.
3.	Approx. cost of work	Rs. 1,130.91 Lakh (Rupees Eleven crore thirty lakh ninety one thousand only)
4.	Bid Security (Cash/BG) amount	Rs. 7,15,500/-
5.	Date, Time for submission of e-tender and opening of tender	Tender may be uploaded up to 11.30 hrs. on 25.08.2022 on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The bidders can only participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 25.08.2022.
6.	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	Above tender document will be available on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 04.08.2022 to 25.08.2022 All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
No.: 220-Acs/11/1210/ORH/TKJ Dated: 02.08.2022		1967/2022
Serving Customers with a Smile		

# Rishi Sunak closing gap on rival Liz Truss in UK PM race: survey

PTI ■ LONDON

Former UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak is closing the gap to catch up with rival, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, in the race to 10 Downing Street, with only five points separating the two in a latest poll of the Conservative Party members on Tuesday.

The data tables for a survey of 807 Conservative members, conducted by Italian public affairs company Techne for a private client and concluded last week, show Sunak at 43 per cent, Truss at 48 per cent while 9 per cent undecided in the election to replace Boris Johnson as Tory leader and British Prime Minister.

It is in sharp contrast to a YouGov survey carried out at the end of the knockout stages last month, which suggested that Truss had a 24-point lead over the 42-year-old British Indian former minister.

"It really hasn't felt to us



like Liz was doing as well as the polls have been suggesting. Wherever he goes he is getting really good feedback and an awful lot of people are still making up their minds," "The Times" newspaper quoted a Sunak campaign source as saying. "Liz's support feels very soft," the source said.

The survey asked Tory members their views on the two finalists and their policy plans. It found that on most

issues Truss, 47, was ahead of Sunak among party members and voters who supported the Tories in 2019. However, Sunak led Truss on being "qualified" to be Prime Minister by 10 points, 52 per cent to 42 per cent, and being authoritative, 51 per cent to 43 per cent.

Sir John Curtice, a polling expert, said it was possible that the race was closer than had been assumed. "We have to bear in mind that since Tory MPs decided that this was the contest between Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss, we have had one opinion poll of the people who will actually have a vote, that is Conservative members," he told "GB News".

"That poll put Liz Truss well ahead, once you took out the one in five or so who did not express a view, she was on 62 per cent, way ahead of the 50 per cent that's required. But that poll is now nearly a fortnight old," he said.



# Myanmar violence, Ukraine war loom over ASEAN meetings

AP ■ PHNOM PENH (CAMBODIA)

Southeast Asian foreign ministers are gathering in the Cambodian capital for meetings addressing persisting violence in Myanmar and other issues, joined by top diplomats from the United States, China, Russia and other world powers amid tensions over the invasion of Ukraine and concerns over Beijing's growing ambitions in the region.

The meeting in Phnom Penh of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will see U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov together at the same venue for the second time in a month, though it's not clear whether the two will meet.

The two did not meet separately when they both attended the Group of 20 foreign ministers' meeting in Bali, Indonesia, in early July.

But they had their first direct contact since before

Russia invaded Ukraine in a phone call Friday, when Blinken urged Moscow to accept a deal to release American detainees Brittney Griner and Paul Whelan and discussed other issues. Also attending is Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Many have urged Beijing to use its partnership with Russia to push for an end to the conflict in Ukraine and to help promote peace and a return to civilian rule in Myanmar after a February 2021 coup sparked mass protests and an armed resistance. The meetings come at a time of tension between Washington and Beijing as the U.S. Pushes back against China's growing economic and military influence in the Asia-Pacific. U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is touring the region and may visit Taiwan. That has heightened friction further, with Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian cautioning last week that "those who play with fire will perish by it."

# World one step from 'nuclear annihilation,' UN chief warns

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sounded the alarm over the war in Ukraine, nuclear threats in Asia and the Middle East, and other tensions, warning that "humanity is just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation."

The warning came Monday as a pandemic-delayed conference opened to review the 50-year-old Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which is aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and eventually achieving a nuclear-free world.

The threat of nuclear catastrophe was also raised by the United States, Japan, Germany, the U.N. Nuclear chief and many other opening speakers.

Russia, which came under criticism from some speakers, didn't give its address in its scheduled slot Monday but was expected to

## UN chief going to Hiroshima for 77th anniversary of A-bomb

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced Monday he will attend the 77th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing in Hiroshima, "at a time of nuclear danger not seen since the height of the Cold War." The U.N. Chief made the announcement in his speech on the opening day of the four-week meeting to review the landmark Nuclear

Nonproliferation Treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and chieving a nuclear-free world.

Guterres said his visit to Hiroshima for a few days is to underscore the importance of the conference. He said he will then visit two other countries in the region, which he didn't name, to promote nonproliferation. The United States dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

speak Tuesday. China's representative was scheduled to speak Tuesday.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said North Korea is preparing to conduct its seventh nuclear test, Iran "has either been unwilling or unable" to accept a deal to return to the 2015 nuclear agreement aimed at reining in its nuclear pro-

gram, and Russia is "engaged in reckless, dangerous nuclear saber-rattling" in Ukraine. He cited Russian President Vladimir Putin's warning after his Feb. 24 invasion that any attempt to interfere would lead to "consequences you have never seen," emphasising that his country is "one of the most potent nuclear powers."

## Police disperse anti-UN protesters in Congo amid tensions

AP ■ BENI (CONGO)

Police dispersed about 100 demonstrators in Congo's eastern town of Beni on Monday, a day after UN peacekeepers returning to duty killed three people and wounded more than a dozen at the border with Uganda. Dalzon

Mikundi, president of the Beni Urban Youth Council, said they want the UN to cover medical care for the victims wounded by peacekeepers amid demonstrations demanding that the UN force leave Congo. Tensions between the population in restive eastern Congo and the UN peacekeeping force have

risen dramatically in the past week or so, with more than 20 killed in protests calling for the force to leave. On Sunday, UN peacekeepers opened fire on civilians in Kasindi, a border town with Uganda in Congo's North Kivu province.

"I call on the youth of Beni to put pressure peacefully and

not to fall into vandalism," said Mikundi. "I also call on our government to play its role well in securing its population so as not to rely on foreign forces."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was outraged by the shooting in Kasindi and he offered an apology to Congo's prez Monday.

# Supreme Court certifies ruling ending Trump border policy

AP ■ SAN DIEGO

The Supreme Court has certified its month-old ruling allowing the Biden administration to end a cornerstone Trump-era border policy to make asylum-seekers wait in Mexico for hearings in US immigration court, a pro forma act that has drawn attention amid near-total silence from the White House about when, how and even whether it will dismantle the policy.

The two-word docket entry on Monday read "judgment issued" to record that justices voted 5-4 in a ruling issued June 30 that the administration could scrap the "Remain in Mexico" policy, overruling a lower court that forced the policy to be reinstated in December.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said shortly after the Supreme Court victory that justices would need to communicate the decision to a lower court, which, in turn, should lift the order to keep the policy in place in a lawsuit filed by the state of Texas. Beyond that, administration officials have said little.



# WHO WAS AL-ZAWAHRI AND WHY DID US KILL HIM?

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A U.S. Drone strike in Afghanistan this weekend killed Ayman al-Zawahiri, who helped Osama bin Laden plot the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States and helped al-Qaida survive and spread in the years after.

By finding and striking al-Zawahiri, President Joe Biden said, the U.S. Was ensuring that Afghanistan under the Taliban would never again become a base for attacks on the rest of the world, as it was in 2001. A look at the al-Qaida leader, who evaded U.S. Capture for 21 years after the suicide airliner attacks that in many ways changed America and its relations with the rest of the world.

## WHO WAS AYMAN AL-ZAWAHRI?

Americans who lived through the 9/11 attacks may not remember al-Zawahiri's name, but many know his face, more than two decades on: a man in glasses, slightly smiling, invariably shown in photos by the side of bin Laden as the two arranged the strike on the United States. An Egyptian, al-Zawahiri was born June 19, 1951, to a comfortable family in a leafy,

drowsy Cairo suburb.

Religiously observant from boyhood, he immersed himself in a violent branch of a Sunni Islamic revival that sought to replace the governments of Egypt and other Arab nations with a harsh interpretation of Islamic rule.

Al-Zawahiri worked as an eye surgeon as a young adult, but also roamed Central Asia and the Middle East, witnessing Afghans' war against Soviet occupiers in that country, and meeting young Saudi Osama bin Laden and other Arab militants rallying to help Afghanistan expel Soviet troops.

He was one of hundreds of militants captured and tortured in Egyptian prison after Islamic fundamentalists' assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981. Biographers say the experience further radicalized him. Seven years later, al-Zawahiri was present when bin Laden founded al-Qaida.

Al-Zawahiri merged his own Egyptian militant group with al-Qaida. He brought al-Qaida organisational skill and experience - honed underground in Egypt, evading Egyptian intelligence - that allowed al-Qaida to organize cells of followers and strike around the world.

## WHY WAS AL-ZAWAHRI

## Hellfire missiles: US' sought-after secret weapon used to kill Ayman al-Zawahiri

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US drone strike that killed al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri on the balcony of a safe house in downtown Kabul points to the use of secret Hellfire missiles by the CIA as there was no explosion and according to American President Joe Biden "no civilian casualties" either. Zawahiri, 71, who assumed the leadership of al-Qaeda after the death of Osama bin Laden, was reportedly killed by two Hellfire missiles fired into the balcony of the safe house in Kabul at 6:18 a.M local time.

"This mission was carefully planned and rigorously minimised the risk of harm to other civilians. And one week ago, after being advised that the conditions

were optimal, I gave the final approval to go get him, and the mission was a success. None of his family members were hurt, and there were no civilian casualties," President Biden said on Monday while announcing the death of Zawahiri from the White House.

Widely-known Hellfire missiles are specially designed, secret missiles used to conduct pinpoint airstrikes that kill terrorist leaders with no explosion, drastically reducing damage and minimising the chances of civilian casualties.

A Hellfire missile, which is a little more than five feet long and weighs just over 100 pounds (over 45kgs), typically leaves behind mangled, burned-out shells of vehicles, surrounded by

debris and scorch marks over a large radius.

The warhead-less missile is designed to plunge more than 100 pounds of metal through the tops of cars and buildings to kill its target without harming individuals and property close by.

According to a 2019 report in The Wall Street Journal, both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon have used the weapon while closely guarding its existence.

The Hellfire missiles have several variants, depending on their warhead, guidance system, and physical variations. Hellfire R9X, which uses pop-out sword blades to kill targets with minimal collateral damage, is the latest and peculiar addition to the line of Hellfire missiles.

## IMPORTANT?

After the years of quietly assembling the suicide attackers, funds and plans for the Sept. 11

attack, Zawahiri and lieutenants ensured that al-Qaida survived the global manhunt that followed to attack again. On the run after 9/11,

al-Zawahiri rebuilt al-Qaida leadership in the Afghan-Pakistan border region and was the supreme leader over branches in

## 9/11 groups, families cheer al-Qaeda leader al-Zawahiri's death



AP ■ WASHINGTON

The family members of a 9/11 survivors group have expressed gratitude to US President Joe Biden for eliminating al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in a CIA drone strike in Afghanistan, saying it was a "significant step" in their years-long battle for justice and accountability.

The 9/11 Justice, a grassroots organisation comprising survivors, first responders, and family members who lost their loved ones in the September 11, 2001 terror attacks in the US, expressing joy over the terrorist group leader's death, said the step was particularly meaningful to the 9/11 community who continued their battle for justice.

The group, in a statement, further urged Biden to continue to stand with the 9/11 community and support all those who seek justice for victims of the 9/11 attacks that left 2,977 people dead.

Terry Strada, national chair of 9/11 Families United, expressed her gratitude for the commitment of intelligence agencies and the unflinching dedication shown by the US military in the fight against terrorism.

"If we're going to be serious about accountability, we must hold everyone accountable," Strada was quoted as saying by Fox News.

Brad Blakeman, a senior advisor to former president George W. Bush, whose nephew, a first responder, was killed in the attack, said: "It was a long day in coming. It should have been done a long time ago if we had the opportunity."

"What really dismays me is the fact that why is the US always the one to take action against the terrorists when they're harboured in sovereign countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan in the case of (Osama) bin Laden?"

Why are these countries giving safe haven to these murderers and terrorists," Blakeman said, expressing outrage at countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan for serving as a safe haven for such groups.

## Pakistan Army Lt Gen among 6 dead in helicopter crash in Balochistan province

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Top Pakistani army general and five senior military officials were killed when their helicopter crashed while on a flood relief operation in troubled Balochistan province, the army said on Tuesday.

The six individuals on board included the Commander XII Corps Lt Gen Sarfraz Ali, who was supervising the flood relief operations in Balochistan province.

The wreckage of unfortunate helicopter which was on flood relief operations was found in Musa Goth, Windar, Lasbela. All six officers and soldiers including Lt Gen Sarfraz Ali died, said Major General Babar Iftikhar, Director General Inter-Services Public Relations - the media wing of Pakistan's armed forces.

He said the accident occurred due to



bad weather as per initial investigations.

The Pakistan Army Aviation helicopter was on flood relief operations in Lasbela, Balochistan when it lost contact with ATC on Monday.

Incidentally, General Sarfraz was one of the contenders interviewed by then prime minister Imran Khan for the post of director General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in October last year, according to the Express Tribune news-

paper.

He has served as Pakistan's defence attache in the United States.

The others on board included Major Syed the pilot, Major Talha the co-pilot, Director-General of Coast Guards Brigadier Amjad, Engineer Brigadier Khalid and Chief Naik Mudassar.

The helicopter took off from Uthal at 5:10pm on Monday and was supposed to land in Karachi at 6:05pm, but it lost contact with the air traffic controller, officials said.

Pakistan's Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Tuesday had a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and apprised him on the latest developments, state-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

Sharif expressed concern over the incident. Heavy rains and flash floods have wreaked havoc in Balochistan, claiming 478 lives.

## Opposed to counter-terror ops at 'expense of sovereignty' of others: China on al-Zawahiri's killing

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday reacted guardedly to the killing of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a US drone strike in Afghanistan's Kabul, saying it is against all forms of terrorism but at the same opposed to "double standards" on counter-terrorism operations and at the "expense of sovereignty" of other countries.

"We saw relevant reports," Assistant Foreign Minister Hua Chunying told a media briefing here when asked about China's reaction to al-Zawahiri's death in a CIA drone strike in Kabul.

"China is always firmly against terrorism. We are actively involved in the international counter-terrorism operations," said Hua, who is also the spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

"At the same time, we believe there should be no double standards on counter-

terrorism and all forms of terrorism should be fought," she said.

"Counter-terrorism cooperation should not be conducted at the expense of the sovereignty of other countries," Hua said.

Al-Zawahiri's death was announced by US President Joe Biden on Monday.

Biden said Zawahiri was killed in a drone strike carried out by the CIA on Saturday evening at a house in Kabul where he was sheltering to reunite with his family.

The 71-year-old Egyptian surgeon, who had a USD 25 million bounty on his head, was Osama bin Laden's second-in-command during 9/11 attacks and took over as the head of al-Qaeda after his death. He remained a visible international symbol of the terror group, 11 years after the US killed bin Laden during a raid in Pakistan's Abbottabad in May 2011.

## Man who stormed Capitol with gun gets 7-plus years in prison

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A Texas man convicted of storming the US Capitol with a holstered handgun, helmet and body armour was sentenced to more than seven years in prison, the longest sentence imposed so far among hundreds of Capitol riot cases. Prosecutors said Guy Refitt told fellow members of the Texas Three Percenters militia group that he planned to drag House Speaker Nancy Pelosi out of the Capitol building by her ankles, "with her head hitting every step on the way down," according to a court filing.

Refitt's prison sentence - seven years and three months - is two years more than the previous longest prison sentence for a Capitol riot defendant. But it's less than half the length of the 15-year prison term requested by a federal prosecutor, who called Refitt a domestic terrorist and said he wanted to physically remove and replace members of

Congress. Refitt was the first person to go on trial for the January 6, 2021, attack, in which supporters of then-President Donald Trump halted the joint session of Congress for certifying Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory.

US District Judge Dabney Friedrich, who presided over Refitt's jury trial, also sentenced him to three years of supervised release after his prison term and ordered him to pay USD 2,000 in restitution on Monday. Justice Department prosecutors recommended a 15-year prison sentence for Refitt, who already has been jailed for approximately 19 months. They said he was a militia group member who intended to drag lawmakers out of the building and take over Congress to stop the certification of the Electoral College vote. Sentencing guidelines calculated by the court's probation department called for a sentence ranging from nine years to 11 years and three months.

## Pak ex-PM Imran's party received prohibited funding from 34 foreign nationals: EC

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's electoral watchdog on Tuesday issued a show cause notice to ousted prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party for receiving prohibited fund-

ing from 34 foreign nationals. A three-member bench of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), comprising Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja, Nisar Ahmed Durrani and Shah Muhammad Jatoti announced the unanimous verdict.

The electoral watchdog ruled Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), received funds from 34 foreign nationals and business tycoon

Arif Naqvi.

Interestingly, ECP's verdict comes after The Financial Times newspaper published the story titled "The strange case of the cricket match that helped fund Khan's political rise".

The report states that fees were paid to Wootton Cricket Ltd, which, despite the name, was in fact a Cayman Islands-incorporated company owned by Naqvi, the founder of Dubai-based Abraaj Group.

The ECP declared the party had kept 13 accounts secret, which it said was a violation of the Pakistan Constitution.

Article 17 (2) of the Constitution states: "...Law shall provide that where the

Federal Government declares that any political party has been formed or is operating in a manner prejudicial to the sovereignty or integrity of Pakistan, the Federal Government shall, within fifteen days of such declaration, refer the matter to the Supreme Court whose decision on such reference shall be final."

It issued the show cause notice to Khan's party to explain why its funds should not be seized.

It was also declared as 'misdeclaration' to an affidavit that was filed by Khan.

PTI's Fawad Chaudhry said that most of the money for the party came from overseas Pakistanis, and ECP's

verdict proves that it was not a case of "foreign funding."

"I don't understand why PML-N, JUI and PPP have declared overseas Pakistanis as the enemy. We consider overseas Pakistanis to be the backbone of Pakistan's economy and we will continue to rely on them for our funding," he asserted.

The PTI and the ECP have been at loggerheads for some time now. Khan has been accusing Raja, the Chief Election Commissioner, of being biased.

On Monday, Khan announced his party workers would protest outside the ECP office in Islamabad on Thursday to press for Raja's resignation.

## Pompeo to headline fundraiser in early-voting South Carolina

AP ■ COLUMBIA

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is set to headline a major gathering of Republicans in South Carolina this month as he considers a 2024 White House bid that could pit him against his one-time boss, former President Donald Trump.

Pompeo will speak Aug. 22 at the Faith & Freedom BBQ in Anderson, according to the host of the event, U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan.

"The tenants of Faith and Freedom are ingrained into the very fabric of our nation, and I am looking forward to celebrating them surrounded by veterans, first responders, and other patriotic Americans who make our country great!" Pompeo said in a written statement Tuesday provided to The Associated Press.

The fundraiser, which benefits Duncan's campaign, has long been a showcase for possible White House contenders, including South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, then- Vice President Mike



Pence, Sens. Ted Cruz, Joni Ernst and Marco Rubio, and former U.N. Ambassador and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

According to Duncan, who represents South Carolina's 3rd Congressional District, the event is the state's largest annual gathering of Republicans, typically drawing more than 1,000 attendees.

"Mike Pompeo epitomises service to country and community over self," Duncan said, touting Pompeo's "unwavering commitment to

America first foreign policy and his willingness to stand up to adversaries like China."

Last year, Pompeo headlined a fundraiser for the state Republican Party in South Carolina, home to the first presidential votes in the South.

His super PAC, which has raised nearly \$6 million, last month released a digital ad in South Carolina and Iowa - another early-voting state where he has been making appearances - touting religious freedoms.

## 1 dead, 5 wounded in shooting in NE Washington

AP ■ WASHINGTON

One man was killed and five others were wounded in a shooting Monday night in Northeast Washington, the Metropolitan Police Department said.

The circumstances of the shooting, including whether the victims even knew each other, were being investigated, Police Chief Robert J. Contee III told reporters.

The shooting occurred outside an apartment building located at 15th and F Streets Northeast, Contee said.

All the victims were adult males, Contee said, and those wounded were being treated at area hospitals.

**MEYER APPAREL LIMITED**  
CIN: L18101HR1993PLC032010  
Regd. Office: No.3 & 4, Mustil No.19, Killa No.-5  
Opposite Tata Consultancy N.H-5, Village  
Narsinghpur, Gurugram-122004, Haryana, India

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the meeting of Board of Directors of Meyer Apparel Limited to be held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at 3:00 P.M. through video conferencing facility, inter-alia to consider and approve, the Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 and amongst other items.

This notice is also available on the website of the company <https://www.meyerapparel.com> and on the website of BSE Ltd <https://www.bseindia.com>, where the company's shares are listed.

For Meyer Apparel Limited,  
Sd/-  
Charu Sharma  
Company Secretary &  
Compliance Officer

Place : Gurugram Date : 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2022

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

N.I.T. No.	E-file-134070TenderRT
Name of work with its location	Tender for "Work contract for stripping fitment of Mechanical furnishing items, passenger amenities lavatory upgradation and complete stripping and fitment of seat arrangement as per scope of work for 02 LWSGCC coaches at RCNK/SNP.
Approx. cost of work	Rs. 4917498.04/- (Rs. Forty Nine Lac Seventeen thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight and four paise only) Including GST @18%
Earnest Money	Rs. 98400/-
Completion period of work	One month of date of issue of LOA
Cost of Tender document on cash/by post	NIL
Date of opening of tender	Opening of Tender at 11:30 hrs. on 16.08.2022
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No. : E-file-134070TenderRT Dated : 01.08.2022. 1954/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**Aro granite industries ltd.**  
CIN: L74899DL1988PLC031510  
Registered Office: 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi 110025 Phone : 011- 41686169; Fax: 011-26941984  
Email id: [investorgrievance@arogile.com](mailto:investorgrievance@arogile.com) Website: [www.arogile.com](http://www.arogile.com)

**NOTICE OF 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION**

Notice is hereby given that the 34th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Aro granite industries Ltd. (the "Company") will be held on Friday, August 26, 2022 at 12.30 P.M. (IST) through video conference (VC/OAVM), to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") read with General Circular Nos. 14/2020 (dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020), 17/2020 (dated 13th April 2020), 20/2020 (dated 5th May 2020) followed with Circular No. 02/2021 (dated January 13, 2021) 2/2022 (dated 5th May 2022), 3/2022 (dated 5th May 2022) issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated 15th January 2021 read with Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated 12th May 2020, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated 13th May 2022 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circular"), without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue.

In compliance with the said MCA Circulars read with the SEBI Circular dated 12th May, 2020, electronic copies of the Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year ended on 31st March, 2022 have been sent to all the members whose email IDs are registered with the Company/Depository participant(s). Please note that the requirement of sending physical copy of the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report to the Members have been dispensed with vide MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular. The Notice and the Annual Report will also be available on the website of the Company [www.arogile.com](http://www.arogile.com), on the website(s) of the stock exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively, where the Company's shares are listed.

Members, who are holding shares in physical/electronic form and their e-mail addresses are not registered with the Company/their respective Depository Participants, are requested to register their e-mail addresses at the earliest by sending scanned copy of a duly signed letter by the Member(s) mentioning their name, complete address, folio number, number of shares held with the Company along with self-attested scanned copy of the PAN Card and self-attested scanned copy of any one of the following documents viz. Aadhar Card, Driving License, Election Card, Passport, Utility Bill or any other Govt. document in support of the address proof of the Member as registered with the Company for receiving the Annual Report 2021-22 along with AGM notice by email to [investorgrievance@arogile.com](mailto:investorgrievance@arogile.com). Members holding shares in demat form can update their email address with their Depository Participants.

The Notice of the AGM contains the instructions regarding the manner in which the shareholders can cast their vote through remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM and join the AGM through video conference (VC) or other audio-visual means (OAVM).

The members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date i.e. August 19, 2022, may cast their vote electronically on the Ordinary and Special Businesses as set out in the notice of AGM through electronic voting systems of CDSL. All the members are informed that:

- The Ordinary and the Special Businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM will be transacted through voting by electronic means.
- The remote e-voting shall commence on August 23, 2022, at 10.00 A.M. (IST).
- The remote e-voting shall end on August 25, 2022, at 05:00 P.M. (IST).
- The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is August 19, 2022 and a person who is not a Member as on the cut-off date should treat this Notice for information purposes only.
- Person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after sending of the notice of AGM and holding shares and eligible to vote, can follow the process for generating the login ID and password as provided in the Notice of the AGM. If such a person is already registered with CDSL, for e-voting, existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.
- Members may note that: a) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by the CDSL after the aforesaid date and time for voting and once the vote on a resolution is casted by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change subsequently; b) the members who have casted their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM shall not be entitled to cast their vote again; c) the facility for casting their vote by remote e-voting through electronic mode shall be made available at the AGM and d) a person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the AGM.

Notice is also given pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act 2013 and Rule 10 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules 2014, that the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books will remain closed from Saturday, 20th August 2022 to Friday, 26th August 2022 (both days inclusive) on account of Annual General Meeting.

If you have any queries or issues regarding attending AGM & e-Voting from the CDSL e-Voting System, you can write an email to [helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com) or contact at 022- 23058738 and 022-23058542/43. All grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dahiya, Sr. Manager, (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futrex, Mafatlal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to [helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com) or call on 022-23058542/43.

Place: New Delhi Date: 02.08.2022

For Aro granite industries Ltd.  
Sabyasachi Panigrahi  
Company Secretary



# E-invoice to be mandatory for B2B deals for biz with turnover of ₹10 crore from October

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST registered businesses with annual turnover of Rs 10 crore or more will have to generate e-invoices for B2B transactions from October 1, the finance ministry said. Currently, businesses with turnover of Rs 20 crore and above are required to generate electronic invoice for all B2B transactions. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on August 1 notified lowering the e-invoice threshold to Rs 10 crore and above from October 1. The GST Council, comprising



finance ministers of Centre and states, had decided to implement electronic invoice in a phased manner. Under Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, e-invoicing for business-to-business (B2B) transactions was made mandatory for companies with turnover of over Rs 500 crore from October 1, 2020, which was then extended to those with turnover of over Rs 100 crore effective January 1, 2021. From April 1, 2021, companies with turnover of over Rs 50 crore were generating B2B e-invoices, and the threshold was

brought down to Rs 20 crore beginning April 1, 2022. Going forward, The CBIC plans to further lower the threshold for e-invoice generation to Rs 5 crore. Deloitte India Partner MS Mani said this will further expand the GST tax base and provide more data to the tax authorities enabling better compliance. "The progressive reduction of the e-invoicing threshold indicates that, over a period of time, e-invoicing will become mandatory for all categories of GST taxpayers," Mani added.

## India's unemployment lowest in six months at 6.80 pc in July: CMIE

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's unemployment rate in July fell to 6.80 per cent, the lowest level in the last six months, amid rising agriculture activities during monsoon, according to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data. The unemployment rate dropped to 6.80 per cent in July from 7.80 per cent in June, the CMIE data said. Rural unemployment declined 6.14 per cent to 272.1 million last month from 265.2 million or 8.03 per cent in June, it said. On the other hand, urban unemployment jumped to 8.21 per cent in July from 7.80 per cent in June as the number of jobs fell both in industry as well as services. The employment in urban India fell by 0.6 million, from 125.7



million to 125.1 million, according to the CMIE data. The month-on-month recovery in employment was partial as the fall in June was 13 million compared to the growth of only 6.3 million jobs in July, CMIE Managing Director and CEO Mahesh Vyas said. The recovery was mainly in rural areas and in particular in agriculture as the southwest monsoon progressed and kharif sowing activities picked up pace. The agriculture sector in the

rural area absorbed an additional 9.4 million workforce in July, while it shed 8 million in June, Vyas added. This lower-than-expected absorption of labour into agriculture in July reflects the patchy progress of the southwest monsoon and the correspondingly poor kharif sowing this year. Rains this year so far have been very poor in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Vyas said, adding that data available till July-end reflects that rice cultivation was down 13 per cent mostly in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. "Unless the khariff sowing improves, we don't see improvement in rural employment. However, I expect the monsoon to improve going forward, which will have a positive impact on the employment scenario in rural areas," Vyas said.

## RBI's financial inclusion index rises, shows growth across all segments

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI's composite financial inclusion index (FI-Index) capturing the extent of financial inclusion across the country rose to 56.4 in March 2022, showing growth across all parameters.

The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion. "The value of FI Index for March 2022 stands at 56.4 vis-a-vis 53.9 in March 2021, with growth witnessed across all the sub-indices," the RBI said in a statement.

In August last year, the central bank said it has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index, incorporating details of banking, investments, insur-



ance, postal, as well as the pension sector, in consultation with government and respective sectoral regulators.

The FI-Index comprises three broad parameters -- Access (35 per cent), Usage (45 per cent), and Quality (20 per cent) with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on several indicators.

The FI-Index was constructed without any 'base year' and as such it reflects the cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion.

## FMCG industry recovers on higher urban consumption: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's FMCG industry reported a 10.9 per cent growth in terms of value in the June quarter, helped by a rise in consumption even though the rural markets remained sluggish in non-food segments, says a report.

Data analytics firm NielsenIQ on Tuesday said the overall consumption has

revived as unit volume has increased on a sequential basis in the April-June quarter but on an annual basis, it had a negative growth of 0.7 per cent in the latest quarter under review.

In the April-June 2022 period, the urban markets revived with positive volume growth of 0.6 per cent but the rural markets reported a negative growth of 2.4 per cent.



"The industry also observes positive momentum in volume along with price-led growth. The volume growth which was - 4.1 per cent in last quarter (January-March) has improved to some extent at - 0.7 per cent in (April-June) 22," NielsenIQ said in its FMCG Quarterly snapshot report. NielsenIQ Managing Director - India Satish Pillai told PTI that there has been a

double-digit price growth in the last five quarters, owing to factors such as inflation and other macro economic variables. "A tempering of these would help propel growth further in the last quarter. It is important to note that the consumption uptick has come from the unit growth as a predominant driver of FMCG for the quarter," he said.

## Markets dip as Pelosi's Asia trip puts markets on edge

AP ■ NEW YORK

Wall Street is poised to open lower on Tuesday as a possible visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan prompted threats from Beijing.

Futures for the Dow Jones industrials fell 0.5 per cent and futures for the S and P 500 declined 0.6 per cent.

China sees Taiwan as its own territory and has repeatedly warned of "serious consequences" if the report- ed trip to the island democracy goes ahead.

Pelosi has said she is visiting Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan for talks on a variety of topics, including trade, COVID-19, climate change and security.

While there have been no official announcements, local media in Taiwan reported Pelosi will arrive on Tuesday night, making her the highest-ranking elected US official to visit in more than 25 years.

"The first big relief point will be Pelosi's safe arrival in Taiwan, followed by her safe departure," said Stephen



Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management.

"No party wants a real war, but the risk of mishap or even aggressive war

game escalation is real, which could always lead to a tactical mistake."

In Asian trading, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 declined 1.4 per cent to 27,594.73.

South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.5 per cent to 2,439.62. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 2.4 per cent to 19,689.21, while the Shanghai Composite dove 2.3 per cent to 3,186.27.

Australia's S and P/ASX 200 edged 0.1 per cent higher to 6,998.10. The Reserve Bank of Australia on

Tuesday boosted its benchmark interest rate for a fourth consecutive month to a six-year high of 1.85 per cent.

It was the third consecutive hike of half a percentage point. When the central bank lifted the rate by a quarter percentage point at its monthly board meeting in May, it was the first rate hike in more than 11 years.

The cash rate is now at its highest point since May 2016 when the bank cut the rate from to 1.75 per cent from 2 per cent.

## Rupee jumps 41 paise to close at 78.65 against dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee jumped 41 paise to close at 78.65 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday buoyed by persistent foreign fund inflows into capital markets and softening crude oil prices. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 78.96 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 78.49 and a low of 78.96. It finally ended at 78.65 against the American currency, a rise of 41 paise over its previous close.

In the previous session, the rupee had closed at 79.06 against the US dollar.

"Against the odds, the Indian rupee and equities outperformed in the region as foreign institutions turned into net buyers of equities and debt. The dollar-long liquidation, FPI inflows, lower crude oil prices and improvement in high-frequency data very well supported the rupee gains," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said.

Going ahead, the bias remains downward as the pair is closing below 50 days' simple moving average and a level below 78.50 will give way for 77.60. "However, one should adjust their position as per the geopolitical updates from US-China," he added. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 20.86 points or 0.04 per cent higher at 58,136.36, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 5.40 points or 0.03 per cent to 17,345.45.

## Gold declines by ₹289; silver falls by ₹841

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined by Rs 289 to ₹51,877 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at ₹52,166 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also fell sharply by ₹841 to ₹58,480 per kg from ₹59,321 per kg in the

previous trade.

In the international market, both gold and silver were trading flat at USD 1,771 per ounce and USD 20.25 per ounce, respectively."

Gold prices pared early gains on firm dollar over possible tension between the US and China," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

## PLI scheme for food processing sector would boost growth: Industry official

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme with an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore for the food processing sector would boost the industry's growth in the coming years, a senior industry official said on Tuesday.

Air-conditioning and commercial refrigeration major Blue Star Ltd Managing Director and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Chairman of Foodpro 2022 B Thiagarajan

said the food processing industry has been growing at an annual growth rate of 11.18 per cent.

The Union ministry of food processing industries has earmarked Rs 10,900 crore under the PLI scheme for the sector.

Referring to the biennial event on food processing packaging and food technology event scheduled to begin from August 5 in Chennai, he said that over 300 domestic and international exhibitors were expected to take part in the three-day event.

## Maruti Suzuki could not produce 51k units due to chip shortage in June qtr: CFO Seth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki could not produce 51,000 units in the April-June quarter owing to the ongoing chip shortage situation, according to a senior company official.

The country's largest car-maker, which sold a total of 4,67,931 vehicles during the June quarter, noted that the

semiconductor shortage is a challenge in planning its production activities. "The electronics component shortages are still limiting our production volumes. In this quarter (Q1), the company could not produce 51,000 vehicles," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) CFO Ajay Seth said in an analyst call. Limited visibility on availability of electronics components is a chal-

lenge in planning our production, he stated.

Seth noted that the company's supply chain, engineering, production and sales teams were working towards maximising the production volume from available semiconductors. "The supply situation of electronic components continues to remain unpredictable," he lamented.

## High taxation limiting growth of super luxury cars in India: Lamborghini chairman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

High taxation is limiting the growth of super luxury car sales in India and the market will remain small although the growth rate will be high, according to Automobili Lamborghini Chairman and CEO Stephan Winkelmann.

The Italian super sports carmaker, which on Tuesday reported a 4.9 per cent increase in its global deliv-

eries at 5,090 units in the six months ended June 30, 2022, expects to have another record sales in India this year.

"What we are always underlining (is) high taxation which is limiting (sales of) our cars, and therefore in the foreseeable future the size of the Indian market will stay small but the growth rate in terms of percentage is high," Winkelmann said.

## Sensex, Nifty marginally up as geopolitical worries grip global stocks



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty closed marginally higher in a volatile session on Tuesday as gains in power, auto and energy stocks helped the indices extend gains for a fifth straight day.

The 30-share BSE benchmark closed 20.86 points or 0.04 per cent higher at 58,136.36 with 16 of its constituents ending in the red. The index opened lower due to profit booking by investors after sharp gains in the four-day rally. The barometer declined by 370 points to hit a low of 57,744.70 amid losses in global equities following worries over tensions between the US and China in afternoon trade.

Stocks made a recovery due to buying in select banking, oil and gas, power, FMCG and auto stocks in the bag-end, with Sensex rebounding 583 points from the day's low to touch 58,328.41. The broader NSE Nifty ended at 17,345.45, up 5.40 points or 0.03 per cent as 24 of its stocks advanced. It touched a high of 17,390.15 points and a low of 17,215.85 amid volatility.

Among Sensex constituents, IndusInd Bank rose the most by 2.59 per cent. Asian Paints, NTPC, Maruti, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra and Power Grid were among the major gainers. However, Tech Mahindra, HDFC, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel and HDFC Bank were the biggest laggards. "Global indicators did not favour bulls, with most Asian and Western markets trading lower over concerns of rising geopolitical tension between the US and China. Additionally, economic data point to a decrease in demand, major markets throughout the world are trading with recessionary fears," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

## 1 crore MSMEs registered on Udyam portal in 25 months: Rane

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Around 1 crore micro small and medium enterprises have registered on the Udyam portal within a span of 25 months, Union Minister Narayan Rane said on Tuesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a press conference, the MSME Minister said he has given a target of 16 months to officials for achieving 2 crore registrations on the Udyam portal. The Minister informed that 1 crore Udyam

registrations were achieved in 25 months. "In a span of 25 months, as many as 1 crore MSMEs have registered on the Udyam portal on a voluntary basis and declared that they employ 7.6 crore people, of which 1.7 crore are women," an official statement said. The MSME ministry signed MoUs with the Ministry of Tourism and the NSIC for the sharing of Udyam data. On the occasion, the Digi Locker facility for Udyam Registration was also launched.

## Banks write off loans worth ₹10L cr in last 5 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Banks have written off loans worth About Rs 10 lakh crore in the last five financial years, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

During 2021-22, the write-off amount came down to Rs 1,57,096 crore compared to Rs 2,02,781 crore in the previous year, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

In 2019-20, the write-off was worth Rs 2,34,170 crore, down from Rs 2,36,265 crore, the highest in five years recorded in 2018-19.

During 2017-18, the write-off by banks stood at Rs 1,61,328 crore, he said. In all, he said, bank loans to the tune of Rs 9,91,640 crore have been written off in the last five years--2017-18 to 2021-22.

He also said that "scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) and all Indian financial institutions report certain credit information of all borrowers having aggregate credit exposure of Rs 5 crore and above to RBI under its Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) database."

As per RBI, the CRILC data in respect of wilful defaulters is main-

tained from 2018-19 onwards, he said, adding total number of wilful defaulters in the last four years stood at 10,306.

The highest number of 2,840 wilful defaulters reported during 2020-21 was followed by 2,700 the next year. The number of wilful defaulters stood at 2,207 at the end of March 2019 that rose to 2,469 in 2019-20. Sharing details of top 25 wilful defaulters at the end of March 2022, Karad said, Gitanjali Gems Ltd tops the list followed by Era Infra Engineering, Concast Steel and Power, REI Agro Ltd and ABG Shipyard Ltd.

## Trust Asset Management aims to collect ₹500-cr via new money market fund

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Trust Asset Management is aiming to collect up to Rs 500 crore through its new money market fund, its top official said on Tuesday.

The money market fund is an open-ended debt scheme investing in money market securities.

This is also the fifth addition to the fund house's fixed income product portfolio.

Sandeep Bagla, CEO, Trust Mutual Fund, said the asset management firm is targeting to raise Rs 300-500 crore

through the new scheme -- TrustMF Money Market Fund.

The new fund offering (NFO) will open for subscription on August 5 and closes on August 11.

The aim of the fund is to take advantage of the money market yield curve which has seen perennial steepness.

In these uncertain times, money market mutual funds will provide relative stability and reasonable returns to investors looking to park their surplus money for 3 to 6 months investment horizon, Bagla said.



# HISTORYMAKERS

## Indian women lawn bowls team bagged historic Gold medal at Commonwealth Games 2022

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The Indian women lawn bowls team bagged a historic Gold medal at the Commonwealth Games on Tuesday, an unheralded quartet pulling the sport from obscurity to limelight with its inspiring show.

The Indian team of Lovely Choubey (lead), Pinki (second), Nayanmoni Saikia (third) and Rupa Rani Tirkey (skip) overcame mid-match slump to beat South Africa 17-10 in the women's fours final.

The team had got the nation hooked to the sport after its surprise win over New Zealand, and it's incredible campaign culminated in the best possible manner.

This was India's fourth Gold and first outside the weightlifting arena in this edition.

The Indian team led 8-2 at one stage but the South African side comprising Thabelo Muvhango (lead), Bridget Calitz (second), Esme Kruger (third) and Johanna



Snyman (skip) made it 8-8 to spice up the contest.

The Indians though kept their nerves to pull away in the last three rounds.

The 'leader' of the pack, Lovely is a constable with Jharkhand Police while Rupa, who too is from Ranchi, works in the sports department.

Pinki is a sports teacher with DPS R K Puram in New Delhi while Nayanmoni comes from a farming family in Assam and works in the state's forest department.

The players would now expect that the Gold medal winning performance will "open the doors" for further progress of the game.

## India beat NZ in women's triples, women's pair loses

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The Indian women's team defeated New Zealand 15-11 in its first match of the triples lawn bowls event in the Commonwealth Games here on Tuesday.

The trio of Tania Choudhary (lead), Pinki (second) and Rupa Rani Tirkey (skip) proved to be far superior than the Kiwi team of Nicole Toomey (lead), Tayla Bruce (second) and Val Smith (skip).

India was leading 6-2 after the sixth end, but the New Zealanders levelled the scores after the ninth end. The Indian team, however, did not allow its opponents to stage a comeback and kept surging ahead to eventually win the tie.

The triples team will face England later in the day and is also scheduled to play Niue on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, in the women

pairs event, the Indian team comprising Lovely Choubey (lead) and Nayanmoni Saikia (skip) went down to New Zealand 18-9.

It was a neck-to-neck contest till end-12 when the two teams were tied at 9-9, but then, the Kiwi team comprising Selina Goddard (lead) and Katelyn Inch (skip) put up an improvised show to emerge victorious.

On Wednesday, the women's pair will be up against Niue and South Africa, and will aim to advance to the quarter-finals.

Meanwhile, Mridul Borgohain went down 8-21 to New Zealand's Shannon McIlroy in the first round of men's singles.

The Kiwi lawn bowl player led from the start and kept extended his lead to emerge triumphant.

Borgohain will now face Chris Locke of Falkland Islands and Scotland's Iain Mclean in his next two rounds.

Lovely, who will turn 42 on Wednesday, said the success in Birmingham will go a long way in raising the profile of the sport.

"We wanted to do something not only just for this team but for India. We knew that without medal doors will remain shut. Now doors have opened. I thank media, our federation, IOA, our manager Anju madam for support," Lovely said.

"Anju madam gave us the freedom to select our shots, and make decisions. It made it easy for us," she added.

Pinki, 41, was naturally ecstatic.

"The hard work has finally paid off today, we have created history. We knew that Gold medal will create more impact, so we are happy."

Nayanmoni Saikia said the team did not lose heart after the South Africans staged a comeback to make it 8-8.

"The skip (Rupa) told us we can do it because we are a good team. We should not lose focus and enthusiasm, it will be done," said Saikia.

## TT: India retain men's team Gold

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Harmeet Desai raised his game in the decisive singles as the Indian men's table tennis team retained its Commonwealth Games Gold medal after a close fight against Singapore here on Tuesday.

World No. 121 Harmeet outsmarted 133rd-ranked Zhe Yu Clarence Chew 11-8, 11-5, 11-6 in the third singles to ensure India's third Gold men's team medal in CWG history.

The Gold was India's seventh since the sport's inception in Manchester 2002.

India were expected to beat Singapore but Clarence accounted for veteran Sharath Kamal in the first singles to level the match at 1-1.

Harmeet and Sathiyan had little difficulty in getting past Yong Isaak Que and Ye En Koen Pang in the opening doubles.

Sathiyan had given India a 2-1 lead with a 12-10, 7-11, 11-7, 11-4 victory



over lower-ranked Pang.

The stand-out performance came from India's third player, Harmeet.

Sharath had struggled to contain Clarence but Harmeet went on the offensive against the left-hander and

ensured that he did not get room to go for his powerful forehand winners. Harmeet's backhand was also on fire as he won majority of the long rallies.

In the first singles, Sharath went down 7-11, 14-12, 3-11, 9-11 against Clarence. Whenever, the Indian placed the ball deep on Clarence's forehand, the return was a winner.

Two net chords helped Sharath in the second game but Clarence comfortably won the next two.

India had beaten a stronger opponent in Nigeria on Monday with Sharath stunning world number 15 Aruna Quadri. But his loss against a much lower ranked opponent on Tuesday showed rankings did not matter much in a multi sporting event.

India had won the team Gold for the first in Melbourne 2006 before repeating the feat in Gold Coast four years ago.

It was also Sharath's 10th medal in the Games history and he is set to add more with singles and doubles events to follow.

## India lose 1-3 to England in women's hockey

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The Indian women's hockey team failed to impress in its first real test of the Commonwealth Games, going down 1-3 to England in a Pool A match here on Tuesday.

England found an early goal after Giselle Ansley (3rd minute) got a deflection off a penalty corner into the Indian goal. Tess Howard made it 2-0 in the third quarter (40th), before Hannah Martin scored the team's third in the fourth and final quarter (53rd).

With few seconds to go for the final hooter, India scored a consolation goal through Vandana Katariya (60th), via a deflection off a penalty corner.

**GHOSAL LOSES SEMIS**

India's leading squash player Saurav Ghosal will fight for the Bronze medal after being outclassed by New Zealand's Paul



Coll in the men's singles semifinals.

It was always going to be a difficult task for Ghosal to beat the Kiwi but the Indian surrendered meekly, going down 9-11, 4-11, 1-11 to the world number two and the last edition's Silver medallist in one hour and 23 minutes.

Ghosal, ranked 15th in the world, will play the loser of the second semifinal between James

Willstrop of England and Wales' Joel Makin in the Bronze play-off on Wednesday.

The 35-year will pair up with Dipika Pallikal in the mixed doubles event. The two had won the Silver in Gold Coast.

Sunayna Sana Kuruvilla defeated Pakistan's Faiza Zafar in the women's singles plate semifinals. Faiza was no match to the 23-year-old Indian as Sunayna won the tie 11-2, 11-4, 11-5.

## Long jumpers Sreeshankar, Yahiya & shot putter Kaur qualify for final

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

National record holder Murali Sreeshankar topped the men's long jump qualification round to storm into the finals along with Muhammed Anees Yahiya, who qualified as eighth best, at the Commonwealth Games athletics competition here on Tuesday.

Shot putter Manpreet Kaur also made it to the final as one of the nine athletes who could not breach the automatic qualification mark of 18m but one among the best 12 performers.

The 32-year-old Kaur finished fourth in Group B qualification round and seventh overall with a best throw of 16.78m which she achieved in

### Cyclist Meenakshi suffers crash, run over by rival

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian cyclist Meenakshi suffered a crash and was run over by one of her rivals in the women's 10km scratch race at the Commonwealth Games here.

The horror incident saw Meenakshi fall from her bike

before sliding down the banking on the bend.

New Zealand's Bryony Botha was also caught by the crash, as her cycle ran over Meenakshi and Botha too fell from her bike.

Soon after accident, medics rushed to the scene and both the riders were

taken out of the race. Meenakshi was carried off on a stretcher.

A video of Meenakshi's crash has going viral on social media.

This is the second crash in two days at the Lee Valley Velo Park after England's Matt Walls fell from his bike.

Sreeshankar, a gold medal contender, was the lone athlete to breach the automatic qualification mark of 8m, with an opening round effort of 8.05m in Group A.

Yahiya, on the other hand, finished third in Group B qualification round with a best jump of 7.68m.

## Weightlifter Thakur strikes Silver in men's 96kg

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian heavyweight lifter Vikas Thakur laddered yet another Commonwealth Games medal to his kitty, winning a Silver in the men's 96kg here on Tuesday.

The seasoned Thakur lifted a total of 346kg (155kg+191kg) to finish second and claim his third CWG medal across three editions.

It was Thakur's second Silver, having finished second in the 2014 Glasgow edition as well. In Gold Coast, he had returned with a Bronze.

Thakur, a five-time Commonwealth Championships medallist, had three clean lifts of 149kg, 153kg and 155kg to be in joint third-position after the snatch round.

In the clean and jerk section, Thakur started off with a 187kg lift, which he executed perfectly.

His second attempt was of 191kg, which took some effort but the Punjab lifter was able to pull it off and celebrated it with a 'high-five' made popular by Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan.

With a Silver assured, Thakur went for 198kg, a kilogram more than his person-



al best, in his third attempt but was unsuccessful.

But the event belonged to Opeloge, who smashed the Games record in snatch, clean and jerk and total lift.

The 23-year-old Samoan celebrated his stellar show with a groovy dance at the end.

It was heartbreak for home favourite Cyrille Tchatchet who failed to register a single legal lift in clean and jerk.

## Page, Rawat enter 1500m freestyle final

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian swimmers Advait Page and Kushagra Rawat qualified for the final of the men's 1500m freestyle after finishing fourth in their respective heats at the Commonwealth Games here on Tuesday.

Page was the better of the two Indian swimmers, clocking 15:39.25s in heat 1 while Rawat had a timing of 15:47.77s in heat 2.

The top eight swimmers from the two heats made it to the final.

Earlier in the day, Srihari Nataraj bettered the best Indian time en route a third place finish in heat 2 but could not qualify for the final of the men's 200m backstroke event.

Nataraj clocked 2:00.84s to be the first reserve in the event.

His previous best was 2:01.70s, which had come during the FINA World junior



swimming championships in 2019.

In swimming, a timing is considered a national record only when it has been achieved at the National Aquatics Championships.

Hence, the timings clocked in other meets are called the best Indian time.

The best eight swimmers from the three heats qualified for the final.

The Indian finished ninth overall and has been kept as the first reserve, which means if anybody pulls out before the final, he would sneak in.

Nataraj missed out on a direct final berth by just 0.19 seconds.

Nataraj had earlier finished fifth, his best-ever result in the CWG, in the men's 50m backstroke final with a timing of 25.23 seconds.

## Thakur felicitates Bachendri Pal-led Fit@50+ Women's Trans Himalayan Expedition 2022 team

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur on Tuesday felicitated the Fit @50+ Women's Trans Himalayan Expedition 2022 team at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi.

The expedition, led by Indian mountaineering legend Bachendri Pal, was flagged off on March 8 by Sujata Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on the occasion of International Women's Day in New Delhi.

The expedition went from Pangsau pass (Indo Myanmar border), Arunachal Pradesh to Dras sector, Kargil in Ladakh, covering a distance of over 4,841 km. It covered 35 high



mountain passes in 140 days from East to West of Himalayas in India and Nepal.

Mentioning the elephantine expedition undertaken by the team comprising 17 mountaineers, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur said, "This is a big slogan in itself, being fit at 50 years.

The expedition has been inspirational for not just the 50 year olds in the country but also for everyone in India. What you all have done is remarkable by all means. It is also the true power of Nari - Shakti."

Reiterating the Prime Minister of India's vision regard-

ing Fit India, Thakur said, "Narendra Modi ji envisioned the mantra of 'Fitness ki dose, adha ghanta Roz'. Now, we have done everything possible to live up to that vision. The challenges were steep and the Indian Army too lent their helping hands in every step. Bachendri Pal's leadership was exceptional."

Thakur suggested that there should come up with more fitness related programmes in border areas which can be converged with Fit India and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaigns. This programme will include fitness programme in border areas. The youth will also get the opportunity to know and witness the areas and villages along the border. Even the youth living in border areas must experience the life of metro cities, he added.

The objective behind this expedition was to raise awareness about health & fitness among senior citizens and to set an example especially for women that it is possible to stay fit & healthy and keep dreaming big at any age. Among the passes covered include the toughest Lamkhaga pass 17,700 ft; the challenging and the highest of the expedition Parang La pass 18,300 ft; Bha Bha pass 16,000ft, and Thorang La - 17,800 ft. The longest day trekked was 13.5 hours at altitude above 10,000ft. Longest distance covered in a day above at a high altitude of 12000 ft was 29 km. Some of the routes in Eastern and Western Nepal were very very remote, with completely constrained resources, and at times for many days we were trekking between 10000- 14000ft.



# McCoy's 6er floors India

Windies pacer takes 6 for 17 as hosts win 2nd T20I by 5 wickets to level series

PTI ■ BASSETTERRE

Left-arm paceman Obed McCoy decimated a star-studded Indian batting line-up with sensational career-best figures of 6 for 17 as the West Indies equalised the five-match series with a five-wicket victory in the second T20I here.

McCoy wreaked havoc in his two spells as India, after being put into bat, were bundled out for 138 in 19.4 overs on Monday.

The target was never going to be a problem for the West Indies batters as opener Brandon King smashed 68 off 52 balls but the hosts stuttered during the back-end before Devon Thomas' unbeaten 31 off 19 balls sealed it in his team's favour. He hit a six and a four off Avesh Khan.

It was Arshdeep Singh, who bowled a lethal yorker to castle the dangerous Rovman Powell and set it up nicely for Avesh to defend 10 runs, but a no-ball off the first delivery derailed India's bid to pull off a heist.

Put into bat in a match that was pushed back by three hours due to late arrival of team kits, the Indians lost the momentum from the onset as skipper Rohit Sharma (0) was dismissed off the first delivery of the match.

Throughout the innings, the Indians were unable to gauge the pace and bounce of the Warner Park track, as McCoy mixed his variations well during a career-best spell.

It was the extra bounce from McCoy that reared up awkwardly taking off the shoulder off his bat and the short third-man was in action to gobble up the dolly.

Suryakumar Yadav (11) hit an audacious six over cover but McCoy bowled one full, and the loosely attempted expansive drive, without any palpable footwork, was only going to turn into an edge and land up in the wicketkeeper's gloves.

Rishabh Pant (24 off 12 balls) was breathtaking during his stay and a flick



behind deep square leg for a massive six off McCoy left everyone in awe.

There was another six off Odean Smith behind fine leg, but left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein accounted for him with a delivery in which he altered the length, and the slight turn did him in. The mistimed pull landed into the deep mid-wicket fielder's hands.

The only time India seemed to have a partnership going was when Hardik Pandya (31 off 31 balls) and Ravindra Jadeja (27 off 30 balls) tried to resur-

MCCOY WREAKED HAVOC IN HIS TWO SPELLS AS INDIA, AFTER BEING PUT INTO BAT, WERE BUNDLED OUT FOR 138 IN 19.4 OVERS

rect the innings with a 43-run stand for

the fifth wicket. Once Hardik's powerful slap off a slow Jason Holder bouncer was taken in second attempt by Smith, McCoy came back for his second spell to polish off the lower middle-order in a jiffy. Jadeja and Dinesh Karthik (7) were foxed by slower deliveries while Ravichandran Ashwin failed to use the pace and bounce to be caught in the deep.

The last four Indian wickets fell for just 11 runs, with Holder taking 2 for 23.

## CWI pushes back 3rd T20I against India by 90 mins

PTI ■ BASSETTERRE

Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Tuesday announced a revised start time of the third T20I between India and the West Indies due to late finish of the second match, which was twice delayed because of luggage issues.

The third T20I was scheduled to begin 10:30 AM local time (8 pm IST) but has now been pushed back by one-and-a-half hours to 12 pm local time (9:30 pm IST).

The CWI said that the revised timing was rolled out keeping in mind adequate rest and recovery time for the players of both teams and also in consideration of the fact that the last two back-to-back matches will be held in Florida, US.

"Following the delayed start on Monday, the teams have agreed to start the third Goldmedal T20 Cup match at a later time to ensure that the players receive adequate rest and recover time for the back-to-back matches in St Kitts and in consideration of the back-to-back matches to come in Florida," the CWI said in a statement.

In fact, CWI's statement also clears the air that the last two games will indeed go ahead in Florida, despite multiple reports that the matches could be moved out of the US state due to visa issues.

In an unprecedented scenario, the second T20I was initially delayed by two hours due to a delay in arrival of team luggage. It was further pushed back by another hour due to same issue.

The match finally began at 11pm IST.



## 'WI series will help us in identifying our bowling attack for World T20'

PTI ■ BASSETTERRE

India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey is looking at the ongoing T20I series against the West Indies to identify the team's bowling attack for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia.

"It's all part of our preparation for the (T20) World Cup. Right now, we are looking at different options that we have and giving opportunity to youngsters to find out who does the job for us," Mhambrey told reporters after the second T20I which India lost by five wickets on Monday night.

"It's easier to kind of plan that way," he added.

Mhambrey praised the young Indian bowling line-up, which includes the likes of Avesh Khan and Arshdeep Singh, alongside the more experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

"Very happy with the potential they have shown. The last couple of games we played, Arsh and Avesh have shown their ability to perform under pressure and it is something I am very happy with," he said.

"What impresses me most is the fact that how much they want to learn and improve every single day. When you are a coach, it is a two-way communication. That makes the job easier to have a dialogue with the bowlers and vice versa.

"Yes, we will try different stuff, different players. You have (Jasprit) Bumrah not out here. (Mohammed) Shami as well. But I look at all this as an opportunity for the young bowlers to prove themselves," he added.

Mhambrey was, in fact, full of praise for the 23-year-old Arshdeep, who once again produced a neat spell (1/26 from 4 overs) in the second T20I.

"I have been watching him for a long time, especially since the IPL. Something that really stood out was his ability to deliver under pressure," Mhambrey stated.

"If you look at how he goes about, he bowls (in) the first powerplay and also in the death. In terms of the composure he has shown (so far), it has been fantastic," he added.



## England to play seven T20Is on 1st Pak tour in 17 years

AP ■ KARACHI

England will play seven T20Is against Pakistan on their first visit to the country in 17 years, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Tuesday.

England will arrive in mid-September and play four T20Is in Karachi, with the other three matches in Lahore, and then return in Dec for three Tests.

England's last tour to the country was in 2005 before Pakistan were forced to play international matches at neutral venues in the UAE following a 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore.

International cricket gradually returned to Pakistan in 2015 but suffered another set-

back when New Zealand pulled out of a tour minutes before a ODI in September last year, citing security alerts.

A week later, England withdrew its men's and women's teams from tours to Pakistan.

Both tours were rescheduled after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) gave assurances over security. Pakistan successfully hosted Australia for the first time since 1998 earlier this year.

"We demonstrated our event planning and operational skills in the highly successful series against Australia in March-April this year and I am confident we will be able to replicate these when England visit us," said PCB director of international cricket, Zakir Khan.

FIXTURES			
DAY	DATE	MATCH	VENUE
Tuesday	Sept 20	1st T20I	Karachi
Thursday	Sept 22	2nd T20I	Karachi
Friday	Sept 23	3rd T20I	Karachi
Sunday	Sept 25	4th T20I	Karachi
Wednesday	Sept 28	5th T20I	Lahore
Friday	Sept 30	6th T20I	Lahore
Sunday	Oct 2	7th T20I	Lahore

## India vs Pak on Aug 28 in Asia Cup

PTI ■ DUBAI

India will start their campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan in the Asia Cup T20 here on August 28, Asian Cricket Council (ACC) president Jay Shah announced on Tuesday.

The squad that India will choose for the Asia Cup will effectively be the core group that will compete in the T20 World Cup in Australia unless there are injury related pull-outs.

BCCI secretary Shah, who also heads the continental body released the fixture of the tournament, which has been shifted out of Sri Lanka due to prevailing political and economic crisis in the island nation.

"The wait is finally over as the battle for Asian supremacy commences



on 27th August with the all-important final on 11th September. The 15th edition of the Asia Cup will serve as ideal preparation ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup," Shah tweeted while releasing the fixture.

Asia Cup format is always dependent on which format's global event

is round the corner and hence this time, it is a T20 event. Next year's Asia cup will be an ODI event.

Group A will comprise of India, Pakistan and a Qualifier (yet to be decided) while group B has Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The Indo-Pak matches are the main attraction of the tournament and expectedly the ACC has ensured at least two such matches. If the two teams reach the final, it will extend to three games.

India and Pakistan are expected to finish in top two after the league stage matches. That gives the teams another shot at each other in the 'Super 4s' stage. The top two teams then will qualify for the final on September 11 in Dubai.

## Smriti reaches career-best 3rd position in T20 rankings



PTI ■ DUBAI

On the back of her unbeaten half-century against Pakistan in the Commonwealth Games, star India opener Smriti Mandhana has moved a rung up to a career-best third position in the ICC T20 rankings for batters.

Mandhana, who scored 24 in India's game against Australia in Birmingham, followed it up with a match-winning unbeaten 63 off 42 balls against Pakistan. She has overtaken New Zealand's Sophie Devine and reached within two rating points of Australia's Beth Mooney.

Mooney with 707 rating points is at the second position while her compatriot Meg Lanning continues to lead the rankings for the batters after regaining the top spot last week. Lanning has 733 rating points.

The left-handed Mandhana, a formerly top-ranked batter in ODIs, has been ranked third in T20Is in the past too, reaching that position for the first time in 2019 and having last held third position in October last year.

India pacer Renuka Singh, after grabbing a career-best 4/18 against Australia, has jumped 48 places to the 49th spot.

## Rabada injured ahead of England Test series

AP ■ BRISTOL

South Africa fast bowler Skagiso Rabada will miss the two T20Is against Ireland this week because of a left ankle injury. Cricket South Africa on Tuesday said the Proteas' attack leader will continue his rehabilitation in an effort to be fit for the Test series against England, which starts August 17 at Lord's.

Rabada skipped the last T20I against England last Sunday but his medial ligament injury will need more treatment, CSA said, meaning he's ruled out of the T20I games against the Irish in Bristol on Wednesday and Friday.

South Africa leads the



World Test Championship standings ahead of a three-Test series against a revived England, which has won its last four Tests under new captain Ben Stokes and new coach Brendon McCullum.

## Ramsey signs for Nice

AP ■ NICE

French Ligue 1 side Nice on Monday announced the arrival of Wales midfielder Aaron Ramsey a week after the 31-year-old left Juventus with a year left to run on his contract.

Ramsey joined Juve in 2019 as a free agent after spending almost eight years at Arsenal.

Last season, he spent five months on loan at Rangers before helping his country to qualification for this year's World Cup with a play-off win over Ukraine.

According to various sources Ramsey has signed a one-year contract with Nice.

## Murray falls in Washington opener; Halep, Pegula win

AP ■ WELLINGTON

Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray of Britain crashed out in the opening round of the ATP and WTA Washington Open on Monday, falling to Sweden's Mikael Ymer.

The 35-year-old Scotsman fell to 115th-ranked Ymer 7-6 (10/8), 4-6, 6-1 after two hours and 50 minutes at the US Open tuneup tournament.

"I'm excited," said Ymer, who saved four set points in the first set. "A lot left to do but it's a very good start of the American swing."

World number 50 Murray, the 2012 and 2016 Olympic champion, is trying to earn a seeding at the US Open, which he won a decade ago.

"It's still possible," Murray said. "I would just need to have

a good run in Canada or Cincinnati really. It's pretty straightforward if I was to make a quarterfinal or a semifinal, which right now — after a loss like that — doesn't seem realistic.

"I do feel like if I play very well that I could do that. But I'll need to certainly play better than I did today."

Ymer, who lost his only career ATP final last August in Winston-Salem, will next face 15th seed Aslan Karatsev.

Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep, coming off a Wimbledon semi-final run, beat Spanish qualifier Cristina Bucsa 6-3, 7-5.

"Always the first round is difficult when you change the surface," third seed Halep said. "I know it's going to take time to make the game more solid."



US top seed Jessica Pegula cruised 6-2, 6-2, over US wildcard Hailey Baptiste.

Pegula won the most recent WTA Washington event in 2019 after two missed years due to Covid-19.

"It definitely feels weird,"

Pegula said. "It's great to be back."

Britain's Kyle Edmund made a triumphant return to ATP singles after three left knee surgeries and a 20-month layoff by defeating Japanese qualifier Yosuke Watanuki 6-4, 7-6 (10/8).

## RYBAKINA FALLS AT SAN JOSE EVENT

AP ■ SAN JOSE

Reigning Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan lost to seventh seed Daria Kasatkina on Monday in a first-round match at the WTA San Jose hardcourt tournament.

World number 12 Kasatkina won 11 of the last 12 games to win 1-6, 6-2, 6-0 in Rybakina's debut match since winning her first major title.

Kasatkina will next play American Taylor Townsend, who eliminated Australian Storm Sanders 6-1, 6-4 at the US Open hardcourt tuneup

event.

After 23rd-ranked Rybakina rolled through the opening set in 35 minutes, Kasatkina dominated the final two. American Madison Keys, the 2017 US Open runner-up, defeated China's Zhang Shuai 6-4, 6-2 to book a second-round date against Tunisian Ons Jabeur, who lost to Rybakina in last month's Wimbledon final. Japan's Naomi Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion, and American sixth seed Coco Gauff would meet in a second-round matchup if both win their openers on Tuesday.

## Jota extends Liverpool stay with 'long-term deal'

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Diogo Jota has signed a "new long-term deal" with Liverpool, the Premier League giants announced on Tuesday.

Neither the exact length of the contract, nor its worth, were not disclosed British media reported the Portuguese forward, who joined Liverpool from English rivals Wolves in 2020 would be staying at Anfield until at least 2027.

The 25-year-old has become an important figure at Liverpool, scoring 34 goals in 85 appearances.

"Really proud, I have to say," Jota told Liverpool's website.

"Obviously since I arrived two years ago I established myself as an important player in



this team. That's what I wanted from the beginning.

"Now, signing a new long-term deal, it's obviously from the club's perspective proof of the belief in myself as a player. For me, it's really good to establish I'll be here for a while.

"So, the beginning of a new season, let's do it."