

## OPINION 6

THE RISE AND RISE  
OF OMNIPOTENT ED

## WORLD 9

UKRAINIAN CITY NEAR  
NUCLEAR PLANT SHELLED

## MONEY 10

SENSEX SNAPS 6-DAY RALLY  
AHEAD OF RBI'S RATE DECISION

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY AUGUST 5, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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## HERALD ROCKS HOUSES

Govt misusing probe agencies, alleges Kharge;  
Congress leaders should face law, says GoyalPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate probe against the top Congress leaders and sealing of the Congress-owned National Herald office have led to a fresh standoff in Parliament just as normalcy seemed to return to the Monsoon Session following the smooth price rise debate in both Houses during the last couple of days.

The issue reverberated in both Houses even as outside Parliament Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asserted the Congress cannot be intimidated by such tactics. On its part, the ED kept the heat on the Congress and interrogated its Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and carried out fresh searches at the Herald House.

The Rajya Sabha witnessed a verbal duel between Kharge and Leader of House Piyush Goyal after the former expressed his outrage over getting a summons by the ED to appear at 12.30 pm when Parliament was in Session.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and several other party leaders trooped

into the Well of the House in protest against the ED's action.

Kharge alleged that the Government is misusing the investigating agencies to target the Opposition and demoralise, destroy and intimidate them. "But we will not be afraid or intimidated and will fight," he said. He said the residences of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and party leader Rahul Gandhi have been gheraoed by police.

In his retort, Goyal said Congress leaders should face the law and not run away from it. He insisted that the Government did not interfere in the functioning of law-enforcement agencies and accused the Congress of interfering in their work when it was in power.

The Lok Sabha too witnessed ruckus with the word go with Congress leaders showing placards, Congress leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was the first to display the placards and other members then followed suit.

The Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day at 2 pm after repeat adjournment amid sloganeering by Congress members against the alleged misuse of the ED by the Government.



But the real action took place in the Rajya Sabha. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu adjourned the proceedings for nearly an hour after Kharge charged that autonomous bodies were being misused by the Government to settle political scores. The treasury Benches vehemently denied it leading to heated exchanges between MPs of the two sides.

The Question Hour took place amid continuous sloganeering by the Opposition members despite repeated appeals by V Vijayasai Reddy, who was in the Chair.

*Continued on Page 2*Not afraid of  
Modi: Rahul

New Delhi: Launching a scathing attack on the Prime Minister, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said he is "not afraid of Narendra Modi" and will not be "intimidated" by the Enforcement Directorate action in the National Herald case.

His reaction came a day after the ED sealed the office of Young Indian in Herald House.

Cong abusing  
ED, says BJP

New Delhi: The BJP on Thursday launched a no-holds-barred attack against the Congress and accused it of going "against the law", trying to spread "anarchy" and "abusing and intimidating" the ED as it alleged that Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi want to blame late Congress leader Motilal Vora in the National Herald case whereas they are majority shareholders in the Young Indian.

ED resumes raid on  
YI, quizzes Kharge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday resumed its searches at the office of Young Indian (YI), the holding company of the National Herald newspaper owned by the Congress party, after senior party leader Mallikarjun Kharge presented himself before agency officials at the Herald House here.

Kharge, 80, who is Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, reached the Herald House building at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg at 12.40 pm and met ED officials on the summons of the agency. The ED sought his presence during the raids at YI since he was the principal officer of the firm.

The agency officials questioned Kharge for several hours during the day. The ED had also questioned him and senior Congress leader PK Bansal in connection with the case in April.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are among the promoters and majority shareholders in Young Indian. Both hold 38 per cent shareholding in the not-for-profit company.

The agency had put a temporary seal at the single-room office of the YI, located on the ground floor of the four-storey Herald House building, to "preserve evidence" as it could not



Congress-owned Herald House during the Enforcement Directorate raid on Young Indian (YI) in New Delhi on Thursday  
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

search it during the last two days because it was locked and authorised representatives were not available.

The office of the National Herald newspaper and its web portal, where the editorial staff and administrative staff works, is located on the fourth floor of the Herald House building.

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

office is registered in the name of AJL.

On Tuesday, the ED had launched searches at a dozen locations, including at the Herald House, as part of its ongoing money laundering probe in the National Herald-AJL-Young Indian deal.

Agency officials had left the premises in the early hours of Wednesday after they collected some documents, digital data and questioned some staffers.

Raut custody  
extended till  
August 8, ED  
summons wife

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Court on Thursday extended the remand of Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha member and chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut in the ₹1,034 crore Patra Chawl redevelopment scam case till August 8, even as the ED summoned his wife Varsha Raut for questioning in the same case on Friday.

The ED's action against Raut came nearly two months after it attached provisionally properties worth ₹11.15 crore belonging to three persons, including Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut, under the PMLA in a case relating to the irregularities in the Patra Chawl redevelopment project in Mumbai.

The ED's allegation is that in 2010, a part of the proceeds of crime of ₹83 lakh was transferred to Varsha Raut from Madhuri Raut, wife of Pravin Raut.

*Detailed report on P5*₹1,400 cr drug haul  
in Maha, mastermind  
Chemistry grad held

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a massive synthetic drug haul, the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) personnel of the Mumbai Police's crime branch have seized more than 700 kg of Mephedrone worth ₹1,400 crore from a drug manufacturing unit at Nalasopara in the neighbouring Palghar district, and arrested five persons.

Acting on a tip-off received from their counterparts at Worli in March this year following the arrest of a drug peddler from Govandi in north-east Mumbai, the ANC officials on Wednesday raided the drug manufacturing unit located at Nalasopara and recovered the drugs meant for distribution among peddlers in Mumbai and its neighbouring areas.

Mephedrone, also known as M-cat, Meow Meow or White Magic, is a synthetic stimulant drug of Amphetamine class psychoactive characteristics and usually used at rave parties. This drug is a psychotropic sub-

stance banned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

This is one of the biggest drug hauls busted by the city police in recent times. It was the follow-up action of earlier raids during which 3.26 kg of Mephedrone worth ₹4.51 crore was seized from three persons arrested in two separate operations carried on March 29.

Continuing its investigations into the drug supply chain in the metropolis, the ANC personnel took into custody one more accused and arrested the main kingpin behind the drug racket during a raid at his Nalasopara manufacturing unit on Wednesday.

Incidentally, the main accused arrested from Nalasopara is a postgraduate in Organic Chemistry and used his knowledge to manufacture synthetic drugs. The main accused used to sell the drug in bulk quantities weighing more than a minimum of 20 to 25 kg of banned substance.

*Continued on Page 2*Don't decide on  
Shinde camp's  
plea for Sena  
symbol: SC to EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief for Uddhav Thackeray camp, a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana on Thursday asked the Election Commission not to take any decision on the Eknath Shinde faction's plea that it be considered the real Shiv Sena and granted the party's poll symbol.

The bench said it would take a call by Monday on referring the matters related to the recent Maharashtra political crisis to a Constitution bench.

The SC also told the poll panel that if the Thackeray faction seeks time to file a response to its notices on Shinde faction's plea, it should consider their request and grant reasonable adjournment.

"Counsels submitted the issues which may arise to decide this case and whether to refer the matter to a five-judge Constitution bench. This will be decided taking into consideration the submissions and the issues framed," said the bench.

*Continued on Page 2*China conducts missile  
strikes over Taiwan Strait  
day after Pelosi's visit

PTI ■ BEIJING

The Chinese military on Thursday launched a four-day war game with precision strikes using ballistic missiles over the Taiwan Strait, in retaliation to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei disregarding Beijing's vociferous warnings.

The People's Liberation Army fired several ballistic missiles into waters to the east of Taiwan on Thursday afternoon, with all of them hitting targets accurately, a Chinese military spokesman said.


Senior Colonel Shi Yi, a spokesman for the PLA Eastern Theatre Command, said that rocket forces in multiple locations on the mainland launched several types of missiles carry-

ing conventional warheads to designated waters off the eastern coast of Taiwan.

The Rocket Force is a new wing of the Chinese military, which was created a few years ago under the reforms launched by President Xi Jinping to exclusively deal with missile systems.

The drills tested the rocket forces' capabilities to conduct precision attacks and area-denial tasks, Sr Col Shi noted, adding the missile test operations had concluded and related airspace and waters had been reopened to civilian use.

The PLA will perform long-range artillery strikes and ballistic missile launches to target areas around Taiwan soon, official media here quoted the military as saying.






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Former Congress leader Kuldeep Bishnoi receives a BJP membership slip from Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal as he, along with his wife Renuka, joins the BJP at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday  
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer



NCR-PULSE

30-YEAR-OLD DTC CONDUCTOR DIES IN ACCIDENT

New Delhi: A 30-year-old Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) conductor died on Thursday after his scooter met with an accident. After getting information about the incident in the Janakpuri area, police reached the scene of the accident and found a black scooter next to a person lying unconscious on the road. He was rushed to DDU Hospital where he was declared dead.

SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER GAUTAM INSPECTS IHBAS

New Delhi: Delhi's Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Thursday inspected the Institute of Human Behavior and Allied Sciences (IHBAS). During this, the Social Welfare Minister took stock of the facilities there and interacted with the patients. He said that the Delhi Government under the leadership of Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal will provide all necessary assistance for the development of the institute.

SUSPICIOUS BAG FOUND IN ROHINI, CLAIMED LATER

New Delhi: A suspicious bag was found in Delhi's Rohini area in the national capital on Thursday, sending the security agencies into a tizzy ahead of the Independence Day. However, the bag found lying near a canteen in Nirankari colony was later claimed by an elderly woman. She told police that she had come to the canteen for a meal and forgot to carry the bag with her, said a senior police official.

24-YEAR-OLD ARMS SUPPLIER ARRESTED

New Delhi: The Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a 24-year-old arms supplier along with weapons from southeast Delhi. The accused has been identified as Dhruv alias Pappi, a native of Dholpur district in Rajasthan. Police said that he was nabbed from Faridabad Road near Aali village based on a tip-off on Tuesday evening.

DENTIST CAUGHT SMUGGLING MARIJUANA IN TIHAR

New Delhi: A dentist was arrested for allegedly trying to smuggle marijuana inside the Tihar Jail in west Delhi. Police said that information was received on Wednesday from Tihar Jail officials about the recovery of tobacco and ganja (marijuana) from one inmate Vikas Jha and visiting dentist Dr Varun Goel. Goel had brought tobacco and ganja inside the jail and was handing over it to Jha and Tihar Jail officials noticed it.

110 AFGHAN SIKHS WAITING TO COME TO INDIA

New Delhi: At least 110 Afghan Sikhs in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan are desperately waiting to come to India and 60 of them are yet to get their e-visas, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) said on Thursday. Twenty-eight Afghan Sikhs, including 26 adults and two children, arrived in Delhi from Kabul on Wednesday.

Ultras kill migrant worker, injure two in Pulwama attack

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR

On the eve of the third anniversary of abrogation of Article 370 and 35A 'unidentified' terrorists targeted a group of non local labourers using a grenade in which one labourer was killed while two others received injuries in Gadoora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday. The security forces were kept in a state of high alert

following inputs that terrorist outfits were planning to target non locals and the security forces in the run up to the 75th Independence Day celebrations across the Kashmir valley.

According to a tweet of Kashmir Zone police, "Terrorists hurled grenade on outside labourers at Gadoora area of Pulwama. In this terror incident, one labourer died and two others were injured. Area cordoned off. Further details shall follow".

First day of second phase of CUET marred by issues

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The first day of the second phase of the Common University Entrance Test for undergraduate courses was marred by several issues, with many candidates claiming they had to face technical glitches and some alleging their exam was postponed.

Many candidates alleged that Internet servers had "gone down" during the examination while several others took to social media and posted purported National Testing Agency (NTA) notice outside of exam centres that read: "The CUET exam scheduled at this centre today is postponed to August 12".

"I and my father travelled 300 km to the exam centre. But

after arrival officials said that my exam is cancelled due to technical problems. What kind of joke is this?" a candidate alleged in a tweet.

The students claimed that they got no prior information about the examination being postponed.

Another Twitter user wrote: "CUET Exam scheduled today has been postponed to 12th August. NTA exam centre Noida Sector 64. No information in advance. We have lots of time to waste."

Many are still perplexed about the purported notice.

"My CUET slot-I exam dated August 4 at NTA centre 3 Noida 64 has been cancelled and rescheduled to August 12. Please NTA provide me with a clear image of the admit card and centre details for the

rescheduled exam," Dhiraj Kumar wrote on Twitter.

Apart from this confusion, many candidates faced technical glitches during the exam.

"The tests in many systems weren't getting started because of which students had to sit idle for hours," a Twitter user alleged.

"My CUET exam was scheduled today at 9. I could only appear for the english section and not for the next 3 sections. All candidates in my centre were not able to appear for the exam due to a server issue. Please look into the matter," claimed Aaryam Sharma, a CUET(UG) aspirant said.

The first phase of CUET-UG was held between July 15 and July 20.

National sportspersons welcome passage of Anti-Doping Bill, 2022

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Eminent sports personalities of the country have lauded the passage of the National Anti-Doping Bill 2022, saying that this will help to strengthen India's commitment to 'Clean Sport' while ensuring the highest level of integrity among sportspersons competing in national and international competitions.

The constitution of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) as a statutory body for regulating anti-doping activities in sports also marks the historic occasion when India joins the league of a select group of 30 countries that have their own National anti-doping law.

Speaking about the Bill from Birmingham, Athletics Federation President and ex-athlete Adille Sumariwalla said,

"I am very pleased to hear that the Anti-Doping Bill has seen the light of the day. This was started about 6 yrs ago and I want to thank Sports Minister Anurag Thakur for seeing this Bill through in Parliament. Passing of this bill is a very important step in the right direction as we want to keep the sport as clean as possible with zero tolerance for doping. This will help achieve the vision of the Prime Minister to help build a sporting powerhouse as well as help in the bid for Olympic Games in India."

Sumariwalla also added, "This will put India amongst the top nations in the world who are out there to fight the menace of doping."

Khel Ratna awardee Anju Bobby George who is India's first athlete to win a medal at the World Championships in Athletics said that this was a

"long-pending issue" and added, "I congratulate NADA, Ministry, and SAI for working tirelessly behind this. With this, NADA can introduce more labs across the country and increase the testing numbers. This will definitely bring down positive cases. Now, the Bill can help NADA also act as a statutory body. This will result in more power, more funding and this will definitely bring more results."

Olympian boxer Akhil Kumar, who is one of the panelists at NADA said that the Bill was needed to bring in a sense of discipline among athletes, many of who take to doping on the insistence of those around them. "The fact that the Bill looks to question not just athletes, but even 'others' around them who often introduce doping into an athlete's life, will ensure clean up of the entire

Three miscreants rob jewellery shop at gunpoint in Gurugram

PNS ■ GURUGRAM



Three unidentified armed miscreants robbed a jewellery shop at gunpoint in broad daylight and decamped with jewellery and cash in Gurugram on Thursday afternoon.

The jeweller was alone when the robbers barged into his shop and executed the crime.

However, footage of the robbery was recorded by a camera installed at the shop.

The Police have been trying to identify the robbers with the help of CCTV cameras installed inside the shop.

According to the police, the jewellery shop, named RK Jewellers, is located on Sheela Mata Road under Sector-5 police station of Gurugram.

"On Thursday afternoon around 3.15 pm, three persons

having pistol and knife entered

the shop and looted the jewellery items and cash. They even did not ask anything of me just collected the jewellery items put them in a bag and then escaped from the spot," Rishi Soni, the shop owner told reporters.

However, the victim said the looted amount and jewellery are yet to be counted.

Soon after information Police teams rushed to the spot and initiated an investi-

gation. They recorded the victim's statement.

The police said that the robbers probably parked their vehicle near the market and then targeted the shopkeeper up on finding him alone.

"A case of robbery has been registered against unidentified persons at the Sector-5 police station. The investigation team is on their task to identify the criminals," Subhash Boken, spokesperson of the Gurugram police said.

13-year-old girl student dragged outside school, thrashed by seniors

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 13-year-old student was dragged and thrashed allegedly by her seniors outside the school in north Delhi's Roop Nagar area, said police on Thursday.

A video of the incident which took place on Wednesday was posted by the students on Instagram, they said.

In the purported video, the girl can be seen dragged by her hair and thrashed by five girls (all juveniles) whom she can identify, and all are studying in class 10th in her school. She was medically examined and as per provisions of Juvenile Justice Act, a DD entry was lodged and a police investigation report would be filed before the Juvenile Justice Board," the DCP said.

at Roop Nagar police station along with his daughter and alleged that some school girls had a scuffle with his daughter during the day and that at that time, they did not report the matter to the police and took primary treatment at HR Hospital.

Later they found that the alleged girls had uploaded the video on Instagram, he said.

"A written complaint was tendered by the girl in this regard wherein she levelled allegation of beating by five girls (all juveniles) whom she can identify, and all are studying in class 10th in her school. She was medically examined and as per provisions of Juvenile Justice Act, a DD entry was lodged and a police investigation report would be filed before the Juvenile Justice Board," the DCP said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concern that Shri Bhawan Dev Bhakoo S/o Shri Shyam Lal Bhakoo R/o 14/477, Sunder Vihar New Delhi, whose the original allotment of Plot No. C-4/119, Sector-31, Noida Distt. G.B. Nagar(Area162 Sq.Mt) had sold the said Plot on General power of attorney basis to the following person (s). GPA was executed on in favour of Mrs. Saroj Luthra W/o Raj Pal Luthra R/o C-4/119, Sector-31, Noida (U.P). Which is registered at Noida VICE Sec.No.IV Vosee,1480/520 on Page No. 1620/195-204. Document No.1234 Dated 04.09.1990. The agreement to sell was not registered or not executed. So it is informed to all concern that the said plot is going to be transferred in favour of Sandeepa Luthra D/o Sh. Raj Pal Luthra R/o C-4/119, Sector-31, Noida & Ruchika Narang D/o Sh. Raj Pal Luthra R/o G-005, Royale Garden Estate, Sector-61, Noida & Parul Setia D/o Sh. Raj Pal Luthra R/o 3G-157, Nit Faridabad Haryana. If anyone has have any objection he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

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DL9CN1816,	DL2CE4439,	DL8CF8827,
DL1LE2685,	DL8SJ256,	DL1CX1884,
DL1LF4434,	DL3CAG2381,	DL6CS8078,
DL1LB2579,	DL2FHB0066,	DL6SP0882,
DL9CP4714,	DL8CL3686,	DL6SR5695,
HR28L6601,	DL4CL1479,	DL4SAW9936,
DL3CAD7914,	DL8CN0358,	DL7SP4417,
DL2CW7366,	DL9CF5695,	DL6CG4065,
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DL7CA6589,	DL4CAF5219,	DL2CNW9503,
DL3CW3124,	DL1LF4835,	DL9CJ0522,
DL3CAGM1144,	DL1LF5171,	DL2CM6894,
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HR51C2735,	DL6CG7342,	DL3CAJ51120,
DL6CE1839,	DL7CE2426,	DL9CM2782,
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DLI4100,	DL8SQ5338,	DL8SU7497,
DL6SR3582,	DL1CL1896,	JK02L1801,
DL7SA54655,	DL8CN5724,	DL3CAW2440,
DL6CB3059,	DL4CS8415,	DL1CL1835,
DL8CK9673,	DL8CY0221,	DL9CB8075,
DL1LB6385,	DL3CAP0527,	Ch.No.478144,
DL7CF0254,	DL2CAD4835,	DL6CC2914,
DL3CAC8555,	DL6CG3330,	DL2CA65102,
DL3CAJ7240,	DL2CNW9771,	DL3CAQ8231,
DL2CAG5066,	DL9CM7523,	DL4CA85468,
DL9CM0870,	DL2FDS3000,	DL1CH7050,
HR10G7283,	DL3CAG0226,	DL4C02449,
DL1G5382,	DL3CAGW312,	DL1SH4431,
DL1CF1645,	DL9CM5193,	DL4SW7915,
DL1V7954,	DL3CR1609,	DL7SAAB987,
DL8CK2436,	DL6CC7733,	DL2SJ3156,
AS01AE3888,	DL2CN5161,	DL8SP2298,
DL1CJ1020,	DL9CB8290,	DL4SY4043,
DL4CAA8092,	DL3CR7938,	HR26AL2574,
DL6CJ2451,	DL2CAD5759,	DL2FC00088,
DL7CB4886,	DL3CAK0875,	HR02Y77619,
DL3CL6793,	DL4CR9901,	UP25N6511,
DL3CAP4055,	DL3CL2311,	HR26AJ5774,
DL9CH2838,	DL5CD2593,	DL4CG3524,
DL4CAB9188,	DL3CAB3457,	

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THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

DATE OF BIRTH

I, Salim Syed Ali S/o. Syed Wajid Ali, R/o. D-97/98, 2nd Floor, Gali No.11, Zakir Nagar, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have declared that correct date of birth of my twin sons Mohammad Syed Ali and Mustafa Syed Ali is 21.03.2008 instead of 21.08.2008 wrongly mentioned by mistake in school's record.

PD(90142)A

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Echchhita Jainvi Vishal Goel W/o Vishal Goel R/o Flat No. 2044, Tower 2, ATS Pristine, Sector-150, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, have changed my daughter's name from Anugriha Prada J.V. Goel to Anugrihaprada J.V. Goel for all future purposes.

PD(90143)C

time in view of the pendency of the matter then they will file an application seeking time. It is open for EC to grant reasonable adjournment," the bench, also comprising justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, said.

The apex court was hearing the petitions filed by the Shiv Sena and its rebel MLAs during the recent Maharashtra political crisis which raised constitutional issues including those related to splits, mergers of political parties, defections, and disqualifications.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the Shinde faction, submitted a revised list of legal issues on petitions filed by the rival Uddhav Thackeray group. Salve said the anti-defection law cannot be an "anti-dissent" law.

"There is no per se illegality principle, until and unless there is a finding of disqualification," Salve said. The bench, at this juncture, said, "If you are completely ignoring the political party after being elected then it is a danger to democracy."

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Thackeray group, submitted that the 40 rebel MLAs stand disqualified by their conduct and they cannot say that they are the real Shiv Sena. Senior Advocate Arvind Datar, who is appearing for the Election Commission, submitted that the ECI is governed by Representation of the People Act and it is bound to decide if a claim is raised by a group.

"The Tenth schedule is a different territory. If they are disqualified, they cease to be

members of the legislature. Not a political party. These are different. Whatever happens in the Assembly, that has got nothing to do with the membership of the political party," Datar said.

The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the prevention of defection of the elected and nominated members from their political party and contains stringent provisions against defections.

The Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena had told the apex court on

Wednesday that party MLAs loyal to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde can save themselves from disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution only by merging with another political party. The bench on Wednesday had asked the Shinde faction to redraft the legal issues of split, merger, defection and disqualification raised in petitions filed by the Thackeray camp that are to be adjudicated upon following the recent political crisis in Maharashtra.

₹1,400 cr drug haul in Maha, mastermind arrested

From Page 1 "The accused used social media platforms, calling apps for drug peddling and supply," a senior official said. Of the five arrested accused (including three taken into custody in March this year) two arrested persons are in judicial custody, while three remaining accused, including the two arrested earlier this week, are in police custody.

HERALD ROCKS HOUSES

From Page 1

"This House is functioning and I am the leader of the Opposition parties. But right now, I have received a summons from the ED to appear before it when a Parliament session is on. Right now, when Parliament is functioning, is it fair on the part of the ED to summon me?" Kharge asked amid shouts of "shame, shame" from the Opposition Benches.

Asserting that he is a law-abiding citizen and has to leave for the ED office at 12.30 pm, Kharge said, "I do not want to avoid the law and I want to follow the law."

"If we carry on like this, will our democracy remain alive? Will we function as per our Constitution? This is being purposely done to demoralise us, destroy us and intimidate us. But we will not be afraid or intimidated and will fight," the senior Congress leader said, demanding that there be a discussion on the issue in the House.

Congress chief whip in the Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh also alleged that "Modishahi" is reaching a new low as Kharge was summoned by the ED in the middle of a Parliament session.

"Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, was summoned by the ED when Parliament was in Session. He, of course, left around 12.20 pm and present-

ed himself. This is Modishahi reaching new lows," the former Union Minister said on Twitter.

Refuting the Opposition charge of misusing of agencies, Goyal said the Government does not interfere in the functioning of law-enforcement agencies. "They may have been interfering in the functioning of law-enforcement agencies when they were in power," he said.

"If anyone has done any wrong, the law will take its course. Whatever the Leader of Opposition (LOP) said is totally baseless. The matter has gone to the Supreme Court. The Congress leaders are on bail and the Congress leaders and the LOP should follow the law instead of running away," Goyal said.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned by Speaker Om Birla in the morning till 11.30 and then till 2 pm after Opposition members displayed placards and shouted slogans "tanashahi naheen chalegi". Congress and other Opposition members protested against the ED action, GST on essential items and price rise.

Congress members trooped into the Well of the House while those from the DMK, NCP and CPI-M, among others, protested by standing at their seats.

Earlier, Birla asked the Congress members, who were protesting in the Well, to go

back to their seats. The Speaker also warned that he would have to take action if they continued to stand in the Well.

The lines "Save Constitution, Save Democracy" and "GST hurting common people" were written on the placards. Besides, the members also protested against price rise.

While the protests were continuing, DMK member S R Parthiban (DMK Salem) asked a supplementary question and at that time, Birla and DMK leader T R Baalu were seen smiling at each other since the Southern party was also protesting.

The House resumed action at 2 pm when papers were laid on the table and two resolutions adopted amid slogan shouting and protest by Congress members. Amidst the din, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary moved two statutory resolutions pertaining to change in taxation made on May 21 and June 30

These resolutions, which seek to amend the eighth schedule to the Finance Act 2002, were passed by voice vote in the lower House. As the sloganeering continued, Kirit Solanki, who was in the Chair, requested the protesting members to go back to their seats and allow the House to function after which he adjourned the proceedings for the day.



# Delhi Police to go hi-tech for R-Day

1,000 IP-based cameras with face detection, people movement detection, tripwire features to help the force keep city safe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the lurking terror threat in the run up to the 75th Independence Day, the Delhi Police is planning to install 1,000 Internet Protocol (IP)-based cameras equipped with features like face detection, people movement detection, tripwire, audio detection, intrusion and defocus.

According to sources, 80 per cent CCTV Cameras of IP-based 2-megapixel and 20 per cent CCTV cameras of IP-based 4-megapixel will be installed at each and every corner at Red Fort, where Independence Day celebrations will be held.

The strategic locations for the placement of the cameras will be intimated by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) concerned at the time of installation.

"The IP-based CCTVs will be installed at New Delhi district, North district, Southeast district, Central district, Security Unit and Northwest district," said the sources.

"A large number of CCTVs will be installed in the North district and Central district that covers the Red Fort area," said the sources. Sources said that the CCTV cameras will be equipped with face detection,



movement detection, tripwire, audio detection, intrusion, defocus, abandoned and missing object features. "Beyond these features, the cameras will provide Full HD 1080P live view of the locations. Real time basis data will be also shared for face recognition servers," sources added.

With the inbuilt Infra Red (IR), these cameras will incorporate a built-in 30X optical, auto-focus zoom lens, and will have 12X digital zoom capability for better exposure and detection. During night these cameras will cover distances up to 150 metres.

Last year, thousands of farmers protesting against the Centre's now scrapped farm laws clashed with the police during a tractor parade on January 26. Many of the protesters, driving tractors, reached the Red Fort and

entered the monument. Some protesters even hoisted religious flags on one of its domes and a flagstaff at the ramparts, where the national flag is unfurled on Independence Day.

The farmers going on a rampage in the city on Republic Day had raised serious questions regarding the security arrangements for the day.

The move to install the high-end cameras on vantage points in the city with high traffic movements is expected to deter the nefarious elements from carrying out misadventures, officials said.

The ever-evolving terror tactics have promoted the security agencies to opt for hi-tech gadgets enabled with Artificial Intelligence (AI) to monitor traffic and people to deter any untoward incidents, officials added.

## ‘CAG reports on Govt finances tabled in House after L-G’s intervention’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Reports by apex auditing Rbody Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on the Delhi Government's finances that were not tabled in the Assembly for the last four years were finally presented before the House last month following the Lieutenant Governor Secretariat's intervention.

After the L-G's Secretariat reminded the Government of its constitutionally mandated duty, the reports were tabled during the Monsoon Session of the Delhi Assembly in July.

The sources at the Lieutenant-Governor's office said five reports by the CAG for the years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 titled the 'State Finances Audit Report', 'Revenue Economic, Social & General Sectors and PSUs', 'Social General & Economic Sectors (Non-PSUs)', 'Finance Accounts of GNCTD' and the 'Appropriation Accounts of GNCTD' were pending with the Government.

"It took four letters from the L-G Secretariat dated September 24, 2021, March 10, 2022, April 6, 2022 and June 15, 2022 for the five reports of four years to be laid in the Assembly finally on July 5," the sources said.

The sources said that as per the Constitution, the CAG submits its report to the State Government, who after the approval of the Finance Minister and the Chief Minister, sends the same to the L-G for recommendation for presenting it in the Assembly. They claimed that till June 30,

there was no progress on the issue.

The Chief Minister approved these reports on July 1 and sent them to the L-G for recommendation that the reports be laid in the Delhi Assembly. The L-G accorded his approval on July 2, and subsequently, the reports were tabled on July 5, the sources added.

"It was only after a determined shove from the L-G Secretariat on 15.06.2022 as mentioned above, after Vinai Kumar Saxena took over, that Kejriwal hurriedly convened a two-day Session of the Delhi Assembly and laid all these pending CAG reports in one go within one minute on 05th July, 2022 at 02:55 PM without any discussion," sources said.

"Even as the Finance Department in pursuance of the L-G Secretariat letter dated March 10, 2022, put up the file to Finance Minister Manish Sisodia, clearly mentioning pendency in this regard since 2017-18 to 2021-22 on March 11, 2022," sources stated.

"The file underlined that the said CAG reports had been pending at the level of the Finance Minister. However, Sisodia even then chose to sit on the file till June 30, 2022, after which the CM approved it on July 1, 2022 and sent to the LG for recommending that the reports be laid in the Delhi Assembly.

The LG accorded his approval on July 2, 2022, and subsequently the reports were laid on July 5, 2022, they said. There was no immediate reaction from the Delhi Government over the issue.

## After reverting to old policy, Delhi Govt likely to operate 500 liquor vends from Sept 1

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After reverting to the old excise policy, the Delhi Government is likely to operate 500 liquor vends from September 1 in the absence of no private players in the retail sale of alcohol.

Following a meeting on Thursday, a sub-committee of the Government has given a report stating that the four undertakings — Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC), Delhi State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Stores (DCCWS) and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) — will set up these vends by the end of this month.

Another 200 liquor vends will be opened by December 31, the report said. Of these 700 outlets in total, each of the corporations will run five premium vends to sell high-end brands, it said. Two of these five vends are likely to be opened by the month end and the rest by December 31.

DTTDC will run its stores in zones 1-9, DSIIIDC in 10-18, DCCWS in 19-24 and DSCSC in 25-30. Further, the report said, DTTDC will handle the airport zone, and DSIIIDC will manage areas under Delhi Cantonment and New Delhi Municipal Council.

In the current excise policy that will end on August 31, retail licenses were issued to private firms for 32 zones and 849 vends. The government, that had quit the retail liquor business after implementing Excise Policy 2021-22 on November 17, will get back to running alcohol vends from September 1.

The sub-committee report said while DTTDC and DSIIIDC will open 150 liquor vends each by month end, DCCWS and DSCSC will open 100 stores each in the same period.

By December, DTTDC and DSIIIDC will each open 60 additional stores, and DCCWS and DSCSC will start 40 fresh outlets each.

In the old excise regime that was in place until November 17 last year, the four corporations totally ran 475 liquor vends.

The report suggested that corporations pay up to 15 per cent of the anticipated gross profit towards rent and that the amount may vary depending upon where the vends are located. The sub-committee



## BJP MP Verma alleges corruption in grant of wholesale licences

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma on Thursday alleged that there has been a corruption of hundreds of crores of rupees in Delhi involving wholesale licence holders when the excise policy 2021-22 was in force.

Verma alleged that a South Delhi pub owner, close to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, used to collect six per cent of the commission money from the wholesale (L-1) licence holders. No immediate reaction was available from Sisodia or the ruling AAP over Verma's allegations.

The BJP MP from West Delhi alleged pub owner deleted his photos with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Sisodia posted on social media and left India after the L-G recommended the CBI probe. "This pub owner, Dinesh

Arora, is said to be the right-hand man of Sisodia who used to go to his pub at night. I want to ask Sisodia why did he go to the pub at night and why his photographs with him were deleted after the CBI enquiry was recommended," Verma posed. Former MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa alleged that the "money collected from the licensees was used for AAP's campaign in the Punjab Assembly polls earlier this year.

He said it was through a person named Samir Mitron that Dinesh Arora used to collect cut money and send the same to Amit Arora's Punjab Body company whose office is in Gurugram which works with name of KSJM in Gurugram and is into whole sale work of it. "The money is also being spent for campaigning in Gujarat and HP where polls are scheduled later this year," he alleged.

was formed on August 3 to identify zones for the opening of vends by each corporation, fixing the number of shops, determining the criteria for fixing rent, opening of vends in malls and government centres and the number of premium vends to be set up.

The sub-committee comprised the labour commissioner and heads of the four corporations. The corporation representatives said they would ensure that vends are close to non-conforming areas to cover unserved parts of the city, maximise sale of premium brands, and prevent brand pushing and overpricing, the report said.

This report will be submitted to the principal secretary (finance) for consideration and further action, officials said. A committee to ensure seamless transition to the previous excise regime and to check leakages was constituted under the principal secretary (finance) a few days ago. It also included special secretary (IT), director of women and child development, commissioner (labour) and excise commissioner.

The government has also formed a committee comprising the principal secretary (finance), principal secretary (revenue), excise commissioner and another member having expertise in excise regime to formulate and implement the excise policy. It will submit its report within a month.

## Manoj Tiwari fined ₹41K for traffic violations during Tiranga Rally

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP, Manoj Tiwari was fined Rs 41,000 by the Delhi Traffic Police for several violations of traffic rules during the Ministry of Culture's 'Tiranga Rally' which was flagged off from the Red Fort in New Delhi on Wednesday.

According to a senior police officer, a challan was issued against the BJP MP for riding his motorcycle without a helmet, riding without a licence and sans Pollution



Under Control (PUC) and registration certificates. As per police, he was also issued a challan for registration certificate violation (high security registration plate) and allowing an unauthorised person to drive. Tiwari took to Twitter and said he would pay the fine. "Very Sorry for not wearing a helmet today. I will pay the challan @dtpttraffic. Clear number plate of vehicle is shown in this photo and location was Red Fort. All of you are requested not to ride two wheelers without helmet. #DriveSafe family and friends need you," he

tweeted. Several MPs, including central Ministers and young parliamentarians, on Wednesday took part in a motorcycle rally in Delhi that originated from the historic Red Fort to pay tribute to the freedom fighters as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

The event sought to heighten a sense of patriotism among citizens while sending out a social message.

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' bike rally came a day after the Union Ministry of Culture hosted a mega 'Tiranga Utsav' event on Tuesday to mark the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

## Delhi records 2,202 Covid cases, 4 deaths

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Thursday recorded 2,202 Covid cases, the highest in six months, with a positivity rate of 11.84 per cent, while four more people died due to the disease, according to the health department

data. It was the second consecutive day that the daily count of Covid cases crossed the 2,000 mark. Thursday's case count was the highest since February 4, when the national capital logged 2,272 cases and 20 deaths. Delhi on Wednesday reported 2,073 COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 11.64 per cent. The number of deaths recorded on Wednesday was highest since June 25 when six deaths were reported due to COVID-19 in the city. Also, this was fourth day in a row that positivity rate breached 10-per cent mark.

### PICTALK



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam at Delhi-Gurugram Expressway after rain at Sirhaul Toll Plaza, in Gurugram on Thursday

## Jai Kishan slams L-G for directing police to file FIR against him



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Four times MLA and vice-president of Delhi Congress Jai Kishan on Thursday slammed Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena for directing the police to file an FIR against him for allegedly preparing "bogus" voter identity cards at his residence. He said that the BJP is trying to suppress the opposition.

Kisan told the Pioneer that the allegations of making duplicate ID Cards at his residence are baseless.

Ten years back a BJP worker who is no more, logged a complaint against me for making forge voter cards at my residence. "There are only 13

voter ID cards which were found at my residence out of which six to seven are of my family and relatives and others are of the people who are living at my house, who were responsible for the tea and breakfast of the 100 - 200 people who come to meet me when I was MLA," he said.

"By keeping five to seven voter cards would not have made him MLA for five times. I won from almost 13000 votes from my constituency. How will I be able to manipulate the election with 13 voter ID cards?" Kisan questioned.

"BJP wanted to suppress him, smash him and wants to destroy his image. Earlier also the government had logged an FIR against him for the conspiracy of interrupting in governmental work," he said.

Kisan further said that he is not a person of criminal background like the members of BJP and he was and will always remain a loyal soldier of public and congress party. "I am not afraid of being put behind the bars.

## India, Israel set to strengthen ties in water sector; 17th expo opened

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Ambassador of Israel to India, HE Naor Gilon inaugurated the '17th Everything About Water Expo 2022' at the Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Thursday, further strengthening the cooperation between Israel and India in the water sector. Israel is the country partner at the event, which will be held till August 6. Four high-level water experts from Israel took part in the event.

They shared their knowledge in a session that focused on the Israeli model for water management, policy regulations, technologies, R&D implementation and the Israel-India water partnership.

The session was chaired by G Asok Kumar, Director-General, National Mission for Clean Ganga. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Naor Gilon said, "We are happy to bring four Israeli water experts as speakers to this expo. They took part in a conference, where they shared their experience and technical know-how about advanced technologies and Israel-India partnership in the field of water. The visit of these experts to India has further deepened the ongoing water partnership between our two countries."

The four Israeli experts included Sally Levy, CEO of Meniv Rishon Ltd, Tahel Brandes, Senior Deputy Legal Adviser of the Governmental Authority For Water And Sewage, Professor Hadas Mamane, head of the environmental engineering programme and the water-energy lab, School of Mechanical



Engineering in Tel Aviv University and Lior Asaf, Water Attache, Embassy of Israel. The importance of the water partnership between Israel and India can be understood from the fact that both countries signed two major agreements to increase cooperation in water conservation and water utility reform during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel in 2017. Also, India is only country wherein Israel has the position of Water Attache to help share Israeli best practices and technologies for advancements in India's water management sector.

## DBSE inks pact with Burlington English to help students develop global competencies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) has signed an agreement with Burlington English to help students develop global competencies in the language.

The programme named 'Innovation in Communication' aims at strengthening the efforts of schools to develop an immersive English language learning environment by also building the capacity of the respective schoolteachers through digital

and offline interventions. Himanshu Gupta, Director Education, Delhi Government said the partnership with the global provider of English language learning solutions opens up a plethora of opportunities for students in the future. "We are pleased to partner with Burlington English to deliver learning opportunities to our students and teachers. It is important for 21st century learners to confidently communicate in English. We have initiated Project Voices in Delhi Government schools to boost

students' confidence and communication skills," he said. Burlington English said in a statement on Thursday, "As a result of the partnership, students will be provided support to develop global competencies in the English language thereby making them confident and future ready."

As part of this partnership, more than 200 students will get all-round support for developing English language communication skills, which will be powered by deep technology, the DBSE said.

## Govt postpones Independence Day event at Burari


STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government decided to postpone Independence Day event involving 52,000 school children — through which it had intended to create a world record of the largest human flag, due to the flooding of rain water at its venue — the Burari Grounds. According to officials, water-logging played spoilsport for a Delhi government event which was going to witness school students forming the layout of the

"world's largest tricolour". Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced last week that thousands of children will come together seeking to create a world record of making the largest layout of tricolour on August 4.

The event was scheduled to be held at Burari Ground but it got postponed due to water logging at venue. The chief minister was supposed to attend the event. Taking a dig at the AAP government, Delhi Congress president Ch. Anil Kumar said

that it was shocking that the Delhi Government had to abandon its programme featuring 50,000 students from Delhi Government schools to "create a world record for the largest human flag" as part of the 75th Independence Day celebrations as Burari ground due to water logging. "If the Burari ground got water-logged, then Delhi Government should have had the common sense to keep a standby stadium ready to face such unforeseen circumstances," he said.

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Bids are invited from the prospective bidders for procurement of "City Compost" to be marketed in various states under NFL's brand. For details visit website: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> (e-tendering) & [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com) (Homepage). **E-Tender No 2022\_NFL\_124390\_01.** Last date of Bid submission date / Opening of Technical Bid document is - **15.30 Hrs on 17.08.2022 / 15.30 Hrs on 18.08.2022.** Any Corrigendum (s) to this tender shall be published only on our websites.  
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# India to host UNSC meet on cyber terror in Oct



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/PTI  
NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

Threat of terrorists using emerging technologies and ways to deal with it will top the agenda of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting to be hosted by India in October. It is a rare occasion when such a high-profile meeting is held outside the United Nations, New York.

The meeting is scheduled for October 29 and will see members of the 15-nation UNSC deliberating on counter-terrorism measures.

India chairs the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) for 2022. Countries like the US, China and Russia are likely to attend the conclave. India is halfway

through the second year of its two-year term as an elected non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

India's tenure at the Council will end in December when the country will also preside as President of the powerful UN organ for the month.

The current members of the UNSC are Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway and the UAE, along with five permanent members China, France, Russia, the UK and the US.

"Mindful of the increasing threat posed by the misuse of new and emerging technologies," the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has decided to hold a special

meeting on this theme," with the support of its Executive Directorate (CTED), in India on October 29, 2022, according to information on the Committee's website.

It said the special meeting will specifically focus on three significant areas where emerging technologies are experiencing rapid development, growing use by member states (including for security and counter-terrorism purposes), and the increasing threat of abuse for terrorism purposes, namely Internet and social media, terrorism financing, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

It is not very frequent that the Counter-Terrorism Committee meets outside of New York but the meeting in

## Blinken, Jaishankar discuss Taiwan, Lanka at ASEAN sidelines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

Increasing tension between China and Taiwan following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei, situation in Sri Lanka and developments in Myanmar figured prominently during talks between External Affairs S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday.

The parleys between the two leaders took place on the sidelines of the ongoing Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) conclave in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. They also discussed other global challenges, it was learnt.

"A warm conversation to start meetings on sidelines of ASEAN Ministerial in Phnom Penh. Discussed the ever strengthening India-US relationship and the global situation with US Secretary of State @SecBlinken," Jaishankar tweeted. In his opening remarks at the meeting,

India will be the seventh time that this is happening. The most recent special meeting of the CTC outside of United Nations headquarters took place in Madrid, Spain, in July 2015, focusing on foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs). The Committee said further that



Blinken said the US and India are strong proponents of the ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific, according to the US State Department. "We're both strong proponents of ASEAN centrality."

We have a shared vision together for a free and open Indo-Pacific that we work on in so many different ways every single day," he said.

"And of course, we have some immediate challenges that we're both concerned with, to include the situation in Sri Lanka, Burma, and a number of other hot spots," he said.

with the prevalence of technology and rapid rise in digitisation, the use of new and emerging technologies to counter-terrorism is a topic of growing interest among the member states, policymakers and researchers, particularly in the context of the increasing

"So I very much look forward to once again being able to go through a number of these issues with my friend, and then we'll both head over to our meetings," Blinken added.

Jaishankar also said India and the 10-nation grouping ASEAN have "strong convergence" on Indo-Pacific, combating the threat of terrorism and the developments in Ukraine and Myanmar.

He said India and the ASEAN also have similar views on connectivity projects, dealing with the COVID-19 pan-

dem and issues relating to cyber security. "A productive ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting at Phnom Penh. Thank Singapore FM @VivianBala and ASEAN colleagues for a good discussion. Strong convergence on Indo-Pacific, UNCLOS, Connectivity, Covid-19, Terrorism, Cyber Security, Ukraine and Myanmar," Jaishankar tweeted.

The India-ASEAN foreign ministers' dialogue focused on overall developments in the Indo-Pacific region and ways to further expand ties against the backdrop of geopolitical developments, including the crisis in Ukraine.

The foreign ministers also discussed the situation in the South China Sea, a resource-rich region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese muscle-flexing. In June, India hosted the Special ASEAN-India foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi to mark the 30th anniversary of its relations with the grouping.

Representative T S Tirumurti had in January this year assumed the Chair of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022. Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, the country's new envoy to the UN, now assumes that role.

## IN SHORTS

### NITIN GADKARI QUOTES VAHAN DATA IN HOUSE

New Delhi: The country has more than 21 crore two-wheelers and over 7 crore four-wheelers and above category of vehicles registered, the Parliament was informed on Thursday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said out of the total vehicles, 5,44,643 are electric two-wheelers while 54,252 are electric four-wheelers and above, as per the centralised data base, VAHAN, as on August 3, 2022.



### MUMBAI EX-TOP COP'S BAIL PLEA REJECTED

New Delhi: A Special Delhi court on Thursday dismissed the bail application of former Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey, arrested in a money laundering case related to alleged illegal phone tapping and snooping of national stock exchange (NSE) employee. Special Judge Sunena Sharma had reserved her order on the plea after hearing the arguments of the accused as well as the Enforcement Directorate.

### PANDEY HOLDS TALKS WITH JEONG HWAN

New Delhi: Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande on Thursday held talks with his South Korean counterpart Jeong Hwan and discussed ways to ramp up bilateral defence ties. South Korea has been a major supplier of weapons and military equipment to India. In 2019, the two countries finalised a roadmap for cooperation in the joint production of various land and naval systems.

### 1.29 CR VOTED NOTA IN LAST 5 YEARS: ADR

New Delhi: About 1.29 crore votes were cast for NOTA option in the last five years in state and general elections, poll rights body ADR said on Thursday. On an average NOTA has secured 64,53,652 votes in the state assembly elections. Among the NOTA votes in Lok Sabha elections, the highest number of votes, 51,660, was in Gopalganj (SC) constituency in Bihar while the lowest number, 100, was in Lakshadweep.

### 1,472 VACANCIES IN CIVIL SERVICES: MIN

New Delhi: There are 1,472 vacancies in Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and 864 in Indian Police Service (IPS) in various states as on January 1, 2022, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday.

### MEDICAL REPORT OF EX-CMD OF AMRAPALI GROUP SOUGHT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought by August 6 a status report on the medical condition of Anil Kumar Sharma, ex-CMD of Amrapali Group of Companies, who is lodged in jail and is seeking bail citing his deteriorating health. It posted the matter for hearing on August 8.

### ISRO TO LAUNCH SMALLEST COMMERCIAL ROCKET

New Delhi: The Indian Space Research Organization on August 7 will launch its smallest commercial rocket — SSLV—to put in orbit two satellites, offering cheap rides to space and eyeing a share in the burgeoning small satellite launch market. The 34-metre Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is 10 metres shorter than ISRO's warhorse rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and can put payloads up to 500 kg into 500 km planar orbit.

### 'MAKE INDIA GLOBAL MANUFACTURING HUB'

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday called upon central and state government departments to ensure foolproof management of land for India to become a global manufacturing hub while addressing the inaugural session of a webinar organised to disseminate Geographic Information System (GIS)-based applications, developed by CoE-SURVEIL.

### AIMIM TO SUPPORT MARGARET ALVA

New Delhi: Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM on Thursday decided to support Margaret Alva as the Opposition's Vice President candidate. "She is a woman and hails from a minority background. Country would be happy to see her success," AIMIM MP Imtiaz Jaleel said.



## All-women Naval crew creates history

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy created a history of sorts when an all-women aircrew carried out the first all-women independent maritime reconnaissance mission in the North Arabian Sea in their Dornier aircraft.

Giving details here on Thursday, navy officials said the women crew performed this unique feat on Wednesday. Five officers of the Indian Navy of INAS 314 based at Naval Air Enclave, Porbandar, flew the reconnaissance and surveillance mission.

The aircraft was captained by the Mission Commander, Lieutenant Commander Aanchal Sharma, who had pilots, Lieutenant Shivangi and Lieutenant Apurva Gite, and Tactical and Sensor Officers, Lieutenant Pooja Panda and Sub Lieutenant Pooja Shekhawat in her team.

Officials said the women officers received months of ground training and comprehensive mission briefings in the run up to this historical sortie.

The INAS 314 is a frontline Naval Air Squadron based at Porbandar, Gujarat and operates the state-of-the-art Dornier 228 maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

The Indian Navy has been a front-runner in driving transformation in the Armed Forces. It's impressive and pioneering women empowerment initiatives include induction of women pilots, selection of women Air Operations Officers into the helicopter stream and conducting an all-

## Two-week-long India-US military drill in October

PNS  
NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen military to military level ties between the two countries, India and the US will hold a two-week-long Drill in Uttarakhand's Auli in October amid the fast-evolving regional security scenario.

The "Yudh Abhyas" exercise will take place in the backdrop of the ongoing stand-off between the armies of India and China for the last two years in eastern Ladakh.

The 18th edition of exercise "Yudh Abhyas" will be held from October 14 to 31, sources said here on Thursday. A number of complex drills is being planned for the mega exercise, they said.

The last edition of the exercise took place in October 2021 in Alaska in the US. The Indo-US defence ties have been on an upswing for the past few years. In June 2016, the US designated India a "Major Defence Partner". The two

countries have also inked key defence and security pacts over the past few years, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 that allows their militaries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provides for deeper cooperation.

The two sides also signed the COMCASA (Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018 which provides for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for the sale of high-end technology from the US to India.

In October 2020, India and the US sealed the BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) to further boost bilateral defence ties. The pact provides for sharing of high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps between the two countries.

women sailing circumnavigation expedition across globe in 2018. This first-of-its-kind military flying mission was, however, unique and is expected to pave the way for women officers in aviation cadre to assume greater responsibility and aspire for more challenging roles. It

perhaps marks a unique achievement for Armed Forces that a crew of only women officers undertook an independent operational mission in a multi-crew maritime surveillance aircraft. It was indeed a mission that showcased "Nari Shakti" in its real spirit, they said.

PNS  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday launched a no-holds-barred attack against the Congress and accused it of going "against the law", trying to spread "anarchy" and "abusing and intimidating" the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The BJP also alleged that Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul want to blame the late Congress leader Motilal Vora in the National Herald case whereas they are the majority shareholders in the Young India Ltd, the company in the eye of the storm.

As BJP spokesman Sambit Patra accused Sonia and Rahul of seeing themselves being above the law and seeking them to "follow the law", another spokesman Gaurav Bhatia addressing a separate press conference sought to know whether "Sonia and Rahul should state whether they have faith in the high court and the apex court."

Bhatia said Sonia and Rahul are majority share holders - 76 percent - in Young India, a company floated to take-over Associated Journal

## RS passes Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

A bill to provide statutory cover to family courts set up in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland and retrospectively validating all actions taken by them was passed by Parliament on Thursday.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022 by a voice vote amid sloganeering by Opposition, led by Congress members who alleged misuse of the Enforcement Directorate by the government. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill last week.

The Family Courts (Amendment) Bill seeks to insert a provision in sub-section 3 of section 1 to provide for the establishment of family courts in Himachal Pradesh with effect from February 15, 2019 and in Nagaland with effect from September 12, 2008.

The bill also seeks to insert a new section 3A to retrospectively validate all actions under the act taken by the governments and family courts of Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

Two family courts were established in Nagaland in 2008 and three in Himachal Pradesh in 2019 through notifications issued by the respective state governments.

Limited (which owns National Herald) and by this fact the decisions must be taken by them and not the late Vora (who is also an accused) and therefore they were accountable for irregularities in the transactions.

Young Indian allegedly acquired the assets of the National Herald, a publication linked to the Congress, a deal now being probed by the ED under money-laundering charges.

"Rahul Gandhi did not spend a penny but got the controlling stake of Rs 2,000 cr assets. How did this happen? He should answer," the BJP leader said.

"They will first engage in looting and then try to spread anarchy in the country. Congress leaders are abusing and threatening the investigation agency, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul should know that they are not above law. The country is governed by the Constitution," Bhatia said. The BJP's counter-attack came after former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said he is "not afraid of Narendra Modi" and will not be "intimidated" by the Enforcement Directorate.

## Centre holds meeting with top health experts to discuss Monkeypox guidelines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

Senior officials from the Central Union Health Ministry on Friday held a meeting of top health experts to discuss the need to revisit existing guidelines on management of the monkeypox disease.

The meeting comes in the wake of the rising monkeypox cases in the country. India has reported nine cases of the disease including one death so far.

The meeting was chaired by Dr L Swastichandran, director of Emergency Medical Relief (EMR). Officials from the National Aids Control Organisation, National Centre for Diseases Control and World Health Organisation (WHO) representatives.

An official from the Ministry said that, it was a technical meeting to revisit the existing guidelines.

As per the existing 'Guidelines on Management of Monkeypox Disease' issued by the Centre, any person having a history of travel to affected countries within the last 21 days presenting with an acute rash and reporting symptoms like swollen lymph nodes, fever, headaches, body aches and profound weakness will be considered a 'suspect case'.

## Will not be intimidated by ED action, not afraid of Modi, says Rahul

PNS  
NEW DELHI

Launching a scathing attack on the prime minister, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said he is "not afraid of Narendra Modi" and will not be "intimidated" by the Enforcement Directorate action in the National Herald case.

His reaction came a day after the ED sealed the office of Young Indian in Herald House here, and the Delhi police briefly barricaded the party office and the residences of Rahul and Sonia Gandhi.

"These are attempts at intimidation. We will not be intimidated. We are not afraid of Narendra Modi," he told reporters outside Parliament. In his first response after the ED sealed the premises of Young Indian in the Congress-owned National Herald office, Gandhi said, "They may do whatever they want. It does not matter."

I will continue to work to protect the country and democracy and maintain harmony in the country. I will continue to do my work whatever they may do."

"Truth cannot be barricaded. Do whatever you want, I am not afraid of the Prime Minister. I will always work in the interest of the country. Listen and understand!" The former Congress chief said the BJP government thinks it can "silence us by putting some pressure on us." "We won't be silenced. We will stand against



what Narendra Modi ji, Amit Shah ji are doing in this country, against democracy, no matter what they do," he said briefing media. Asked about the BJP assertion that it will not let them "run away" from the law, Rahul said, "Who is talking about running away? They are talking about running away."

Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson of AICC Jairam Ramesh raised the issue of summoning of Kharge by the ED, saying he was called by the probe agency when Parliament is in session and he left around 12:20 pm and presented himself. "This is Modishahi reaching new lows," Ramesh tweeted. Ramesh said Kharge underwent interrogation by ED.

Speaking to the media, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh said that summoning of the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha by a probe agency during Parliamentary proceedings had never happened in the history of democracy.

## Consumer watchdog imposes fine of ₹1 lakh on Amazon

PNS  
NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), the country's consumer watchdog has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on e-commerce major Amazon for selling pressure cookers which did not meet quality norms.

The CCPA also directed Amazon to notify consumers of all these 2,265 pressure cookers sold through its platform, recall the products and reimburse the amount to the buyers.

The CCPA, headed by Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare, has also directed Amazon to pay a penalty of Rs 1 lakh for allowing sale of pressure cookers in "violation" to Quality Control Order (QCO) and "violating" the rights of consumers. "After

examination of response submitted by company, it was observed that a total 2,265 pressure cookers not conforming to mandatory standards were sold through Amazon after notification of the QCO. The total fee earned by Amazon on sale of such pressure cookers through its platform was Rs 6,14,825.41," the CCPA said in a statement.

According to the statement, CCPA had initiate suo-moto action against e-commerce platforms for sale of domestic pressure cookers in violation to compulsory standards on its e-commerce platforms.

CCPA issued notices to major e-commerce platforms including Amazon, Flipkart, Paytm Mall, Shopclues and Snapdeal as well as to sellers registered on these platforms.



# CAG pulls up NHAI for post-tender amendments

NHAI extended undue benefit to concessionaires, says auditor in report tabled in Parliament

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pulled up the national road making agency National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for extending "undue benefit to concessionaires by resorting to post-tender amendments".

The CAG also said the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) failed to adhere to guidelines of the Cabinet Secretariat for circular

tion and approval of Cabinet notes.

NHAI comes under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. "NHAI extended undue benefit to concessionaires by resorting to post-tender amendments," the CAG said in a report tabled in Parliament.

"The premium payable by the concessionaire was laid down in a legal contract drawn up after an open bidding process, in which premium offered was the one and only parameter in deciding upon the financial bids (request for proposal)," the CAG said in the report.

National Highways are developed under different modes of execution including Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) or toll, BOT (Annuity), and Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC).

In BOT (toll) projects,



prospective bidders either quote Viability Gap Funding (VGF) payable to concessionaires or negative VGF/premium payable to NHAI by concessionaires.

"Any post-tender/contract amendment tantamounts to vitiating the entire tendering process, against the principle of sanctity of contracts and unfair with respect to other bidders," the government auditor added.

The CAG pointed out that the NHAI proposed a scheme of rationalisation of premium quoted by concessionaires in respect of highways projects. According to the auditor, the policy or scheme for rationalisation of premium was neither considered nor approved in the NHAI board meeting.

The CAG suggested that NHAI may ensure prevailing

provisions of concession agreements are followed before proposing any new scheme for granting concessions beyond contractual provisions.

It also recommended that NHAI should avoid post-tender/contract amendments. NHAI/MoRTH should abide by the extant rules, procedures and guidelines of government and present the full facts in its proposals, particularly in case of deviations, the CAG noted.

NHAI may consider introducing a mechanism to review the total project cost/debt to protect the interest of NHAI in the long term while keeping in reference the termination payments and debt servicing, it suggested.

The auditor also said that NHAI may ensure reasonable amount of bank guarantee to cover the risk of non-payment of deferred premium by the concessionaire to safeguard the government's interest.

# Mamata-Modi meet likely; Left, Cong allege 'setting'

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

The Left and Congress leadership have questioned the timing of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's visit to Delhi where she is likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The meeting is likely to take place on Friday, sources said the Chief Minister on Thursday left for Delhi on four-day trip in the wake of the arrest of senior Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee and his close aide Arpita Mukherjee from whose apartments the Enforcement Directorate recovered Rs 50 crore and jewellery worth more than Rs 5 crore.

"Every time there is a CBI or ED probe and her government is in problem the Chief Minister recalls central depri-



vation and flies out to Delhi to bring funds ... She holds closed door meetings with the PM with no secretary, no other person present... And then all those probe dies down... This time it is no different," said CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty.

Congress' Adhir Chowdhury too spoke about an expected "setting" between Delhi and Kolkata. The PCC leaders showed how Sharada and Narada probes were slowed down after the Chief Minister's earlier visits to Delhi.

"We have no problem with her meeting with the Prime

Minister because it is normal for a Chief Minister to see a Prime Minister with her demands ... But as these are abnormal times such meetings should take place before officers," a senior PCC member said.

Apart from Modi the Chief Minister is likely to meet President Draupadi Murmu, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and even Congress president Sonia Gandhi. She is also likely to meet some opposition MPs while in Delhi.

The Left-Congress criticism notwithstanding, the State BJP has refuted such allegations. "There is no question of setting... The Prime Minister is determined to weed out corruption and no amount of lobbying will work," State Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said.

# J&K cops, CRPF equipped with bullet-resistant modern vehicles

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR**

The jawans of the Jammu & Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were equipped with the Bullet Resistant, Marksman Tactical Intervention Light Motor Vehicles by the Director General of Police, J&K Dilbag Singh. On the occasion he also inaugurated the Containerized Shooting Range at Armed Police Complex Humhama.

After attending the formal flag off ceremony in the presence of top brass of the CRPF and J&K Police Dilbag Singh said the Bullet Resistant Light Motor Vehicles with high safety requirements would be deployed with CRPF for special duties. "A large number of

vehicles have come and a lot more will follow", the DGP announced. The vehicles with enhanced safety measures have a Run Flat Tyre system with PTZ cameras installed, he added ADG CRPF, J&K Daljit Singh Chodhary, IG CRPF Ops Kashmir, Manvinder Singh Bhatia, along with senior police officers were present on the occasion.

Singh appreciated ADGP Headquarters, AIG Provision & Transport PHQ and their team for working in fast track mode for procuring these vehicles.

The DGP later inaugurated the Containerized Shooting Range at JKAP 13th Bn., Humhama, Budgam. DGP and Spl. DG CRPF fired some practice rounds on the occasion.

The 40 feet long



Containerized Shooting Range (CTSR) meets all international standards of the safety and pollution with software capability of decreasing and increasing firing range of upto 300 mtrs. The air conditioned shooting range which can be utilized 24x7 and can also be easily transported to any other location. The shooter can fire

in standing, kneeling and lying positions and it has Electronic Multi-Function Targets and Virtual targets systems. The CTSR has one Control Station each outside the Container and a monitoring tab near the shooter to monitor the firing and the control station is capable of printing the firing result of the shooter.

# Natthe Singh's son keeps alive tradition of stitching Tricolour

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Pingali Venkaiah is the man who designed Indian Tricolour, but it was a tailor in Meerut, Natthe Singh, who stitched the first national flag of the country.

Ramesh Chand, son of Nathe Singh, said that his father was a staunch Gandhian and was 22-year-old when he stitched the first Tricolour.

"My father told me that when India became free, a meeting was held in Parliament House. There it was decided that the work to stitch the national flag should be given to the Gandhi Ashram in Meerut. The in-charge of the ashram asked my father to stitch the flag,"

Ramesh said.

Ramesh said that at that time there was no electricity in their house and his father did not have enough oil to light the lantern. "My father sought help from neighbours, who gave him kerosene and an additional lantern so that he could start his work," he said.

"Since then my family has been involved in making Tricolours. This is a matter of pride for us that we are making the national flags," he said.

Natthe Singh died in 2019 and now the onus is on Ramesh to carry forward the family's tradition. Ramesh's wife and two daughters also help him in making the Tricolour.

# ED summons Sanjay Raut's wife in PMLA case

Court extends Raut's ED custody till August 8

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

A Special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Court on Thursday extended the remand of Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha member and chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut in the Rs 1,034 crore Patra Chawl redevelopment scam case till August 8, even as the ED summoned his wife Varsha Raut for questioning in the same case on Friday.

While extending Raut's ED remand till August 8, Judge MG Deshpande of the Special PMLA court noted: "Certainly facts of the investigation demonstrate three stages (placement, integration, laundering) and they require fur-

ther probe, by summoning witnesses and confronting accused. However I am of the opinion that the same can be done till August 8. Wherein ED can look into all aspects".

Taking cognisance of the submissions made by the ED seeking extension of Raut's custody, the Judge observed that since some more amounts had been revealed during the investigations along with bank statements establishing further trail, the ED had made "remarkable progress" in its probe. The extension of Raut's ED custody by four more days came on a day when the ED summoned his wife Varsha Raut for questioning in the alleged money laundering case linked to the Rs 1,034 crore Patra Chawl redevelopment scam case, in which her husband is being investigated currently.

After questioning her at its

Ballard Pier office on Friday, the ED is expected to confront Varsha with her husband Sanjay Raut during the weekend. Raut, who was detained by the ED on July 31 after a raid on his Bhandup residence and his questioning that lasted for more than nine hours, was formally placed under by the investigating agency at 12.05 am on August 1 under sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The PMLA court had earlier remanded Raut to ED custody till August 4.

The ED is investigating the alleged irregularities in a money laundering case pertaining to the redevelopment of Patra Chawl by Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd a subsidiary of Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL).

The ED's action against



Raut came nearly two months after the investigating agency attached provisionally properties worth Rs 11.15 crore belonging to three persons, including Shiv Sena leader

Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut, under the PMLA in a case relating to the alleged irregularities in the Patra Chawl redevelopment project in Mumbai.

# Cong's nationwide protest against price rise, unemployment today

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Amidst the tussle between the Congress and the BJP-led Central Government, the party will hold a nationwide protest on Friday against price rise, unemployment and imposition of Goods and Services Tax on food items. The party has chalked out a 'Chalo Rashtrapati Bhavan' march from Parliament to President's House, to be undertaken by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs. Members of Congress Working Committee and other senior leaders will also gherao the prime minister's residence.

At the state level, all State units will hold a 'Raj Bhavan Gherao', in which all state legislators and other senior leaders will take part. Protests have also been planned from the district down to the block levels.

"At 11am tomorrow, all

Congress MPs will march to Rashtrapati Bhavan. We want to tell the President that the finance minister of the country has no idea about the problems of the common man," said senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh.

While the Congress is at pains to emphasise that the protest is about issues that are basic to the lives of the people and wants to dispel the notion that it is meant to defend the first family of the party over the National Herald case, the developments in the matter, including the sealing of the office of Young Indian in the National Herald building in Delhi and the summoning of Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge by the investigating agency in connection with the case form the backdrop.

The summoning of Kharge by the ED while the proceedings

in Parliament were on has been condemned by the Congress as an insult of the parliamentary system.

The barricading and police bandobast put in place outside the Congress office, the residence of party president Sonia Gandhi and former party chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday had resulted in top party leaders rushing to the AICC headquarters amidst the "mysterious" restrictions.

The barricades were later removed and the police dispersed. A special media briefing was held in the evening, in which the party attacked the ruling dispensation for the curbs and stated that Delhi Police had denied permission to the party to hold protests in the capital.

Party leaders also attacked the BJP for trying to create a perception that the protests are about the ED action against its leaders.

# Tricolour row: RSS patriotic, says BJP

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Defending the RSS against the Opposition's swipe at it for not using the tricolour as the display picture on its social media accounts, the BJP on Thursday said the the Hindutva organisation is full of patriotism and is always striving to serve the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a call to people to use the national flag as their social media profile picture between August 2-15 as the country gears up to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its independence. While BJP leaders have followed this, critics have taken a dig at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, considered the ideological mentor of the ruling party, and its senior functionaries for not doing so. Hitting out at critics, including the Congress and AIMIM, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia told reporters, "Some people believe in creating controversies and dividing the country. They are levelling allegations against the BJP. The Congress and Rahul Gandhi have also targeted the RSS. Every fibre of the RSS is full of patriotism and a sense of service to the country."

Be it during crisis like floods, earthquakes and the Covid outbreak, the RSS always strives to ensure that no one goes hungry. It also works for children's education, he added.

On the one hand, the country has welcomed 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and feels proud of it and on the other, there is a mindset which feels bad about this too, he said.

In a swipe at the RSS, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh had said that it seems Modi's message did not reach the organisation. Rahul Gandhi had alleged that those behind 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign have come from an organisation which did not hold the national flag at its headquarters for 52 years, a view shared by Ramesh too.

Under the campaign, the government has appealed to people to hoist or display the national flag in their home between August 13-15.

Slamming the critics, RSS Akhil Bhartiya Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar had earlier said, "Such things should not be politicised. The RSS has already extended its support to 'Har Ghar Tiranga' and 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' programmes.

# Centre influencing House proceedings to serve its political interest: Maya

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati has accused the Central Government of influencing the proceedings of the House and serving its political interests by engaging the Opposition in non-essential issues in Parliament.

She said that this would further increase autocracy in the country everywhere.

Addressing a review meeting of the BSP organisations in the states of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana here on Thursday afternoon, Mayawati, referring to the uproar in the current session of Parliament, said, "Even during Parliament session, there is no proper discussion on the burning issues of the country. Due to this, the Central government is being saved from covering up its responsibility."

The BSP chief alleged, "It has become a new trend of the governments to engage the opposition in new undesirable controversial issues day by day and to satisfy their polit-



ical interests by influencing the proceedings of the House, which is grossly unfair and anti-people tendency and this leads to the interest of the country being badly affected."

"If the governments in Parliament and the states are not serious, responsible and accountable towards the House, then it will increase autocracy in the country even more," Mayawati asserted.

"Today, the bitter reality in the country is that no such government is seen which is in a position to work with full seriousness and honesty vis-à-vis inflation, poverty, unemployment besides public interest and public welfare. That is why no state is emerging as a new beautiful picture of New India," the former chief min-

ister of UP added.

She said that government animosity had also become involved in a big way and in such a situation, where would the atmosphere of violence and tension-free system necessary for the development of the country arise?

Mayawati said that even in the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state of South India, as per the public expectation, the need of employment is not being met properly to overcome the problem of poverty and unemployment etc.

The BSP president said that after Maharashtra, the discussions of a conspiracy to topple the tribal society-led coalition government of Jharkhand once again are in full swing and this was grossly unfair.

She said that earlier politics was unstable and infamous due to the dominance of criminals, but now money power had also become more dominant in it. "In such a situation, it is becoming very difficult, if not impossible, for the governments of small parties to survive," she added.



Devotees row their boat on the Pampa river as they arrive at Aranmula for the Valla Sadhya festival, in Pathanamthitta district, on Thursday




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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Shun freebies

Freebie culture is a political disease and has to be cured politically. There is no need to involve the judiciary in it

There is something odd about Bharatiya Janata Party leader Ashwini Upadhyay's petition in the Supreme Court urging it to restrain parties from distributing "irrational freebies" before elections. Did he raise the issue at any of the party's forums? Or elsewhere? Besides, what political parties do before or during poll campaigns is, or should be, a matter among them. Why drag the highest court into that? On Wednesday, the Supreme Court suggested a panel comprising members from the Niti Aayog, the Finance Commission, ruling and Opposition parties, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and other stakeholders. The court also sought the views of senior counsel, Rajya Sabha member, and former law minister Kapil Sibal. Politicians are often unable to sort out political matters, so they seek judicial assistance. But then they also grumble about judicial overreach or hyper-activism. Worse, they are unable even to act on matters of national interest. One need not be an economist to know that freebies are dangerous not just for public finance but also the economy and even polity; and yet no political party is able or willing to take a principled stand against them. On July 16, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke against what he termed as the "revdi culture." He correctly pointed out that this is "very dangerous" for economic development. At the level of states, the danger is acquiring alarming dimensions, as governments under all parties indulge in mindless populism and offer freebies with impunity.

It was, however, not the first time that attention was drawn to this phenomenon. A couple of weeks before the Lok Sabha election results were announced, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had expressed concern over states' fiscal profligacy. An RBI report, in November 2021, highlighted the same thing. It said that in recent years, states' outstanding debt showed a gradual upward movement due to implementation of Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY), farm loan waivers, and economic slowdown in 2019-20, all leading to rising debt-GSDP ratio. GSDP is to a state what GDP is to a country. In April this year, NK Singh, chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, pointed out that both the economics and politics of freebies are deeply flawed. It is a "race to the bottom" and "a quick passport to fiscal disaster." Unfortunately, the economics and politics of freebies and populism continue unabated. They cost money and have consequences, one of them being costlier petroleum products. Hurling allegations and counter-allegations at each other all the time doesn't do any good to anyone, surely not to the nation. Instead of scoring brownie points, all political parties should chalk out red lines of populism that they pledge not to cross. They can do it without seeking the assistance of the judiciary. For this, something that is dead or dying needs to be resuscitated—meaningful dialogue across party lines. Only this can stop the race to the bottom.



## PICTALK



A beach volleyball match underway between Australia and Cyprus at Smithfield at the Commonwealth Games

AP

## Love in the times of war!

The marriage of a Russian boy with a Ukrainian girl gives a glimmer hope in worst of times

An extraordinary marriage took place in the serene mountains of Himachal Pradesh a couple of days back. Everything about it was Indian except for the couple which tied the knot. Sergei Novikov, a Russian boy married a Ukrainian girl Elona Bramoka in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh. It was a love marriage and the couple had been in love for quite some time, even before their countries of birth Russia and Ukraine went to war around six months. They chose the tranquil Himalayan town of Dharamsala to tie the knot far from the din of war in their own countries. That the couple chose love over war and did not let their politicians decide their fate is a great feat in itself. The common people like Sergei and Elona are living testimony to the indomitable human spirit which shall prevail while the people in power shall play their



power games. It has always been common people who have brought about changes in the world despite the machinations of the powerful people, - tyrants, autocrats, and what have you. They are the source of positivity that keeps human civilization ticking. It is love and cooperation that shall keep the planet a safe and habitable place rather than the guns and missiles created to destroy it.

In the classic novel, 'War and Peace', Leo Tolstoy beautifully depicted the impact of the war on the people. The war leaves behind nothing but misery, dead bodies, broken houses, and broken people. And the only thing that can stop it is the

resolve of the people to live a peaceful life. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "there is enough for everyone's needs but not enough for one man's greed." It is not that countries at loggerheads do not cooperate. They do. Russia collaborates with the West in the space station, Pakistan offered relief material to India to fight Covid 19, and China and the USA set the agenda for fighting climate change in the Paris declaration. Indeed there is always room for sanity but then some vested interests try to upset it and create chaos to use it to their advantage. Such forces need to be nailed. Meanwhile, as Ukraine and Russia battle it out, the hope was getting a chance, far from the eastern borders of Ukraine where the fierce battle continues. No wonder the place where their love blossomed is in India. The locals extended a helping hand to the couple to perform the rituals as pundit Raman Sharma recited Sanskrit hymns and solemnized their marriage. It happens only in India!

# The rise and rise of omnipotent ED

The ED today is being frowned upon by the Opposition parties for its alleged misuse. But didn't all parties in power misuse it?



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

In the face of allegations of the opposition parties that government agencies are being used by the ruling party against its opponents, the recent landmark judgment of the Supreme Court upholding the sweeping power of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for search, seizure, arrest, and attachment of property under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), has become a bone of contention. The verdict was pronounced on 242 petitions filed by many including Anil Deshmukh, Karti Chidambaram, and Mehbooba Mufti, challenging the stringent provisions of the PMLA.

While the opposition has questioned the timing of the pronouncement of the judgment when a host of top opposition politicians including Congress leader, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, P. Chidambaram, his son Karti Chidambaram, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, TMC MP and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee and Delhi Minister Satyender Jain are among those under the ED's scanner for alleged money laundering, the ruling NDA has attributed the surge to its 'commitment to preventing money laundering and improved systems for gathering financial intelligence as well as better interagency cooperation.'

It is claimed that the Centre's twin purposes—disposing of pending investigations in old cases and completing the probe in new cases in a time-bound manner under the PMLA have led to 3,010 searches in the past eight years resulting in the attachment of proceeds of crime to the tune of about Rs 99,356 crore and the filing of prosecution complaints in 888 cases. The ruling party justifies its action because money laundering is one of the heinous crimes which not only affects the social and economic fabric of the nation but also tends to promote other heinous offenses related to the NDPS Act.



As per information shared in the Rajya Sabha, raids carried out by the ED during 2014-22 saw a nearly 27-fold increase as compared to the searches conducted between 2004 and 2014 during the regime of the UPA government. However, the conviction rate has been poor and indicates investigative lapses and legal loopholes. The fact that only 23 accused have been convicted which is less than five percent of total cases points out the failure of ED in building airtight cases and giving credence to allegations of ulterior motives and settling of political scores.

Moreover, searches are largely confined to non-BJP ruled states targeting the leaders of the opposition parties. The PMLA was enacted during the UPA regime in 2002 and implemented in July 2005 to tackle the problem of money laundering. Over the years, it emerged as a matter of international concern and India made some commitments in this regard. The court has ruled that various provisions of this Act that have been challenged are indeed constitutional. To understand the real significance of PMLA, we need not focus on the details of the Act,



AS PER INFORMATION SHARED IN THE RAJYASABHA, RAIDS CARRIED OUT BY THE ED DURING 2014-22 SAW A NEARLY 27-FOLD INCREASE AS COMPARED TO THE SEARCHES CONDUCTED BETWEEN 2004 AND 2014 DURING THE REGIME OF THE UPA GOVERNMENT.

but, look at the big picture of the law that it conveys.

During the past few years, ED, which was formed in 1956, has become a prime agency. Even the Supreme Court had acknowledged the sweeping powers of the ED under the PMLA. This is apparent from the fact that the ED is empowered to start an investigation without complaint or application. Although filing an FIR is a mandatory provision under the Indian Penal Code but, the ED officer is not required to abide by it.

Under the PMLA, the ED officer has to simply file an Enforcement Case Information Report (ERIC) which is not shared with the accused and serves as an internal document. An IO can also issue summons without giving any specific reason. Under the PMLA, statements made before the officers of the ED are admissible in court and bail provisions place a reverse burden of proof on the accused, requiring them to show a lack of guilt even before the trial commences. The apex court said that the stringent conditions for bail under the Act are legal and arbitrary.

All governments are

guilty of misusing central investigation agencies like ED and CBI to settle political scores. The congress government under Indira Gandhi in the 70s made started the trend and the PMLA was brought in by an NDA government and made more stringent by amendments during the UPA regime. The extensive use of ED against political opponents has risen during the present government. During the past few years, the ED had made high-profile arrests including the former Home Minister P. Chidambaram and his son Karti Chidambaram, Anil Deshmukh, Chhagan Bhujbal, senior NCP leader and former Minister, Nawab Malik and recently senior Shiv Sena leader, Sanjay Raut. There has been a list of leaders who have been summoned and questioned for long hours including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. The media, gave them special coverage. The central investigation agencies have emerged as the conscious keeper of society. The credibility of these organizations should not be compromised. Their functioning should be above board and they should be allowed to function freely.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DOUBLE STANDARD

Sir — It is appreciable that without any loss of time, the Central Government has directed Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to write to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressing grave concern over the alleged irregularities in teachers' recruitment and asking her to take corrective action. Contrary to this, the ruling dispensation has not pursued the mega Vyapam scandal involving thousands of crores of rupees where many of the top BJP leaders were alleged to be involved with the same vigour and enthusiasm.

Even though it was very clearly proved that BJP's vice president Bernard Mark was arrested on charges of running a sex racket in his farm house, BJP has tried to defend him and his heinous crime by calling it a case of vendetta. The local state unit has also tried to persuade Governor to remove the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of police of West garo Hills who have exposed the sex racket run by the BJP Vice President is a case in point. What a double standard by the saffron party!

**Tharcirus S Fernando | Chennai**

### MAKING A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLE HILL

Sir — Just 8 cases out of 1.3 billion! How to describe MMPP (Medics, Media Politicians and Pharmaceuticals) wasting their and other's time for something not worth a mention? Their obsession with every such new disease results in spreading fear. Notably, as all these entities stand to become richer and get to exercise extraordinary power over people from the spread they will not keep silent.

With the disease spreading only through close and deep contacts, no specific community is at risk and it can be easily prevented from spreading. Let us not make mountain out of molehill in making Monkey Box a dreaded disease. But at the same time we have to be on the guard against the diseases that

### FIGHT SUICIDIAL TENDENCIES

Suicides and deaths at young age is unfortunate in this modern scientifically advanced era of internet, google etc. the cause of suicides is generally depression and aimlessness. Developing a hobby can fill a void. One can search for a favorite club and join it. Joining mind boggling training classes such as Abacus (children), speed maths (anyone above primary school), quiz etc. can stop suicides. There are many clubs available such as debating, arts, gym, quiz, laughing, sports, cooking, film stars fans associations, ladies clubs, gents clubs etc. Mind boggling games clubs like crossword, sudoku, maths, fun maths, puzzles, juggling words, quiz too are available. You can join one or more of the above clubs which can really motivate and inspire you to appreciate life and live it with purpose.

you can also start your own team / group on internet, Email, Facebook, LinkedIn, what's

spread during monsoon season. We are often fixated at the diseases which make international headlines rather than the diseases like malaria and dengue which kill thousands of people in India. We must make preparations to fight them.

**Gundu K Mahniam | Trichy**

### TWO GREAT EVENTS

Sir — On August 15, we Indians celebrate two great significant and related events. One is the Assumption of Our Blessed Virgin Mary and the other is Independence Day.

The reason as to why these two events are related is because they are both about freedom. Independence Day is celebrated as freedom from foreign rule and domination to self-rule and governance of our country and the feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother Mary may be seen as freedom from this limited and incomplete life to bliss of eternal and perpetual life. There is indeed a happy coincidence to celebrate our Independence Day on the feast



App etc. You can make videos of your liking and show it to the world if you feel that no one cares about you. Many house wives are selling pickles, chapathis, curries etc. via internet and home supply. So! Clubs, skills, hobbies no time to breath plus happy, healthy life. Moreover investing your personal development by meditating and keeping fit you could get a positive mindset which is so essential for living a happy life. Unhappy management gives unhappy and suicidal thoughts.

**Madhu PV | Secunderabad**

day of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother Mary. It is to our Blessed Mother that we dedicate our country as she is our patron saint.

**Jubel D'Cruz | Mumbai**

### DELHI HC GIVES CLEAN CHIT TO IRANIS

Sir — Sir, Its quite ludicrous that Delhi High court had to defend promptly in favour of Smriti Irani and her daughter aren't owners of the Silly Souls Cafe & Bar in Goa. Zoish Irani' herself once admitted to food writer Kunal Vijaykar that she is the owner of that bar in an interview needs no evidence. Delhi HC' observations on this case is bias and parochial towards Smriti Irani who isn't ready to accept that two wrongs don't make a right. One wonders what makes judiciary show the fasttrack conclusion on high-profile cases refers to political leaders whereas for others it's exactly reverse.

**Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Jalpaiguri**

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

We are in grave danger for the generation that graduates out of schools over the next 10 years.



**Former RBI governor**  
—Raghuram Rajan



BJP's '40% commission' govt in Karnataka runs opposite to Guru Basavanna's ideals of honesty and work is worship. Congress is united in its efforts to uproot this corrupt and inefficient govt. .

**Congress leader**  
—Rahul Gandhi



There was a time when I craved for sweets but could not eat them as I had no money, but now I get a lot of sweets but can't eat them

**Flautist, Composer**  
—Hariprasad Chaurasia



India Should Have Played Virat Kohli in Every International Match Possible.

**Cricketer**  
— Sanjay Manjrekar



Today, we recommit to preserving the memory of the Roma and Sinti people who were murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Together, let us honour them by working to ensure that such vile acts of hatred never happen again.

**Canadian Prime Minister**  
—Justin Trudeau



FIRST COLUMN

MALDIVES PRSIDENT SEEKS DEEPER TIES WITH INDIA

India is helping Maldives have a better maritime surveillance system



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was in India this week, where his itinerary included meeting the President, Prime Minister, other senior government ministers and business delegations in Delhi and Mumbai. This high-level visit by the Maldivian President comes at a time when the relations with India are on a path of reconstruction. Solih's main challenges in retaining robust economic and strategic ties with India stem from his principal opposition, ex-president Abdulla Yameen and current Parliament speaker Mohammed Nasheed. Abdulla Yameen, the second democratically appointed president of the island nation and head of opposition party, Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), was known to be openly pushing for a pro-China policy vis-à-vis Indian interests. His five-year tenure from 2013 to 2018 has been widely criticised for infringement on human rights, freedom of speech and expression. He was charged with money laundering and put in prison. However, a local court acquitted him of the charges last year. This acquittal has emboldened his party to pursue the 'India Out' agenda, where the ex-president is widely seen sharing stage with anti-India supporters. Yameen has stated that if his party returns to power in 2024, they will cancel all ongoing agreements with India. India had in 2021 signed an agreement for providing financial assistance and developing the largest infrastructure in Maldives called Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP).



The GMCP will involve building a nearly seven kilometres long bridge and other links from capital city Male with three neighbouring islands. Almost 40 per cent of Maldives' population resides in the capital, while the rest are spread over across the 1200 islands dotting the Indian Ocean. Remote islands rarely have healthcare or educational facilities for the residents and many have to travel to the capital for most of their needs. Boats and ferries are the principal means of transport from the capital to these islands and a rough Indian Ocean during most times of the year makes things difficult. A link via bridge has been seen as a crucial requirement for uplifting the lives of citizens in this island country. India is also developing and maintaining a coast guard base at Uthuru Thila Falhu, which, according to both governments, is being done to help Maldives have a better maritime surveillance system in place. During the recent visit of Solih, both governments signed at least six MoUs and India reviewed another USD 500 million worth of financial assistance to Maldives. India also announced gifting 24 utility vehicles and replacement of an old ship, CGS Huravee, to Maldives defense force. This security cooperation between the two countries has been singled out by the ex-president Yameen, who has termed it as Maldives selling its sovereignty to India and providing unfettered access to Indian soldiers in the region. The second challenge Solih, who leads the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), faces is with his partner in government, who is also Parliament Speaker Mohammed Nasheed. It is understood that the Speaker, who has also been an ex-president, seeks a Parliamentary system of government. Solih has far resisted the move, which could be a cause of concern going forward, given the fact he was a coalition choice. Geographically, Sri Lanka and India are two closest South Asian neighbours of Maldives. Located at a strategic juncture in the Indian Ocean, Maldives serves as an important post in the global maritime trade and traffic flows. It is worth noting that the fate of Sri Lanka has fallen with its huge dependence on Chinese money for building key infrastructure projects. Maldives can also be similarly persuaded to tilt towards China, unless India continues to enhance its strategic and economic ties. *(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal)*

# States' borrowing spree a recipe for disaster

The RBI report on state finances is worrisome, for some of the states have resorted to unconstitutional ways of borrowing

The paper in the RBI Bulletin of June 2022 titled 'State Finances: A Risk Analysis', in which the public finances of the 10 most heavily indebted states of India were analysed using the usual vulnerability indicators, may have rather been called a 'State Bankruptcy Report'. It is a well-recognised fact that the pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the finances of all governments, but it has affected the state finances extremely severely.

Before the onset of the pandemic, while most states could manage their gross fiscal deficits (GFD) within the cap of three percent of their gross state domestic product (GSDP) mandated by their Fiscal Responsibility Legislations (FRBM Acts), even then four states, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and Rajasthan were exceeding this limit by more than 0.5 per cent.

The pandemic dried up the revenue streams of all states due to the protracted lockdown and other containment measures, while expenditure went up due to the subsidies that had to be provided to the poor and the vulnerable to survive. As a result, almost all states ended up breaching the FRBMA limit, with Bihar's GFD: GSDP ratio reaching as much as 11.3 percent, and those of Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh reaching 4.6, 5.2 and 4.3 per cent, respectively. This led to higher borrowing by states and swelling of their debt ratios (debt as a percentage of GSDP) much above the safe limits.

Once the pandemic waned, there were hope and even signs of a faster recovery, but then the Russia-Ukraine War broke out, impeding the recovery process. As per the 2022-23 (BE), the debt ratios have exceeded 33.3 per cent suggested by the 15th Finance Commission for Bihar, Rajasthan and West Bengal, while Punjab registered a debt ratio of 52.3 percent in 2021-22 (RE). But this has not deterred these states from continuing with their populist expenditure that is sure to drag them towards an irreversible insolvency which will also affect other states through contagion effect.

Taking a cue from what is happening in Sri Lanka as a result of its unsustainable debt and the precarious finances of states, the paper has warned, "Given this parlous situation, the tendency towards handing out cash subsidies, in normal times, provision of free utility services, revival of the old pension scheme by some states and extension of implicit and explicit guarantees by various state governments in India act like swords of Damocles."

These ten states, including Haryana, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh in addition to those named above, account for half the total expenditure made by all states. Revenue expenditure accounted for 80 to 90 per cent of their total expenditure, leaving little room for the growth-enhancing capital outlay. Of the revenue



BETWEEN 2019-20 AND 2021-22, ANDHRA PRADESH RAISED RS 23,899 CRORE, UP RS 17,750 CRORE, PUNJAB ₹2,879 CRORE, MP RS 2,698 CRORE, AND HIMACHAL RS 90 CRORE, BYPASSING ARTICLE 293 OF THE CONSTITUTION

*(The author, a former Director General from the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, is currently a Professor at the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management)*



expenditure again, the committed expenditure on salaries, pension and interest payments accounted for more than 35 per cent for Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, further limiting the scope of developmental revenue expenditure on social and economic services.

Despite pension expenditure alone exceeding 10 percent of revenue expenditure—around 3 per cent of GSDP—for the most heavily indebted states, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have switched back to the old pension scheme (OPS) to their own peril, by delinking from the New Pension Scheme (NPS), which reduced the pension burden of governments substantially, while West Bengal remains the only state in India never to have switched over to the NPS. Some more states are also contemplating to revive the unfunded OPS which is financed entirely by taxes and hence leave a burden for posterity, while the NPS limits government's liability towards pension through a matching contribution only during the service tenure of the employee, without creating any future liability on that account.

It was primarily the soaring pension expenditure of defence personnel for whom the NPS does not apply that forced the Union Government to launch the Agnipath scheme; salary and pension alone account for more than half the defence budget, which is nothing short of insanity.

The highly indebted states also spend heavily on subsidies which further add to their debt burden, for such expenditure has

to be financed only through borrowing. One can understand the need for subsidies and freebies during the pandemic times, but now these should be carefully targeted to reach only the neediest. Yet populist pressures and the propensity to please the vote banks have seen these states spending more than 10 percent of revenue expenditure on subsidies and freebies.

Freebies for Andhra Pradesh and Punjab exceeded two per cent of the GSDP, while for Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, it was between one and two percent of GSDP. While some states have managed their finances rather well, like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Odisha, besides the Union Territory of Delhi, the paper has identified Punjab to be in the worst position with a debt ratio likely to rise to 45 per cent by 2026-27. Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal are also projected to exceed the debt-GSDP ratio of 35 per cent by 2026-27.

This is a sure way to doom and insolvency, but instead of taking corrective steps to control expenditure and contain the rising debt, now an ever more disturbing report has surfaced. It points out that unable and unwilling to control expenditure, these states have been borrowing from banks against the collateral of future revenues by creating escrow accounts which is clearly unconstitutional, and by also pledging government assets.

An escrow account is one that is kept outside government accounts and managed by the bank till the liability is cleared, and into which future revenues will go

directly, instead of going into the consolidated fund of the states as mandated by the constitution. At least five states – and possibly more – have escrowed their future revenues in this manner to raise loans.

Between 2019-20 and 2021-22, Andhra Pradesh raised ₹23,899 crore, UP ₹17,750 crore, Punjab ₹2,879 crore, MP ₹2,698 crore, and Himachal ₹90 crore. By doing so, they were trying to bypass article 293 of the Constitution which requires the states to take permission from the Centre to raise loans from the market if they are indebted to the Centre, which they are.

All these amount to off-budget borrowings, and states are even offering sovereign assets when loans cannot be collateralised by future revenue streams. This makes no financial sense as the lenders may not be in a position to sell such assets, say, a government office or a public park, in case of default in repayment. Most of these loans have been given by the public sector banks, including the SBI, and RBI has now issued a directive to them to stop this practice forthwith and report compliance within three months.

Centre also used to indulge in large scale off-budget borrowings in the past, mostly through its public sector, but over the last two years, this practice has by and large been stopped. Since populist governments cannot be stopped from spending recklessly regardless of the demands of constitutional propriety or financial prudence, it is perhaps only for the judiciary to restrain them.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

MODIJI SENT ME SOME OF THE PROCEEDS AFTER AUCTIONING HIS RS 10 LAKH SUIT. I BOUGHT A HANDBAG AND USED THE REST TO PAY LAWYER FEES. —TMC MP MAHUA MOITRA



MARIE ANTOINETTE MAHUA MOITRA HIDING HER EXPENSIVE BAG DURING A DISCUSSION ON PRICE RISE- HYPOCRISY HAS A FACE & IT'S THIS! —BJP SPOKESPERSON SHEHZAD POONAWALLA

# Learner-centric classrooms may enhance outcomes

## Interactive learning approaches employing various methods can give a quantum jump in learning outcomes

Most adults have experienced sitting passively in classrooms, as the teacher delivered monologues. Today we know such experience is not optimal and must be replaced with interactive, student-centred learning environments.

In the last few decades, educators have recognized the importance of interactive learning approaches. Research has established that learning rarely happens effectively in one-way lectures. In interactive learning environments, students are actively engaged. This can be done in a variety of ways; asking the students questions; making students work with peers and in teams; introducing hands-on experiences. The students are actively engaged by 'speaking' or 'doing'



RADHIKA ZAHEDI

*(The author is Director, The Green Acres Academy)*

during the learning process. Student-centred classrooms leverage individual student qualities for deeper learning. Student-centred learning, also called Learner-centred approaches, is another pedagogical approach, gaining importance.

Student-centred approaches acknowledge that students are unique individuals with diverse interests, strengths and preferences for learning, while affirming that one size does not fit all. Good teaching requires us to know students well, and use this knowledge to make instructions more effective. This can be done by incorporating students' interests into the lessons, connecting the contents to their surrounding contexts to make them relevant, while differentiating

learning to suit different paces and preferences of learning, etc.

The positive impact of interactive learning can be enhanced further when Student-centred pedagogy is incorporated. This can be done at three levels - body: behavioural, sensory engagement; mind: cognitive/ intellectual engagement; and heart: emotional/ motivational engagement.

To promote behavioural engagement, we must have a learning environment or strategies that enable students to stay on task during the learning process. It's promoted by interactive learning strategies such as asking questions to help students stay attentive and using multi-modal interactive media to engage the senses.

The students can be given

opportunities to co-create classroom rules, which helps in making the learning more student-centred, and teachers can co-create the rules or classroom agreements with their students. This builds a sense of ownership and shared responsibility among students.

Engaging students cognitively means that students are actively thinking about what they are learning. Students must also be intellectually engaged in the process for deeper learning.

Interactive strategies like questioning and group work can promote intellectual engagement. The students can be given opportunities to express their thinking, as interactive pedagogy is more powerful when it encourages students' participation, nudging

them to express their own opinions and listen to others. Group work and digital polling tools can also be used to give students the opportunity to share their ideas at the same time. When students are intellectually engaged they are more likely to retain it for longer.

Different students learn at varying paces. One-size-fits-all make the students rush through the process, which leaves gaps in foundational knowledge. Differentiating the pace of instruction can promote better learning for all. Advances in technology now give us options to curate learning resources that can be accessed asynchronously. This can promote a great deal of self-paced learning.

Emotionally engaging students means making them

excited, curious and motivated. We do not want students to learn simply, because they are being watched by a teacher or only for a grade on a report card. Learners should be driven by their curiosity and passion. Interactive learning strategies like collaborative learning and hands-on, project-based learning can promote this.

Students should be given opportunities to learn with peers, which promotes interaction. But beyond that, peer learning, with the right classroom culture of course, can create safe learning spaces in which students are encouraged to reach out to peers to demonstrate or clear doubts. It is much less intimidating to reach out to a peer for support instead of always asking the teacher.

Also the students should be given opportunities to make interest-based choices during the learning process. Having a say in what they learn makes learning more motivating and helps build self-directed learning habits. Student-centred approaches like project-based learning provides students with 'voice and choice' in their projects along with sustained inquiry and reflection. Student-centred approaches can enhance one-size-fits-all interactive learning approaches to promote engagement that goes beyond compliance or participation. It extends to cognitive engagement (mind) that intellectually stimulates and emotional engagement (heart) that motivates. This higher level of engagement leads to deeper, enduring learning for students.



# Explainer: Why is China staging drills around Taiwan?

AP ■ BEIJING

China is staging live-fire military drills in six self-declared zones surrounding Taiwan in response to a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the island Beijing claims as its own territory.

China has warned aircraft and ships to avoid the areas during the exercises, which run through Sunday. The drills appear to be a rehearsal for a potential blockade and invasion of the island that would almost certainly draw in Taiwan's chief supporter, the United States, along with American allies including Japan and Australia.

China's 2 million-strong military is the world's largest and its navy has more ships than the U.S. Taiwan's armed forces can't compare in numbers, but it has vowed to resist coercive measures to impose Chinese Communist Party rule over the self-governing island democracy.

"It will take some hard diplomacy to reestablish a stable equilibrium," said Stanford University political scientist Kharis Templeman. "I don't know how this confrontation will ultimately play out, but I think we are in for a rocky few weeks."

The following is a look at the issues surrounding the escalation of tensions.

**What is China doing in seas and skies around Taiwan?**

China says it has begun exercises involving warplanes, navy ships and missile strikes in six zones surrounding Taiwan. Those lie as little as 20 kilometers (12 miles) off the island's coast, potentially infringing on Taiwan's territorial waters.

Few details have been given by Beijing, but it has described the drills as punishment for the U.S. Allowing Pelosi's visit to proceed, even though President Joe Biden did not have the authority to prevent her travelling to the island.

Live-fire exercises are a test of a military's ability to perform missions under conditions most resembling actual warfare. In this case, they are designed to show the level of force China could unleash against Taiwan if Beijing decided to make good on the pledge to seize control of the island and punish those supporting its independence.

The exercises are thought to be the largest and most threatening toward Taiwan since Beijing launched missiles into waters north and south of the island in 1995 and



1996 in response to a visit to the U.S. By then-President Lee Teng-hui. China regularly sends warplanes into Taiwan's air defense identification zone and has at times crossed the middle line of the Taiwan Strait dividing the sides, but has stopped short of direct incursions or attacks that could spark a regional conflict.

**What is china doing in seas and skies around taiwan?**

China has increasingly force-

fully declared that Taiwan must be brought under its control by force if necessary and in defiance of Washington and other backers of the island's democracy. Pelosi's visit came at a particularly sensitive time when Chinese President and head of the armed forces Xi Jinping is preparing to seek a third five-year term as leader of the ruling Communist Party. Xi has named no successor and he's accumulated

vast powers despite criticism of his handling of the economy, partly as a result of his hardline approach to COVID-19 and a marked downturn in relations with the West.

Xi has said Taiwan's fate cannot remain unsettled indefinitely and U.S. Military officials have said China may seek a military solution within the next few years. China's constitution incorporates Taiwan in its national territory and its 2005

anti-secession law threatens invasion if "possibilities for a peaceful reunification should be completely exhausted," seen to apply in the case of a formal declaration of independence or foreign intervention.

China insists that Taiwan accept its contention that the island is a part of China, whose sole legitimate government sits in Beijing. In the face of China's military threats and relentless campaign to isolate Taiwan diplomatically, islanders overwhelmingly support the status quo of de facto independence.

That sentiment has been further reinforced by Beijing's ruthless crackdown on political rights and free speech in Hong Kong, which China has long touted as a model for its future governance of Taiwan.

**What has been the response from Taiwan and the U.S.?**

Taiwan has put its military on alert and staged civil defense drills. While its air force, navy and 165,000-member armed forces are a fraction of the size of China's, they have been bolstered by high-tech weaponry and early-warning systems intended to make a Chinese invasion as difficult as possible. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which China has tacitly supported, has also served as a wakeup call to Taipei,

which is now looking to overhaul training and tactics.

Numerous U.S. Naval and other military assets are currently deployed in areas close to Taiwan, including the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group. Washington has comprehensively rejected China's claims that the Taiwan Strait is sovereign Chinese territory and maintains the right to sail past Chinese outposts in the South China Sea, despite Chinese protests.

**What are the risks and how long will tensions persist?**

It remains unclear whether China will seek to keep tensions at a high pitch even after the end of the current round of exercises. Spokespeople from the Foreign and Defense Ministries, the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office and other departments have vowed President Tsai Ing-wen's administration and the U.S. Government will pay a price over Pelosi's visit, but have not given details on how and when that objective will be achieved. Following the visit, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told U.S. National Public Radio that "the possibility of some kind of incident is real," given the scale of the Chinese exercises.

## In South Korea, Pelosi avoids public comments on Taiwan, China

**PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY MARINE DEPARTMENT**  
No: MD/ACCTS/NW - R - 3/1 2021 (PIV/822)  
Dated the 28th July 2022  
First Corrigendum to e-Tender Call Notice (e-TCN) No: MD/ACCTS/NW - R - 9/21 (PIV/571) Dt.24.05.2022 and as amended after pre-bid meeting Dt.22.06.2022  
Name of the Work : Supply of 03 Nos. 50 Ton Bollard Pull Tugs along with Manning Crew on Hire for Marine Operation at SPML and inside Harbour at Paradip Port for a period of 07 years. With reference to the above, revised tender document has been published in the website with extension of dates for submission and opening till Dt.16.08.2022 & Dt.17.08.2022 respectively. For details, please log on to the Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
By: Conservator Paradip Port Authority  
PPA/PR/180/22-23 Dt. 03/08/2022

**PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE**  
Name of the Work : " Restoration work to the damaged portion of North and South Breakwater ". EMD cost : Rs.9,46,261/- . Last date and time of submission of Bid : Dt.19.08.2022 up to 17.15 Hrs. For details please refer our Website : [eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app](https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app)  
Executive Engineer  
Harbour Works Division No.I,  
Paradip Port Authority  
PPA/PR/151/22-23, Dt.03/08/2022

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General public that by Mr. R.K. Sharma S/o. Mr. Ram Narayan Sharma, is owner of the property bearing no. 358 (Old No. 565), and measuring 75 Sq. Yds., Total area 150 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 42/57(0-3), situated at extended Lal Dora of Village Badapur, New Delhi vide Registered Gift Deed dated 24.05.2022 executed by Sh. Rajar Singh S/o. Sh. Tej Ram in favour of Smt. RajBala W/o. Sh. Virender Singh via document number 3931 on 27/06/2022. The previous chain Original documents, General Power of Attorney dated 10.07.1999, Will and Affidavit of the property is lost and a Lost Article Information Report has been registered vide I.R.No. 553758/2022. The said property is going to be mortgaged with IFLI Home Finance Limited. Any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notify to the undersigned at Vimal Mehan E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/D within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.  
Vimal Mehan (Advocate)  
E-713, Karkardooma Court,  
Delhi-110092, Mobile No. 9811215181

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My client, Smt. RajBala, who is a registered owner of Property bearing no. 358 (Old No. 565), and measuring 75 Sq. Yds., Total area 150 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 42/57(0-3), situated at extended Lal Dora of Village Badapur, New Delhi vide Registered Gift Deed dated 24.05.2022 executed by Sh. Rajar Singh S/o. Sh. Tej Ram in favour of Smt. RajBala W/o. Sh. Virender Singh via document number 3931 on 27/06/2022. The previous chain Original documents, General Power of Attorney dated 10.07.1999, Will and Affidavit of the property is lost and a Lost Article Information Report has been registered vide I.R.No. 553758/2022. The said property is going to be mortgaged with IFLI Home Finance Limited. Any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notify to the undersigned at Vimal Mehan E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/D within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.  
Vimal Mehan (Advocate)  
E-713, Karkardooma Court,  
Delhi-110092, Mobile No. 9811215181

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No. NIT/14/22/31, Dated: 26.07.2022  
South East Central Railway has implemented an e-system. On the behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Material Manager, South East Central Railway invites e-tenders for supply of the following items. Advertised tenders will be dealt through e-procurement system only. No manual offer will be entertained. These tenders can be accessed under the link [www.irepos.gov.in](http://www.irepos.gov.in).  
Sr. No. Tender No. Description Tender Closing/Opening date & time Qty.  
1 06177287C Procurement of Coil Spring load testing hydraulic press, 15 tons capa 18.08.2022 At 10:30 hrs 01 Nos.  
2 06225008 Truck Mounted Articulated Boom Crane 18.08.2022 At 10:30 hrs 01 Set.  
3 03223163 SIDE BEARER ASSEMBLY 19.08.2022 At 10:30 hrs 274 Set.  
4 04222514 DISCONNECTING AND EARTHING DEVICE 8 POLE 22.08.2022 At 10:30 hrs 24 Nos.  
5 02224071 Main compressor [Oil Lubricated] for Electric locomotive 23.08.2022 At 10:30 hrs 12 Nos.  
6 02244014A BRAKE SHOE MEDIUM 31.08.2022 At 10:30 hrs 6800 Nos.  
Railway reserve the right to issue any corrigendum to the tenders. Corrigendum & Important Notice to vendors may be seen in the link [www.irepos.gov.in](http://www.irepos.gov.in).  
Principal Chief Materials Manager  
S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur  
CPR/10/154

**M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED**  
(CIN:L67120DL1992PLC049038), Tel No. 011-49800900, Fax: 011-49800933  
E-mail: [commodities@bharatbhushan.com](mailto:commodities@bharatbhushan.com), Website: [www.bbinvestments.in](http://www.bbinvestments.in)  
Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2022 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended
	30.06.2022	31.03.2022	30.06.2021	31.03.2022
	UNAUDITED	AUDITED	UNAUDITED	AUDITED
1. Total Income from operations	7.84	9.75	11.62	49.37
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-0.41	0.87	4.79	13.09
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-0.41	0.87	4.79	13.09
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-0.41	-0.52	3.74	9.79
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-49.43	-10.02	52.70	131.96
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)	-0.01	-0.02	0.11	0.29
- Basic	-0.01	-0.02	0.11	0.29
- Diluted	-0.01	-0.02	0.11	0.29

**Notes :**  
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Three Months ended June 30, 2022 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Three Months ended June 30, 2022 is available on the Stock Exchange website ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and on Company's website ([www.bbinvestments.in](http://www.bbinvestments.in)).  
2. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 04.08.2022.  
3. The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Sd/-  
Vijay Bhushan  
Director  
DIN: 00002421

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 04.08.2022

AP ■ SEOUL

After infuriating China over her trip to Taiwan, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi met South Korean political leaders in Seoul on Thursday but avoided making direct public comments on relations with Beijing and Taipei that could further increase regional tensions.

Pelosi, the first House speaker to visit Taiwan in 25 years, said Wednesday in Taipei that the American commitment to democracy in the self-governing island and elsewhere "remains ironclad." In response, China on Thursday began military exercises, including missile



strike training, in six zones surrounding Taiwan, in what could be the biggest of their kind since the mid-1990s.

After visiting Taiwan, Pelosi and other members of her congressional delegation flew to South Korea - a key US ally where about 28,500 American troops are deployed - on Wednesday evening, as part of an Asian tour that included earlier stops in Singapore and Malaysia. After South Korea, Pelosi will travel to Japan.

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The US Ambassador to the United Nations headed to Africa on Wednesday, saying she was going to focus on how the United States can help Uganda, Ghana and Cape Verde deal with the food crisis that has hit the continent particularly hard — not to compete with China and Russia.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the long-planned trip is not part of global competition with either of America's rivals, but it is part of a series of high-level U.S. Engagements "that aim to affirm and strengthen our partnerships and relationships with African leaders and peoples."

Her trip from Aug. 4-7 will be followed immediately by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visits to South Africa, Congo and Rwanda from Aug. 7-11. It also comes on the heels of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's visit last week to Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda and the Republic of Congo where he accused the U.S. And European countries of driving up food prices.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi began 2022 with a four-day visit to Eritrea, Kenya and the Comoros, keeping a 32-year tradition that the country's top diplomat make his first trip of the year to Africa.

"We're not catching up.



They are catching up," Thomas-Greenfield said. "We have been engaging with this continent for decades, and even my own career is very much evidence of that."

Thomas-Greenfield first went to Africa as a student in the 1970s, and in her career as a U.S. Diplomat she rose to be assistant secretary of state for African affairs from 2013 to

2017.

She said high energy prices, climate change, COVID-19 and increasing conflict have pushed millions of Africans "to the brink," and that Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 has added to the crisis, "especially since some countries in Africa once got up to 75% of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine."

The U.S. Ambassador said the three countries she is visiting — Uganda first followed by Ghana and Cape Verde — all face serious food security situations because of the significant rise in the cost of food and energy.

## Analysis: Iran now speaking openly on N-bomb prospects



AP ■ DUBAI

Iranian officials now speak openly about something long denied by Tehran as it enriches uranium at its closest-ever levels to weapons-grade material: The Islamic Republic is ready to build an atomic weapon at will.

The remarks could be bluster to force more bargaining-table concessions from the U.S. Without planning to seek the bomb. Or, as analysts warn, Iran could reach a point like North Korea did some 20 years ago where it decides having the ultimate weapon outweighs any further international sanctions.

All this could be put to the test Thursday as Iran, the U.S. And the European Union prepare for a snap summit that appears to be a last-ditch effort in Vienna to revive Tehran's tattered nuclear deal amid the new pressure. That includes one Iranian video online suggesting the country's ballistic missiles could "turn New York into a heap of rubble from hell."

Hyperbole aside, the language taken as a whole marks a distinct verbal escalation from Tehran.

"In a few days we were able to enrich uranium up to 60% and we can easily produce 90% enriched uranium. ... Iran has the technical means to produce a nuclear bomb but there has been no decision by Iran to build one," Kamal Kharrazi, an adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told Al Jazeera in mid-July. Uranium enriched at 90% is considered weapons-grade.

Ataollah Mohajerani, a culture minister under reformist President Mohammad Khatami, then wrote in Iran's Etemad daily newspaper that Kharrazi's announcement that Iran could make a nuclear weapon provided a "moral lesson" for Israel and President Joe Biden.



## 2nd survey shows Liz ahead of Sunak in UK PM race

PTI ■ LONDON

A new survey of members of the governing Conservative Party shows Foreign Secretary Liz Truss is firmly ahead of rival Rishi Sunak in the race to replace Boris Johnson as the British Prime Minister. The survey of Tory members who will be electing a new leader to take charge at 10 Downing Street from September 5 released on Wednesday night by the ConservativeHome website found that 58 per cent of those polled back Truss.

Former Chancellor Sunak was found to have the support of 26 per cent, while 12 per cent were undecided. It is the second poll from Wednesday showing the Cabinet minister widening her lead over the British Indian ex-minister, with an earlier YouGov poll showing Truss was ahead among all age groups, across different parts of the country and among men and women.

"YouGov gives her a 34 point lead which extends, on a forced choice, to a 38 point lead (69 per cent to 31 per cent). Divide our 16 points of don't knows and others evenly between the candidates... Truss has a 32 point lead (66 per cent to 34 per cent)," the ConservativeHome survey claims. "All in all, Sunak needs a massive game-changer to turn this contest round if our new findings and YouGov's are right. And it's very difficult to see where that could come from," it notes.

The latest findings come as Sunak faced a fresh blow with another former candidate and senior Tory, Sajid Javid, endorsing Truss in the race for her "bold agenda". The Pakistani-origin former Health Secretary, and also Sunak's former boss in the UK Treasury when he was the Chancellor, writes in "The Times" that a refusal to cut taxes meant the UK risks "slipping into a high-tax, low-growth economy" — a reference to Sunak's tax strategy.

## Taliban claim they're unaware of Qaeda leader in Afghanistan

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

The Taliban broke its silence Thursday, days after a US drone strike killing al-Qaeda's top leader in Afghanistan's capital, acknowledging his slaying and pledging to launch an investigation.

The killing of Ayman al-Zawahiri on the balcony of a Kabul safehouse Sunday has further strained relations between the Taliban and the West, particularly as it seeks an urgent infusion of cash to handle an economic catastrophe there following the US withdrawal from the country a year ago.

"The government and the leadership weren't aware of what is being claimed, nor any trace there," Suhail Shaheen, the head of the group's political office in Doha, Qatar, told The Associated Press in a text message.

That claim, however, directly conflicts with what US Officials have said about the strike.

They say al-Zawahiri was staying at the home of a top aide to senior Taliban leader Sirajuddin Haqqani. Haqqani is the deputy head of the Taliban, serves as interior minister in its government and heads the Haqqani network, a powerful faction within the movement.

The Taliban had promised in the 2020 Doha Agreement with the US that they would not harbor al-Qaida members or those seeking to attack the U.S.

An "investigation is underway now to find out about veracity of the claim.



The leadership is in constant meeting in this regard. Findings will be shared with all," Shaheen added.

The strike early Sunday shook awake Shipur, once a district of historic buildings that were bulldozed in 2003 to make way for luxury homes for officials in Afghanistan's Western-backed government and international aid organizations. After the US withdrawal in August 2021, senior Taliban moved into some of the abandoned homes there.

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. The U.S. Government maintains a \$10 million bounty on Sirajuddin Haqqani for attacks on American troops and Afghan civilians.

## US authorities probing claims of confiscation of turbans of nearly 50 Sikh migrants



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US authorities are investigating claims of human rights activists that turbans of nearly 50 Sikh asylum seekers were confiscated after they were detained along the Mexican border, according to media reports. Sikhism requires men to wear turbans and do not cut their hair.

According to human rights activists, nearly 50 Sikh migrants have had their religious headgear taken away by Border Patrol agents recently. "We take allegations of this nature very seriously," Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Chris Magnus was quoted as saying in a statement to ABC News on Wednesday. Magnus said the agency immediately began taking steps to address the allegations after they were raised in June. "Our expectation is that CBP employees treat all migrants we encounter with respect. An internal investigation has been opened to address this matter," he said.

Earlier this week, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) wrote to the CBP Commissioner, urging officials to stop confiscating the turbans of Sikh asylum-seekers.

"We write to inform you of ongoing, serious religious-freedom violations in the Yuma Border Patrol Sector, where your agents are confiscating turbans from Sikh individuals during asylum processing," the ACLU wrote to CBP Commissioner Magnus on Monday, The Hill reported.

"In the last two months alone, our organisational partners in Arizona have documented nearly 50 cases of asylees arriving from Yuma who reported that their religious headwear had been taken by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and never returned or replaced," the letter added.



# Ukrainian city near nuclear plant shelled

AP ■ KYIV

Powerful explosions rattled the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv on Thursday and a city close to the country's biggest nuclear power plant sustained a barrage of shelling amid Russian attacks in several regions, Ukraine's presidential office said. At least four civilians were killed and 10 more wounded over the past 24 hours, with nine Ukrainian regions coming under fire, the office said in its daily update.

Two districts of Mykolaiv, which has been targeted frequently in recent weeks, were shelled. Russian forces reportedly fired 60 rockets at Nikopol, in the central Dnipropetrovsk region. Some 50 residential buildings were damaged in the city of 107,000 and some projectiles hit power lines, leaving



ing city residents without electricity, according to Ukrainian authorities.

Nikopol is located across the Dnieper river from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which was taken over by Russian troops early in the war.

Experts at the U.S.-based Institute for the Study of War believe that Russia

is shelling the area intentionally, "putting Ukraine in a difficult position."

"Either Ukraine returns fire, risking international condemnation and a nuclear incident (which Ukrainian forces are unlikely to do), or Ukrainian forces allow Russian forces to continue firing on Ukrainian positions from

an effective safe zone," the Institute's latest report said. The head of the U.N. Nuclear watchdog agency earlier this week voiced alarm over the situation at the Zaporizhzhia plant.

In northern Ukraine, the country's second-largest city, Kharkiv, was being shelled from Russia, the presidential office said. Several industrial facilities were hit in the city, which also has been a frequent target. In the nearby city of Chuhuiv, a rocket hit a five-story residential building.

In the eastern Donetsk region, where fighting has been focused in recent weeks, residential buildings were being shelled in all large cities and a school was destroyed in the village of Ocheretyne. The region is struggling without gas supplies and, in part, without power and water supplies; its residents are being evacuated.

## UN fact-finding mission will probe Ukraine prison killings

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations chief has said that he is appointing a fact-finding mission in response to requests from Russia and Ukraine to investigate the killings at a prison in a separatist region of eastern Ukraine that the warring nations accuse each other of carrying out.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters he doesn't have authority to conduct criminal investigations but does have authority to conduct fact-finding missions, and the terms of reference for a mission to Ukraine are currently being prepared and will be sent to the governments of Ukraine and Russia for approval.

Russia claimed that



Ukraine's military used US-supplied rocket launchers to strike the prison in Olenivka, a settlement controlled by the Moscow-backed Donetsk People's Republic. Separatist authorities and Russian officials said the attack killed 53 Ukrainian POWs and wounded another 75.

The Ukrainian military

denied making any rocket or artillery strikes in Olenivka.

The intelligence arm of the Ukrainian defence ministry claimed in a statement on Wednesday to have evidence that local Kremlin-backed separatists colluded with the Russian FSB, the KGB's main successor agency, and mercenary group Wagner to mine the barracks before "using a flammable substance, which led to the rapid spread of fire in the room."

The Ukrainian military on Tuesday likewise claimed that the barracks had been blown up from the inside, citing the nature of damage which it said was inconsistent with Russian claims that Ukraine had shelled the building. It was not immediately possible to verify these claims.

## Ship Ukraine says is carrying stolen grain leaves Lebanon



AP ■ BEIRUT

A Syrian ship that Ukraine says is carrying stolen Ukrainian grain has left a Lebanese port after officials in Lebanon allowed it to sail following an investigation, Lebanon's transport minister tweeted on Thursday.

The Syrian-flagged Laodicea had been anchored at the port of Tripoli since it

arrived last Thursday, carrying 10,000 tons of wheat flour and barley. Ukraine says the grain was stolen by Russia, a claim it denies.

On Wednesday, Ukrainian Ambassador to Lebanon Ihor Ostash urged Lebanon not to allow the vessel to leave the port.

A judge on Wednesday said the Laodicea can sail, a day after Lebanon's prosecutor general decided the ship could leave after an investigation showed it was not carrying stolen Ukrainian grain.

Transport Minister Ali Hamie tweeted that "Syrian-flagged Laodicea is now outside Lebanon's territorial waters."

It was not immediately clear where the ship is heading but Marine Traffic, a website that monitors vessel traffic and location of ships on seas, showed it moving toward the Syrian coast.

## US Senate backs NATO bid of Finland, Sweden in rebuke to Russia

AP ■ WASHINGTON

US Senators have delivered near-unanimous bipartisan approval to NATO membership for Finland and Sweden, calling expansion of the Western defensive bloc a "slam-dunk" for US national security and a day of reckoning for Russian President Vladimir Putin over his invasion of Ukraine.

Wednesday's 95-1 vote — for the candidacy of two Western European nations that, until Russia's war against Ukraine, had long avoided military alliances — took a crucial step toward expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and its 73-year-old pact of mutual defense among the United

States and democratic allies in Europe.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer invited ambassadors of the two nations to the chamber gallery to witness the vote.

President Joe Biden, who has been the principal player rallying global economic and material support for Ukraine, has sought quick entry for the two previously non-militarily aligned northern European nations.

Approval from all member nations — currently, 30 — is required.

The candidacies of the two prosperous Northern European nations have won ratification from more than half of the NATO member nations in the roughly three months since



the two applied.

It's a purposely rapid pace meant to send a message to Russia over its six-month-old war against Ukraine's West-looking government.

"It sends a warning shot to tyrants around the world who believe free democracies are just up for grabs," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., said in the Senate debate ahead of the vote.

"Russia's unprovoked invasion has changed the way we think about world security," she added.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, who visited Kyiv earlier this year, urged unanimous approval.

Speaking to the Senate, McConnell cited Finland's and Sweden's well-funded, modernizing militaries and their experience working with US forces and weapons systems, calling it a "slam-dunk for national security" of the United States.

"Their accession will make NATO stronger and America more secure. If any senator is looking for a defensible excuse to vote no, I wish them good luck," McConnell said.

Sen. Josh Hawley, a Missouri Republican who often aligns his positions with those of the most ardent supporters of former President Donald Trump, cast the only no vote.

Hawley took the Senate floor to call European security alliances a distraction from what he called the United States' chief rival — China, not Russia.



## Lanka anti-Govt protesters say would defy order to vacate main protest site

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A group of anti-government demonstrators at the Galle Face protest site near the Sri Lankan presidential office on Thursday vowed to defy an order from the police to vacate the area by Friday evening.

The protesters said the police had not obtained a court order to remove them from Galle Face area, which was the epicenter of anti-government protests here against the previous Rajapaksa regime.

They also claimed that the area was designated as an agitation site by the previous government of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. So there was no need to quit the protest site, they said.

The Sri Lankan police on Wednesday set an August 5 deadline for the protesters to remove all illegal tents and camps at Galle Face near the presidential office.

The protesters have been

occupying the area, including the gate of the presidential secretariat, since April 9, forcing former Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign as the president. After the resignation of Rajapaksa on July 14 and the appointment of his successor Ranil Wickremesinghe, the protesters were forcibly evicted from the presidential secretariat and the gate on Jul 22, drawing widespread international condemnation.

The police have issued a notice saying that all illegal structures at the site which belong to the Urban Development Authority should be removed by the deadline or face legal action.

Protesters said they were contemplating taking legal action against the police notice.

A protest was held on Thursday to demand the release from the police custody of Joseph Stalin, a prominent trade union leader and a front liner of the protest movement.

## Lanka committed to 'one-China' policy: Prez Ranil says after Pelosi's Taiwan visit



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka is firmly committed to the one-China policy, President Ranil Wickremesinghe reaffirmed on Thursday, a day after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan despite vociferous protests from Beijing. Pelosi held talks with Taiwan's top leadership, including President Tsai Ing-wen, on Wednesday and reaffirmed America's ironclad support for the self-ruling island.

Pelosi became the highest-ranking American official in 25 years to visit the island claimed by China, which quickly announced that it would conduct military drills close to Taiwan in retaliation for her presence in Taipei.

"During a meeting with H.E. Qi Zhenhong, China's Ambassador to Sri Lanka, reiterated Sri Lanka's firm commitment to the One China policy as well as to the UN charter principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations," the president of the crisis-hit country said in a tweet on Thursday.

## Lanka harassed, intimidated protesters: Rights group



AP ■ COLOMBO

An international human rights group says Sri Lanka's government is using emergency laws to harass and arbitrarily detain protesters who are seeking political reform and accountability amid the island country's economic crisis.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a statement Wednesday that Sri Lanka's military sought to curtail protests through intimidation, surveillance, and arbitrary arrests of demonstrators, activists, lawyers and journalists since President Ranil Wickremesinghe took office last month.

Sri Lanka's Parliament approved a state of emergency July 27. The decree gives the president the power to make regulations in the interest of public security and order.

Wickremesinghe, who had ordered arrests of protesters, has said that although the protests started peacefully, groups with political interests took over later and became violent, citing the burning of dozens of ruling party politicians' homes in May.

Sri Lankans had been protesting for months over the country's economic crisis that has led to a severe shortage of many essential imported items like medicines, fuel and cooking gas. Wickremesinghe's predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country after protesters stormed his official residence and also occupied many key state buildings including the president's office, prime minister's office and the prime minister's official residence. Wickremesinghe was elected by Parliament to complete Rajapaksa's term, which ends in 2024.

In a speech to Parliament on Wednesday, Wickremesinghe promised leniency for those who took to violence unknowingly or at the instigation of others. He also promised to punish those who broke laws willfully.

Some of those arrested are accused of clashing with security forces and encouraging people to break into Parliament. Officials have also seized the passport of a British woman who posted about the protests on social media.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Navin Chandra Lohani is the owner of Portion of Property bearing Plot No.R/2/28/A/3, area measuring 50 sq.yds., out of Kharsa No. 645/1, situated in the revenue estate of Village Nasirpur colony known as Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045 vice a Notarized GPA and ATS dated 17-04-1989 along with a Registered Receipt dated 17-04-1989. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners 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 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.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Wof Nagar, N. Delhi-15  
Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Pursuant to Rule 17(4) Of Limited Liability Partnership Rules**

M/s EXPERT SCHOOL LLP (AAL-9585), a LLP registered under Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 having registered office at F-11/4A, Mayur Vihar PH-II, Delhi - 110091 proposes to shift its registered office from F-11/4A, Mayur Vihar PH-II, Delhi - 110091 to C-60, Sector-56, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change in the registered office may intimate to the Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana having office at 4th Floor, IFCI Tower, 61, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 with a copy to M/s EXPERT SCHOOL LLP (AAL-9585) at its registered office within 21 days from the publication of notice, stating the nature of interest and the grounds of opposition to the proposed change.

**EXPERT SCHOOL LLP (AAL-9585)**

SD/-  
ABHAY MALHOTRA  
Designated Partner

Date: - 05.08.2022  
Place: - Delhi

**BSES**

**BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Date: 05.08.2022

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/CR/AG/1049	INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 32 NOS.(KALKAJI GRID & SUKHOEV VIHAR GRID) 33 KV AIS SUBSTATION WITH SUPPLY OF MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS AT BRPL, NEW DELHI.	1.76 Cr.	3.52 Lakhs	25.08.2022 15:00 HRS	25.08.2022 15:15 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/CR/SS/1052	CONSTRUCTION OF 11 KV SWITCHGEAR SUB-STATION BUILDING AT DTC KALKAJI & 33KV SUB-STATION BUILDING AT DTC SUKHOEV VIHAR.	3.33 Cr.	6.66 Lakhs	25.08.2022 15:15 HRS	25.08.2022 15:30 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/- (Including GST)

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No. : U40109DL2001PLC111827  
Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 | Website : [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)

**MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**

**Corporate Office:-** Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. Sadhana House, 2nd Floor, 570, P.B. Marg Worli, Mumbai 400 018 India,Tel: +91 22 66523500 Fax: +91 22 24972741

**Regional Office:** LDA Colony,B2/B70 Kanpur Road, Near Phoneix Mall, Lucknow.

**Branch Office :** 3rd Floor 139-141 Mangal Pandey Nagar Opposite CCS University Meerut Uttar Pradesh 250002, **Branch Office:** F/F, Plot No-17, Sanjay Nagar, District Center, Near Vishal Megha Mart And Pnb Bank, Sanjay Nagar Ghaziabad UP 201001 **Branch Office:**Shop No. 283, Shivam Apartment, Sheeta Rd, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan Road, Shashtri Nagar, Khandari, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282005

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Undesignated is the Authorised Officer of Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited under the above said Act. In exercise of power conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, Calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them, the content of which is re-produced below.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of Secured asset (Immovable Property)
1.	AGRA Branch LAN:-1309040/ XSEMAGRO1030490 MUHAMMAD YASEEN (Borrower) ASGAR (Co-Borrower) SULEMAN (Co-Borrower)	W/O Asgari ,R/O- 49-nainana Jat Agra Uttar Pradesh -282001 W/O-muhammad Yaseen-r/o- 49 Nainana Jat Agra Agra -49 Nainana Jat Agra, Uttar Pradesh -282001 S/O Noora Khan-R/O- 49 Nainana Jat Agra Uttar Pradesh -282001	<b>31-05-2022</b> <b>Rs. 6,01,711/-</b>	HOUSE ON PLOT NO:-48 PART, KHASRA NO.-21, NAINANA JAAT,AGRA,UTTAR PRADESH-282001 , NORTH : PLOT OTHER, SOUTH: PLOT KUSHWAH, EAST: PLOT PANDIT JI, WEST: 22--RASTA
2.	GHAZIABAD Branch LAN:-1136587/ XSEMGM200912321 MUMTIYAJ (Borrower) RUKSAR (Co-Borrower)	S/O -HAMID, R/O-GADHI PILKHUWA DEHATPILKHUA DEHAT GAZIABAD-245304 W/O MUMTIYAJ, R/O-KRISHAN GANJ NAYI AAWADI PISKHULA DEHAT GAZIABAD-245304	<b>31-05-2022</b> <b>Rs. 7,51,668/-</b>	KHASRA NO-1367 VILLAGE- SADIQ NAGAR, PILKHUWA PARGANA- DASNDA HAPUR GHAZIABAD U.P -245304 , NORTH - PLOT OF PARVEEN BEGAM : SOUTH - PLOT OF IRSHAD : EAST - KHET MURARI : WEST: 20FT ROAD
3.	MEERUT Branch LAN:-579088/ XSEMMER00476266 WASEEM (Borrower) FAREED AHMAD (Co-Borrower) AMEER JAHNA (Co-Borrower) KHUSHNUMA (Co-Borrower)	S/O-FAREED AHMAD,R/O-H.NO.2243 GALI NO. 23 ZAKIR HUSSAIN COLONY,MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH-250002 W/O MEER KHAN,-R/O-H.NO.2243 GALI NO. 23 ZAKIR HUSSAIN COLONY,MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH-250002 W/O-WASEEM,-R/O-H.NO.2243 GALI NO. 23 ZAKIR HUSSAIN COLONY,MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH-250002	<b>31-05-2022</b> <b>Rs. 14,35,431/-</b>	KHASRA NO. 2156/1 FRIE3NDS COLONY,MEERUT , NORTH : PLOT OF OWNER, SOUTH: PLOT OF MOHD ARIF, EAST: PLOT OF OWNER , WEST: RASTA 20 FOOT WIDE
4.	GHAZIABAD Branch LAN:-717936/ XSEMGM200591847 PRADEEP KUMAR (Borrower) HARENDRA SINGH (Co-Borrower)	S/O JAYVEER SINGH-R/O-H.NO-1453 VIVEKA NAND NAGAR GHAZIABAD	<b>31-05-2022</b> <b>Rs. 15,55,150/-</b>	HOUSE NO KHASRA NO 106 M I SITUATED AT SANGAM VIHAR IN VILLAGE SADDI NAGAR NANDGRAM GHAZIABAD UP , NORTH : HOUSE ANKIT SAXENA , SOUTH: PLOT OTHER, EAST: ROAD 7 FT , WEST: HOUSE ANKIT
5.	MEERUT Branch LAN:-754352/ XSEMMER00640558 KAVITA (Borrower) SANTOSH KUMAR (Co-Borrower)	W/O- SANTOSH, OM RALI ROAD CROSSING ABDULLAPUR AHMADPURA NEAR SBI BANK, MEERUT,UTTAR PRADESH-25000 S/O- OM PRAKASH , OM RALI ROAD CROSSING ABDULLAPUR AHMADPURA NEAR SBI BANK, MEERUT,UTTAR PRADESH -25000	<b>31-05-2022</b> <b>Rs. 9,59,319/-</b>	KHASRA NO. 1273 ^ VILL- A B D U L L A P U R ^ M O H - AHMADPUR ^ PARGANA & THEHSIL & DISTT MEERUT, NORTH : PARKSHITGARH ROAD , SOUTH: 0 , EAST: SITE OF NARAYAN SINGH & MAHENDRA , WEST:MAIN ABDULLAPUR ROAD
6.	GHAZIABAD Branch LAN:-881296/ XSEMGM200858786 SALMAN (Borrower) SALMA (Co-Borrower)	S/O-SUBRATTI-R/O-RAFIQ NAGAR, PIRBAHADDIN-2, HAPUR W/O- SALMAN- R/O-RAFIQ NAGAR, PIRBAHADDIN-2, NOIDA-HAPUR, UTTAR PRADESH -245101	<b>31-05-2022</b> <b>Rs. 8,40,942/-</b>	PLO NO- 14 & 14A KHASRA NO-602RAMGIRI HAPUR U.P 245301 , NORTH : PLOT NO-14 , SOUTH:ROAD 15 FEET WIDE , EAST: DREAIN (NALA ) A , WEST:ROAD 15 FEET WIDE
7.	MEERUT Branch LAN:-539103/ XSEMMER00451176 MOHAMMD SUHAIL (Borrower) ASMA KHATOON (Co-Borrower)	S/O- MOHD. SUB, R/O-H.NO.595 PILNA SOFIPUR ROORKEE ROAD MEERUT 250001	<b>31-05-2022</b> <b>Rs. 13,17,354/-</b>	KHASRA NO 253 ^ VILLAGE PEELNA , NORTH :PLOT OF OTHERS , SOUTH:ROAD RASTA 10 FOOT , EAST: LAND OF POND , WEST: HOUSE OF JAKIR
8.	GHAZIABAD Branch LAN:-1294517/ XRESNAG00167592 RISHAB GOYAL (Borrower) MAHENDER KUMAR GOYAL (Co-Borrower) RAMA GOYAL (Co-Borrower) SHEETAL KUMARI (Co-Borrower)	S/O-MAHENDER KUMAR GOYAL , R/O - 586 G-1 UPPER GROUND FLOOR SHALIMAR GARDEN EXTENSION-01,GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH -201005	<b>11-06-2022</b> <b>Rs. 15,26,890/-</b>	PLOT NO. 92 ^ PART OF KHASRA NO. 316 ^ VILLAGE ACHCHEJA ^ THEHSIL DADRRI DISTT GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR ^ UTTAR PRADESH ^ NORTH -VACANT PLOT , SOUTH:ROAD 20 FEET , EAST: VACANT PLOT WEST: PROPERTY OF DULARI DEV
9.	MEERUT Branch LAN:-708631/ XSEMMER00591820 DEVENDAR SINGH (Borrower) KUNTI (Co-Borrower) RAMSARAN (Co-Borrower)	S/O RAM SHARAN SINGH, R/O-VPO-TOPAPUR MAWANA ROAD NEAR SHIV MANDIR MEERUT-250401	<b>11-06-2022</b> <b>Rs. 20,66,428/-</b>	KHASRA NO 351 NEW MULTAN NAGAR MAZRA MALIVANA MEERUT 250002, NORTH :PLOT NO-A80 , SOUTH:PLOT NO-A78 , EAST:RASTA 30 WIDE , WEST:RASTA 30 WIDE
10.	MEERUT Branch LAN:-776323/ XSEMMER00655078 MOHD YUSUF (Borrower) YASMEEN (Co-Borrower)	S/O-RAHISUDDIN, R/O-H.N.NAYA-60, FUJA ROAD JAMA MASJID SAMAR GARDEN COLONY MEERUT-250002	<b>11-06-2022</b> <b>Rs. 9,41,907/-</b>	PLOT NO. 2 ^ BLOCK P-7 ^ KHASRA NO. 3115/2 & 3116 ^ TANYA GARDEN COLONY PRESENT SHALIMAR GARDEN COLONY MEERUT PIN-250002, NORTH HOUSE OF BHURI , SOUTH:RASTA 20FT WIDE , EAST:REST PART OF THIS PLOT , WEST:PLOT OF NARSHIMA
11.	MEERUT Branch LAN:-740121/ XSEMMER00628902 SHAKIL (Borrower) SHADAB (Co-Borrower) SHABNAM (Co-Borrower)	S/O SABUDDIN, R/O-MOHALLA PAGNA DOSNA DEHAT - PILAKHUWA HAPUR	<b>11-06-2022</b> <b>Rs. 7,88,925/-</b>	HOUSE NO. 42/137 ^ MOH LUHARAN ABADI KASBA- PILKHUWA ^ PARGANA DASNDA ^ THEHSIL DHAULANA DISTT HAPUR PIN-245304, NORTH HOUSE OF OTHER, SOUTH:3FT WIDE GALI THERAFTER HOUSE OF SURESH, EAST:..., WEST:HOUSE OF ISTYAR
12.	AGRA Branch LAN:-757550/ XSEMMER00655539 ANUJ KUMAR (Borrower) COMPRABHA (Co-Borrower) KANIT DEVI (Co-Borrower) SARVESH KUMAR (Co-Borrower)	S/O RAM NATH SINGH, R/O-KOTLA ROAD , NAGLA P AN SAHAY,FIROZABAD, AGRA, UTTAR PRADESH-283203 W/O- ANUJ KUMAR, R/O- R/O-93/180 PHOOL WALI GALI SADIQ SHAH BABA KI MAZAR, KANPUR,208001 S/O RAM NATH SINGH, R/O-KOTLA ROAD , NAGLA P AN SAHAY,FIROZABAD, AGRA, UTTAR PRADESH -283203 S/O- GANGA SINGH ,R/O KOTLA ROAD,KAMLA NAGAR ,NAI AWADI FIROZABAD UTTAR PRADESH -283203	<b>11-06-2022</b> <b>Rs. 49,1470/-</b>	PLOT ON RUNDH NO-71 ^MAUIA AARAJI KUNDAH ^FIROZABAD-UP-283204, NORTH : 15 FEET WIDE ROAD , SOUTH: PLOT OF MR.RAMSANERH , EAST:PLOT OF RAJESH AGARWAL , WEST:PLOT OF LAXMI UPADHYA
13.	GHAZIABAD Branch LAN:-881318/ XSEMGM200818194 MUNNA KHAN (Borrower) JAYDA SAIFI (Co-Borrower)	S/O- HAPHIJA KHAN ,R/O-016 VILLAGE, GARH MUKTESWAR HAIDARPUR GHAZIABAD W/O MUNNA KHAN ,R/O-16 VILLAGE- GARH MUKTESWAR HAIDARPUR,GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-242505	<b>11-06-2022</b> <b>Rs. 9,03,201/-</b>	PLOT NO-22 KHASRA NO-1277 MOHALLA NEW ABADI GARHI MOHALLA PILKHUWA HAPUR , NORTH :PLOT OF LOKESH, SOUTH:PLOT OF LOKESH , EAST:V , WEST:PLOT OF SITARAM

Pursuant to the above notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED, within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the amount indicated herein above, together further interest at 2% p.m. from the date(s) mentioned above till the date of payment and/or realization of the dues.

The above said Borrowers are hereby advised to make the payment to the company as aforesaid, falling which the company shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the cost and consequences.

Place :-DELHI, NCR, MEERUT,AGRA Date:-05.08.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited



# ‘Tax simplification, stable tariffs key to India’s trade’

**New Delhi:** Upgrading labour laws, simplifying taxation and creating a stable tariff environment are imperatives to facilitate a larger trade between India and the world, a new report said.

‘Building Resilient Global Value Chain Linkages in India: Findings from an Enterprise Survey’ - a report jointly published by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and ORF America - examines how India can better integrate into global value chains (GVCs) in the post-COVID world.

“The risks posed by supply chain shocks have never been more visible, following the compounding crises of the US-China trade war, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. GVCs, once viewed as the silver bullet for economic development, are coming under increasing scrutiny,” the think tank said in a release.

The report examines how India can better integrate into GVCs based on findings from a survey of 200 domestic and foreign companies in India across aerospace and defence; automotive and auto-components; capital goods; electronics systems design and manufacturing (ESDM); new and renewable energy; and pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

“The five greatest constraints firms face in scaling up in India were identified as: tax-

ation rules and policies; quality of infrastructure; uncertainty in trade and tariff policy; access to capital; and availability of raw materials,” it said.

The inability to meet quality standards was identified as a key challenge to GVC integration while ‘Make in India’ was seen as the most effective government initiative.

The study found that the most urgent policy change required to support GVC integration is investing in quality infrastructure - both physical (such as power supply and transport networks) and digital (such as clarity on data rules and data centres).

“With regard to institutions, upgrading labour laws and simplifying taxation were identified as imperatives,” it said. “Creating a stable tariff environment and reviewing the link between trade and investment policy is crucial to facilitate trade.”

The report also offers nine recommendations to create resilience in India’s GVC linkages.

Priority areas are: identifying critical supply vulnerabilities, fostering a stable regulatory environment, harmonising logistics and transportation rules, and building policy coherence between industrial policy and related avenues such as consumer protection and the green transition.

Talking of the survey

# Sensex snaps 6-day rally ahead of RBI’s rate decision

**Mumbai:** The Sensex and Nifty snapped their six-session rally to close marginally lower on Thursday as investors booked profit in banking, finance and energy counters ahead of the RBI’s policy decision.

The Reserve Bank of India’s rate-setting panel will announce its bi-monthly monetary policy on Friday amid expectations of at least a 35-basis-point hike in the interest rate to check high inflation.

A depreciating rupee further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

In choppy trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 51.73 points or 0.09 per cent lower at 58,298.80. The broader NSE Nifty dipped 6.15 points or 0.04 per cent to 17,382.

NTPC was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack, slipping 3.10 per cent, followed by SBI, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, PowerGrid, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank and HDFC.

In contrast, Sun Pharma, Nestle India, Infosys, Dr Reddy’s, Wipro, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Steel were among the major gainers, climbing up to 2.46 per cent. “Profit-taking finally came into play after 6-session gains, as rate-sensitive sectors like banking and realty faltered ahead of the RBI’s policy meet outcome on Friday.

“Key indices pared most of



their losses towards the end as strength in other Asian and European indices aided sentiment,” said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge went higher by 0.29 per cent and the smallcap index advanced 0.25 per cent.

From the BSE sectoral indices, telecom declined by 1.14 per cent, followed by realty (1.11 per cent), utilities (0.70 per cent) and power (0.64 per cent).

Among the gainers were healthcare (1.93 per cent), IT (1.23 per cent), metal (1.01 per cent) and teck (1.05 per cent).

“Markets will be closely eyeing the outcome of MPC’s monetary policy meet on Friday. Before that, the performance of the global indices amid the fresh developments on China-Taiwan tension would dictate the trend in early trades.

# GatiShakti’s Network Planning Group recommends 3 railway projects

**New Delhi:** The Network Planning Group constituted under PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has examined and recommended three railway projects, the commerce and industry ministry said on Thursday.

These projects are doubling of rail lines namely Gorakhpur Cantt-Valmikinagar, Katihar-Mukuria, Katihar-Kumedpur; gauge conversion of Pachora-Jamner and its extension up to Bodwad.

“All three projects are extremely important with a view to ensuring faster movement of goods in the hinterland which will accelerate the logistics efficiency and bring reduction in logistics costs,” it said.

The ministry said Gorakhpur Cantt-Valmikinagar is a single rail line affecting the freight movement. Its doubling at a cost of Rs 1,120 crore is expected to improve the logistics efficiency significantly, the statement added.

Doubling of Katihar-Mukuria and Katihar-Kumedpur sections will help in the movement of cargo from Kolkata Port to Virat Nagar (Rajasthan).

The Pachora -Jamner project in Maharashtra would be 84 kilometre long. It would be developed at a cost of Rs 955 crore.

All these projects have been mapped on PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.

# IT Min to conduct quarterly audit of compliance by social media firms

**New Delhi:** The Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) will now conduct compliance audits of social media companies every quarter, an official source said on Thursday.

At present, social media platforms are required to disclose their compliance with IT rules 2021 every month where they disclose action taken by them in response to various grievances.

“Meity has now put in place a mechanism to audit compliance of social media intermediaries under IT rules every quarter. As part of the audit, the ministry will verify if social media companies are reporting about grievances raised to them correctly and if their action taken is in sync with the laid out rules,” the source told PTI.

To tighten the noose on social media platforms, the government has proposed to set up an appellate panel which will have power to overrule decisions taken by social media companies with respect to any grievance.

The public consultation process with respect to the proposed rule has been wrapped up by the IT ministry.

# CCPA slaps ₹1 lakh fine on Amazon for selling below standard pressure cookers

**New Delhi:** The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on e-commerce major Amazon for selling pressure cookers that did not meet quality standards.

The CCPA also directed Amazon to notify the consumers of all these 2,265 pressure cookers sold through its platform, recall the products

# Rupee falls 17 paise to close at 79.32 against US dollar

**Mumbai:** The rupee depreciated 17 paise to close at 79.32 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by disappointing macro-economic data and US-China tensions.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.21 and finally ended at 79.32, down 17 paise over its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee had slumped by 62 paise to close at 79.15, marking its worst single-day fall in the current fiscal year.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.27 per cent to 106.22. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.69 pc to \$97.45 a barrel.

According to Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, volatility for the rupee will remain high following increasing tensions between China and Taiwan.

Moreover, traders may also remain cautious ahead of

# Sebi to auction properties of Sumangal Industries, GSHP Realtech on Aug 25

**New Delhi:** Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday said it will auction properties of two companies -- Sumangal Industries and GSHP Realtech Ltd -- on August 25, to recover money that was illegally raised from investors.

A total of eight properties of these two firms will be auctioned for a reserve price totalling Rs 9.8 crore, according to a public notice issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Of the eight properties, six relate to Sumangal Industries and the remaining two belong to GSHP Realtech.

These properties include land parcels, multi-storied buildings and a flat located in West Bengal.

Inviting bids for the sale of properties in the recovery proceedings against the two firms and their promoters or directors, Sebi said the auction will be conducted online on August 25, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

EProcurement Technologies has been appointed as the e-auction service provider.

The regulator has asked



the bidders to make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims, among others, before submitting their bids.

A Sebi probe had found that GSHP Realtech mobilised money from 535 persons in 2012-13 by issuing Non-Convertible Redeemable Debentures (NCDs), without complying with the regulatory norms, while Sumangal had collected Rs 85 crore from investors through illegal collective investment schemes

# Gold rises ₹487; silver gains ₹426

**New Delhi:** Gold in the national capital on Thursday gained ₹487 to ₹52,566 per 10 grams amid a rise in international precious metal prices along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at ₹52,079 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also rose by ₹426 to ₹58,806 per kg from ₹58,380 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee depreciated 36 paise to 79.51 against the US dollar in opening trade on Thursday, as disappointing macroeconomic data and US-China tensions weighed on investor sentiment.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,774 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 20.12 per ounce.

“Gold prices traded higher with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.58 per cent at USD 1,774 per ounce on Thursday,” said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

# BUSINESS BRIEF

### HACGAM WORKING LEVEL MEETING HELD



**New Delhi:** Indian Coast Guard as member of the Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) hosted the Working Level Meeting for 18th HACGAM on August 2-3. The meetings are an annual affair and hosted by one of the members in rotation. ICG last hosted 8th HACGAM in the year 2012. HACGAM is an independent organisation with 23 member Coast Guard Agencies and 02 associate members in the form of ReCAAP and UNODC.

### 35K STUDENTS TO BE EDUCATED ABOUT SOLAR POWER

**New Delhi:** ReNew Power on Thursday said it has partnered with HSBC India to educate students of 75 schools on solar power and impact of climate change in three states. Under the partnership, around 35,000 students will be given knowledge on the said subjects through 75 digital labs set up at each school, the company said in a statement.

### SHRIRAM MUTUAL TO UNVEIL LIQUID FUND ON AUG 17

**New Delhi:** Shriram Mutual Fund on Thursday said it would introduce a liquid fund on August 17. “While in the medium and long term we will build the processes, simplify the products and provide solutions to the common man,” Shriram Asset Management Company Director Subhasri Srram said. She also said the group is re-energising its mutual fund business. “It has brought in a new investor Mission-1 investments. Along with the new partner, Shriram Group has planned to democratise mutual investments in the country using a large client base,” she added.

# HDFC Bank says no need to pay off parent firm’s liabilities on day one of merger

**New Delhi:** Liabilities of HDFC Ltd will be transferred to HDFC Bank upon their merger and there is no need to pay off such dues on the very first day of the merger, the lender said on Thursday.

The country’s largest private sector bank by balance sheet size is set to merge its parent mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC Ltd) with itself.

HDFC Bank said it has not approved any plans to raise funds to pay towards such liabilities of HDFC Ltd.

“As per the proposed composite scheme of amalgamation, the liabilities of HDFC

Limited will be transferred to the bank and will be serviced and repaid by the bank as per the contracted maturity,” HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The bank is not required to pay off any amount of liability of HDFC Ltd on day one of the merger unless coincidentally any particular liability happens to mature on the same date.

HDFC Bank has already received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank (RBI) for the merger with HDFC Ltd, among other approvals.

The parent-subsidiary merger is seen as the biggest transaction in India’s corporate

# Industrial, logistics space leasing falls 9% in Q4 period across 8 cities

**New Delhi:** Leasing of industrial and logistics space fell 9 per cent annually across eight major cities during January-June this year to 12.8 million square feet, according to CBRE.

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, said: “Increased focus on upgradation/expansion opportunities in Tier 1 cities; new market penetration in lower tier cities and extension of local distribution networks in emerging logistics hubs are expected to drive leasing in the future.”

# Wheat flour millers urge Govt to scrap import duty on wheat

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

A wheat flour millers’ body on Thursday demanded that the Government should scrap the 40 per cent import duty on wheat to boost domestic supplies and control prices.

Members of the Roller Flour Millers’ Federation of India met Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey on Wednesday to discuss the issue of price rise and shortage of wheat in the market, it said in a statement.

The federation’s President Anjani Agarwal said the price of wheat has increased by Rs

# Auto retail sales dip 8% in July on lower registrations of passenger vehicles, 2-wheelers

**New Delhi:** Automobile retail sales in India dropped 8 per cent on an annual basis in July on account of fall in registrations of passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and tractors.

As per data released by the automobile dealers’ body FADA on Thursday, the overall automobile retail sales last month stood at 14,36,927 units, as compared with 15,59,106 units in July 2021.

Passenger vehicle retail sales witnessed a dip of 5 per cent at 2,50,972 units last month, as against 2,63,238 units in the year-ago period.

Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Vinkesh Gulati noted that though there is a blip in July numbers, the segment continues to see introduction of new models, especially compact SUVs, aiding growth.

“Along with this, a better supply in the coming months will help in bringing down customer anxiety due to the long waiting period,” he added.

Similarly, two-wheeler retail sales stood at 10,09,574 units in July, down 11 per cent from 11,33,344 units in July 2021. “The two-wheeler retail run witnessed poor demand as rural India continues to underperform. This coupled with high inflation, erratic monsoon

# Moody’s upgrades Yes Bank rating, changes outlook to ‘stable’ on capital raise plan

**New Delhi:** Moody’s on Thursday said it has upgraded Yes Bank’s rating while changing outlook to ‘stable’ on the back of its equity capital raise plan announced last week.

The global rating agency has upgraded the private sector lender’s long-term foreign currency issuer rating and long-term foreign and local currency back deposit ratings to ‘Ba3’ from ‘B2’.

It has also changed the outlook on Yes Bank’s ratings to

‘stable’ from ‘positive’ and also adjusted the Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) to ‘b1’ from ‘b3’.

“The upgrade of Yes Bank’s BCA and ratings reflects the bank’s planned equity capital raise, which will support its credit profile and strengthen its resilience against potential asset quality risks arising from headwinds such as higher inflation and tighter global financial conditions,” Moody’s Investors Service said in a release.

# New framework should consider learnings from global implementation of data privacy laws: Nasscom

**New Delhi:** IT industry body Nasscom on Thursday suggested that the new framework for personal data protection should consider learnings from global implementation of data privacy laws and stakeholder views on the earlier bill.

The comments of the apex software association comes as the government on Wednesday withdrew the Personal Data Protection Bill from the Lok Sabha.

The Bill, mooted four years back, had rattled global big-tech companies over its stringent provisions related to cross-border data flows.

Nasscom said the key imperatives now will be to operationalise the fundamental right of privacy and enable data protection in a manner that grows trust in data-driven businesses.

It should allow data-led services to grow in a safe and trusted manner, the apex software association said.

“Data is the bedrock for Digital India and the new framework for Personal Data Protection can build on the learnings from global implementation of data privacy laws and stakeholder feedback on the earlier bill,” Nasscom said.

India’s ‘Techade’ is being

shaped by accelerated digitisation and policy measures that enable access and inclusion, it added.

The government is hopeful of getting a new legislation passed by the next Budget session of Parliament (early 2023), IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told PTI. A new draft is already in the works and public consultation on that will begin soon, the Minister said.

and high cost of ownership continues to keep bottom of the pyramid customers at bay,” Gulati noted.

Tractor sales also remained in the slow lane at 59,573 units last month, down 28 per cent from 82,419 units in the year-ago period.

Three-wheeler and commercial vehicle sales, however, saw positive momentum last month with increase in sales as compared to July 2021.

Three-wheeler sales last month increased by 80 per cent to 50,349 units, as compared to 27,908 units in the year-ago period. Similarly, commercial vehicle sales witnessed an increase of 27 per cent at 66,459 units in July, as against 52,197 units in the same month last year.

“CV retail figures continue to witness good demand as the Government’s infrastructure push is helping customers in concluding their purchases. Apart from this, the bus segment also witnessed the beginning of demand recovery as educational institutions and offices are once again back to normal mode,” Gulati noted.

On outlook, he stated that the Taiwan-China conflict, if it happens, could lead to massive disruptions in the chip supplies.



# GHOSAL MAKES HISTORY

## Wins maiden singles medal in Commonwealth Games squash for India

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Breaking a long-standing jinx, Saurav Ghosal on Wednesday claimed India's first ever singles medal in squash — a Bronze — at the Commonwealth Games here.

World No.15 Ghosal dominated the contest against England's James Willstrop from beginning to end, winning 11-6, 11-1, 11-4 in the bronze play-off.

It was Ghosal's second CWG medal, having won a mixed doubles Silver with Dipika Pallikal in the 2018 Gold Coast edition.

Ghosal, playing his fourth CWG, broke into tears after the play-off against the former world number one. The medal meant the world to him and it came in probably his last appearance at CWG.

"I'm very very happy, it's a historic day for Indian squash. To be able to do this against a player of this calibre is very special. I'm happy that after all these years I have been able to win this," Ghosal said.

"This was one — a CWG singles medal — that was missing from my collection and I have played three CWGs before and to be able to pull through in my fourth attempt is even more special. I had to wait for so long," he added.

The 35-year-old Ghosal



## Ghosal-Pallikal power into mixed doubles quarterfinals

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Top seeds Dipika Pallikal and Saurav Ghosal sailed into the mixed doubles quarterfinals with a clinical 11-8, 11-4 win over the Wales pair of Emily Whitlock and Pater Creed at the Commonwealth Games here on Thursday.

The combination of Pallikal's powerful forehand and Ghosal's skillful backhand proved too good for the duo from Wales.

Earlier on Thursday, Anahat Singh and Sunayna Kuruvilla entered women's doubles pre-quarterfinals.

Anahat and Sunayna, who both are featuring in CWG for the first time, beat Yeheni Kuruppu and Chanithma Sinaly 11-9, 11-4 in a round of

proved too strong for his 38-year-old opponent who is also at the fag end of his illustrious career. The Indian outclassed the Englishman in all aspects of the game, from court coverage to placement of his shots.

Incidentally, Ghosal trained under Willstrop's father Malcolm in Pontefract for many years.

32 contest.

Delhi teenager Anahat, who also won a round in the women's singles, hit some crisp winners in the match. A tougher test awaits Anahat and Sunayna in the pre-quarterfinals as they take on Australia's Donna Loban and Rachael Grinham.

Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar also recorded a straight game win over Luca Reich and Joe Chapman of the British Virgin Islands to enter the men's doubles pre-quarterfinals. The experienced mixed doubles duo of Joshna Chinappa and Harinderpal Sandhu, however, suffered 8-11, 9-11 defeat in a round of 16 match against Australia's Donna Lobban and Cameron Pilley.

"I would like to dedicate this to my grandfather who passed away in 2020, he was very important to me and my grandmother.

"And also to Malcolm, who passed away last year. The player I am today is because of him. I trained with him for 10-15 years. I have practised with James a lot as well.



## Tejaswin becomes 1st Indian to win medal in CWG high jump

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Last minute addition to the athletics team, Tejaswin Shankar on Wednesday became the first Indian to win a men's high jump medal in the Commonwealth Games as he clinched a Bronze in the final here.

The national record holder cleared 2.22m to finish third on countback. Donald Thomas of Bahamas and England's Joel Clarke-Khan also cleared 2.22m but they needed more than one attempt to do it while Shankar was successful in single try.

In women's shot put final, Manpreet Kaur finished 12th and last with a disappointing best throw of 15.69m.

The 23-year-old Shankar could not soar over 2.25m in two attempts. He then went for 2.28m in his third and final attempt in a bid to win a Silver but failed.

Before Shankar, the best position an Indian had achieved in men's high jump in CWG was by Bhim Singh who cleared 2.06m in the 1970 edition in Edinburgh.

"I had a long (US) collegiate season and started jumping in January but getting a Bronze here is like a dream come true and I'm just happy to take something back home with me," an elated Shankar said.

Shankar had finished sixth in the 2018 Gold Coast edition with a best jump of 2.24m.

Shankar, who was added in the orders of Delhi High Court, has a season's best of 2.27m and personal best of 2.29m.

Hamish Kerr of New Zealand won the Gold while Australia's Brandon Starc clinched the Silver. Both

cleared 2.25m but could not soar over 2.28m but the Kiwi won the gold on count back.

"I've been seeing these guys (Hamish Kerr and Brandon Starc) on TV all the time so just to share the podium with them is spectacular. This is my first feather in my cap so I just want things to move forward from here," he added

**'COMPETE IN DECATHLON IN ASIAN GAMES'**

Indian high jumper Tejaswin Shankar on Thursday said he has not been able to perform to his full potential owing to chronic tendonitis and it's now a "certainty" that he will compete in decathlon at next year's Asian Games. The problem, however, could not come in his way of winning the country its first-ever medal — a Bronze — in high jump at the Commonwealth Games here.

"Because with constant tendonitis on my knee, I have not been able to jump as much as I would like to. But I have been able to supplement my high jump training by doing a lot of long jump activities or doing hurdles," the 23-year-old said.

Tejaswin said he wants to compete in decathlon at next year's Asian Games.

"That is a certainty. I want to compete in decathlon at the Asian Games. That is what I am going to do, going forward," Tejaswin said.

Decathlon is a competition in which athletes participate in 10 sporting events — 100m, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400m, 110m hurdles, discus throw, pole vault, javelin throw and 1500m — over two days.

"Even if I do not compete at decathlon, I want to continue training in decathlon because it really works for me."



## Sindhu, Srikanth breeze into pre-quarterfinals

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

As Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth sailed into the pre-quarterfinals of their respective singles events after scoring comfortable victories at the Commonwealth Games here on Thursday.

While two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu routed Maldives' Nabaaha Abdul Razzaq 21-4, 21-11 in the women's singles first round, Srikanth outclassed Daniel Wanagaliya of Uganda 21-9,

21-9 in the men's singles event.

Taking the court first, the last edition's silver medallist Sindhu did not need her 'A' game since the Maldives shuttler was no match to her class.

Fathimath produced some resistance in the second game but Sindhu pulled away from 9-9. Srikanth was crestfallen after losing his singles match against lower-ranked Tze Yong Ng of Malaysia in the mixed team final but the world number 13 seemed to have taken it in his stride as he comfortably beat his rival.

## Boxers ensure six medals

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Sagar Ahlawat continued India's medal rush in boxing, joining Amit Panghal and Jasmine in the semifinals with a dominating win over Seychelles' Keddy Evans Agnes in men's +92kg competition at the Commonwealth Games here on Thursday.

The 22-year-old from Haryana notched up a 5-0 win over Agnes in the super heavyweight quarterfinal to take India's medal count in boxing to six at the showpiece.

Earlier, Jasmine beat New Zealand's Troy Garton by a 4-1 split verdict in the women's lightweight (60kg) quarterfinal, while Panghal too won his flyweight (48-51 kg) quarter-final against Scotland's Lennon Mulligan to assure two more medals for India.

In the men's bout, it was an unanimous verdict in favour of the Indian southpaw, who had won a Silver medal during the last edition in Gold Coast.

The bout wasn't of great



quality, but Panghal prevailed over his younger Scottish opponent, tiring him out with his solid defence. He gained points with occasional ferocious counter-attack.

In the first two rounds, the 26-year-old Indian employed a guard down approach to invite Mulligan to go on the offensive but swayed away from his reach with some nimble footwork.

In between, he did land a couple of left jabs to rattle the 20-year-old Scot, and in the final round, unleashed a barrage of 'one-two' combination (a left-jab followed by a right cross).

Mulligan, in fact, got a standing count and by the end of round two the writing was on the wall, and Panghal was assured of a second CWG medal.

Nikhath Zareen (50kg), Nitu Ganghas (48kg) and Mohd Hussamudin (57kg) have also reached the semi-final stage to be assured of medals in their respective categories.

## Harmanpreet scores hat-trick in India's 4-1 win over Wales

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh slammed a hat-trick as the Indian men's hockey team beat Wales 4-1 in its final Pool B match to qualify for the semifinals of the Commonwealth Games here on Thursday.

Harmanpreet (19th, 20th, 40th minutes) converted two penalty corners and scored one from the spot while Gurjant Singh struck a field goal in the 49th minute for India.



Wales' lone goal was scored by drag-flicker Gareth Furlong in the 55th minute from a set piece.

After the win, India were

on course to top Pool B as they enjoy a goal difference of 22 over England, who still have a match against Canada.

## Hima wins her heat to qualify for 200m semis

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Star Indian sprinter Hima Das qualified for the women's 200m semifinals after winning her heat with a timing of 23.42s at the Commonwealth Games here on Thursday.

The 22-year-old Hima led the five-woman field from the start with Rhoda Njobvu of Zambia clocking 23.85s to finish second while Jacent Nyamhunge of Uganda finished third with a timing of 24.07.

There are six heats lined up

in the women's 200m and the top-16 will qualify for the semi-final.

Hima won heat 2 but Favour Ofili of Nigeria (22.71s in Heat 1) and the formidable Elaine-Thompson-Herah (22.80s in heat 5) had superior timings.

At least six athletes have clocked better time, compared to Hima, en route their semi-final entries.

Meanwhile, in the women's hammer throw event, India's Manju Bala advanced to the final while compatriot Sarita Singh failed to make the cut.



The 33-year-old Bala finished 11th in the qualification round with a best throw of 59.68m in her first attempt.

In the same event, the other Indian athlete Sarita failed to make the final after she finished 13th with her best throw of 57.48.

According to the rules, best 12 performers advance to the final, which will be held on Saturday, August 6.

Canada's Camryn Rogers topped the qualification round with best throw of 74.68m, which is a Commonwealth Games record.

## Shetty-Tennison pair out of mixed doubles TT

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The Indian pair of Sanil Shetty and Reeth Tennison were knocked out of the mixed doubles table tennis event at the Commonwealth Games here on Thursday.

The duo went down to the Malaysian pair of Wong Qi Shen and Tee Ai Xin - 6-11, 10-12, 13-11, 11-8 and 8-11 in the round of 64 match.

Sanil and Reeth were caught off guard as they lost the first two games but bounced back to clinch the next two and took the match to the decider.

However, the Indians went down 8-11 in the decider and bowed out of the competition.

Later in the day, star paddlers Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra will take on the Crea Mick and Sinon Laura of Seychelles in their round of 32 match.

Also in action will be Achanta Sharath Kamal and Sreeja Akula as they square up against Northern Ireland's Own Cathcart and Sophie Early in their round of 32 match.



## Borgohain fails to make men's singles quarters in Lawn Bowls

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India's Mridul Borgohain failed to make the men's singles quarterfinals of the lawn bowl event after losing his fifth round match against Jersey's Ross Davis at the Commonwealth Games here on Thursday.

Borgohain suffered a 13-21 loss to Davis. The Indian was 6-5 ahead after the end of round five but then allowed his opponent to make a comeback. Davis then kept surging ahead and eventually won the tie.

Borgohain had lost his first game to New Zealand's Shannon McIlroy but went on to win two games on Wednesday. He had defeated Chris Locke of Falkland Islands 21-5 in his second round match before edging out Scotland's Iain McLean 21-19.

## Weightlifter Gurdeep bags Bronze



PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Gurdeep Singh rounded off India's weightlifting campaign with a Bronze medal in the +109kg event at the Commonwealth Games on Wednesday.

The 26-year-old Singh, son of a farmer, had a best effort of 390kg (167kg+223kg) for a podium finish and India's first-ever medal in the heavyweight category.

With his 223kg clean and jerk effort, Singh bettered his personal best and also rewrote his own national record.

"I had a wrist injury so couldn't give my best in snatch otherwise I would have landed a Silver," said the seven-time national champion.

With the Bronze from Singh, India ended its weightlifting campaign with 10 medals — three Gold, three Silver and four Bronze.

## Judoka Tulika wins Silver

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian judoka Tulika Maan gave her all but came up short against Scotland's Sarah Adlington in the final to settle for a Silver medal in the women's 78kg category in the Commonwealth Games here on Wednesday.

Tulika, who won two fights earlier in the day to make it to the final, led for majority of the bout before Adlington pulled off a decisive move, an Ippon, to win Gold.

Adlington had Tulika on the mat with a forceful throw and the Indian landed on her back, ending the contest with 30 seconds remaining.

A Silver was still a creditable performance from the 23-year-old from Delhi who gave India its third judo medal in the Birmingham Games.

The spectators too was largely in favour of the Scottish judoka and they went berserk after Adlington employed an



Ippon.

Tulika, who lost her father when she was a two-year-old and is a single child of a widowed mother, is a former Commonwealth judo champion.

She was inconsolable after the bout and was not able to speak to the media though she tried, a standard protocol after every bout.

After that she fell on the floor with tears rolling down her eyes. Clearly, it was the disappointment of missing out on the Gold.

"I did not come here for Silver but for Gold. So, I got emotional. I will get another opportunity to win the Gold after four years. But I had wanted Gold this time," she said.



# INDIAN EVES QUALIFY FOR SEMIFINALS

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Medium pacer Renuka Singh ran through Barbados' top order with a four-wicket haul as India beat their lowly opponents by 100 runs to qualify for the semifinals of the women's T20 cricket at the Commonwealth Games here on Wednesday.

Invited to bat, India posted a competitive 162 for 4 on the back of a fine unbeaten half-century from Jemimah Rodrigues (56 not out off 46 balls) and a 26-ball 43 from opener Shafali Verma.

The Indians then restricted Barbados to 62 for 8 in 20 overs with Renuka bamboozling the Barbados batters with an impressive spell.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur, Sneha Rana, Meghna Singh and Radha Yadav chipped in with a wicket apiece.

Kyshona Knight was the top-scorer for Barbados with 16 while Shakera Selman made 12. Seven of their batters failed to reach double-digit figures.

Barbados were dismissed for 64 in their nine-wicket defeat against Australia in an earlier match.

With the win, India finished second behind Australia (6 points from 3 matches) in Group A with four points from two wins. They had beaten Pakistan and lost to Australia in their earlier matches.

The semifinals will be played on Saturday.

Renuka struck in the third ball

of the Barbados innings, removing opener Deandra Dottin for a duck. She then dismissed captain Hayley Matthews (9), Kycia Knight (3) and Aaliyah Alleyne (0) in quick succession to reduce Barbados to 19 for 4 in nine overs.

During the Indian innings, opener Smriti Mandhana (5), who hit a half century in India's win over arch-rivals Pakistan, fell cheaply but Verma and Rodrigues stitched a 71-run stand for the second wicket to prop up the innings.

India were, however, in a spot of bother as captain Harmanpreet (0) departed just three balls after Verma's dismissal. But a 70-run partnership between Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma (34 not out) for the unbroken fifth wicket took India to a good total.

For Barbados, Shanika Bruce, Hayley Matthews and Shakera Selman took a wicket each.

## BRIEF SCORES

**India:** 162 for 4 in 20 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 56 not out, Shafali Verma 43; Shanika Bruce 1/17) **Barbados:** 62 for 8 in 20 overs (Kyshona Knight 16; Renuka Singh 4/10).



## I don't need to be Harman or Smriti, happy being own self, says Jemimah

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Jemimah Rodrigues knows her strengths well and finds no reason to change her natural game in order to ape power-hitters like skipper Harmanpreet Kaur or elegant timers of Smriti Mandhana's ilk.

Jemimah played an important role in India's thumping 100-run victory over Barbados with an immensely important knock of 56 off 46 balls, which was different in its construction from how Harmanpreet or a Shafali Verma plays.

"Smriti had told me long back in the IPL [Women's T20 Challenge] in 2019 that you don't have to be a Harmanpreet Kaur or a Smriti Mandhana. You have to be a Jemimah Rodrigues. I think I have understood that role and it's helping me," Jemimah said after the match.

For Jemimah, people's perceptions doesn't matter much.

"The team has given me a role. If I can play that role, it doesn't matter how other people look at it. If the dynamics suit our team, we have Shafali, Smriti, Harman, so I just want to play the best role I want to play for the team," she added.

She has no qualms in admitting that power-hitting isn't her forte but she is still working on that particular skill-set in order to contribute



more in the shortest format of the game.

"Definitely, I've worked on my power game, but more than that, I've understood my game better. I'm not a power-hitter, I'm a placer. I can hit the (gaps for) singles and doubles well; I know how to manoeuvre the field. I think that is my strength," she said.

Jemimah is confident that even without hitting a fair amount of sixes, she can still firm up the strike-rate at a decent pace.

"My game is not very flashy but even without that, I end up with a good strike rate. That is what I have realised I don't have to be someone else; I have to be Jemimah Rodrigues to score. This is what has helped me," she went on to add.

She also highlighted the equation shared

between her and the coach Ramesh Power and the latter's role in promoting her at number three, which she believes, is her ideal position to flourish.

"Ramesh [Power] sir had told me after the last game to be prepared for No. 3," she said. "Honestly, when I was preparing, I was ready for both. Even when I was preparing in the nets, with our side-arm (throwdown) specialist, I was prepared for both, because you never know, the team can need me anywhere and I should be ready for that," Jemimah said.

"But definitely, I love No. 3. It's my position. [I'm] glad I got to play there and contribute to the team, contribute to the plan, and it worked out well for the team," she added.

The Mumbai-born cricketer also went on to add that the opportunities she got at The Hundred tournament for the Northern Superchargers last year has played a pivotal role in helping her grasp the English conditions and given her ample confidence to perform at the CWG in Birmingham.

"The best thing about the 'Hundred' was the opportunity to get to play in English conditions, which I wouldn't have gotten normally," Jemimah said.

"Any match, even if it's a domestic game, I think when you go out there and score runs, you get confidence. And that is what happened to me. I was blessed that I got to play for the Northern Superchargers.

"I had a good season there, and I just wanted to continue that because the more I play, the better I do and the more I learn. I just want to apply that whenever I play for India," she added.



## Hendricks sets up South Africa's win

AP ■ BRISTOL

Reeza Hendricks hit his fourth successive T20I fifty as South Africa defeated Ireland by 21 runs in their series opener at Bristol on Wednesday.

Hendricks, who hit three half-centuries in the Proteas' recent 2-1 series win over England, top-scored with 74 in a total of 211-5 and shared a third-wicket partnership of 112 with Aiden Markram (56).

"I think I've been working really hard," said Hendricks, now one of just five batsmen to have scored four consecutive half-centuries at this level, during the presentation ceremony. "Momentum is important. I've been enjoying English conditions."

Lorcan Tucker (78) and George Dockrell (43) kept Ireland in the hunt but when the pair were dismissed off successive balls their side's hopes of victory went with them.

'Death-bowling' specialist Wayne Parnell proved his worth for all he was hit for six off the last ball off the innings by tailender Barry McCarthy as Ireland finished on 190-9.

Left-arm paceman Parnell returned figures of 2-36, stand-in Proteas captain Keshav Maharaj took 2-29 with his left-arm spin and leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi 2-37.

For Ireland, it was yet another case of close but not close enough as they suffered a seventh successive T20 defeat having been competitive against India, New Zealand and now South Africa this season.

"We were in the game for a long time," said Ireland captain Andy Balbirnie. "The two wickets in two balls made the difference."

Hendricks's latest fifty came off 32 balls, including seven fours and a six, while Markram got to the landmark in 25 balls including six boundaries.

The pair fell to consecutive deliveries, with leg-spinner Gareth Delany having Markram caught at deep square leg before Hendricks holed out to point.

Ireland, however, did not help their cause by bowling 13 wides — more than two extra overs.

9PTI ■ LAUSANNE

Cricket's much-anticipated inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics received a shot in the arm as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) shortlisted it for a review along with eight other sporting disciplines.

Cricket has only featured once at the 1900 Paris Olympic Games, with Great Britain and hosts France as only participants.

According to *ESPN Cricinfo*, the development comes a day

after the International Cricket Committee (ICC) was formally invited by both the LA28 and IOC to submit presentation in order to make their case considered.

However, a final decision is expected to be announced ahead of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai sometime in mid-2023.

The other eight sports in consideration for the showpiece event are baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse, break dancing, karate, kick-boxing, squash, and

motorsport.

In February this year, the IOC said that a total of 28 sporting events will be part of the Los Angeles Games and also added that the 'potential new sports' will be considered with a focus on youth.

As per IOC diktat, a sport should clear some set of criteria in order to be considered for inclusion.

This includes priorities to cost and complexity reduction, engaging the best athletes and sports with safety and health



## Leicester keeper Kasper Schmeichel joins OGC Nice

AP ■ NICE

Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel is to join Ligue 1 side Nice from Leicester City, having been a mainstay of the most successful period in the Premier League club's history.

The 35-year-old, whose 11-year spell with the Foxes saw him win the Premier League, FA Cup and Community Shield, will join the French side for what Leicester said was "an undisclosed fee".

Leicester captain Schmeichel, whose 479 appearances are the third most in the club's history, was a key figure in the their shock 2015/16 Premier League title triumph and maiden FA Cup final win in 2021.

## Indian teams eye glory as Chess Olympiad enters business end

PTI ■ MAMALLAPURAM

The Indian teams have been at the forefront in the 44th Chess Olympiad thus far with India 'A' at the top of the standings in the women's section and the 'B' team in third position in the Open event after six rounds.

The tournament has now entered its business end.

The Koneru Humpy-led India 'A' is unbeaten in six matches and takes on Azerbaijan on Friday. A win would further the team's cause and probably help pull away from the rest of the field.

The other two home teams appear to have fallen behind after starting well and will need some catching up to do.

As Humpy said after the win over Georgia on Wednesday, they will "have to play many more tough teams like Ukraine and so on in the days to come."

Also, one of the players has risen to the occasion at various stages and the experienced Tania Sachdev has provided the all-important win a couple of times as has R Vaishali.

### THE KONERU HUMPLY-LED INDIA 'A' IS UNBEATEN IN SIX MATCHES AND TAKES ON AZERBAIJAN ON FRIDAY

"Our team spirit is high and whenever in need of a victory, always any one player from the team would shine," she added.

Having started as the No.1 seed, Humpy and Co are expected to land a medal given the manner in which they have played in the first half of the Olympiad.

However, it is important that the players keep their composure and continue to perform as they have so far.

In the open event, the India 'B' team which includes a bunch of talented teenagers — R Praggnanandhaa, in-form D Gukesh and Raunak Sadhwani — apart from the experienced B Adhiban saw its five-match winning streak halted by Armenia in

both men and women.

ICC CEO Geoff Allardice said he was pleased the way the cricket was viewed during the Birmingham Games and the sport has been a "star attraction" at the showpiece event.

"We've seen from the Commonwealth Games how much the world's best players have enjoyed playing in front of big crowds and what I'm sure will be large TV audiences," Allardice told the website.



## Galtier expects more signings as PSG near Sanches deal

AP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain coach Christophe Galtier said Thursday he hopes for three more signings before the end of the transfer window, on top of the expected arrival of Portugal midfielder Renato Sanches.

Galtier, appointed last month to replace Mauricio Pochettino, has seen the Ligue 1 champions bring in Portuguese international Vitinha, French defender Nordi Mukiele and young striker Hugo Ekitike.

Sanches, 24, is set to be reunited with Galtier having worked with him at Lille.

But ahead of PSG's first game of the new league season away to Clermont on Saturday, Galtier called for further reinforcements before the end of August.

"I want a certain number of players in my squad, players who are very similar in level, to perform well throughout the season and to create healthy competition," he said at a news conference.

"But are these three players going to arrive quickly, later or not at all? I don't know. I know the club is doing all it can to have a very competitive squad."

# Medvedev makes triumphant return in Mexico with landmark 250th win



AP ■ LOS CABOS

World number one Daniil Medvedev, playing his first match in six weeks, beat Australian qualifier Rinky Hijikata 6-4, 6-3 on Wednesday at the ATP hard court tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico. It was a milestone 250th match win of the reigning US Open

champion's career.

"Someone told me this a few days ago," Medvedev said after the match. "Otherwise I would not have known. That's nice, a milestone in a way."

"I want more victories, but that's nice to have 250. We'll try to get more."

Medvedev is playing his first

## Pegula, Halep and Hurkacz fall

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Australia's Daria Saville upset top-seeded defending champion Jessica Pegula 7-5, 6-4 on Wednesday at the ATP and WTA Washington Open, where Hubert Hurkacz and Simona Halep also exited.

World number 88 Saville ripped the seventh-ranked American in hot and humid conditions while Romanian third seed Halep retired down 7-5, 2-0 to Anna Kalinskaya with illness.

"I stayed really composed," Saville said. "I managed the energy really well. It was very hot. But I thought it's hot for everyone so get on with it."

Saville booked a quarter-final match against Canadian qualifier Rebecca



Marino, who beat Germany's Andrea Petkovic 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Medvedev next faces Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania, who beat Argentina's Facundo

Polish second seed Hurkacz crashed out in his second-round match at the US Open hardcourt tuneup, falling to Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori 6-4, 7-6 (7/3).

His third-round foe will be Sweden's Mikael Ymer, who ousted 15th seed Aslan Karatsev 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 after eliminating three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray in round one.

Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka ousted Aussie 11th seed Alex De Minaur 3-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-2. The world number 96 will next face seventh seed Karen Khachanov.

US third seed Taylor Fritz beat Australia's Alexei Popyrin 6-4, 6-3 to book a third-round match against British 16th seed Daniel Evans.

Bagnis 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

Second-seeded Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime also advanced, beating Mexico's Alex Hernandez 6-3, 7-5.

## Badosa, Jabeur reach San Jose WTA QFs

AP ■ SAN JOSE

Second-seeded Paula Badosa survived a scare on the way to a 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (7/5) victory over US qualifier Elizabeth Mandlik on Wednesday in the WTA hardcourt tournament in San Jose, California.

Badosa will next face the winner of Thursday night's marquee clash between four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka and sixth-seeded American Coco Gauff.

Japanese superstar Osaka is unseeded as she plays her first tournament since falling in the first round of the French Open, where she was battling a left Achilles tendon injury.

Gauff, the French Open runner-up, is seeded sixth.

Third-seeded Tunisian star Ons Jabeur, playing her first match since her historic runner-up finish at Wimbledon, pulled away late to beat American Madison Keys 7-5, 6-1.

