

**OPINION 6**  
PROPAGANDA  
POLITICS AT ITS BEST**WORLD 8**  
2 RUSSIAN VILLAGES EVACUATED  
AFTER MUNITIONS DEPOT FIRE**MONEY 10**  
INFLATION IS UNACCEPTABLY,  
UNCOMFORTABLY HIGH: RBI GUVPublished From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADALate City Vol.32 Issue 230  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY AUGUST 20, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

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2nd ODI TODAY  
12 SPORT**In big shake-up  
L-G transfers  
12 IAS officers**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a bureaucratic reshuffle, Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday transferred 12 IAS officers with immediate effect, hours after a CBI raid at Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's residence in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy 21-22.

According to a transfer posting order issued by the Services Department of the Delhi Government, Udit Prakash Rai, a 2007-batch IAS officer, Special Secretary with the Health and Family Welfare Department has been transferred as Special Secretary, Administrative Reform. Saxena had recommended the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action against Rai for allegedly accepting ₹50 lakh bribe to grant "undue favours" to an executive engineer in two corruption cases. Currently, Sisodia handles the Health portfolio in the Delhi Government.

Vijendra Singh Rawat, a 2007-batch IAS officer, has replaced Rai. He will also hold the additional charge of Director (planning). According to the order, a 1990-batch officer, Jitendra Narain, has been made the Chairman and Managing Director of the Delhi Finance Corporation (DFC) while southwest Delhi District Magistrate Hemant Kumar has been given the additional charge as DFC's Executive Director. Vivek Pandey has been appointed as Secretary (IT) and given the additional charge of Managing Director of Geospatial Delhi Limited and Director of Union Territory Civil Services. Until now, he was posted as Secretary, Administrative Reforms.

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Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal shows a report about Delhi's education system from *The New York Times*, in New Delhi on Friday.

PTI

— America's biggest newspaper — the report on Delhi's education model was published. It spoke of the revolution in the Delhi Government schools. This report carries a photo of Manish Sisodia ... in a newspaper where all world leaders want coverage. This means Sisodia has been, in a way, recognised as the best Education Minister. In a way, he has been declared the best education minister in the world. The biggest newspaper wrote about Delhi's education revolution and carried Sisodia's photograph also."

Earlier, taking to Twitter, Kejriwal attached the front page of *The New York Times* featuring Sisodia along with a news story with the headline, "Our Children are worth it; overhaul of public schools in Delhi has students clamoring to enroll."

Continued on Page 2

## Raids on best edu Min hailed by NYT are bid to harass us: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the CBI action against Manish Sisodia and accused him of using the probe agency to defame the party and its leaders due to the "growing popularity" of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his model of governance.

After the CBI raids against Sisodia over the Excise Policy, Kejriwal hailed his deputy as the "best Education Minister in the world" as his name was featured on the front page of the renowned American daily, *The New York Times*.

He said that the last time India's name was featured in *The New York Times* was over mass deaths happening in the country due to Covid-19.

Kejriwal said the CBI raids on Manish Sisodia, "The best Education Minister of Independent India were on orders from above to harass us" and are "just obstacles in the AAP's 'Make India Number 1' mission but we will not be deterred."

During the video address, the Chief Minister said, "Today, I have come to share some good news with you. This is something that will make every Indian proud. I want to congratulate everyone. In *The New York Times*

Continued on Page 2



Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials during a raid at the residence of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in connection with alleged irregularities in Delhi Excise Policy, in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

## Excise Minister has become excuse minister: BJP

**NYT refutes  
Thakur's charge  
of 'paid' news**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday accused the AAP Government of being involved in a "liquor scam" of hundreds of crores of rupees as the CBI raided the residence of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in connection with alleged irregularities in the execution of the Excise Policy 2021-22.

The BJP leaders also used Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal's remark that "it is very difficult to get news published in *The New York Times*" to dub as "paid" the story on his Government's education model with a photograph of Deputy Manish Sisodia appearing in the American newspaper.

However, refuting the charge late in the evening, *The New York Times* released a statement to a media house saying, "Our report about efforts to improve Delhi's education system is based on impartial, on-the-ground reporting, and education is an issue that *The New York Times* has covered over many years. Journalism from *The New York Times* is

always independent, free from political or advertiser influence." Earlier in the day, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur described Sisodia as an "excuse minister" after the latter claimed he was "paying the price for honesty". The Union Minister said in a statement, "The Excise Minister has become excuse minister."

"Today, the issue is of liquor licences and corruption involved in it. The Minister concerned is Manish Sisodia. He reversed the Excise Policy the day the probe was handed over to the CBI," he said.

Continued on Page 2

# CBI raids Sisodia's house, 31 locations

In its FIR on alleged irregularities in framing of Excise Policy 21-22, central agency has listed Deputy CM, 15 others; ED action likely soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday searched Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's residence along with 31 other locations in Delhi, Gurugram, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, and Bengaluru for alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy and favouring liquor licencees.

Now, the ED may initiate a money laundering investigation over the framing and execution of the Excise Policy, official sources said on Friday soon after the CBI's raids.

As per the FIR filed by the CBI on alleged corruption in the framing and implementation of the Excise Policy 2021-22, liquor trader Sameer Mahendru paid ₹5 crore to associates of Sisodia.

The agency booked Sisodia as a prime accused number one along with 15 others in the FIR.

Besides Sisodia, the CBI has also booked Arva Gopi Krishna, the then Commissioner (Excise), Anand Tiwari, the then Deputy Commissioner (Excise), Pankaj Bhatnagar, then Assistant Commissioner (Excise), and 10 liquor licencees, their associates and unknown others on a reference from the Union Home Ministry.

The premises of Krishna, Tiwari, Bhatnagar and other accused were also searched during the day.

"The searches so far have led to the recovery of incriminating documents/articles and digital records," the CBI said in

a statement.

"The accused have been booked under the Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) relating to criminal conspiracy and falsification of account besides provision of the Prevention of Corruption Act relating to undue advantage.

"It was alleged that irregularities were committed including in modifications in the Excise Policy, extending undue favours to the licencees, waiver/reduction in licence fee, extension of L-1 license without approval, etc.," the CBI statement said.

It was further alleged that, "Illegal gains on account of these acts were diverted to concerned public servants by private parties and making false entries in their books of accounts." It said the investigation is continuing.

"Sisodia and three Excise Department officials were instrumental in recommending and taking decisions pertaining to the Excise Policy for the year 2021-22 without the approval of competent authority with an intention to extend undue favours to the licencees post tender," reads the FIR.

Quoting reliable sources, the FIR alleged that, "Vijay Nair, former CEO of Only Much Louder, an entertainment and event management company, Manoj Rai, a former employee of Pernod Ricard, Amandeep Dhal, owner of Brindco Spirits and Sameer Mahendru, owner of Indo-Spirits are actively involved in irregularities in the framing and implementation of the Excise Policy of GNCTD of Delhi for the year 2021-22."

Continued on Page 2

## '7 cr rural homes got piped water in 3 yrs'

**Goa has become  
first 'Har Ghar Jal  
certified State',  
says PM at utsav**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that seven crore rural households were connected with piped water in just three years "compared to just three crore households in seven decades" saying "there cannot be a better beginning of Amrit Kaal."

Addressing the 'Har Ghar Jal Utsav' under the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' at Panaji, Goa, via a video message, Modi spelled out the three major achievements that India is working on in the run-up to 25 years of 'Amrit Kaal'.

"First, today 10 crore rural households of the country have been connected to piped

clean water facility. This is a big success of the Government's campaign to deliver water to every household. This is a great example of 'Sabka Prayas'. Second, I congratulate Goa for becoming the first 'Har Ghar Jal certified State' where every household is connected to piped water. Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are the first Union Territories to achieve the feat," he said.

Modi lauded the people, Government, and local self-government institutions for their efforts. He said many States are going to join the list very soon. The third achievement Modi listed out was that "one lakh villages in different States of the country have turned Open Defecation Free (ODF) plus."

After the country was declared ODF a few years ago, the next resolution was to achieve ODF plus status for villages. Continued on Page 2



Children dressed as Lord Krishna pose for photos on the occasion of 'Janmashtami', at Durgiana Temple in Amritsar on Friday

PTI

## India part of 17-nation Pitch Black air exercises in Australia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An IAF contingent reached Australia to participate in the prestigious three-week-long 'Pitch Black' air exercises that commenced on Friday. More than 2,500 military personnel from 17 countries and 100 aircraft will carry out the drills. India had taken part in the biennial event in 2018 there. Giving details of the schedule, IAF officials said here on Friday that the Indian contingent has reached Australia for taking part in the exercise from August 19 to September 8 in Darwin.

Pitch Black will focus on Large Force Employment warfare. The IAF contingent, led by Group Captain YPS Negi, comprises over 100 air warriors, deployed with four Su-30 MKI fighter and two C-17 aircraft. They will undertake multi-domain air combat missions in a complex environment and

will exchange best practices with the participating air forces.

Australia is hosting the exercise after a gap of four years. The 2020 drills were called off due to the corona pandemic. The upcoming exercise will see the participation of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, UAE, the UK, and the US. This year's exercise will be held in the Northern Territory, Australian Defence Ministry had recently said.

"With a four-year hiatus since the last Pitch Black due to the global pandemic, this year's exercise will see a return of the combined force to Australian skies, enhancing interoperability and strengthening relationships," it said.

Continued on Page 2

## Bapu's statue in New York destroyed; second such attack in two weeks

PTI ■ NEW YORK

In a possible hate crime, a group of six unidentified persons destroyed a hand-crafted statue of Mahatma Gandhi with a sledgehammer located in front of a temple here after vandalising it earlier this month.

India on Friday strongly condemned the "despicable action" and took up the matter with the US authorities to ensure those responsible for the act are held accountable.

The New York City Police Department in a statement to PTI said it was reported to police on August 16 that "a group of six unidentified male individuals" damaged and vandalised "a statue with a sledge hammer in front of Tulsi Mandir located at 103-26 111 Street".



"The male individuals then fled toward Liberty Avenue and entered two vehicles, a white Mercedes Benz and a dark colour possibly a Toyota Camry with possible taxi/livery sticker on the back passenger window," it said, adding that the miscreants were approximately aged between 25 to 30 years.

The NYPD has asked for the public's assistance in ascertaining the whereabouts of the miscreants and urged anyone with information related to the incident to call its Crime Stoppers Hotline or submit their tips at Crime Stoppers website.

New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar in a statement on Thursday said, "In an act outraging the entire Queens community and peace-loving people worldwide, the statue of Mahatma Gandhi was vandalised for a second time."

"This time, the statue was totally destroyed and graffitied with obscene names. Vandals also graffitied the mandir grounds and 111th Street asphalt," the Indian-American lawmaker said.

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## Dahi-handi politics at play as Maha civic polls near

TN RAGHUNATHA ■  
MUMBAI

With the crucial elections to major municipal corporations in the State just round the corner, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and its alliance partner BJP on Friday reached out to voters in Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Kalyan-Dombivli, and other civic poll-bound cities across the State, by organising 'Dahi Handi' events through their elected representatives and local leaders.

The importance of 'Dahi Handi' politics can be evidenced from the fact that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis addressed rallies at Thane, trying to expand their base by humouring the people ahead of the municipal corporation elections.

At his rally, Shinde — who hails from Thane — invoked

the name of his late mentor and local Shiv Sena strongman Anand Dighe and said that the late Sena leader wanted a Shiv Sainik from Thane to become the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, a wish that had now been fulfilled.

"Late Dighe *saab* had expressed his desire to his sister about his wish that a Shiv Sainik from Thane should become a Chief Minister one day. Dighe *saab*'s sister told me about the late Sena leader's wish. With my becoming the Chief Minister's late Dighe *saab*'s wish has been fulfilled," Shinde said, addressing the rally at Tembi Naka.

This festival had been started by the late Dighe under the auspices of Tembi Naka Mitra Mandal.

Alluding to tall human pyramids being formed during 'Dahi Handi' celebrations, Shinde gloated as to how he had toppled the Uddhav

Thackeray Government.

"You people (Govindas) are breaking 'dahi handi' now, but we broke the most difficult 'dahi handi' one-and-half months back by climbing 50 strong layers of 'Dahi Handi'," he said, as he indirectly recalled how he had walked away with the 50 Shiv Sena MLAs to form a Government in the State in alliance with the BJP.

Shinde's rally came a day after he declared the popular 'Dahi Handi' tradition as a sports event and announced it would give away prizes for "professional Govinda" competition for revellers in the State from this year onwards.

"In countries like Spain and China, human pyramids are treated as sport events. We in Maharashtra would also henceforth have 'Dahi Handi' as sport events like Kabbadi, Kho Kho, etc," Shinde had said in the State Assembly.

Continued on Page 2



Devotees form a human pyramid to break the 'dahi handi' during the celebrations of 'Krishna Janmashtami' festival, at Lalbaug area in Mumbai on Friday

PTI



# 113 hurt in Dahi-Handi event in Maharashtra

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As many as 113 revellers were injured in “Dahi-handi”-related incidents in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane, as mishaps marred the Krishna Janmashtami celebrations in the metropolis and neighbouring Thane districts on Friday.

While 78 persons were injured during “human pyramid” formations done as part of the “dahi-handi celebrations in various parts of Mumbai, 35 persons were injured in similar mishaps in Thane.

Of the 78 injured persons, 67 people were treated and allowed to go, while the remaining injured persons are undergoing treatment at the various hospitals in Mumbai. In Thane, 29 out of 35 injured were allowed to go after treatment, while six are being treat-

ed at various hospitals.

The mishaps have over the years become a common feature during the Krishna Janmashtami celebrations, despite the height and age restrictions imposed by the Bombay High Court.

There were no Dahi handi celebrations during the last two years owing to Covid-19..

During the Dahi handi celebrations held in August 2019, two persons were killed and at least 133 others were injured in the Krishna Janmashtami celebration-related in Mumbai and neighbouring districts of Thane and Raigad.

In 2018, a 20-year-old boy was killed and at least 98 others were injured in “Dahi-handi”-related incidents. During 2017, two persons had been killed and at least 120 others injured in “Dahi-handi”-

related incidents in the metropolis and neighbouring Thane and Palghar districts. In 2016, as many At least 128 people were injured in “Dahi-handi”-related incidents in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane

It may be recalled that in 2016, the Maharashtra government had declared “Dahi handi” as an “adventurous sport”.

However, following a submission made by the State government in response to public interest litigation before it, a HC division bench had accepted the state government’s submission that it would not permit the children below the age of 14 years to take part in the dahi handi celebrations. Despite the restrictions, it has been noticed that children below 14 years of age have been participating in the Dahi-handi events.

Five fishermen missing as trawler sinks in Bay of Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

At least 5 fishermen have gone missing as the trawler they were sailing in sunk in the small hours of Friday. A late evening report said 13 of the 18 missing people had been rescued.

The fishing trawler Satyanarayan had set sail on August 16 for Kendo Island area in Bay of Bengal off Sunderbans to catch Hilsa fish. All the fishermen belong to kakkwips-Namkhana area of Sunderbans, sources said adding they might have swam towards the Kendo Islands which could again be infested with tiger and crocodiles.

The trawler reportedly hit a hidden underwater island before sinking sources said adding rescue work could not be started even 15 hours of the incident due to inclement weather and turbulent sea.

## L-G...

From Page 1

An officer of the 2004 batch Shurbir Singh has been relieved of the charge of Secretary (Cooperation) and given the charge of Secretary (Power) while he will continue to be the Chairman of Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board.

Officer Garima Gupta has been given the additional charge of Special Secretary, Transport, while she will continue to be the Managing Director of Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation and Secretary, Social Welfare and Women and Child Development, the order said.

Ashish Madhaorao More, a 2005-batch officer, has been given the additional responsibility of secretary (services) while he will continue his duties as secretary, General Administrative Department, and staff officer to the chief secretary, the order said.

Director of Women and Child Development Krishna Kumar has been given addi-

tional charge of Registrar Cooperative Societies with effect from September 1.

The order said 2010-batch officer Kalyan Sahai Meena has been appointed as Special Secretary, urban development. He was posted as Special Secretary, Administrative Reforms.

Sonal Swaroop, a 2012-batch officer, has been appointed as the Special Secretary to the Lieutenant- Governor. She was posted as Additional Commissioner in the MCD.

Saxena had earlier recommended suspension of 11 officials over “serious lapses” in the implementation of the controversial excise policy of the Delhi Government. The suspended officials include AGU-MUT-cadre IAS officer Arava Gopi Krishna, who was transferred from the post of Excise Commissioner on July 12.

The decision was the result of “serious lapses on the part of the officers concerned” while implementing the excise policy which also includes “irregularities in finalizing the tender and extending post-tender benefits” to some vendors, the L-G’s office had informed.

## NCR-PULSE

**TATA POWER, DSLSA TO HOLD ‘SPECIAL LOK ADALAT’**

**New Delhi:** Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), in association with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA) will organise a ‘Special Lok Adalat’ for amicable resolution and on-the-spot settlement of direct thefts and Ddsconnection cases, that are either pending in any Court or are yet to be filed will be taken up by the Lok Adalat. The session will be held at TPDDL EAC Office, Rohini, on August 21st 2022, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

**EXCISE OFFICIAL MOVED FOR DEMANDING LIQUOR Gurugram:** An excise inspector in Haryana has been shifted to the department headquarters in Panchkula after an audio message surfaced in which he is allegedly heard telling a liquor store employee to send free scotch whiskey bottles for the deputy chief minister’s function.Punitive action was initiated against the inspector when the liquor shop owner Vikram Yadav filed a complaint to the CM Window, the Home Minister and other senior officials. The excise official was identified as Sandeep Lohan.

## Man routing money to LeT, Al Badr through hawala nabbed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested a 48-year-old Delhi based garment trader allegedly working as an agent in routing hawala money to terror outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Al Badr in the national Capital.

The accused, identified as Mohammad Yaseen, a resident of Turkman Gate here, was arrested in a joint operation by Delhi and J&K Police and central agencies on Thursday.

According to HGS Dhaliwal, the Special Commissioner of Police, Special Cell, on August 18, specific inputs were received from central agencies and J&K police of a person involved in terror funding and operating from Meena Bazar, Delhi .

“Accordingly, a raiding team was constituted and deployed at and around Meena Bazar and apprehended owner of the establishment identified as Yaseen,” said the Special CP.

“During interrogation, it was revealed that he works as a conduit of Hawala money, collecting funds received from sources based abroad and further delivering to terror operatives in Jammu and Kashmir.

# CBI...

From Page 1

“Sources revealed that some of the L-1 Licence holders are issuing credit notes to retail vendors with an *ab initio* intention to divert the funds and undue pecuniary advantages to public servants,” reads the FIR.

It adds that “They are showing false entries in their books of accounts to keep their record straight.”

Sources further revealed that Amit Arora, Director of Buddy Retail Pvt. Ltd., Dinesh Arora and Arjun Pandey (all accused in the FIR) are close associates of Sisodia. They were allegedly actively involved in managing and diverting the fund collected from liquor licencees and accused public servants, according to the FIR.

Sources further revealed

that accused Ramchandra Pillai used bribe from Sameer Mahendru, MD, Indospirit for onward transmission to the accused public servant through Vijay Nair (also an accused in the case). A person named Arun Pandey (accused) had once collected a huge cash amount of Rs 2-4 crore from Ameer Mahendru on behalf of Vijay Nair, it alleged.

Sources have further informed that Mahadev Liquors, a proprietorship firm was granted an L-1 Licence. Sunny Marwah (accused) is the authorized signatory of the firm. Sunny Marwah is also a director in companies/firms being managed by the family of slain liquor baron Ponty Chadda. Marwah was in close contact with accused public servants and has been regularly giving undue pecuniary advantages to them, added the FIR.

The CBI registered the FIR on Thursday for alleged irregularities in the formulation and execution of the Delhi Excise Policy brought out in

November last year.

The searches covered seven States and Union Territories and the premises of the three accused public servants were also searched.

Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena last month recommended a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the implementation of Delhi’s Excise Policy 2021-22. He suspended 11 excise officials in the matter. Sisodia had also demanded a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the policy.

The CBI inquiry was recommended on the findings of the Delhi Chief Secretary’s report filed in July showing prima facie violations of the GNCTD Act 1991, Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR)-1993, Delhi Excise Act-2009, and Delhi Excise Rules-2010, they said.

According to officials, the report had shown prima facie violations, including “deliberate and gross procedural lapses”, to provide post-tender

“undue benefits to liquor licencees” through the policy.

It is alleged that undue financial favours were extended to liquor licencees after the tenders were awarded, causing loss to the exchequer.

The excise department gave a waiver of Rs 144.36 crore to the licencees on the tendered licence fee on the excuse of Covid-19, sources claimed.

The department also refunded the earnest money of Rs 30 crore to the lowest bidder for the licence of the airport zone when it failed to obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC) from airport authorities, they said.

“It was in gross violation of rule 48(11)(b) of the Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, which clearly stipulates that the successful bidder must complete all formalities for the grant of the licence, failing which all deposits made by him shall stand forfeited to the government,” according to a source.

## Excise Minister has become excuse minister: BJP...

From Page 1

“Why was this step taken, because there was corruption in the issuance of liquor licenses,” Thakur said.

The minister said the fear of a CBI probe had compelled Kejriwal and Sisodia to link the searches by the central investigative agency to education facilities in the national capital. The minister hoped that Sisodia would not claim to be suffering from memory loss as his ministerial colleague Satyendra Jain, who has been arrested in connection with a money laundering case.

“People seek answers. The corruption in excise policy has revealed the true face of Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia. They talked about fighting corruption and not entering politics. Not only did they venture into politics, but are also now involved in corruption,” the senior BJP leader said.

Commenting on the CBI raids, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said, “They (AAP) were allowing the opening of liquor shops in every street. Now they made a U-turn on the liquor policy after the investigation started. ‘Delhiwalla’s khajana’ has been looted. This action could have been taken earlier, but the CBI has delayed it.” Tiwari too cited the story in NYT as paid and alleged AAP was “wasting” public money on publicity. “Caught here too. New York Times and Khaleej Times same word to word...The same author

also. Shameless AAP is wasting money of Delhi public for publishing its photos by paying money,” Tiwari tweeted in Hindi.

BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya said that the Delhi government’s new excise policy was arbitrary, and caused a huge loss to the exchequer. If the policy was fine, why was it reversed immediately after the inquiry was ordered? Arvind Kejriwal had given an honesty certificate to Satyendra Jain also. He still remains in jail. Sisodia too will go,” he said.

West Delhi BJP MP Parvesh Verma accused Sisodia of corruption, and that two “middlemen” who used to collect cash from liquor licencees have left the country. “The Arvind Kejriwal government in which Manish Sisodia is the excise minister raised the commission of wholesale licencees from 2 percent to 12 percent. Out of this, 12 percent to 6 percent in cash was collected for the AAP government by several persons, two of which left the country as soon as a CBI probe was recommended by the L-G,” he alleged.

Cricketer-turned-BJP MP Gautam Gambhir said it is alleged they (AAP) have used funds from liquor licenses in Delhi during the Punjab elections. It is now time to expose all of them. One by one, their misdeeds are coming out in the open, he said.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, in a tweet, said even during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sisodia was providing “relief” to the liquor mafia. Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri hailed the CBI raids against Sisodia saying this should have been done earlier.

BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga alleged that Kejriwal and Sisodia “looted” Delhi exchequer by amending the excise liquor policy to fund the recent Punjab elections.

## Bapu's statue in...

From Page 1

Surveillance video shows a person thrashing a statue of Gandhi with a sledgehammer on Tuesday, before smashing the head off and toppling it over, according to cbsnews.com. Minutes later, a group of six stomp on it and take turns hammering the statue before taking off, it said.

“To see them coming after us like this is very painful,” Lakhram Maharaj, the founder of Shri Tulsi Mandir situated in South Richmond Hill, was quoted as saying in the report.

Maharaj discovered the Gandhi statue was reduced to rubble on Wednesday morning. The words “dog” and “Gandpi dog” were spray painted both in front of the temple and down the block.

Maharaj says many in the community are now afraid to go to the temple. “I cannot show the congregation that I am worried because if I show them that I’m worrying and I’m not strong, how will they be strong?” the report quoted him

as saying.

The temple authorities cannot afford to replace the Gandhi statue, because it was handcrafted and cost about USD 4,000, the report said.

“I want to know why they did it,” Maharaj said.

The same Gandhi statue was vandalised two weeks ago, investigating officials said. “When the Gandhi statue was vandalised, that really flew in the face of all of our beliefs and it’s very disturbing for the community,” said Rajkumar, the first South Asian woman to be elected to the New York State Assembly.

Rajkumar, who represents the Queens area, in the statement said she has spoken with Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell and 106th Precinct Commanding Officer Captain Jerome Bacchi and “they are taking this incident seriously and investigating it as a possible hate crime.”

“I call for the perpetrators to be apprehended swiftly, charged, and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law,” she said. Since the targeting of the Gandhi statue and the Hindu Temple, Rajkumar said she has received an outpouring of support not just in Queens, but from people all around the world.

## India part of 17-nation Pitch...

From Page 1

For the first time in 2018 the IAF deployed fighter aircraft for the exercise and said it would “provide a unique opportunity for exchange of knowledge and experience with these nations in a dynamic warfare environment”.

The then contingent, consisting of 145 personnel, four Su-30MKI fighters, one C-130 and one C-17 transport aircraft, went to Australia via Indonesia.

Pitch Black is a biennial multi-national large force employment warfare exercise, hosted by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). The objectives of the exercise are to foster a closer relationship between the participating forces and promote interoperability through the exchange of knowledge and experience. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) considers Pitch Black as its “capstone” international engagement activity with the air forces of strategic partners and allies.

## Dahi-handi politics at play as...

From Page 1

Shinde’s “Dahi Handi” announcement was aimed at winning the hearts of Maharashtra youth who celebrate the Gokulashtami festival with pomp and gaiety by forming tall human pyramids and breaking the handis tied to it.

Addressing rallies at Thane and Nagothane, Fadnavis said that after two years of lull, the people were celebrating the “Dahi Handi” in enthusiastic manner. “The people had been waiting for two long years for this day. Now that the

decks have been cleared for Govinda. There’s no looking back he said”.

In his bid to cheer up the crowds, Fadnavis shouted “Govinda...” the crowd cheered him back. He exhorted the people to celebrate the festival in a grand manner.

Elsewhere in Mumbai, BJP’s new city president Ashish Shelar hit out at Shiv Sena’s former Minister Aaditya Thackeray and charged that the Shiv Sena had forsaken Hindutva a long ago.

“Shiv Sena gave up Hindutva a long ago. Its workers have also stopped celebrating Maharashtra festivals like Dahi Handi, Ganpati, Navratri and Shrawan. To that extent, Aaditya Thackeray did not apply for permission to hold Dahi handi celebrations at Jamburi grounds in his constituency of Worli,” Shelar said, as he took a pot shot at the Yu Sena leader.

Shelar said that his party

the present and the future.”

“Those who do not care about the country are not bothered about spoiling the present or future of the nation. Such people can definitely talk big, but can never work with a big vision for water,” Modi said without naming anyone.

“There cannot be a better beginning of Amrit Kaal”, the Prime Minister said, lauding the feat of connecting 7 crore rural households with piped water in just 3 years whereas in 12 decades since Independence only 3 crore households had this facility,” He said without mentioning the previous regimes.

“There were about 16 crore rural households in the country, who had to depend on outside sources for water. We could not have left such a large population of the village fighting for this basic need. That’s why 3 years ago I had announced from the Red Fort that every house would

get piped water. 3 lakh 60 thousand crore rupees are being spent on this campaign. Despite the interruptions caused by the biggest epidemic of 100 years, the pace of this campaign did not slow down.

“The result of this continuous effort is that in just 3 years, the country has done more than double the work done in 7 decades. This is an example of the same human-centered development, which I talked about this time from the Red Fort”, said the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister said that “four pillars” are at the basis of the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission - people’s participation, stakeholder participation, political will, and optimum utilisation of resources.

Local people and Gram Sabhas and other institutions of local governance have been given an unprecedented role in the campaign, said Modi.



# Modi rattled by Kejriwal popularity, Sisodia will come clean, says AAP

It will be Modi vs Kejriwal in 2024 general polls: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the CBI action against Manish Sisodia, and accused him of using the probe agency to defame the party and its leaders due to the "growing popularity" of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his model of governance.

The AAP claimed that it will be Narendra Modi versus Kejriwal in the 2024 general elections. The party also asserted that Sisodia will eventually come out clean of the accusations and the real face of the Prime Minister will stand exposed before the country.

At a Press conference, AAP national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP, Sanjay Singh, said the alleged irregularities in the formulation of excise policy are just "an excuse" to put the CBI after Sisodia. "The real issue here is the grow-



RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

ing popularity of Kejriwal and his Delhi model of governance in the education and healthcare sectors. The way BJP leaders are targeting Kejriwal since morning, the party has, somewhere or the other, sent out a message across the country that the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will be AAP versus BJP," he said. He said the CBI raid at Sisodia's residence "proves" that Modi and his BJP are "completely rattled" by the "growing popularity" of Kejriwal and his model of governance.

In the country after the party's landslide victory in Punjab. "It is going to be Modi versus Kejriwal in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," Singh said. "I am saying this because as soon as Kejriwal reaches Gujarat and says his party will roll out the Delhi and Punjab model in Gujarat as

well, the Prime Minister goes on an offensive and levels the 'free revdi' charge."

After Kejriwal "exposed" the Prime Minister by showing how he has "distributed free revdi to his friends" with his Government at the Centre "writing off

their loans worth Rs 10 lakh crore and giving them tax exemption of Rs 5 lakh crore", Modi put the CBI and ED after the AAP Ministers, Singh alleged.

The AAP leader said days after Delhi Health Minister Satyender Jain, who gave the Delhi model of mohalla clinic to the world, was jailed by the Enforcement Directorate, the Prime Minister has put the CBI after Sisodia.

"Preparations are underway to put Sisodia also behind bars as the prime minister is not able to sleep at night due to the growing popularity of Kejriwal and his Delhi model of governance in education and healthcare sectors," Singh charged.

He said the CBI raids against Sisodia came a day after a story about the Delhi model of education was published in the

New York Times with a picture of Sisodia.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP, Raghav Chadha, also hit out at the Union Government on Friday for the CBI raid at the residence of Sisodia. Chadha said the BJP is terrified of the growing popularity of AAP National Convenor and Delhi CM. "Do whatever you can, send the ED, CBI, Income Tax, Delhi Police after us but the Kejriwal wave won't stop. The agenda is clear, we are standing our ground unfazed, unafraid. Earlier it was 'Modi V/s who?', today it is 'Modi V/s Kejriwal'," said Chadha.

"Kejriwal is an alternative to Modi. This CBI raid is nothing but vendetta politics of BJP to curb Kejriwal's popularity and hinder Delhi's health and education model," said Chadha.

"Action by Central agencies on the AAP leaders is directly proportional to the growing popularity of the party. BJP's attempt to demonise AAP will fall flat, AAP is not going to stop and Kejriwal is set to win over the hearts of 130 crore Indians. When Kejriwal's house was raided, the officers found only a few mufflers and now when they are raiding Sisodia's house they will only find books, pencils and geometry boxes," said Chadha.

## CBI seized my computer, mobile phone, files: Sisodia

Not scared of CBI: Deputy CM; raid lasted for hours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, whose house was raided on Friday by the CBI in connection with alleged irregularities in the implementation of Excise Policy 2021-22, said the agency seized his computer and mobile phone after several hours of search and also took away some files.

He asserted that he was not involved in any wrongdoing and was not scared of the Central Bureau of Investigation. "The CBI team reached in the morning and searched the whole house. My family and I extended them full cooperation. They seized my computer and mobile phone. They also took away some files," he told reporters after the raid that lasted several hours.

Sisodia alleged that the Centre was misusing the agency to stop the Arvind Kejriwal Government from



"doing good work" in Delhi. He said CBI officials behaved well during the raid.

Sisodia further said, "We are honest people and have been working honestly have done nothing wrong." He said the AAP Government constructed schools and hospitals and with people's blessings, "the Central Government can use the CBI as much as they want but school and hospital work will keep going on."

Earlier in the day, Sisodia said on Twitter, "We are hard core honest and are shaping the future of lakhs of children. It is very unfortunate that those who do good work in our country are harassed like this. That is why our country could not become the number one," Sisodia said.

In a series of posts on Twitter, Sisodia said they will extend full cooperation in the probe so the truth emerges soon. "Till now, there have been many cases against me but nothing came out. Nothing will come out in this also. My work for good education in this country cannot be stopped," he asserted. Sisodia alleged that people were troubled by the excellent work being done in Delhi in the sectors of education and health. That's why, he said, Delhi's education and health ministers had been caught – a reference to himself and Satyendar Jain who is behind bars.

## '100 false cases filed against AAP leaders, but they came clean'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha on Friday claimed that over 100 false cases had been registered against the party leaders but they came clean in courts every time.

Following the CBI raid in the Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia residence, Chadha on Friday claimed that over 100 false cases had been registered against the party leaders but they came clean in courts every time. Chadha claimed that during raids at Sisodia's residence, they will get four pencils, note books and a geometry box," he said.

According to AAP leaders,



Arvind Kejriwal's name figured in the 2018 assault on then chief secretary Anshu Prakash during a meeting at the Chief Minister's official residence. In February of that year, the Delhi Police, which comes

under the Central Government, visited Chief Minister's residence looking for video and other evidence in connection with an alleged assault by AAP MLAs Amanatullah Khan and Prakash Jarwal.

The trial court had discharged Kejriwal, Sisodia and other AAP MLAs — Rajesh Rishi, Nitin Tyagi, Praveen Kumar, Ajay Dutt, Sanjeev Jha, Rituraj Govind, Rajesh Gupta, Madan Lal, and Dinesh Mohania — in the case.

It ordered the framing of charges against Khan and Jarwal. Kejriwal, Sisodia and nine other party were granted bail in October 2018. Khan and Prakash Jarwal were granted bail earlier by the High Court.

Kejriwal claimed the CBI has "orders from above to harass them", he and his deputy in the past accused the Centre of a witch hunt and even demanded an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "troubling" the AAP-led Delhi Government.

In December 2015, a few months after the AAP stormed into power in Delhi a second time, the CBI searched the office of Kejriwal in connection with corruption charges against his then principal secretary Rajendra Kumar.

It had prompted Kejriwal to call Modi a "coward" and "psychopath". A few months later, in July 2016, the CBI conducted searches at many locations in Delhi and Uttar

Pradesh linked to Kejriwal's principal secretary Rajendra Kumar. Kumar was arrested by the Central agency for allegedly providing undue favours to a company. Kejriwal's nephew Vinay Bansal was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Branch in May 2018 over an alleged scam in the Public Works Department.

Bansal was accused of having a 50 per cent stake in a firm that was allegedly involved in financial irregularities in building a drainage system in north-west Delhi. The CBI officials had reached Sisodia's house on Mathura Road in Delhi in June 2017 to record his statement over the alleged irregularities in "Talk To AK" campaign held in 2016 where Kejriwal answered

questions from people on a wide range of issues such as electricity and water.

Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain is already in judicial custody in a money laundering case. He was arrested by Enforcement Directorate in May this year under Prevention of Money Laundering Act on charges of hawala transactions by five shell companies allegedly controlled by him.

The ED and CBI had raided Jain's residences and properties of other people close to him. In May 2018, the CBI searched Jain's residence for alleged irregularities in hiring architects for Public Works Department (PWD), a portfolio which he helmed for a long time.



AAP supporters gather near the residence of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, during a raid of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at Sisodia's house on Friday in New Delhi. The CBI carried out searches at several locations in Delhi-NCR in connection with alleged irregularities in Delhi Excise Policy

RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

## AAP workers protesting against CBI raid detained

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday detained several Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supporters for protesting against CBI raid at the residence of Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia here in connection with the excise policy case.

A senior police official said the party supporters came to Mathura Road near Sisodia's residence and started protesting. "The protesters were removed from the spot and taken to Vasant Kunj police station in buses," he said. According to police, section 144 has already been imposed in the New Delhi district of police, which gets renewed every three months.

The youth wing of AAP gave a call of protest in front of the residence of the Union Home Minister and Defence Minister following which precautionary measures have been made and barricaded have also been put up at several relevant roads, police said. Hours after several teams of the Central

Bureau of Investigation searched 21 locations, all 14 districts DCPs in Delhi were asked to send one company of the police force, along with one additional DCP and 5 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), to New Delhi district by 11 am.

Officials said this is in anticipation of a protest by the AAP in New Delhi district outside the houses of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Delhi Police officials said the decision to send companies was taken after the special branch of Delhi Police received inputs that AAP could stage a protest outside the houses of Modi and Shah, as well as senior union ministers and the LG's house.

After receiving the inputs, the Special Branch informed senior officers and decided to make the arrangements in advance. Five companies of the CAPF from the operations, and 14 companies from the districts have been asked to report to the DCP (New Delhi district) by 11 am," a police officer said.

## ED to probe city Govt's excise policy under PMLA

Deputy CM Sisodia is prime accused in case

PNS NEW ■ DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is likely to initiate a money laundering probe in connection with the CBI FIR relating to the framing and execution of the Delhi Government's excise policy in which Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is the prime accused. Sisodia's premises along with other accused persons were searched by the CBI on Friday.

The ED is examining details of the CBI case, involvement of various Government officials and private individuals and the possible trail of 'proceeds of crime' generated in the process before it files a formal case under the Prevention of

Money Laundering Act (PMLA), sources said.

On Friday, the CBI searched the Delhi residence of Sisodia, 50 besides that of IAS officer and former Delhi Excise Commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna and 29 other locations across seven States and Union Territories after it registered an FIR to investigate alleged irregularities in the formulation and execution of the Delhi Excise Policy brought out in November last year.

The policy was scrapped by the Delhi Government in July. Sisodia holds multiple portfolios in the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi Government including that of Excise and Education.

The scheme came under the scanner after Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena last month recommended a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Excise Policy 2021-22. He also suspended 11 excise officials in the matter.

Sisodia too demanded a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the policy. The CBI enquiry was recommended based on the Delhi chief secretary's report filed in July showing prima facie violations of the GNCTD Act 1991, Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR)-1993, Delhi Excise Act-2009 and Delhi Excise Rules-2010, officials said.

The ED will analyse if individuals and companies who were involved in the policy making and related entities generated any "proceeds of crime" under the definition of PMLA and if there was any possible creation of illegal or benami assets, sources said.

The agency has powers to attach such assets and question, arrest and prosecute those who indulge in the offence of money laundering.

According to officials, the chief secretary's report had shown prima facie violations, including "deliberate and gross procedural lapses", to provide

post-tender "undue benefits to liquor licensees" through the policy.

It is alleged that undue financial favours were extended to liquor licensees after the tenders were awarded, causing loss to the exchequer. The Excise Department gave a waiver of Rs 144.36 crore to the licensees on the tendered licence fee on the excuse of Covid-19, sources claimed. The Excise Department also refunded the earnest money of Rs 30 crore to the lowest bidder for the licence of the airport zone when it failed to obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC) from airport authorities, they said.

"It was in gross violation of rule 48(11)(b) of the Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, which clearly stipulates that the successful bidder must complete all formalities for the grant of the licence, failing which all deposits made by him shall stand forfeited to the Government," a source said.

## Party raised matter of corruption in distribution of liquor licences: Cong

PNS NEW ■ DELHI

The Congress, which has been alleging witch-hunt and misuse of agencies against political opponents, is somehow elated at the CBI raids at Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's residence.

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said it too had raised the matter of "corruption" in the distribution of liquor licences with the previous Police Commissioner but no action was taken while Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said the honest end up paying the price in such processes

Soon after the CBI raids were conducted at the residence of Sisodia, the Delhi Congress president said it fought to prevent Delhi from becoming a drug Capital and has pledged to send "hardcore dishonest to jail".

Kumar said the party had in June written to the then Police Commissioner of Delhi, Rakesh Asthana, informing him of a "multi-crore scam" in the illegal distribution of liquor



licences to shell companies.

He said the party had also staged several protests demanding the resignation of Delhi Excise Minister Manish Sisodia over the alleged violation of rules and procedural lapses in the Arvind Kejriwal government's Excise Policy, 2021-22.

"The CBI has registered a case against Kejriwal's another corrupt Minister Sisodia in the liquor scam and raids.

"We have promised to public to send these 'hardcore dishonest' to jail," Kumar tweeted in Hindi.

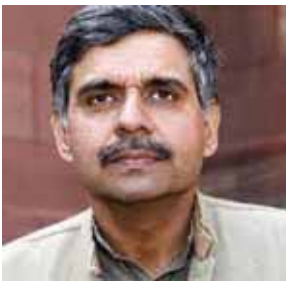
Khara said the honest end up paying the price in such processes. "The flip side to relentless misuse of agencies against political rivals is that



even legitimate, rightful actions of agencies come under a cloud of suspicion. In the process, the corrupt get away hiding behind the 'misuse' argument and the honest end up paying the price," tweeted Khara, communication head of the Congress.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh retweeted it. Khara was advisor to Late Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, who lost power to the AAP in 2013. Dikshit ruled Delhi for 15 years.

Former East Delhi MP Sandeep Dikshit alleged that the AAP and BJP were hand in glove to damage the Congress, "but it seems that the BJP does not require AAP now so the raids are being conducted".



Dikshit expressed surprise that the raids did not happen earlier. "We were hearing about happenings in Delhi Govt. Surprising that raids didn't happen earlier. Be it liquor case, construction of rooms in schools, teachers recruitment, wherever you see, there should've been 10 CBI raids," he said

Senior leader from the party Alka Lamba said the Deputy Chief Minister should reach Delhi and cooperate with the investigation. "They kept on opposing the liquor policy during Sheila Dikshit's time. But ultimately, they had to roll back their own liquor policy and go back to the one that was implemented by Sheila Dikshit," she said.

## NYT rejects paid news charge, says story based on impartial, on-the-ground reporting

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The New York Times story on Delhi's education system was based on "an impartial and on-the-ground reporting", the American newspaper said on Friday, rejecting the paid news charge.

The report triggered a war of words between the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party after the CBI raided the residence of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also held the education and excise portfolios, on Friday in connection with alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the AAP's Government's excise policy.

The AAP said the Narendra Modi Government sent the CBI to Sisodia's home after *The New York Times* carried a positive story on the Delhi model of education, and the BJP hit back saying it was a "paid" article.

Requested for a clarification on the matter, the NYT's external communications director Nicole Tylor told PTI in an email, "Our report about efforts to improve Delhi's education system is based on impartial, on-the-ground reporting." She said education is an issue that *The New York Times* has covered over many years. "Journalism from *The New York Times* is always inde-



pendent, free from political or advertiser influence," she added. On the charge that the same story was also published by the *Khaleej Times*, Tylor clarified, "Other news outlets routinely license and republish our coverage."

On August 18, *The New York Times* published the story, titled 'Our children are worth it', in the front page of its international edition, highlighting the "broader transformation of Delhi's education system" during the Aam Aadmi Party regime and noting that "the overhaul of the public schools in the capital of India has students clamouring to enroll".

Along with the story, the NYT published a picture of Sisodia with three girl students of Delhi Government schools, with the caption, "Manish Sisodia, the Delhi Education Minister, started the overhaul by making surprise visits to schools."

## Excise policy launched in 2021 to boost revenue, reform liquor trade falls to disrepute

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Excise Policy 2021-22 launched last year to boost revenue and reform liquor trade fell to further disrepute with Friday's CBI raids on Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's residence in connection with alleged irregularities in its execution.

The policy was withdrawn by the Delhi Government last month, after the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities cited in a report by the chief secretary.

Another report by the vigilance department too highlighted the role of excise officials in implementation of the policy from November 17, 2021, with issuing of licences to 849 liquor vends across the city.

The L-G further recommended the suspension of 11 officials of the Delhi Excise Department, including former Excise Commissioner and IAS

officer Arava Gopi Krishna. So far, nine officials have been suspended, while the suspension order of Krishna and a Deputy Commissioner of the department has been sent for MHA approval from the L-G's office, sources said.

According to the letter written by the LG to the CBI, the new excise policy violates the provisions of the GNCTD Act 1991, ToBR, 1993; Delhi Excise Act, 2009 and Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, and to extend post tender undue benefits to the licensee for the year 2021-2022.

While stating the violations in the letter, the LG wrote, decision taken at the level of the Council of Ministers modifying the Excise Policy without obtaining the opinion of L-G which was mandatory according to the Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991.

"The decisions were taken by the Excise Department without the approval of the Competent Authority to extend undue favor to the licensee 'Post Tender'.

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Registrar



# 4 Cong workers held for damaging Mahatma pic

## Rahul's staff also arrested

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major embarrassment for the Congress, four of its workers, including former party president Rahul Gandhi's staff, were on Friday arrested for allegedly vandalising a picture of Mahatma Gandhi in the Wayanad MP's office.

The incident had occurred on June 24 after which the Congress had claimed that workers of the SFI were responsible. "Four Congress workers, including MP Rahul's staff, have been arrested for vandalising a picture of Mahatma Gandhi in his Wayanad office," said a police official. Those arrested are V Noushad, K A Mujeeb, S R

Rahul and K R Ratheesh Kumar. Kumar is Rahul's office assistant. Following the incident, several videos went viral on social media that showed angry SFI protesters entering Rahul's office and a heated altercation that ensued. Visuals of protestors, allegedly belonging to the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the students' wing of the ruling CPI(M), entering the office of Congress leader Rahul also went viral on social media.

Rahul, who reached Wayanad on July 1, had also visited the office at Kalpetta later. "This is my office. But before being my office, this is the office of the people of Wayanad. It is quite unfortunate that the office has been attacked.

"Violence will never resolve problems. It is not good that they have acted in an irresponsible manner. I don't have any anger or hostility towards them. They are kids and they don't under-

stand the consequences of their act," he said without referring to either SFI or CPI(M).

The Kerala police had said that a protest march of around 100 SFI activists was on and they barged into the office. They also confirmed that eight of the violent protesters were taken into custody. On July 2, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had told the Assembly that police had removed all SFI men who had stormed into the MP office by around 3.54 pm. When a police photographer clicked photos of the crime scene, the Gandhi picture on the wall was intact.

Congress activists were inside the office after the SFI workers were removed and later in the evening, when the police photographer took photos of the crime scene again, the portrait was found lying on the floor in a damaged condition, Vijayan claimed and cited the photographer's statement to the police.

# TN, Odisha, UP, HP among top 5 States with highest number of ODF villages

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have become top five performing States with the highest number of open defecation free (ODF) villages in the country having sustainable waste management facilities under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G), the central flagship. This gives them the tag of ODF-Plus.

The Union Rural Development Ministry on Friday said 1,01,462 villages have declared themselves as ODF Plus. "These villages are sustaining their ODF status and have systems in place for managing solid and/or liquid waste and they would continue on their sanitation journey as they work towards making their villages cleaner, greener and healthier," said an official from the Ministry. He explained that "provision of toilets has led to the need to manage faecal



waste. Also, with potable water supply, more greywater is being generated that needs to be treated and reused; and with lifestyle changes and the use of packaged food products, the menace of plastic waste is rearing its ugly head in rural areas and that needs to be managed effectively.

"And this is what the second Phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) is about - to appropriately manage all types of waste that will not only make our villages clean, but also creating avenues for generating incomes for rural households and creating new livelihood opportunities,

while fulfilling the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals."

In the ODF Plus - Aspiring category, currently there are 54,734 villages in which all households and institutions besides having access to sanitation through individual household latrines, have arrangements for either SWM or LWM; those in ODF Plus - Rising are 17,121 villages which have arrangements for both LWM and SWM in addition to the criteria in Aspiring. Those that are declared ODF Plus - Model are 29,607 villages which have all the above and where IEC messages are prominent-

# SC quashes rape charges levelled by woman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has quashed the rape charges levelled by a woman against a man, saying she had a consensual relationship with him that continued prior to her marriage with another man, during the subsistence of her marriage, and even after the divorce.

A bench of Justice DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna passed the verdict on the plea by the man who challenged the Allahabad High Court order refusing to quash the charges and the charge sheet filed against him.

The bench said taking the allegations in the complaint as they stand, it is impossible to find in the FIR or the charge sheet, the essential ingredients of an offence under Section 376 IPC (rape). "We, accordingly, allow the appeal and set aside the impugned judgement and order of the High Court dated October 5, 2018, in an application under section 482 of CrPc....

The application under Section 482 of CrPc shall accordingly stand allowed", the bench said, while quashing the case lodged against the man and the order dated May 24, 2018, of the additional chief judicial magistrate taking cognisance of the charge sheet against him. The bench said

that in the present case, the issue which had to be addressed by the High Court was whether, assuming all the allegations in the charge sheet are correct as they stand, an offence punishable under Section 376 IPC was made out.

"Admittedly, the appellant and the second respondent were in a consensual relationship from 2013 until December 2017. They are both educated adults. The second respondent, during the course of this period, got married on June 12, 2014, to someone else.

The marriage ended in a decree of divorce by mutual consent on September 17, 2017. The allegations of the second respondent indicate that her relationship with the appellant continued prior to her marriage, during the subsistence of the marriage, and after the grant of divorce by mutual consent", it said.

Justice Chandrachud, who penned down the verdict, said that the crucial issue which was to be considered is whether the allegations indicate that the appellant (man against whom rape charges were levelled) had given a promise to the woman to marry, which at the inception was false and based on which the second respondent (woman) was induced into a sexual relationship.

## 'Duty of trial court to ensure that trial not prolonged'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has expressed displeasure over the delay in examination of witnesses, and said it is the duty of the trial court to ensure that the trial is not prolonged as time lag creates problems in the testimony of witnesses.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh said the trial court must control the dilatory tactics of any of the parties.

The observations came while granting bail to an man who was accused of facilitating the escape of persons who murdered the Mayor of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh.

The top court noted that the man is in jail since the last seven years and prosecution witnesses are yet to be examined. "We are troubled by the fact that seven years after the incident the prosecution wit-

nesses have not been examined and the trial is yet to commence. This is completely unacceptable. Time lag creates its own problems in the testimony of witnesses more so the eyewitnesses.

"It is the duty of the prosecution to ensure that the prosecution witnesses are available and it is the duty of the trial court to ensure that none of the parties is permitted to protract the trial," the bench said.

The apex court directed the trial court to ensure that post trial, the judgment of the trial court is available within a period of one year from the date of the communication of this order.

"We are, however, inclined to grant bail to the appellant considering the role ascribed to the appellant in the charge sheet and the total period spent in custody. Ordered accordingly," it said.

## Serve notice to accused before enhancing sentences, apex court tells High Courts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said that High Courts are required to give notice to the accused before enhancing sentences so that they get an opportunity to defend their case.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and P S Narasimha set aside an order of the Rajasthan High Court which had awarded life term for the rest of their life to accused in a murder case. The top court noted that it was the appellants who had challenged their conviction by way of an appeal before the high court.

It also took into account that the State had not appealed against the order of the Sessions Judge not awarding death penalty to the appellants. "No doubt that the high court could have itself exercised suo moto powers and enhanced the sentence. However, prior to doing so, the high court was required to give a notice to the appellants. Admittedly, the



same has not been done. "As a result of the judgement and order of the high court, the sentence awarded to the appellants has been enhanced without the appellants having an opportunity to defend their case as to why the enhanced sentence should not be granted," the bench said.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by two accused challenging an order of the Rajasthan High Court which observed that the case against the present appellant fell within the category of 'rarest of the rare cases'.

It was further held that the trial court has failed in not considering the present case to be falling in the category of 'rarest of the rare cases' for the purpose of awarding death sentence.

# Cong slams Centre over privatisation of banks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday lashed out at the Modi Government over its policy of privatising banks and said the Reserve Bank of India's latest report has warned against further reduction of public sector banks.

Congress General Secretary, Communications, Jairam Ramesh accused the Government of working arbitrarily and said it ignored the apex bank's warning even during demonetisation. "RBI warning! The number of public sector banks has already come down from 27 to 12.

The Government's plan is to reduce further, perhaps to merely one. RBI says doing so is an invitation to disaster. But the Modi Government always works arbitrarily. It did not listen to the RBI even on demonetisation," Ramesh said on Twitter.

He wondered if the Centre wanted to reduce public sector banks to only one. A research paper published in the RBI Bulletin's August issue said, "A big bang approach of privatisation of banks may do more harm than good. The Government has already



announced its intention to privatise two banks. Such a gradual approach would ensure that large scale privatisation does not create a void in fulfilling important social objectives of financial inclusion and monetary transmission," it said.

Thus, the researchers are of the view that instead of a big bang approach, a gradual approach as announced by the government would result in better outcomes, it added.

In 2020, the government merged 10 nationalised banks into four large lenders, thereby bringing down the number of public sector banks to 12.

**CORRIGENDUM**

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

Notices under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. LBDEL00001173375, Name of the Borrower **AMULYA KUMR NAYAK** property address **P. NO-17, FLAT NO- 206, BLOCK-1, 1ST FLOOR VAISHNAVI KUNJ, SECTOR-2, RAJENDRA NAGAR, SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD** against which Demand notice publication dated February 01,2022 and Symbolic publication dated June 23, 2022. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said publication and was mentioned as **P. NO-17, FLAT NO- 206, VAISHNAVI KUNJ, SECTOR-2, RAJENDRA NAGAR, SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD** instead of **P.NO-17,FLAT NO - 206, BLOCK-1, 1ST FLOOR VAISHNAVI KUNJ, SECTOR-2, RAJENDRA NAGAR, SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD**. We therefore, request you to please read the same as **P. NO-17,FLAT NO - 206, BLOCK-1, 1ST FLOOR VAISHNAVI KUNJ, SECTOR-2, RAJENDRA NAGAR, SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD**. All other details mentioned in the said Notice dated will remain same. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to you in this regard.

Date : August 20, 2022  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**CORRIGENDUM**

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

Notices under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. LBDEL00000803932, Name of the Borrower **DILIP KUMAR THAKUR** property address **FLAT NO. 304, SF (REAR LHS) PLOT NO. 148, SECTOR-4, VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH** against which Demand notice publication dated March 06,2022 and Symbolic publication dated June 23,2022. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said publication and was mentioned as **FLAT NO. 304, SF (REAR LHS) PLOT NO. 148, SECTOR-4, VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH** instead of **FLAT NO. 304, SF (WITH ROOF RIGHTS) (REAR LHS) PLOT NO. 148, SECTOR-4, VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH**. We therefore, request you to please read the same as **FLAT NO. 304, SF (WITH ROOF RIGHTS) (REAR LHS) PLOT NO. 148, SECTOR-4, VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH**. All other details mentioned in the said Notice dated will remain same. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to you in this regard.

Date : August 20, 2022  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

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

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Nidhi Arora / A/c.No.008305502570	House No. 840 Sector 15 A Escorts Nagar Faridabad- 121007/ August 16, 2022	March 21, 2022 Rs.2,00,69,210.59/-	Faridabad

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : August 20, 2022  
Place: Faridabad

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

## Accused revealed netas' hand in land grabbing: Goa cop

**Panaji:** The accused arrested by the special investigation team (SIT) of the Goa police in land grabbing cases have revealed the involvement of some politicians in crime, a senior official said on Friday. The SIT arrested three more accused on Thursday and Friday in connection with a series of land

grabbing incidents, and one of them was apprehended outside Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai while he was fleeing to another country, an official said. Speaking to reporters, Inspector General of Police Omvir Singh Bishnoi said investigating officer has recorded confessional statement of accused and team is investigating involvement of politicians.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will attend the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference to be held in Halifax, Canada from August 20 to 26. During the Conference, eight workshops will be held on various subjects. Birla will participate as a pan-

elist in the workshop titled "A People's Parliament: Accessibility through Innovation". Parliament Members Sunita Duggal, Anurag Sharma, Neeraj Shekhar, Santosh Kumar, Anubhav Mohanty, Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu and Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary General, Lok Sabha are also part of the delegation. The conference will also be attended by 23 Presiding Officers and

16 Secretaries from State Legislatures. "Sunita Duggal would be attending the meeting of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee.

She will also be a panelist at the CWP Conference session on the topic 'Empowering Women Parliamentarians and Promoting Diversity/ Intersectionality', said Lok Sabha Secretariat in a statement.

# 'Covid patients at increased risk of dementia, seizures for up to 2 yrs'

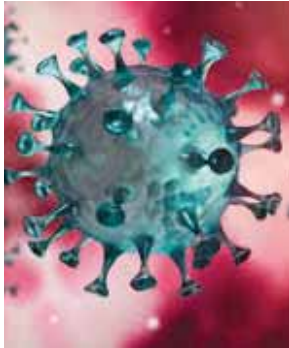
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Compared to other respiratory infections, people infected with Covid-19 infection can be more at risk of psychosis, dementia, seizures and brain fog for up to two years, according to a study published in The Lancet Psychiatry.

The study, led by researchers at the University of Oxford, UK, however, showed that the increased risks of depression and anxiety after Covid-19 are short-lived, and there is no overall excess of cases.

"It is good news that the excess of depression and anxiety diagnoses after Covid-19 is short-lived and is not observed in children.

However, it is worrying that some other disorders, such as dementia and seizures, continue to be more likely diagnosed after Covid-19, even two years later," said Professor Paul Harrison from the varsity's Department of Psychiatry. Based on neurological and



psychiatric diagnoses in over 1.25 million people following diagnosed Covid-19 infection, the study reported on 14 neurological and psychiatric diagnoses over a 2-year period and compared their frequency with a matched group of people recovering from other respiratory infections.

It also reported data in children and older adults separately and compared data across three waves of the pandemic.

Covid-19 was lower than in adults, and they were not at greater risk of anxiety or depression than children who had other respiratory infections.

However, like adults, children recovering from Covid-19 were more likely to be diagnosed with some conditions, including seizures and psychotic disorders.

More neurological and psychiatric disorders were seen during the Delta variant wave than with the Alpha variant. The Omicron variant, although less severe in acute illness, is associated with similar neurological and psychiatric risks as Delta.

The study also noted several limitations. It is not known how severe or how long-lasting the disorders are. Nor is it clear when they began since problems may be present for some time before a diagnosis is made. Unrecorded cases of Covid-19 and unrecorded vaccinations introduce some uncertainty into the results, the researchers said.

# Union Home Secy Bhalla gets 1-year extension

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday gave Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla a further one-year extension in service till August 2, 2023. This is his third extension in the post. Bhalla, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed as the Home Secretary in August 2019.

He was to retire in November 2020 after attaining 60 years of age. His tenure was first extended on October 17, 2020 till August 22, 2021. Bhalla's tenure was extended by one more year on August 12 last year and was to end on Monday.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in service to Bhalla as Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, for a period of one year beyond August 22, 2022 i.e. Up to August 22, 2023, in relaxation

of FR 56(d) and Rule 16(1A) of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, a Personnel Ministry order said. The rules have provisions related to extension in service of such officers beyond the age of 60 years of superannuation.

The Fundamental Rules or FR 56 (d) reads "No government servant shall be granted extension in service beyond the age of retirement of sixty years".

It, however, allows the central government to give extension in service to the Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary, Director of Intelligence Bureau and the Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing among others in "public interest" for such 'period or periods as it may deem proper on a case-to-case basis for reasons to be recorded in writing'.

The Rule 16(1A) of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958 has similar provision



# Jungle Raj prevails in UP, says Mayawati

**Lucknow:** Targeting the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh, BSP chief Mayawati alleged on Friday that "jungle raj" prevailed in the State and the drumming of development was merely a deception.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Mayawati said, "A number of people died in a boat tragedy due to an incomplete bridge over the Yamuna river in Banda. An undertrial who had been brought to Hapur for a hearing was shot dead, and now the painful incident of gangrape in Hamirpur. These incidents prove there is jungle raj in Uttar Pradesh and the drumming of development is only a deception."

"Overall, lack of judicious use of law in UP, fearlessness among criminal elements are proof of poor law and order. Their (BJP government's) development is also limited to certain districts, while there is extreme poverty and unemployment in all parts of UP. The government should definitely pay attention to this," she said.



Eleven deaths took place in the boat capsizing incident which had taken place in Samgara village of Banda district on August 11.

On August 16, a history-sheeter from Haryana was shot dead by three people outside the district and sessions court in Hapur. A police constable was also injured in the incident.

Injured constable Omprakash belonged to the Haryana Police.

The criminal, Lakhan, alias Yashpal (35), was brought from Haryana's Faridabad jail in connection with a case registered against him at the Dhaulana police station in Hapur.

# Delay in completion of development projects won't be tolerated: Yogi

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Expressing his displeasure over the delay in completion of development projects for public welfare, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said negligence on part of the officials concerned in this regard would not be tolerated.

"In case of unnecessary delay or negligence in completion of development projects, or reports of corruption, the Government officials concerned, including the additional chief secretary, principal secretary, and secretary level officers among others would be held accountable," the Chief Minister said while reviewing the updated status of various development projects.

Yogi sought a detailed report on important development projects in all the 18 divisions from the chief secretary. He also directed the additional chief secretary (finance) to prepare a detailed report on project-wise budget released to the departments in the last five months along with details of expenditure so far and the remaining amount.

Next week, the chief minister will review project-wise progress of works once again.



Reviewing the district-wise progress of development works, Yogi Adityanath said that any delay in development projects not only led to wastage of public money, but also affected public welfare at large.

"Therefore, special attention should be paid to ensure timely completion of the development projects of public welfare in the state," he said.

Stressing on the allocation of funds as per the rules fixed for the project, the chief minister said that procrastination should be avoided to complete the projects within stipulated time.

"There is no paucity of funds for development works. In this regard, the Finance Department and the Chief Minister's Office can be contacted as per the requirement," Yogi remarked.

# Some convicts in Bilkis case Brahmins with good sanskaar, says Guj BJP MLA

**PTI ■ AHMEDABAD**

Some convicts in the Bilkis Bano case of the 2002 Gujarat riots are "Brahmins" with good sanskaar (values) and may have been 'fixed' for their family activities, a BJP MLA, who was in the State Government panel that recommended remission to all the 11 men found guilty, has said.

However, a day after making the claim on camera to news portal Mojo Story, Godhra MLA C K Raulji said he believes that rapists do not have any caste and those guilty should be punished.

"Rapists do not belong to any caste, and I have not said anything like that. My statement is being shown in a wrong way.

If someone is guilty he should get punishment for it. We should respect court's verdict," Raulji tweeted on Friday. His tweet came a day after his statement on the caste of some of the convicts of Bilkis Bano case created controversy.

Raulji on Thursday said he does not know whether the convicts, released after spending more than 15 years in jail, were involved in the crime. On August 15, all the 11 convicts sentenced to life imprisonment in the 2002 case of Bilkis



Social activists being detained during a protest against the release of eleven people convicted for rape and murder in the Bilkis Bano case of the 2002 post-Godhra riots under the Gujarat Government's remission policy, in Ahmedabad on Friday

Bano's gang rape and murder of her seven family members during the communal riots walked out of the Godhra sub-jail after the BJP government in Gujarat allowed their release under its remission policy.

"We took the decision on the basis of a Supreme Court order. We were asked to look at their (convicts') behaviour and decide (on their early release)," Raulji, who was one of the members of the government-appointed committee that recommended granting of remis-

# Tej Yadav in soup for asking brother-in-law to stay in official meet

**PTI ■ PATNA**

Ministers in Bihar seem to have a penchant for allowing the presence of their close relatives at official events.

The new 'Mahagathbandhan' Government in the State is embarrassed over photographs, clicked a few days ago, in which Minister for Environment, Forestry and Climate change Tej Pratap Yadav is seen along with his brother-in-law at a meeting with department officials.

According to department sources who did not wish to be named, Shailesh Kumar, who is married to Yadav's eldest sister Misa Bharti, a Rajya Sabha MP herself, had come to the office on Wednesday to congratulate his wife's younger brother upon securing a cabinet berth.

Yadav, never known to be a stickler for norms, asked the brother-in-law to take a seat beside him until the meeting was over and the two could have a chat, they said.

However, the mercurial leader also ended up sharing pictures of the meeting on Twitter and the BJP, sore over the sudden loss of power, pounced on the opportunity.

# PDP stages protest against inclusion of non-local voters in J&K's electoral rolls

**PTI ■ SRINAGAR**

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday took out a protest march here against the inclusion of non-local voters in the electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Several PDP leaders led by the party's chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari took out the march from the party's head office near Sher-e-Kashmir Park here.

Bukhari said the protest was against the "electoral demographic change being forced by the BJP" through inclusion of "imported voters" in the J-K electoral rolls.

He said the rights of the people of J-K are being "trampled."

"They started the process of taking away the peoples' rights and diluting public will here on August 5, 2019 and now they have added a new chapter to it by saying they will add non-local voters.

"They are trying hard to change the identity, democratic rights, and electoral demography of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, but it is not acceptable to the people of Jammu & Kashmir under any circumstances," Bukhari told reporters.

He said the party leaders wanted to register a peaceful protest to reiterate what their president Mehbooba Mufti said



on Thursday.

"This is an attempt to send a message that the people of Jammu & Kashmir will not tolerate this," he added.

About the all-party meeting convened by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Monday, Bukhari said the party hopes that all the political parties and the people of Jammu and Kashmir will come together "to fight this assault on our identity and rights."

# Multi-party delegation meets Dy Commissioner, calls for peace in violence-hit Dakshina Kannada

**PTI ■ MANGALURU**

Leaders of Opposition parties and civil society organisations in Karnataka on Friday submitted a memorandum to Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner K V Rajendra urging him to take adequate measures to contain communal violence in the coastal district.

The delegation that met the deputy commissioner comprised representatives of Congress, CPI, CPI(M), JD(S), DK district Muslim Federation, Dalit organisations and other outfits.

The delegation demanded that equal justice be provided to the slain victims of the recent communal violence and to protect the constitutional rights of all sections.

The leaders wanted the authorities to provide equal compensation to the families of the slain youths in the recent murders that took place in the district. Leaders of all parties, except the ruling BJP, were part of the delegation.

Former minister and Congress leader B Ramanath Rai, during the meeting, urged the deputy commissioner to direct the police to book the conspirators and plotters responsible for creating disharmony in society and send them behind the bars to end communal tension in the district.

The government should provide equal compensation to all the three victims who lost their lives in the communal violence. The district administration should also hand over the Mohammad Fazil murder case, allegedly a retaliatory attack after BJYM leader Praveen Nettar's murder, to the NIA, he said.

DYFI state president Munir Katipalla said as the accused persons in the Nettar murder

# Akhilesh blames ECI for SP defeat in UP elections

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Even after about six months of the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party has not been able to get over its abysmal performance. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has blamed the Election Commission of India (ECI) for its defeat in the Assembly elections, saying that the electoral body is "dishonest".

"The ECI was dishonest. It did not hear opposition voices. Names of a large number of voters were deleted from the electoral rolls. In Rampur, SP workers were not allowed to cast votes while in Azamgarh, red cards were issued to SP workers. Was the ECI sleeping? It did not pay heed to our complaints," the SP chief said.

Yadav asked the poll body to improve its functioning.

In the assembly elections held between February 10 and March 7, the SP won 111 seats. Congress won two seats while the Bahujan Samaj Party was all but wiped out with just one seat as the Bharatiya Janata Party, won 255 seats and went on to form the government for a second time under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The SP's plight was no different in the bypolls to Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha constituencies in June, after the seats fell vacant with Akhilesh Yadav and Mohammad Azam Khan resigning after being elected to the UP Assembly. The BJP wrested both the seats from the SP.

"The Election Commission of India did not hear opposition voices. Names of a large number of voters were deleted from the electoral rolls. In Rampur, SP workers were not allowed to cast votes while in Azamgarh, red cards were issued to SP workers. Was the EC sleeping? It did not pay heed to our complaints," Yadav said.

On the political developments in Bihar, Akhilesh Yadav said that the political shift in Bihar was a "positive sign" and hoped a strong alternative to the BJP would be formed in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

He also claimed that the BJP allies in Uttar Pradesh were not happy with it and would break free from the safe-party in the future.



# Girl stripped, assaulted in Hamirpur, 5 arrested

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Five persons accused of stripping and beating a girl in Hamirpur have been arrested after a video clip of the incident went viral on social media.

Three persons were arrested on Thursday night and two on Friday morning.

According to reports, the girl was sitting in Hamirpur's City Forest and talking at a secluded spot with her male friend when a group of men arrived and began abusing the couple. They then beat up the youth and stripped the girl. They beat the girl with a belt. It is not yet known whether they sexually assaulted the girl or not. The video of this incident went viral.

Police officials said that the matter was under investigation and the girl was sent for medical examination.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said as soon as the information about the incident was received, Hamirpur's superintendent of police was directed to arrest the accused.

According to the Hamirpur police, five accused were arrested after identifying the youths seen in the video.

They have been identified as 42-year-old Kanhaiya Sharma, 18-year-old Pritam Sharma, 17-year-old Salim (fictitious name), Kamal Nishad and another minor, resident of Gaura Devi.

Meanwhile, Vimla Batham, head of State Commission for Women, strongly condemned the incident.

# BSF jawan injured in gunbattle with ultras at India-B'desh border

**PTI ■ AGARTALA**

BSF jawan was critically injured in a fierce gunbattle with suspected NLFT militants at the India-Bangladesh border in North Tripura's Kanchanpur sub-division on Friday, officials said.

The injured jawan, identified as Griyesh Kumar of BSF's 145 Battalion, was airlifted to Agartala for treatment, they said.

A BSF team was on area domination operation at Sima-II border outpost area in Kanchanpur subdivision when the firing started from the Bangladesh side, they added.

"A group of heavily armed militants opened fire at BSF jawans from the Jupui area in

Bangladesh's Rangamati Hill district. The jawans retaliated, leading to a fierce encounter between the two sides," Superintendent of Police (SP) Kiran Kumar K told PTI.

"A BSF jawan suffered four bullet wounds in the operation," he said.

Kumar, who is at present in the area where the incident happened, said the militants could not do much harm because of coordinated retaliation by the BSF.

"Security has been beefed up at the India-Bangladesh border after the incident. Area domination has also been intensified. We will take up the issue with Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) for necessary action," the officer.

# Woman chops off live-in partner's pvt part after he tried to rape her daughter

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

In a shocking incident, a woman chopped off the private part of her live-in partner after the 32-year-old man allegedly tried to rape her minor daughter.

The incident took place in Mahewaganj area of Lakhimpur Kheri on Wednesday night. The 36-year-old woman was living with the man for two years after she abandoned her husband over his drinking habit.

The woman stated that she was on time and caught the accused red-handed. She fought with the man for around 40 minutes but when she felt that she could not control the fellow, she took a knife from the kitchen and cut his genitals.

# PK launches online poll on new Govt headed by Nitish

**PTI ■ PATNA**

Political strategist turned activist Prashant Kishor on Friday sought a feedback from Twitterati on the latest term in office of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with whom he has had a long collaboration.

Kishor launched an online poll on his official Twitter handle, asking users to vote yes or no, to his query, in Hindi.

"This is the sixth experiment (prayog) by Nitish Kumar in the last 10 years towards government formation. Do you think, this time, the people of Bihar stand to benefit?", asked Kishor.

The founder of IPAC, a political consultancy group, who has given up his previous avatar to carry out a campaign "Jan Suraj", which could evolve into a Bihar-centric political party, has been skeptical of the new formation that has come into being with Kumar dumping the BJP and joining the "Mahagathbandhan" comprising RJD, Congress and the Left.



Kishor, who had played a key role in the previous "Mahagathbandhan" which came into being in 2015 but came apart within a couple of years, has been raising doubts over the durability of the gigantic, seven-party coalition.

He has been of the view that the Grand Alliance could, at the most, survive till the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, but was likely to unravel before assembly elections that would be due a year later.

While refraining from BJP's "return of jungle raj" chorus, Kishor has nonetheless advised caution in assessing the new coalition's impact on national politics.

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE**

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

**Whereas**  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Charanjeet Dhanjal/ Sandeep Dhanjal/ LBDL00005335581 / LBDL000053032728/ LBDL00004207004	DDA Flat No- 139-D, Third Floor Pocket- Ag-1 Vikasपुर, Delhi. Pin Code:- 110018 Admeasuring an area of 70 sq Mt August 17, 2022	June 08 2021 & June 23 2021 Rs. 4,56,175.0 & Rs. 68,34,332	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Dhiraj Kumar/ Wizmoro Communication Pvt. Ltd/ Ranjita Jha / LBDL00002379472	Flat No B53/11, First Floor Dda Mig Block B, Naraina Vihar Delhi- 110028 Admeasuring and area of 1135 Sq Ft / August 16, 2022	October 10, 2021 Rs. 85,43,828/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date : August 20, 2022**  
**Place : Delhi/ NCR**

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

**छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल**  
पर्यावास भवन, नॉर्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002

**// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //**

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरस कांदा मिनरेल्स, (प्रोप्रा.-श्री मुकुंश कुमार विधानी), ग्राम-जयमनगर, तहसील-मस्तूरी, जिला-बिलासपुर स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 720, 721, 722/8, 733, 734/1, 734/2, 734/5 एवं 734/6, कुल क्षेत्रफल-2.995 हेक्टेयर में प्रस्तावित चूना पथर (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता-49,999.95 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त प्रस्तावित परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव / टीका-टिप्पणी दस अधिसूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, बिलासपुर के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 30/09/2022 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे, जयमनगर स्टेडियम, जयमनगर तहसील-मस्तूरी, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के ऑफिस मेमोरेंडम F No. 22-25/2000-IA,III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन करया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।  
ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथासंशोधित) के प्रावधानों के अनुसार ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालकसार को प्रति (हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी में) एवं इसकी सी.डी. (साफत कॉपी) जन सामान्य के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु कार्यालय कलेक्टर बिलासपुर, कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत बिलासपुर, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), कार्यालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.) मस्तूरी, जिला-बिलासपुर, कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र बिलासपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यापार विहार पं. दीपदयाल उपाध्याय पार्क के पास, बिलासपुर, सरपंच / सचिव कार्यालय, ग्राम पंचायत, भनेसर, पाराघाट जयमनगर, खैरा, खुदुभाटा, मोहतारा, भदोरा, चरसदा, लिमतरा, कोतमीसुनार, अमेरी, कसौदी, भेराई, कोसमडीह, कुरुमडू, रसेदा, करव्याणपुर, पीपरसती, बेलदुकी, आरामसही, रलिया, गंतौरा, करी, निमतरा, देका, मस्तूरी एवं किरारी, तहसील-मस्तूरी, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.), डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, वायु विंग, जोरबाग रोड़, नई दिल्ली, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नॉर्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा, रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।  
**हस्ता / सदस्य सचिव**  
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मण्डल  
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.)



—Arvind Kejriwal



FIRST COLUMN

INDIA@2047 MUST WEED OUT CORRUPTION

There is a need for an overhaul of governance




PRAMOD PATHAK

There is no limit to what a man can do if he does not care who gets the credit: this famous quote was written on a plaque that US President Ronald Regan kept on his desk. Something similar needs to happen here.

Leaders may come and go, but the country moves on. And the credit for this goes to all those people, leaders and all, in the last 75 years who saw to it that India keeps on marching. As we enter the 76th year of independence, we need to look forward to the next milestone. Where next? And the Prime Minister has pointed that out. India@100 needs to be a developed country.

From an underdeveloped country 75 years ago to a developing one has been a long and challenging journey. That a member of the third world with a poor and colonial past can think of getting the developed tag is no small deal. More so, because we proved many prophets of doom wrong. But we still have a long way to go. We cannot just sit on the laurels.

Two important questions, then, arise. Where do we go from here? And how do we reach there? The first question has already been dealt with in the Independence Day speech of the Prime Minister who has set a target for the hundredth year. But goal setting is not enough. How do we get there? This calls for a comprehensive and serious SWOT analysis.



Our strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities need to be carefully thought over. In a typical management jargon, this requires a detailed environmental appraisal and an objective status report. If we are honest enough, the past 75 years have been a mixed bag. We succeeded on some counts and floundered on others.

Those on which we failed will have to be addressed in real earnest. The reason being that most of these are persisting ever since we got freedom. Lest we forget, in one of his popular speeches, Jawaharlal Nehru had talked about hoarders and black marketeers, emphasizing the need to hang them from the nearest lamp post. Alas, their tribe has grown, both in numbers and variety. Despite prime minister after prime minister raising concern over corruption, much does not seem to have been achieved.

Rajiv Gandhi in his famous Congress centenary speech at Bombay in 1985 expressed his anguish at the 'fence eating the crop'. It still continues. The present Prime Minister sounded no less concerned about corruption. Why we are so helpless against corruption is the question that must find answers.

Poverty is another concern that is persisting since the famous 'Trust with Destiny' speech of the first Prime Minister. Another Prime Minister reminded us loud and clear about the need for 'Garibi Hatao'. Poverty has been a major challenge all these 75 years, tweaking with definitions and statistics notwithstanding.

If we have to provide free food grains to 80 crore people because they can't earn them, something is amiss somewhere. After all, it is more than half the population.

If we want to graduate from a developing country to a developed one in the next 25 years, there is a need for a complete overhaul of the entire governance system. A paradigm shift is called for to force India's entry into a different orbit. Solutions that did not work will not work. An India where the mind is without fear and the head is held high can do it. We will have to unleash the potential of every Indian.

*(The author is former Professor of Management, IIT-Dhanbad.)*

# Eliminating freebies: Who will bell the cat?



UTTAM GUPTA

## Freebies are a recipe for financial bankruptcy; the only way to avoid it is to prohibit political parties from promising them

Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL), filed by advocate Ashwani Dubey, seeking directions against 'freebies'—a euphemism for benefits distributed by political parties using public money for garnering votes—on August 3, 2022, the bench of Chief Justice of India NV Ramana and Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli sought suggestions from all stakeholders.

The stakeholders include beneficiaries and the people who are opposing these freebies, besides the government as well as organisations such as Niti Aayog, Finance Commission, RBI and Opposition parties, etc.

The suggestions have been sought on the composition of a committee which can go into the issue "dispassionately" and make recommendations. The issue has been haunting the country for almost a decade. Freebies, which in the past, found a place in a corner of the manifesto of parties, in recent years have occupied the centre stage and hold the key to winning elections.

Apart from abetment to corruption and erosion in governance ethics, these have serious ramifications for the State's budgetary position and health of the economy.

The Union Government's standards of financial propriety clearly lays down inter alia that "no authority shall exercise its powers of sanctioning expenditure to pass an order which will be directly or indirectly, to its advantage; and the expenditure from public moneys should not be incurred for the benefit of a particular person or a section of the people unless a claim for the amount could be enforced in a court of law or the expenditure is in pursuance of a recognized policy or custom".

The reckless spending of the taxpayers money on freebies is neither a recognized policy/custom nor it is sanctioned in a court of law. It is blatant financial irregularity that amounts to bribing voters using public money solely for gaining advantage in electoral politics. An individual candidate distributing cash or giving liquor bottles (using his own pocket money) to garner votes is treated as corrupt practice, and rightly so, whereas a party bribing voters that too using public money gets legitimacy (albeit de facto).

Some experts have sought to justify freebies citing that 'promise made by a party is a contract with the people'. This is a fallacious argument as redemption of such a promise is inextricably linked to use of taxpayers' money. Sans the latter, the former would be meaningless. On the other hand, making a promise not backed by resources (albeit public) is outright misleading.

**ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**  
Unlike 'normal' budget expenses which are planned and backed by well-orchestrated efforts to garner revenue, additional financial liabilities imposed by the freebies promised in the election manifesto affect the budgetary position of the State in a totally 'uncontrolled' manner. For instance, free power and giving ₹1,000 per month to every adult woman promised by the Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab will dent the states' budget by ₹20,000 crore annually. This will be at the cost of development expenditure.



FREE POWER AND GIVING ₹1,000 PER MONTH TO EVERY ADULT WOMAN PROMISED BY THE AAM AADMI PARTY IN PUNJAB WILL DENT THE STATES' BUDGET BY ₹20,000 CRORE ANNUALLY. THIS WILL BE AT THE COST OF DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

*(The author is a policy analyst.)*



trated efforts to garner revenue, additional financial liabilities imposed by the freebies promised in the election manifesto affect the budgetary position of the State in a totally 'uncontrolled' manner. For instance, free power and giving ₹1,000 per month to every adult woman promised by the Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab will dent the states' budget by ₹20,000 crore annually. This will be at the cost of development expenditure.

Alternatively, this will result in additional borrowings and resultant increase in debt to unsustainable levels. At the end of five years, the afore-mentioned freebies alone will increase State's debt by ₹100,000 crore (this doesn't include interest; including it, the impact will be even higher) on top of existing around ₹300,000 crore.

Ideally, any welfare measure should be aimed at the poor and that too for a limited period after which she should stand on her own. But, the freebies given by contemporary breeds of political parties defies this cardinal principle; for instance, ₹1000 per month to every adult woman in Punjab. This means, even a rich person is eligible if that person is a woman. By contrast, a man won't be eligible even if he is poor.

Unlike a normal welfare scheme, which has a sunset date and gets terminated after the underlying purpose is achieved, the freebies offered by political parties have none. This is because such doles are not backed by any well-defined objective; herein the sole consideration is to influence voters. Freebies being at the foundation on which victory is secured, the concerned parties are prone to promising them election-after-election.

See things from the perspective of taxpayers. When tax revenue is used for giving subsidies to the poor - for instance, beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat - it passes muster as a welfare measure. But, when it is used to give freebies to all, including the rich, it may even trigger non-compliance amongst taxpayers.

Finally, assured of assistance to meet most of their basic needs 'perpetually', the freebies cult is changing the mindset of people in a way that makes them complacent towards work. This can lead to a scenario whereby India's demographic dividend would be converted into a demographic liability.

In short, freebies are a recipe for financial bankruptcy of the states and economic disaster. The only way to avoid it is to prohibit parties from promising them.

**JUDICIAL STAND**  
The Supreme Court in July, 2013 in a judgment in S Subramaniam Balaji vs Government of Tamil Nadu & Ors had said that distribution of freebies of any kind influences all people. "It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree," the apex court had observed.

Yet, it had held that promises in the election manifesto cannot be construed as "corrupt practice" under the Representation of People Act (RPA), or under any other prevailing law and, hence, distribution of freebies can't be stopped when the ruling party uses public funds for this purpose through the passage of Appropriation Acts in the state Assembly.

However, in a bid to give some relief from the menace, it had directed the Election Commission

of India (ECI) "to frame guidelines that could 'govern' the contents of the election manifesto of all the recognized political parties in consultation with them as when it had acted while framing guidelines for general conduct of the candidates, meetings, processions, polling day, party in power etc".

It further said "this can also be included in the model code of conduct - under a separate head for guidelines for election manifesto released by a political party - for guidance of political parties and candidates".

The ECI never came out with any such guidelines. Meanwhile, freebies not only continued but proliferated, contributing in no small measure to the increase in the debt to gross state domestic product (GSDP) ratio of most of the states to at least 33 per cent—going up to as high as 50 per cent in Punjab.

In the present PIL, on January 25, 2022 the SC observed "this is no doubt a serious issue. Budget for freebies is going above the regular Budget. This disturbs the level playing field". On August 3, 2022, it gave a sense that it is for Parliament (besides the ECI) to take the initiative for enacting a law on curbing freebies. But, before that, a committee should take a look at all pros and cons.

On August 17, 2022, the bench opined that the issue was complicated. All political parties being members of the committee and almost all of them sans the BJP, strongly in favour of freebies (arguing that it is their 'Constitutional responsibility'), it is unlikely that we would ever see a law on curbing them.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

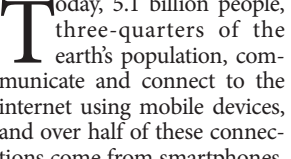
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY COMMITTED ANY CRIME OR NOT. THEY WERE BRAHMINS AND BRAHMINS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE GOOD SANSKAAR.  
—BJP MLA CK RAULJI



EVERY RAPE CONVICT WILL APPLY FOR REMISSION. IF A REMISSION CAN BE GRANTED IN THIS CASE, THEN WHY WON'T EVERY RAPE CONVICT ASK FOR REMISSION?  
—LAWYER SHOBHA GUPTA

# Cloud technology may hasten digital connectivity

## It is imperative that the private sector collaborate with the government agencies to bridge the digital divide



ROHIT PARANJPE

Today, 5.1 billion people, three-quarters of the earth's population, communicate and connect to the internet using mobile devices, and over half of these connections come from smartphones. While 76 per cent of the people in the developed nations own smartphones, the number stands at a meagre 45 per cent in emerging economies, revealing a striking digital divide.

Although the pandemic has played a pivotal role in making the internet an essential part of our existence, it has witnessed a paradigm shift over the last decade. The Internet of today has far-reaching implications with respect to spreading awareness, seeking out information, and support for education. In many ways, it has transformed the way we live.

*(The author is CEO & Co-founder, SugarBox Networks.)*

Over 700 million people, mostly residing in over 20,000 villages across remote locations, continue to stay unconnected. Lack of access to digital services has been due to the absence of digital infrastructure.

Solution for improving digital access may lie in distributing the cloud from huge data centres (storage) into smaller fragments, placed closer to the users. This edge-cloud ecosystem helps provide best-in-class 'Quality of Service' by embedding the nodes deep within the digital network ecosystem. A miniaturised version of the data centre looks like a tiny device that can be installed anywhere (anytime), enabling access to relevant information, for audiences across the economic strata. The analogy is that of understanding how a power bank



works.

Last mile digital connectivity will positively impact GDP. A World Bank analysis states that increasing broadband internet penetration can have a significant impact on a country's GDP. However, in a recent survey, about 60 per cent of India's rural population is still not actively using digital services.

As we move out of a metro city to travel into remote parts of a particular state, one experiences lack of network connectivity. And even if it's there, the experience is quite unreliable. In the absolute last mile of the country, probably villages with 2000-5000 people, or even lesser, the availability continues to stay limited or possibly absent. This is where 'Edge Cloud' technology can add impactful value.

In a situation like this, where

government schools, etc. Therefore, rather than content travelling from a central origin server to fulfill each request, cached content from the 'Edge Clouds' travel a short distance to reach the end-user.

Thus, even in an area with unreliable or no data connection, one can access native digital content, as if they were residing in a (digitally) connected area. How is that possible? Firstly, content travels a shorter distance to reach end users, which results in faster transfer of data and no buffering. Secondly, by routing fewer requests to the central cloud, network capacity is increased, thereby eliminating the need to invest in additional network infrastructure, as well as optimizing the existing bandwidth. This makes it economical both

for telecom service providers (TSPs) and the end user.

But why is it important to consider economics, not just from the perspective of end users, but also TSPs? Network operators and ISPs have to bear huge infrastructure costs, and their profitability depends on the number of users available in a particular geography, multiplied by the average revenue earned from those users.

In villages or other remote areas, owing to the sparse population and low purchasing power of the users, it doesn't make economic sense for network operators and ISPs to extend their services. Therefore, the onus of digital connectivity lies largely on the government for villages or remote areas.

Around 20,000 villages in India, predominantly in the

north-east, lack reliable internet connections. The Government is undertaking several initiatives such as PM Gati Shakti, Vibrant Village Program and Model Villages under the Border Area Development Programme that will bridge the digital divide to a large extent. In addition, schemes such as BBNL phase 2, PM WANI along with installing VSAT, are initiatives that the government is currently undertaking to ensure that no one is deprived of the access to digital connectivity.

It is imperative that the private sector, aided by new technologies, collaborate with government agencies to assist individuals in gaining access to services as well as education, thereby improving the quality of life and their livelihood opportunities.



# 2 Russian villages evacuated after fire at munitions depot

AP ■ KYIV

The residents of two villages in Russia's Belgorod region on Ukraine's northeastern border were evacuated after a fire at a munitions depot near the village of Timonovo.

The fire is the latest in a series of destructive incidents on Russian-occupied territory in Ukraine or inside Russia itself. Roughly 1,100 people reside in the villages of Timonovo and Soloti, around 15 miles (25 kilometres) from the Ukrainian border.

There were no casualties in the late Thursday blaze, the Belgorod region's governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Friday.

The fire came days after another ammunition depot exploded on Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, a Russian-occupied territory seized by Moscow in 2014.

Last week, nine Russian warplanes were reported destroyed at an airbase on Crimea, demonstrating both the Russians' vulnerability and



the Ukrainians' capacity to strike deep behind enemy lines.

Ukrainian authorities have stopped short of publicly claiming responsibility.

But President Volodymyr Zelenskyy alluded to Ukrainian attacks behind enemy lines after the blasts in Crimea, which Russia has blamed on "sabotage".

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said in televised

remarks on Friday that statements from Ukrainian officials about striking facilities in Crimea mark "an escalation of the conflict openly encouraged by the United States and its NATO allies."

Ryabkov said Russian officials had warned the US against such actions in phone calls with high-level members of the Biden administration, adding that "deep and open US

involvement" in the war in Ukraine "effectively puts the US on the brink of becoming a party to the conflict."

"We don't want an escalation, we would like to avoid a situation where the US becomes a party to the conflict, but so far we haven't seen their readiness to deeply and seriously consider those warnings," Ryabkov said.

Meanwhile, Kyiv and Moscow continued to accuse each other of shelling Europe's largest nuclear power plant, stoking international fears of a catastrophe on the continent.

On Friday, Nikolai Patrushev, the secretary of Russia's Security Council, accused the US of encouraging Ukrainian attacks on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine.

The facility has been controlled by Russian forces since shortly after the invasion began on February 24.

"In case of a technological disaster, its consequences will be felt in every corner of the world," Patrushev said.

"Washington, London and their accomplices will bear full responsibility for that."

Ukraine has accused Russia of storing troops and weapons at the Zaporizhzhia plant and using its grounds to launch strikes against Ukrainian-controlled territory.

Ukrainian officials and military analysts say Moscow's forces have cynically employed the plant as a shield, knowing that the Ukrainians would be hesitant to fire back.

Russia has denied the accusations and, in turn, accused Ukrainian forces of repeatedly shelling the plant.

Following a visit to Ukraine on Thursday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that Zelenskyy had asked him to ensure that Russia remove weapons stored at the plant as an "important step for world peace."

"Zelenskyy asked this of us especially: that Russia remove all mines and similar (weapons) there and for the issue to rapidly cease to be frightening. Because it is a threat," Erdogan said.

# High-level talks in Ukraine yield little reported progress

AP ■ LVIV

Turkey's leader and the UN chief met in Ukraine with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday in a high-powered bid to ratchet down a war raging for nearly six months. But little immediate progress was reported.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would follow up with Russian President Vladimir Putin, given that most of the matters discussed would require the Kremlin's agreement.

With the meetings held at such a high level — it was the first visit to Ukraine by Erdogan since the war began, and the second by UN Secretary-General António Guterres — some had hoped for breakthroughs, if not toward an overall peace, then at least on specific issues. But none was apparent.

Meeting in the western city of Lviv, far from the front lines, the leaders discussed expanding exchanges of prisoners of war and arranging for UN atomic energy experts to visit and help secure Europe's biggest nuclear power plant, which is in the middle of fierce fighting that has raised fears of catastrophe.



Erdogan has positioned himself as a go-between in efforts to stop the fighting. While Turkey is a member of NATO, its wobbly economy is reliant on Russia for trade, and it has tried to steer a middle course between the two combatants.

The Turkish president urged the international community after the talks not to abandon diplomatic efforts to end the war that has killed tens of thousands and forced more than 10 million Ukrainians from their homes. He repeated that Turkey is willing to act as "mediator and facilitator" and added, "I remain convinced that the war will end at the negotiating table."

In March, Turkey hosted talks in Istanbul between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators that failed to end the

hostilities.

On the battlefield, meanwhile, at least 17 people were killed overnight in heavy Russian missile strikes on Ukraine's Kharkiv region, Ukrainian authorities said Thursday.

Russia's military claimed that it struck a base for foreign mercenaries in Kharkiv, killing 90. There was no immediate comment from the Ukrainian side. In the latest incident on Russian soil near the border with Ukraine, an ammunition dump caught fire in a village in the Belgorod region, the regional governor said.

No casualties were reported. Video posted online, whose authenticity couldn't be verified, showed orange flames and black smoke, with the sound of multiple explosions.

# London subway hit by strike, day after raily staff walkout

AP ■ LONDON

A strike by London Underground workers brought the British capital's transit network to a grinding halt on Friday, a day after a nationwide walkout by railway staff.

Another rail strike is scheduled for Saturday as the UK endures a summer of action by workers demanding pay increases to offset soaring food and energy price hikes.

No subway trains were running on most of London's Tube lines because of the strike over jobs, pay and pensions by members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, operator Transport for London said.

"It is going to be a difficult day," said Nick Dent, TFL's



director of customer operations. "We're advising customers not to travel on the Tube at all."

There was also continuing disruption above ground as trains started to run again following Thursday's strike by thousands of railway cleaners, signallers, maintenance workers and other staff.

Only about a fifth of trains ran during the 24-hour walkout,

the latest in a series of strikes on Britain's railways.

"We're very sorry that people are inconvenienced," said RMT union General Secretary Mick Lynch. "We're ordinary men and women that want to do our jobs and provide a service, but when you're being cut to pieces by an employer, and by the government, you've got to make a stand."

Transit unions accuse Britain's Conservative government of preventing train companies — which are privately owned but heavily regulated — from making a better offer.

The government denies meddling, but says rail companies need to cut costs and staffing after two years in which emergency government funding kept them afloat.

AP ■ GENEVA

Europe's embrace of millions of Ukrainians who fled Russia's invasion showed that it's possible to welcome large numbers of asylum-seekers, and the approach should be replicated to receive those fleeing other nations, the head of the UN refugee agency said.

In an interview with The Associated Press, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi described the European Union's response as "exemplary", noting that nearly 4 million Ukrainians, mainly women and children, have registered with the bloc's temporary protection system since the start of the war nearly six months ago.

That stands in stark contrast to EU efforts in recent years to keep migrants from Africa and the Middle East from reaching Europe's shores.

Some European leaders have sought to differentiate between the plight of

Ukrainians and that of other refugees — a distinction that Grandi condemned as "racist."

"If that's possible for such a large number of people, and since that has proven so effective, why not use some of these approaches also for other people that are coming to knock at Europe's doors?" Grandi asked.

Though it was created decades ago, the EU's emergency protection system was activated for the first time this year in response to the flight of more than 6 million Ukrainians over the course of just a few months — the largest exodus of refugees the continent has seen since World War II.

It allows Ukrainians to move around the bloc, gives them the right to work, and helps them to access housing, education and health care.

It has been credited with helping Europe avoid setting up refugee camps to house Ukrainians — like the ones



that have existed in Greece for years and where thousands of asylum-seekers arriving by boat have often languished.

In the wake of the 2015-2016 refugee crisis, when more than 1 million people, mainly from Syria, arrived in Europe by land or sea, leaders erected fences within the EU to keep many from moving deeper into the continent.

The bloc has also spent billions to keep people, including those fleeing persecution and conflict but also poverty, from reaching its shores, giving

money to countries like Turkey, Libya, and Morocco to stop migrants before they set out.

The number of irregular crossings into Europe fell from its peak in 2015 to under 200,000 in 2021, according to Europe's border and coast guard agency, although they are on the rise again this year.

While such crossings often attract significant attention, more than 80 per cent of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries, according to UNHCR.

"Heads of government in Europe spent hours, days negotiating where, who should take a hundred people floating on a boat in the Mediterranean," Grandi said, referring to European leaders' inability to agree on how to resettle those who have arrived in recent years in Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain.

"And then contrary to that, millions (of Ukrainians were) embraced, accepted, allowed to

have access to services in a very effective manner."

Asked about the different responses, Grandi said he didn't think the European governments' policies themselves were racist. But he added: "Declarations that I have heard from some politicians saying the Ukrainians are real refugees ... And the others are not real refugees. That's racist. Full stop."

Grandi didn't specify what statements he was referring to, but Greek Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi was criticised by human rights organisations and opposition lawmakers when he used that phrase to refer to Ukrainians fleeing the war earlier this year.

Other European politicians have made similar statements — with some arguing that many people seeking asylum are looking for a better life, rather than fleeing wars, and thus may not qualify for that protection under international law.

# China gives tacit nod to Pak's move to scrap CPEC Authority amid reports of rift over tardy progress, security

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Friday tacitly endorsed Pakistan's decision to scrap the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority amid reports of growing rift between the all-weather friends over the slow pace of the USD 60 billion project and Islamabad's failure to provide credible security to hundreds of Chinese personnel working on a host of projects.

China has taken a note of the relevant information, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here when asked about Pakistan government's decision to scrap the CPEC Authority, an official body constituted by the previous Imran Khan government.

"China understands the efforts of the Pakistani side dedicated to integrating resources, improving efficiency and adjusting institutions," Wang said without directly stating whether Beijing has given consent to Pakistan on the scrapping of the CPEC Authority.

"We believe that future commu-

nications will be even closer and smoother and CPEC building will achieve the greatest results," Wang said.

Before the decision to scrap the CPEC Authority, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque met China's External Security Commissioner of the Foreign Ministry Cheng Guoping on August 16.

While the details of the meeting were not disclosed, a Chinese Foreign Ministry press release said the two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations, counter-terrorism and security cooperation between the two countries, among other things.

On Wednesday, media reports from Pakistan said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to abolish CPEC Authority but the decision is subjected to getting the consent of China, which reportedly spent so far about USD 28 billion on a host of CPEC projects, whose progress was stalled due reasons of security as well as tardy implementation by the Pakistan government.

# Palestinians: Israeli troops shot, killed man in West Bank

AP ■ RAMALLAH

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Friday a man died after Israeli forces shot him during an arrest raid near Nablus in the occupied West Bank.

Salah Sawafta, 58, was in critical condition after a bullet hit his head in Tubas and he died hours later, the ministry said.

Sawafta was returning home after attending dawn prayers in the village mosque as Israeli forces operated in the area, his brother, Jehad, said.

"There were clashes with youths in the area and Salah was shot by a sniper in the head after he bought a bag of bread from a grocery and continued his way home," he said.

The Israeli military said its troops entered two villages to arrest Palestinians suspected of taking part in, or planning, attacks against Israeli targets.

In Tubas, Palestinians threw Molotov cocktails and opened fire at the soldiers, who responded with fire. The military said "a hit was identified" without elaborating.

Israeli forces carry out raids in the West Bank, including areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority, to arrest wanted Palestinians nearly daily.

# Sri Lanka ruling party urges Wickremesinghe to facilitate return of ex-president Rajapaksa

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party has asked President Ranil Wickremesinghe to facilitate the safety of his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa so that he can return to the crisis-hit island nation.

The SLPP General Secretary Sagara Kariyawasam told reporters that the request was made at a meeting held with President Wickremesinghe on Thursday, amid reports that Rajapaksa, who fled the country last month following unprecedented anti-government protests, may return to Sri



Lanka next week.

Rajapaksa, 73, fled the country on July 13 after tens of thousands of people stormed into his official residence on July 9. "We asked the president to facilitate his return and ensure security and necessary facilities," Kariyawasam said.

The Sri Lanka's Constitution allows privileges to former presidents, including

personal security and an office with staff.

Having gone to the Maldives on a Sri Lanka Airforce plane, the former president proceeded to Singapore from where he sent in his resignation on July 13.

Later, he went to Thailand for temporary accommodation and he is expected to return next week from Thailand, a cousin announced on Wednesday. According to a media report on Thursday, Rajapaksa may apply for a US Green Card as he was eligible to apply due to his wife Loma Rajapaksa being a US citizen. In 2019, Rajapaksa renounced his US citizenship to contest the 2019 presidential polls.

Wickremesinghe was elected the stop-gap President for the balance of Rajapaksa's term until November 2024.

He was elected on July 20 at a parliamentary secret ballot where he won the secret vote with 134 members in the 225-member assembly opting for him over his nearest rival also from the SLPP.

His opponents now accuse him as a President who is at the mercy of the SLPP who still commands the parliamentary majority despite a jolt where several members had broken away from it when the public outrage rose over its bungling of the ongoing economic crisis, the worst in the island's history.

**Nagar Nigam Dehradun**  
Tel : 0135-2714074 Website - www.nagarnigamdehradun.com  
E-Mail : nagarnigam.dn@gmail.com

**Request for Proposal (RFP) for Operation and Maintenance of Existing Waste Processing Plant along with O&M of Sanitary Landfill facility at Sheeshambada for five years.**

Nagar Nigam Dehradun invites RFP for Operation and Maintenance of Existing Waste Processing Plant along with O&M of Sanitary Landfill facility at Sheeshambada for five years from eligible service provider having experience as indicated in the RFP document. Interested bidders are requested to procure the RFP document upto **11-09-2022**. The RFP can also be downloaded from e-tenders portal government of Uttarakhand between the said dates. Pre-bid meeting is scheduled at **12:00 Noon on 26-08-2022**. Any Addendum/Corrigendum including date of extension will be uploaded only on [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in). The Municipal Commissioner have right to cancel tender at any stage without giving any reason. The last date for online submission of bids is **12-09-2022 at 2:00PM**.

Letter No. 268 (H)/2022  
Date : 18/08/2022  
Municipal Commissioner,  
Nagar Nigam Dehradun

**PERFECTPAC LIMITED**  
CIN: L72100DL1972PLC005971  
Regd. Off.: 910, Chitrangirj Tower-43, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019  
Phone No. 011-26441015-18, Website: [www.perfectpac.com](http://www.perfectpac.com)  
E-mail id: [complianceofficer@perfectpac.com](mailto:complianceofficer@perfectpac.com)

**INFORMATION REGARDING 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING/ OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS**

In compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and rules made thereunder and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with General Circular Nos. 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020, 02/2021, 21/2021 and 02/2022 dated April 8, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 5, 2020, January 13, 2021, December 14, 2021 and May 05, 2022 respectively (collectively referred to as "MCA Circulars") and Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") vide its Circular Nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2020/79, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 and SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 12, 2020, January 15, 2021 and May 13, 2022 respectively (collectively referred to as "SEBI Circulars"), the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Perfectpac Limited will be held on **Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 12:30 P.M. (IST)** through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM"), to transact the businesses set forth in the Notice of AGM. Members attending the AGM through VC/OAVM shall be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under Section 103 of the Act.

In accordance with the MCA Circulars and SEBI Circulars, the Notice of AGM and the Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2021-2022 along with Reports of the Board of Directors and the Auditors and other documents required to be attached thereto (collectively referred as "Annual Report") will be sent only through electronic mode to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company / Depository Participants (DPs). The aforesaid documents will also be available on the website of Company [www.perfectpac.com](http://www.perfectpac.com) and the website of Stock Exchange [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com). Further, Members can join and participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility only. The instructions for joining and manner of participation in the AGM has been provided in the Notice of AGM.

**Manner of registering / updating email address, mobile number and bank account mandate:-**

- Shareholders holding shares in physical mode are requested to provide a duly signed Form ISR-1 along with supporting documents to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent-Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, either at their office at Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, D-153/A, 1st Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020, Tel: 011-40450193-97; or by e-mail at [admin@skylinetia.com](mailto:admin@skylinetia.com). The said form is available on the website of the Company at <https://perfectpac.com/pdf/kyc/Form-ISR-1.pdf>.
- Shareholders holding shares in dematerialised form are requested to register / update their email address, mobile number and bank account details with their relevant depositories through their depository participants.
- After successful registration of email address, shareholders will be able to receive Annual report along with Notice of AGM for the financial year 2021-22 on their registered email-id and cast vote through e-voting system.

The Company is providing remote e-voting facility to all its members to cast their votes on the resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM. Additionally, the Company is also providing the facility of voting through e-voting system during the AGM. The detailed procedure for casting votes through remote e-voting/ e-voting has been provided in the Notice of AGM.

For Perfectpac Limited  
Place : New Delhi  
Date : 19.08.2022  
Sanjay Rajgarhia  
Managing Director

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to inform to the public at large that **Mrs. Sapna Sharma W/o. Mr. Jitender Sharma** who is owner of the Residential Plot No. 12, area measuring 102 Sq. Yds., (18' X 51'), Part of Kharsa no.28/1, situated at Majra Gauchhi, abadi known as Sanjay colony, Sub-Tehsil Gauchhi, District Faridabad, Haryana-121005; vide Sale Deed dated 25.03.2022 vide Document No. 2503, registered at Sub-Registrar, Gauchhi) and same to be finance & mortgage by **Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited**. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim / right / title / interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

**Lucern Legal LLP**  
268, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South-East-II, New Delhi-110049  
Contact # 011- 40046316

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No. NIT/14/22/35, Dated: 16.08.2022

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.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in).

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Tender Closing/Opening date & time	Qty.
1	03222854	Lock Bolt Size: Dia 22.2 mm or 7/8 inch with collar.	09.09.2022 At 10:30 hrs	41539 Set

Railway reserve the right to issue any corrigendum to the tenders. Corrigendum & Important Notice to vendors may be seen in the link [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in).

**Principal Chief Materials Manager**  
**S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur**  
CPR/10/190

**APPENDIX IV A**  
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]  
**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged/ charged to **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")**, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on **20.09.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M.** (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of **Rs. 33,08,822/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Two only)** pending towards Loan Account No. **HHLROH00389053**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **16.08.2022** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **17.08.2022** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **Mr. Subhash Chander and Ms. Saroj**.  
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 19,70,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Seventy Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,97,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of **INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**, Account No. **00000040428645185** with State Bank of India (IFSC: **SBIN0004079**), having its branch at **COM. BR. GURGAON(04079)**, before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
Property bearing No. **JJR/W01/0661**, Khewat No. **3819/3578**, Khata No. **4333**, Kila No. **34/2**, Tadadi Kila No. **34/2**, Majra **Nagar Paillika**, **Hajjar**-124100, Haryana.  
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.indiabullshomeloans.com](http://www.indiabullshomeloans.com) and [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).  
Date : **16.08.2022**  
Place : **JHAJJAR**  
Authorized Officer  
**INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**



# China backs Jaishankar's remarks on Asian century

Beijing says talks to resolve border standoff 'effective'

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Friday concurred with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's observation that an Asian Century cannot happen if India and China don't join hands and emphasised that the two countries have "far more common interests than differences."

Responding to a series of questions after delivering a lecture on 'India's Vision of the Indo-Pacific' at the prestigious Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok on Thursday, Jaishankar said the relationship between India and China was going through an "extremely difficult phase" after what Beijing had done at the border and emphasised that the Asian Century would not happen if the two neighbours could not join hands.

The troops of China and India are engaged in a prolonged standoff in eastern



Ladakh. The two sides have so far held 16 rounds of Corps Commander Level talks to resolve the standoff which erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake areas.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) were key for the overall development of bilateral ties.

Asked for his reaction to Jaishankar's comments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that "as a Chinese leader put it, 'Unless China and India are developed, there will

be no Asian Century. No genuine Asia-Pacific Century or Asian Century can come until China, India and other neighbouring countries are developed."

"China and India are two ancient civilisations, two major emerging economies and two neighbouring countries, we have far more common interests than differences. Both sides have the wisdom and capability to help each other succeed instead of undercutting each other," he said.

To a question on whether China will hold talks with India on the disengagement at the remaining friction points in

eastern Ladakh, Wang said, "China and India maintain smooth communication over the boundary question. And our dialogue is effective."

He expressed the hope that India will work with China to act upon the important common understandings between the leaders of the two countries, i.e. "China and India are not each other's threats, but cooperation partners and development opportunities, bring China-India relations back to the track of steady and sound development at an early date and safeguard the common interests of China, India and our fellow developing countries," Wang said.

On Jaishankar's remarks on reservations to the Quad alliance, apparently by China, the foreign ministry spokesman reiterated China's objection to the four-nation bloc comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia. "Our position on Quad is consistent and clear. I would like to reiterate that in today's world, building exclusive groups is against the trend of the times and will not get any support or get anywhere," he said.

# Market blast in north Syria kills 15 people, wounds dozens



AP ■ BEIRUT

A rocket attack on a crowded market in a town held by Turkey-backed opposition fighters in northern Syria on Friday killed 15 people and wounded dozens, an opposition war monitor and a paramedic group reported.

The attack on the town of al-Bab came days after a Turkish airstrike killed at least 11 Syrian troops and US-backed Kurdish fighters.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, blamed Syrian government forces for the shelling on Friday, saying it was in retaliation for the Turkish airstrike.

The Observatory said the attack killed 15 people, including three children, and wounded more than 30. The opposition's Syrian Civil Defence, also known as White Helmets, had the same death but said 28 were wounded. The paramedic group said its members evacuated some of the wounded and the dead bodies.

"This is the worst massacres committed by

regime forces since the battles stopped between the regime and the opposition," said the Observatory's chief Rami Abdurrahman referring to a cease-fire in March 2020 that ended a wide Syrian government offensive on rebel-held areas.

The US-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said in a statement that its fighters did not shell al-Bab. There was no comment from the government.

Turkey has launched three major cross-border operations into Syria since 2016 and controls some territories in the north.

Although the fighting has waned over the past few years, shelling and airstrikes are not uncommon in northern Syria that is home to the last major rebel stronghold in the country. Syria's conflict that began in March 2011, has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million. President Bashar Assad's forces have regained control of most parts of Syria over the past few years, with the help of their allies, Russia and Iran.

# Europe weather: 5 dead, including 2 girls, in Austria storms

AP ■ BERLIN

Authorities in Austria say five people, including two children, have died in heavy storms that hit the Alpine country.

Two girls, ages 4 and 8, were killed when sudden strong winds toppled trees late Thursday at a lake in Lavant Valley near the southern city of Graz. Officials said 13 people were injured, two of them seriously. Many of the victims were vacationers visiting the popular tourist region.

Austrian President Alexander Van Der Bellen called the children's deaths "an unfathomable tragedy." The mayor of the nearby town of Wolfsberg, Hannes Primus, said the area looked "like a battlefield."

In Lower Austria, three women were killed when lightning struck a tree near the central town of Gaming, causing it to fall over.

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

DL8SAE3033,	DL3SAE7328,	NOREG27,
DL4SY5203,	DL6SU1521,	NOREG28,
DL4ST6598,	DL4SBE2667,	DL3CAJ8401,
AS011582,	DL8SAH1067,	DBA1863,
DL8SE8576,	DL8SP4043,	DL8CC2193,
DL2SF3390,	DL4C01584,	DL2AD2804,
DL8C1239,	DDCA755,	DL7C05324,
HR1986035,	DL4CAE1819,	DL6CJ4865,
DL8SAE5778,	DL4SAB7851,	DL2CM9726,
DL8AB0735,	DL3SMA9442,	DDQ1296,
DD6573,	DL4S15364,	DL8CN3336,
DL4SAQ7907,	DL4SAM8887,	DL10CF0582,
DL8SAF9123,	DB23203,	DAJ0007,
DL7SAQ2432,	DL4SBB7966,	DL4CAA3822,
DL8S2835,	DL8T3827,	DL3FB0013,
DL18G5245,	DL4SBD8471,	DL3CL1583,
DL2SA7129,	DL8SP2056,	DL4SY3306,
DL8SU4297,	DL4SBD7178,	DL4SAM8696,
DL7SR7343,	DL7SAS5112,	DL4SAW1731,
DL8SW5579,	DL3S20416,	DL4SE8216,
DL8SY4881,	DL4SAW4366,	DL4SK3548,
DL8SY1234,	DL8SN3614,	DL4SE83232,
DL8SAK1027,	DL4SBA0678,	DL4SFA8932,
DL8SAE5408,	DL2SK0329,	DL8SW2509,
DL8SY4728,	DL4SAG4864,	DL6SX3435,
DL8SK7562,	DL4SAB2421,	DL4SAM5498,
HR334946,	DL4SBJ1012,	DL4SD05452,
KA03EH9411,	DL4SP4543,	DL3SL8981,
DL8SN723,	DL4SP2985,	DL8SW2161,
DL8SF1001,	DL8SAB208,	DL8SM143,
DL3SK0001,	DL4ST7476,	DL4SD6799,
DL8SE5522,	DL4SA1339,	DL4SH7290,
DAK1596,	DL8S27078,	HP37944,
HR5146469,	DL4SAC8733,	DL8S20830,
DL8S1031,	DL4SAB8915,	DL8S78507,
DHM7201,	DL6SAQ8518,	DL8SE2444,
DL8S00366,	DL4SY1751,	DL8SN5415,
HR51L2049,	DL4S29166,	DL8SN1222,
DL8S05856,	DL7SP2085,	DL8SQ4884,
DL4SFA8767,	DL4SBA0438,	DL10CB0946,
DL8SAC5251,	DL4SAK1860,	DL8SC8254,
NOREG23,	DL6SU0914,	DL7C7863,
DL4SFA8089,	DL4SAF1827,	DL2CA4986,
DL2SA2564,	DL4SBH4041,	DL8CK0973,
DL8SAC4032,	DL8S2J968,	HR0511920,
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DL4CAB9376,	DL8S22259,	DL13C0422,
DL6SAE0294,	DL8SP6222,	DL13C0520,
DL4S06963,	DL4SAN9806,	DL3CK8782,
DL4SAN6344,	DL3SP3385,	DL5S51422,
DL4SAB9490,	DL8S27058,	NOREG29,
DL4SAM1020,	DL6S7407,	DL4CBA4347,
DL3S51427,	DL8SAJ2816,	DL3CN6155,
DL4SAC4428,	DL4SAM1671,	DL4CAG5816,
DL4SH3456,	DL8SAC5423,	DL8CK4313,
DL4SAB575,	NOREG30,	DL4CL4406,
DL4SAB840,	DL8SAJ8267,	DL9CK4035,
DL4SBE1089,	DN2097,	DL3CAQ7515,
DL4S7552,	DL8SL0841,	DL8CG2870,
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DL4SAN3392,	DL8SN8206,	DL9CP7098,
DB73464,	DL8SAK4682,	DL6CG5248,
DL4SAA4037,	DL9S07030,	DL8CG7595,
DL4SAK7681,	DL4SG5542,	DL9SF9497,
PR02AG8908,	DL6SAA1099,	DL8SN6301,
DL6SDB848,	DL4SFB3032,	DL8SG0645,
DL8SAF2636,	UP60F4927,	DL8S27968,
DL4SNA6060,	DL3SH1835,	DL6SE0888,
DL6SBE716,	DL6SP3897,	DL4SG53010,
DL6SW1368,	DL7SN0767,	DM65002,
DL6SF7488,	DL4SBJ0734,	DL8SM4234,
DL9SF7677,	DL2CB4207,	DM654582,
DL8SAC2611,	DL8CLO818,	DL4SAJ3416,
DL8SM8297,	HR29J7610,	DL1SF8846,
DL4SAW1317,	DL4CS6836,	DL8SAD1834,
DL9798,	DL2CAF9623,	DL7SN7688,
DL6S1192,	PR07J9991,	DL8SF2185,
NOREG24,	DL1CP0931,	DL8SY1225,
PR02AQ2986,	DL3CD7750,	DL1CP2987,
DL6SK4385,	DL4SP6893,	DL4CAB7049,
HR0507052,	DBU7381,	DL4CS5308,
DL7S57056,	DL4SAM7055,	HR51A2676,
DL4SAD4344,	DL9SFC3934,	DL8C12066,
DL8ST9825,	DL7SAH1510,	DL8C21113,
DL8S0779,	DL29B4582,	DL1VA8329,
DL8S1380,	DL4SAA3144,	DL4SG5840,
DL8SAK4818,	DL4SAD8718,	DL6ST3677,
DL8SAE5427,	DL4SM8449,	DBN5110,
DL8SAE4970,	DL6S56002,	DL4SBA9450,
DL6SA5889,	DL3CR1734,	UA07B9639,
DL4S7650,	DL4CAG5247,	DL4SNB3970,
DL8SK7131,	DL4CAB3568,	DL4SBE5470,
DL8SAG6196,	DL9CN3174,	DL4SFM532,
DL7SAF2114,	DL9C81175,	DL4ST1007,
DL8SU0706,	DL7CC3911,	DL4SAF4877,
DL4SAB9705,	DL4CAB7791,	DL4SAN6372,
DL8SDB517,	DL9CP2034,	DL8SC1816,
HR06H2077,	NOREG25,	DL4SG5918,
DL6SB8894,	DL4CAH0251,	DL3SG9002,
DL8S14271,	DL4SAB0382,	DL4SJB561,
DL8S2049,	DL6SP5767,	DL7SR9914,
DL8S2812,	DL4SAB5886,	MH02A09296,
DL8SAE9201,	DL4SAB3726,	DL12CE5655,
DL4SAM3493,	DL4SAW1700,	DL7CK7470,
DL4SAGJ0723,	DL4SAH7258,	DL2CAG2137,
DL8S2547,	DL4SAH5807,	DL4CS7317,
DL8S1545,	DL8S2278,	DL5CB9362,
DL5S5091,	DL1SG0182,	DL4CS5329,
DL8S1332,	DL4SBE5080,	DL3CAU0968,
DL1SH7173,	DL4SBD8524,	DL9CK9165,
DL9S15633,	DL8BE0608,	DL2CAG2137,
NOREG31,	DL4SU1810,	DL3CAG9842,
DL4SAY9329,	DL7SAP3522,	DL3CAW3527,
DBFO095,	DL4CAH3025,	DL2CAL5439,
DL3SAK6661,	DL4CAG8495,	DL5CF0214,
DNIS0787,	DL9CC5850,	DL9CK3655,
DL4SE3250,	DL2CAD1456,	

for SRF LIMITED

Sd/-

RAJAT LAKHANPAL

Vice President (Corporate Compliance) & Company Secretary

Place: Gurugram

Date: 19-08-2022

# Biden to host 'unity' summit against hate-fuelled violence

AP ■ WILMINGTON (US)

President Joe Biden will host a White House summit next month aimed at combating a spate of hate-fuelled violence in the US, as he works to deliver on his campaign pledge to "heal the soul of the nation".

The White House announced on Friday that Biden will host the 'United We Stand Summit' on September 15, highlighting the "corrosive effects" of violence on public safety and democracy.

Advocates pushed Biden to hold the event after 10 Black people were killed at a Buffalo, New York, supermarket in May, aiming as well to address a succession of hate-driven violence in cities including El Paso, Texas, Pittsburgh and Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

"As President Biden said in Buffalo after the horrific mass shooting earlier this year, in the battle for the soul of our nation 'we must all enlist in this great cause of America,'" press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

"The United We Stand Summit will present an important opportunity for Americans of all races, religions, regions, political affiliations, and walks of life to take up that cause together."

Biden will deliver a keynote speech at the gathering, which the White House says will include civil rights groups, faith leaders, business executives, law enforcement, gun violence prevention advocates, former members of violent hate groups, the victims of extremist violence and cultural figures.

The White House emphasised that it also intends to bring together Democrats and Republicans, as well as political leaders on the federal, state and local levels to unite against



hate-motivated violence.

Biden, a Democrat, has frequently cited 2017 white supremacist protest in Charlottesville, Virginia, with bringing him out of political retirement to challenge then-President Donald Trump in 2020.

He promised during that campaign to work to bridge political and social divides and to promote national unity, but fulfilling that cause remains a work in progress.

Sindy Benavides, the CEO of League of United Latin American Citizens, said the genesis of the summit came after the Buffalo massacre, as her organisation along with the Anti-Defamation League, the National Action Network and other groups wanted to press the Biden administration to more directly tackle extremist threats. "As civil rights organisations, social justice organisations, we fight every day against this, and we wanted to make sure to acknowledge that government needs to have a leading role in addressing right-wing extremism," she said.

# Iran deal tantalizingly close, but US faces new hurdles



AP ■ WASHINGTON

Last week's attack on author Salman Rushdie and the indictment of an Iranian national in a plot to kill former national security adviser John Bolton have given the Biden administration new headaches as it attempts to negotiate a return to the 2015 nuclear deal

with Iran.

A resolution may be tantalizingly close. But as the US and Europe weigh Iran's latest response to an EU proposal described as the West's final offer, the administration faces new and potentially insurmountable domestic political hurdles to forging a lasting agreement. Deal critics in Congress who have long vowed to blow up any pact have ratcheted up their opposition to negotiations with a country whose leadership has refused to rescind the death threats against Rushdie or Bolton.

Iran also vows to avenge the Trump administration's 2020 assassination of a top Iranian general by killing former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Iran envoy Brian Hook, both of whom remain under 24/7 taxpayer-paid security protection.

# Pak PM Sharif expresses desire for peaceful ties with India, Kashmir issue resolution

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed his desire for peaceful relations with India based on the principles of "equity, justice and mutual respect" and the resolution of the Kashmir issue, according to a media report on Friday. Sharif also urged the international community to play a "facilitative role" to ensure durable peace and stability in South Asia, it said, amidst a chill in Indo-Pak bilateral ties over the Kashmir issue and cross border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. Sharif expressed


these views during a meeting with the newly-appointed Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, on Thursday, the Dawn Newspaper quoted the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as saying.

"Pakistan desires peaceful ties with India, based on the principles of equity, justice and mutual respect. In this context, a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people, was indispensable," Sharif said.

"The international

community has to play a facilitative role in this regard, as it was essential for durable peace and stability in South Asia," he said. India has repeatedly told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility, and violence. India has said the onus is on Pakistan to create an environment free of terror and hostility.

Sharif's remarks came days after India decided to allow non-locals who are living ordinarily in J&K to be able to register their names in the voting list and cast their ballot in the elections.

 <b>Origo Commodities India Pvt Ltd</b> <b>Unaudited Standalone Financial Results</b> <i>[Regulation 52 (B), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]</i> <i>Amount (In Lakhs)</i>					
S. No	Particulars	Standalone			
		For the quarter ended	For the quarter ended	For the quarter ended	For the quarter ended
		June 30, 2022	March 31, 2022	June 30, 2021	March 31, 2022
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	43,534.15	16,428.87	9,854.99	51,766.26
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax/Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items#)	236.62	540.84	193.95	1,406.11
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items#)	236.62	540.84	193.95	1,406.11
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items#)	178.02	390.92	128.45	937.56
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	180.76	386.76	133.48	948.50
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90
7.	Reserves* (excluding Revaluation Reserve & Security Premium)	7,142.08	6,961.33	6,292.30	6,961.33
8.	Securities Premium Account	6,667.22	6,667.22	6,667.22	6,667.22
9.	Net worth	19,258.20	19,077.45	18,408.42	19,077.45
10.	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	28,458.26	17,229.93	19,950.54	17,229.93
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	1.48	0.90	1.08	0.90
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)-				
	1. Basic:	0.33	0.72	0.24	1.72
	2. Diluted:	0.30	0.66	0.22	1.58
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
15.	Debiture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.22	0.27	0.22	1.21
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	1.80	2.50	1.58	2.01
<b>Note:</b>					
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with Bombay Stock Exchange ("BSE") under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange(s) i.e. BSE Limited and the listed entity, <a href="http://www.bseindia.com">www.bseindia.com</a> & <a href="http://www.origoindia.com">www.origoindia.com</a>					
2. For the other line items of Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to BSE and can be accessed on the URL <a href="http://www.bseindia.com">www.bseindia.com</a> & <a href="http://www.origoindia.com">www.origoindia.com</a>					
3. The impact on net profit / loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s) due to change(s) in accounting policies shall be disclosed by means of a footnote.					
4. The above Standalone Financial Results have been approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on August 11, 2022 and have been limited reviewed by the Statutory Auditors of the Company in accordance with the requirement of Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations).					
5. Segment Information as per Ind-AS 108, 'Operating Segments' is disclosed in Segment reporting.					
6. #- Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items appearing in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.					
7. *- Includes Retained Earnings, Other Comprehensive Income and Equity component of Compound financial instruments.					
<b>For Origo Commodities India Pvt Ltd</b> Sd/- <b>Mayank Dhanuka</b> (Whole Time Director) DIN:02572510					
Place: Gurgaon Date: 16.08.2022					

**BOMBAY MERCANTILE CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED**  
(Estd:1939)



# Sensex snaps 5 days' rally, ekes out weekly gain



PTI ■ MUMBAI

BSE benchmark Sensex nursed losses on Friday as investors pocketed gains after a five-session winning streak amid a bearish trend overseas.

A depreciating rupee and foreign fund outflows further soured risk sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share gauge, which had started the trade on a firm note, soon gave up all the gains and finally ended 651.85 points or 1.08 per cent lower at 59,646.15.

The broader NSE Nifty snapped its eight-day rally to close at 17,758.45, down 198.05 points or 1.10 per cent.

IndusInd Bank was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, dropping 3.82 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, SBI, NTPC, Maruti, Reliance Industries and HUL.

Only three counters managed to close in the green -- Larsen & Toubro, Infosys and TCS, climbing up to 2.20 per cent.

"Profit-booking amid weak global cues impacted domestic indices as concerns about interest rate hikes hung over the markets," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Additionally, the recent rally of the dollar index and FIIs turning net sellers has surprised bulls. Broad-based selling was witnessed with the index heavyweights dragging the index further down," he added.

In the holiday-shortened week, the Sensex rose 183.37 points or 0.30 per cent, while the Nifty gained 60.30 points or 0.34 per cent.

Amol Athawale, Deputy Vice President — Technical Research, Kotak Securities Ltd,

said interest-rate-sensitives such as banking, auto and realty stocks witnessed heavy profit-taking in Friday's session and halted benchmark indices' winning streak.

"Investors pressed the sell button after the recent US FOMC minutes indicated that the Federal Reserve may go for rate hikes in its next meeting, which prompted local investors to prune their holdings after the recent run-up," he noted.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 1.27 per cent and the smallcap index shed 0.93 per cent.

Sectorally, BSE realty fell by 2.14 per cent, followed by metal (1.84 per cent), FMCG (1.24 per cent), finance (1.63 per cent), oil & gas (1.62 per cent) and bank (1.61 per cent).

Utilities, capital goods, power and tech were the gainers.

World stocks treaded lower amid concerns over the health of China's economy and rate hikes by global central banks.

In Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo ended lower, while Hong Kong settled in the green.

Stock markets in Europe were trading mostly lower during mid-session deals. Wall Street had ended higher on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.38 per cent lower at USD 95.25 per barrel.

The rupee depreciated 20 paise to close at 79.84 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday amid a strengthening greenback overseas.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned net sellers after many days, offloading shares worth Rs 1,706 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

# I-T Dept allows taxpayers more time to claim credit for taxes paid outside India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The income tax department on Friday said taxpayers can claim credit for taxes paid outside India before the end of the assessment year if the I-T return is filed within the stipulated deadline.

So far, Foreign Tax Credit (FTC) could have been claimed only if Form- 67 along with necessary documents were filed within the due date for filing the original return, thereby restricting the ability to claim credit for taxes paid outside India.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has amended tax Rules providing relief to taxpayers in claiming Foreign Tax Credit (FTC).

In a tweet, the income tax department said "the Statement



in Form No. 67 can now be furnished on or before the end of the relevant Asstt Year".

The amendment operates retrospectively, so this benefit is available to all FTC claims filed during the current financial year, it added.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner- Direct Taxation, Sachin Garg said the amendment has provided much-needed relief to taxpayers who can now claim FTC by furnishing Form- 67 along with necessary documents before the end of the assessment year if the return is filed within the original due date or date of filing belated tax return.

"The FTC can now be claimed even when filing an updated return of income, provided Form 67 is furnished before filing such return. This

will certainly augment ease of doing business in India and prevent taxpayers from losing FTC permanently if Form 67 is not filed within the due date of filing return of income," Garg said.

AKM Global Head of Tax Markets Yeeshu Sehgal said this relaxation in filing Form-67 till the end of the assessment year instead of before the due date of filing the return is a relief to the taxpayers as they can claim FTC after filing the return as well.

"This will also lead to reduction in tax disputes pertaining to FTCs since there have been divergent interpretations on the allowability of FTC in case of belated and non-filing of Form 67 at present as tax rules do not mention any consequences for non-filing of such form," Sehgal added.



## Inflation is unacceptably, uncomfortably high: RBI Guv

PTI ■ MUMBAI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the retail inflation is "unacceptably and uncomfortably" high and proposed the 50 basis points hike in repo rate at the recent monetary policy review meeting.

The other members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had expressed similar views, according to the minutes of the meeting released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

At its meeting from August 3 to 5, MPC decided to increase the benchmark lending rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent with a view to tame inflation.

The sequence of policy measures, Das said, "is expected to strengthen monetary policy credibility and anchor inflation expectations".

"Our actions would continue to be calibrated, measured and nimble depending upon the unfolding dynamics of inflation and economic activity," he said.

## 'Windfall tax cut on oil producers expected; hike in levy on ATF, diesel exports surprising'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Windfall profit tax on local oil producers has been cut on expected lines but increasing the levy on jet fuel and diesel exports was a surprise as local markets are reasonably well-supplied, analysts said Friday.

At the third fortnightly review, the government has increased the windfall profit tax on the export of diesel to Rs 7 per litre from Rs 5 a litre and brought a Rs 2 a litre tax on ATF exports.

Earlier this month, the government scrapped the windfall profit tax on ATF (Aviation Turbine Fuel) exports.

Alongside, the tax on domestically produced crude oil has been cut to Rs 13,000 per tonne from Rs 17,750.

"India's fortnightly revision in windfall tax for oil producers was in line with our expectations.

"The increase in jet fuel and diesel export tax, which reflects the recent rise in refining margins, surprised us as local markets are reasonably well supplied," Morgan Stanley said in a report.

The decline in oil prices led to a downward revision in windfall taxes on domestic oil production from USD 31 per barrel to USD 22.

"The adjustments, while still adhoc, highlight producer oil price cap of USD 70-75 a barrel and profitability of USD 20-21 per barrel," it said.

The export tax on diesel and jet fuel was raised by USD



4 per barrel to USD 14 a barrel and USD 4, respectively, as refinery margins for these products have risen.

Reliance Industries Ltd's Gross Refining Margins (GRMs) under the new tax regime should be currently running at USD 14 per barrel and the upcycle in refining is expected to benefit Reliance and oil marketers, it said.

The tax on exports has been raised as cracks or margins rose but the same on domestically produced oil was reduced as international oil prices slid to a six-month low.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, joining a growing number of nations that taxes super normal profits of energy companies. But international oil prices have cooled since then, eroding the profit margins of both oil producers and refiners.

On July 1, export duties of Rs 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) were levied on petrol and ATF and a Rs 13 a litre tax on the export of diesel (USD 26 a barrel). A Rs 23,250 per tonne

windfall profit tax on domestic crude production (USD 40 per barrel) was also levied.

Thereafter, in the first fortnightly review on July 20, the Rs 6 a litre export duty on petrol was scrapped, and the tax on the export of diesel and jet fuel (ATF) was cut by Rs 2 per litre each to Rs 11 and Rs 4, respectively. The tax on domestically produced crude was also cut to Rs 17,000 per tonne.

On August 2, the export tax on diesel was cut to Rs 5 a litre and that on ATF scrapped, following a drop in refinery cracks or margins. But the levy on domestically produced crude oil was raised to Rs 17,750 per tonne in line with a marginal increase in international crude prices.

At the third fortnightly review now, the taxes on fuel exports has been raised but that on domestically produced crude oil has been cut.

International oil prices have since then slid to below USD 95 per barrel but cracks on diesel and ATF rose.

## ₹ falls 20 paise to close at 79.84 against US dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 20 paise to close at 79.84 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday amid a strengthening greenback overseas.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.75 and moved in a range of 79.73 to 79.84 during the day.

It finally ended at 79.84 against the American currency, down 20 paise over its previous close of 79.64.

Forex traders said the US dollar index witnessed an upturn after comments from US Federal Reserve officials over the quantum of rate hikes weighed on investor sentiments.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.18 per cent to 107.67. Foreign fund outflows

from Indian equities also dragged the local unit down.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,706.00 crore, as per exchange data.

"Rupee continued to consolidate in a narrow range after hawkish FOMC meeting minutes," said Gaurang Somaia, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

A string of US central bank officials said the Fed needs to keep raising borrowing costs to bring high inflation under control.

"We expect the USD-INR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 79.20 and 79.80," Somaia added.

Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 1.02 per cent to USD 95.60 per barrel.

# Block mechanism in demat accounts must for share sale transactions from Nov 14: Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday made it mandatory for investors to block securities on their respective demat accounts for sale transactions.

Currently, the facility is optional for investors.

The block mechanism in the demat accounts of clients undertaking sale transactions would become mandatory from November 14, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

Under the mechanism, shares of a client intending to make a sale transaction will be blocked in the client's demat account in favour of the clearing corporation concerned.

In July, the regulator decided to

introduce the concept of a block mechanism, whereby investors have an option to block securities in their respective demat accounts for sale transactions from August 1.

The option of an early pay-in method is also available. Under this option, shares are transferred from a client's demat account to the clearing corporation concerned's account. If the sale transaction is not executed under the early pay-in mechanism, then those shares are returned to the client's account and the process takes time and involves a cost.

After extensive consultation with depositories, clearing corporations and stock exchanges, and considering the benefits of the block mechanism, Sebi has now decided that the "facility of block mechanism



shall be mandatory for all early pay-in transactions".

In case the sale transaction is not executed, shares will continue to remain in the client's demat account and will be unblocked at the end of the T (Trade) day. Blocking of shares will be on a 'time basis'.

Sebi said depositories and clearing corporations will have to put in place an appropriate system by participants or members to make available the block mechanism for clients in the securities market.

Under the block mechanism, securities lying in the client's demat account will be blocked either by the client using a depository's online system or eDIS mandate or through the depository participant based on physical DIS (Delivery Instruction Slip) given by the client or Power of

Attorney (PoA) holder.

Depositories can block the securities in the client's demat account in respect of intra or inter-depository transfer instruction till pay-in day. Only after reviewing the client-level net delivery obligation obtained from clearing corporations can the blocked securities be transferred.

Depositories will also provide clearing organisations with information on transfer orders so that clients can take advantage of the early pay-in benefit.

According to Sebi, if securities for sale are blocked in the depository system in favour of a clearing corporation, all margins would have deemed to have been collected and penalty for short or non-collection of margins, including other margins should not arise.

# Fundamentum to invest \$227 mn in Indian startups over 5 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Infosys co-chairman Nandan Nilekani co-founded Fundamentum Partnership on Friday said it has raised USD 227 million (about Rs 1,793 crore) for its second fund to invest in early growth stage Indian startups.

Fundamentum Partnership co-founder and general partner Ashish Kumar said the fund will be deployed over the next five years mainly in Series B, which is generally the second round of funding in a startup after it has met certain milestones and catches the growth trajectory.

"This is our second fund. We plan to lead or co-lead USD 25-40 million rounds and invest in 4-5 startups each



year," Kumar said.

Fundamentum's first fund, which was close to around USD 100 million, was deployed strategically in six early growth stage startups, including Pharmeasy and Spinny, which have attained Unicorn status.

After the fund's initial investment, Fundamentum's portfolio companies have collectively raised over USD 1 billion in follow-on rounds.

Kumar said that Fundamentum will look at investing in Software-as-a-service (SaaS)

firms — Bharat Apps and healthcare.

Amid the talk around economic slowdown, SaaS firms have good growth opportunities because enterprises may cut down on their fixed costs like human resources, but they may look at digitisation to lower their operational cost, he noted.

"We have a healthy pipeline and are seeing over 200 deals a year with an aim to invest in 4-5 startups every year. We are already in the process of investing in two startups. One deal is expected to close in about a month, and the second one should be completed a couple of weeks after that," Kumar said.

Fundamentum has also invested in logistics SaaS firm Fareye, Ayu Health and Probo.

# Retail inflation for farm, rural workers rises to 6.60%, 6.82% in July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation for farm and rural workers increased to 6.60 per cent and 6.82 per cent, respectively, in July mainly due to higher prices of certain food items.

In June retail inflation for farm and rural workers stood at 6.43 per cent and 6.76 per cent respectively.

"Point-to-point rate of inflation based on the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers) and CPI-RL (Consumer Price Index-Rural Labourers) stood at 6.60 per cent and 6.82 per cent in July, 2022 compared to 6.43 per cent & 6.76 per cent respectively in June, 2022 and 3.92 per cent and 4.09 per cent

respectively during the corresponding month (July 2021) of the previous year," a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, food inflation stood at 5.38 per cent & 5.44 per cent in July, 2022 compared to 5.09 per cent & 5.16 per cent respectively in June, 2022 and 2.66 per cent & 2.74 per cent respectively during the corresponding month of the previous year, it stated.

The All-India Consumer Price Index Number for Agricultural Labourers and Rural Labourers for July, 2022 increased by 6 points each to stand at 1131 and 1143 points respectively.

The CPI-AL was 1125 points in June 2022, while CPI-RL was 1137 points in the

month.

The major contribution towards the rise in general index of Agricultural Labourers and Rural Labourers came from food group to the extent of 4.41 & 4.07 points respectively mainly due to increase in prices of rice, wheat-atta, bajra, pulses, milk, fish fresh, onion, chillies green/dry, ginger, mixed spices, vegetables & fruits, tea readymade, etc.

The rise in the index varied from state to state. In the case of Agricultural Labourers, it recorded an increase of 1 to 13 points in 20 States. Tamil Nadu with 1301 points topped the index table, whereas Himachal Pradesh with 890 points stood at the bottom.

# Sebi eases norms on AIF, VCF investments in overseas firms; drops India connection clause

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has allowed India registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) to invest in foreign entities without having an India connection.

Earlier, one of the conditions was that such overseas investments were allowed only in those companies which had an Indian connection. Like, a company has a front office overseas, while having its back office operations in India.

"The requirement of the overseas investee company to have an Indian connection... Has been done away with," Sebi has said in a circular.



# Mixed day for World No.1s

MEN'S TOP PLAYER  
MEDVEDEV ADVANCES  
BUT WOMEN'S  
NUMBER ONE SWIATEK  
SINKS IN CINCINNATI

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Top-ranked Daniil Medvedev advanced to the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Masters quarter-finals on Thursday while women's world number one Iga Swiatek was upset by American Madison Keys.

Top seed Medvedev kept Denis Shapovalov winless against world number ones with a 7-5, 7-5 victory while Poland's Swiatek lost 6-3, 6-4 to 2019 Cincinnati champion Keys, who needed five match points to finish off the shock triumph.

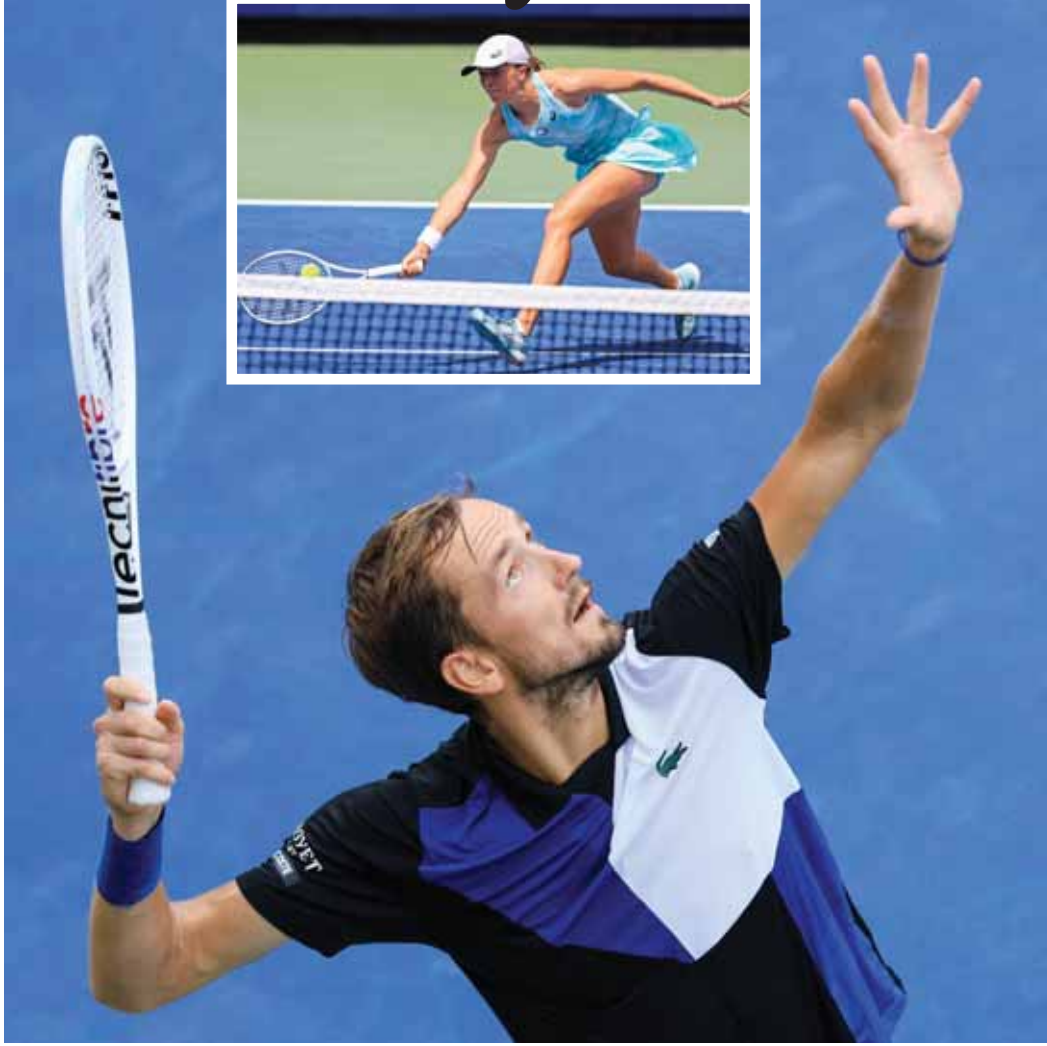
Shapovalov, who lost in an hour and three-quarters, has dropped all eight career matches he has played against the elite echelon.

Medvedev moved into a quarter-final against 11th seed Taylor Fritz after the American stopped number six seed Andrey Rublev 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 7-5.

"It was a fight today, definitely not easy," said Medvedev, who clinched the top US Open seeding when Rafael Nadal lost here in the second round.

"The match was pretty tight, played at a great level. My goal was to stay in every point possible and try to put pressure on him if I had the chance."

Medvedev secured late breaks in both sets as he matched his volatile Canadian



opponent.

Medvedev and Fritz have never played. "We trained together at the start of the season before the ATP Cup," Medvedev said. "He won Indian Wells, he's a Masters champion. I need to be at my best to try and beat him."

Unseeded Keys was thrilled with her defeat of Swiatek, against whom she had lost two prior matches.

"I had a couple of games with a couple of match points," Keys said. "She beat me pretty badly last time so I'm happy to get the win."

Swiatek never found an ace and was broken five times as she fought back in vain after standing one game from defeat.

It was the second week in a row that the Pole, who put together a 37-match win streak this season, lost in a Masters third round. She suffered the same fate in Toronto seven days earlier.

Keys plays on Friday against Wimbledon winner Elena Rybakina, who advanced to the last eight 6-2, 6-4 over Alison Riske-Amritraj.

Also ousted was Estonian second seed Anett Kontaveit, who fell to China's Zhang Shuai 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Czech Petra Kvitova began turning her luck against top-five opponents as she defeated Wimbledon finalist Ons Jabeur 6-1, 4-6, 6-0.

The third-round victory was a duplicate of Kvitova's victory over Jabeur a year ago.

Kvitova, twice a Wimbledon champion, broke six times as her fifth-ranked Tunisian opponent committed six double-faults in the contest.

It was the fourth victory in five meetings for Kvitova, twice a Cincinnati semi-finalist.



## US Open to award record \$60.1 million in prize money

AP ■ NEW YORK

This year's US Open will award a record \$60.1 million in total player compensation, the US Tennis Association said on Thursday, with \$2.6 million going to each singles champion, twice the runner-up total.

The prize money total tops the old mark of \$57.5 million from last year, with an emphasis on boosting payouts for players in early rounds.

That means a boost to \$80,000 for each singles competitor in the main draw first round and \$121,000 in the second round.

Those figures represent hikes of 85% and 57% respectively since 2016.

The USTA arrived at the figures after consultation with the WTA and ATP Player Councils.

There will be more than \$6.25 million distributed in qualifying rounds.

Doubles champions will be paid \$688,000 per team, twice what the runner-up duo will receive.

## Scamacca opens West Ham account in Conference League win

AP ■ LONDON

Gianluca Scamacca scored his first West Ham goal on Thursday to help secure a 3-1 win over Danish minnows Viborg in the Europa Conference League play-offs.

West Ham, who made the Europa League semi-finals last season, went into the game after back-to-back losses in the Premier League to Manchester City and Nottingham Forest.

But Italian international Scamacca, signed for £30 million from Sassuolo, eased the nerves by finding the target in the 23rd minute after being teed up by another new signing, Maxwell Cornet.

Jarrod Bowen added a second in the 64th minute before Viborg pulled one back through Jakob Bonde five minutes later.

Twelve minutes from time, substitute Michail Antonio scored a third for West Ham to put the Londoners on course for a place in the group stage.

Villarreal, who were Europa League champions in



2021, overcame an early shock to defeat Hajduk Split 4-2.

Former Arsenal star Mesut Ozil was left on the bench as his Turkish side Basaksehir were held 1-1 by Antwerp in Istanbul.

Cologne, third in the Bundesliga after two games, lost 2-1 at home to Fehervar of Hungary.

In the Europa League, Hearts gave up a 1-0 lead to lose 2-1 at Zurich but will start the second leg as favourites next week in their first European tie in six years.

## PSG coach denies bad blood between Neymar & Mbappe

AP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain coach Christophe Galtier said on Friday there is no bad blood between star forwards Kylian Mbappe and Neymar.

Neymar insisted on taking the team's second penalty against Montpellier last Saturday after Mbappe had missed the first.

Mbappe did not celebrate after Neymar converted the spot-kick.

Galtier called the apparent differences between the two an "epiphenomenon", suggesting the spat was not a symptom of any deeper problem.

"We saw each other quickly the next day to iron out all that, to say what we had to say to each other," said Galtier told a press conference ahead of Sunday's Ligue 1 visit to Lille.

"We had a very pleasant week at work. Everyone worked well. I enjoyed all the sessions this week and this epiphenomenon disappeared very quickly, that is to say the day after our meeting."

Galtier said after the game that instructions "had been respected" regarding penalty takers.

"There was a precise order in this game, Kylian as number one and 'Ney' as number two."

Other potential penalty takers include Lionel Messi and Sergio Ramos, said Galtier, adding that it was "important for our strikers



to score goals, to keep the confidence".

Against Montpellier, in his first competitive game since opting to stay in Paris rather than join Real Madrid, the 23-year-old Mbappe scored in a 5-2 win but cut a frustrated, unhappy and even isolated figure.

Last season, Mbappe was PSG's outstanding performer, scoring 39 goals in all competitions, while Neymar struggled.

Yet the 30-year-old Brazilian has seemed rejuvenated this season, scoring five goals in three games.

## Arteta 'confident' Saka will sign new contract

AP ■ LONDON

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta is "very confident" Bukayo Saka will commit his long-term future to the club by signing a new contract.

Saka has two years remaining on his current deal, but the England winger's emergence as a key figure in Arteta's side has convinced Arsenal to open talks over improved terms. The 20-year-old finished as Arsenal's top scorer last season as he shrugged off the racist abuse he endured after missing a penalty in England's Euro 2020 final defeat against Italy. "I am very confident that we as a club and Bukayo, his family, his agent, everybody, we are very much aligned in what we want to achieve. And now it is about putting it on a piece of paper," Arteta told reporters on Friday.

Saka has been instrumental in Arsenal making a flying start to the Premier League season with two successive wins. With the prospect of Saka playing in the World Cup in Qatar this winter potentially adding to value, Arteta is keen for the star to put pen to paper as soon as possible.



## We desperately wanted a podium finish at CWG after WC debacle: Tete

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Talented midfielder of the Indian women's hockey team Salima Tete revealed that a podium finish was the only target that the team had at the recently concluded Commonwealth Games in Birmingham after a disastrous World Cup campaign earlier this year.

The Indian women's hockey team claimed a Bronze medal in Birmingham after beating New Zealand 2-1 in the penalty shootout.

However, at the World Cup held in Spain and the Netherlands earlier this year which preceded the CWG, India finished a disappointing ninth.

"After we had a bad campaign at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Spain and Netherlands 2022, the team's aim and our focus was very clear. We wanted to do well at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, there was no other option," she said in 'Hockey Te Charcha' programme.

"We were sure we had to get a medal before returning back to India. Kuch na kuch karna hi hai (Needed to do something)," she added.

## Man Utd crisis is no help to Liverpool, says Klopp

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said he is taking no satisfaction from Manchester United's crisis with the German wary of a reaction from the Red Devils when the two sides face off on Monday.

United sit bottom of the Premier League for the first time in 30 years after losing their opening two games of the season.

Erik ten Hag's men conceded four times inside 35 minutes in losing 4-0 at Brentford last weekend.

Liverpool inflicted the same misery on United last season, winning 5-0 at Old Trafford and 4-0 at Anfield in their two meetings.

However, Klopp said he would have been happier had United been coming into what he described as a heavyweight clash in better form.

"When we had the two results last year I knew already in that moment it would not help for next year. It was always like this," said Klopp at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"It just helps United to be even more motivated, if that's possible in the situations we are in."

"I would prefer to play them after we win 5-0, definitely. That is how it is, but it is not dreamland and we have to take it like it is."



"I think the whole world will watch it, it's Monday night anyway, everybody can watch it, and you will see how these two heavyweights deal with the situation. I would watch it."

Liverpool are also badly in need of their first win of the league season after two draws with Fulham and Crystal Palace left them already four points behind title rivals Manchester City.

The Reds have not been helped by an early season injury crisis and will also be without Darwin Nunez for the trip to Old Trafford after he was sent off on his home debut for a headbutt on Palace defender Joachim Andersen.

Roberto Firmino, Naby

## Man Utd closing in on Casemiro

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United are close to signing Real Madrid midfielder Casemiro for a fee that could rise to 70 million euros (£59 million, \$71 million) according to multiple media reports on Friday.

The BBC and The Athletic reported United will pay an initial 60 million euros and make the Brazilian international among the top earners in the Premier League with a four-year deal along with a club option to extend that contract by an extra season.

Even if talks progress smoothly over the weekend, Casemiro is unlikely to be registered in time for that match.

The 30-year-old has won three La Liga titles and five Champions Leagues during nine years with the Spanish champions as he formed a formidable midfield trio with Luka Modric and Toni Kroos.

Keita, Jordan Henderson and Joe Gomez should be fit enough to return to Klopp's starting line-up, but Diogo Jota, Thiago Alcantara, Joel Matip, Ibrahima Konate, Curtis Jones and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain remain out.



## Leipzig can still 'annoy' Bayern Munich: Werner

AP ■ BERLIN

Returning RB Leipzig striker Timo Werner says his side have the quality to "annoy" perennial Bundesliga title winners Bayern Munich this season, despite his side's poor start.

While both Bayern and Borussia Dortmund have won two from two to start the campaign, the winless chasing pack - Leipzig, Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayer Leverkusen - have managed just three points between them.

Leipzig, who travel to unbeaten Union Berlin on Saturday evening, sit in 11th after two draws.

Leipzig picked up their first piece of silverware with a German Cup win in May and were expected to challenge Bayern for the title this year - an expectation solidified by Werner's return from Chelsea.

Werner, who scored the opener in Leipzig's 2-2 home draw with Cologne, said he feels Leipzig have the quality to threaten Bayern over the length of the season.

Speaking on Real Madrid and Germany star Toni Kroos' 'Einfach mal Luppen' podcast, Werner said "of course it will be difficult" to stop Bayern winning their 11th straight crown, but insisted his side were good enough to pose a challenge.

"As we've seen in many leagues it is possible for another team to become champions," he said.

"I think we have enough quality to annoy Bayern and Dortmund during the season."

In six seasons since being promoted to the Bundesliga in 2016-17, Leipzig have finished twice on three occasions.

"We have a great squad which can really become something great... We can achieve a lot with the team this season - also with an eye on the (Bundesliga) title."

## Indian women footballers face uncertain future after FIFA ban

AP ■ NEW DELHI

India's women footballers are in despair and uncertain about the future after a FIFA ban saw the country stripped of a major international tournament and left its best team in limbo.

The sport's world governing body this week suspended the national federation "due to influence from third parties" -- member associations must be free from legal and political interference.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been plagued by governance issues.

The indefinite suspension had an immediate impact on Indian football, men and women, from professional down to grassroots.

The under-17 Women's World Cup, set to begin in India on October 11, will not currently take place as planned. It was supposed to be a first FIFA tournament in the country since 2017.

The punishment also coincided with the Asian Football Confederation Women's Club Championship in Uzbekistan, where Indian league winners Gokulam Kerala FC were chasing a maiden title.

They only learned about the FIFA suspension when their flight landed in Tashkent and have been barred from competing.

"We have put in so much hard work for the last two months and all the players were preparing to win the AFC trophy as well," club captain Ashalati Devi, also skipper of the national women's team, told India News.

"It remains our dream to lift the title," said Devi, describing the team as "distressed by all this".

Gokulam put out a statement lamenting that it had been stopped from playing through "no fault of ours".

"Our women's team is the pride and jewel for all (of) us and these players have proved themselves to be the best in India," it said.

Lavanya Verma, who was short-listed for the U17 World Cup squad, pointed the finger at the AIFF.



"The main reason for the ban is due to poor governance, but us innocent players have to suffer," the 17-year-old said.

"It is sad to see that the players are working so hard and this is what they get."

"I still hope the World Cup happens in India, but if it doesn't, it will be a huge blow to everybody."

India's women footballers have defied scant investment to make inroads, but they have gained only muted recognition in a country better known for its frenzied obsession with cricket.

The national team are ranked 58th in the women's global rankings -- the men are 104th -- and Gokulam last year became the first Indian women's team to qualify for the an AFC club competition.



# INDIA AIM TO SEAL SERIES

PTI ■ HARARE

**S**kipper KL Rahul would hope to get some valuable batting time as the Indian team is expected to recalibrate its goals to create some challenge for itself in the remaining two ODIs against Zimbabwe.

The gulf between the two teams would always make these kind of bilateral contests lopsided but bigger goal for the 'Men In Blue' would be to push the limits.

The immediate target for the side would be to try and bat first in case Rahul wins the toss in Saturday's second ODI.

The early start on a bouncy track and sufficient nip in the air would pose some challenge for the batters. There won't be any Jimmy Anderson or Josh Hazlewood in operation but even then battling the conditions would be a good test for Rahul and his players.

Deepak Chahar had pointed out after the first game that there is little help for the bowlers during the second session and the only time there's some challenge for batters is the first hour of the match.

Before facing the might of Shaheen Shah Afridi in Asia Cup, a morning session with deliveries moving both sides, albeit with a gentle pace, would be decent enough extended net session for Rahul.

While 'Captain Rahul' showed his elder statesman like qualities by letting Shikhar Dhawan and Shubman Gill open in the first game, the 'Batter Rahul' also needs to get his priorities right before the Asia Cup.

He needs to quickly adapt to Team India's 'attack at all costs from the onset' philosophy and that can't just happen overnight.



Against a side like Zimbabwe, which is not good enough to even challenge a top Indian domestic side, Rahul would get an ideal opportunity to experiment with

his batting.

Similarly Deepak Hooda, if given a chance to bat up the order, can also build his confidence.

Then there is Sanju Samson, If he plays at No.4, it gives him ample scope to build an innings of significance.

For acting head coach VVS Laxman,

as much as he would like to experiment, he wouldn't mind winning the series first before giving some of the reserves a chance to test themselves.

Therefore a left-right combination of Ishan Kishan and KL Rahul won't be a bad option in case Shikhar Dhawan's forearm injury sustained towards the end of the match turns out to be serious.

Winning the series is important but creating different kind of situations and testing the game awareness of the younger lot in pressure cooker scenario should be on the checklist.

Deepak Chahar bowling seven overs at one stretch is a good sign and indicator that he is gradually building up his workload.

Similarly Prasidh Krishna would like to try a few more variations than his back of the length stuff while Mohammed Siraj won't mind a few more wickets.

Just like batting in morning could be a challenge for Rahul and Co. Bowling in the warm afternoon conditions with no lateral movement on offer would test the character of pacers and their improvisation skills.

## TEAMS (FROM)

**India:** KL Rahul (C), Shikhar Dhawan (VC), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohd Siraj, Deepak Chahar, Shahbaz Ahmed.  
**Zimbabwe:** Regis Chakabva (C), Ryan Burl, Tanaka Chivanga, Bradley Evans, Luke Jongwe, Innocent Kaia, Takudzwanashe Kaitano, Clive Madande, Wessly Madhevere, Tadiwanashe Marumani, John Masara, Tony Munyonga, Richard Ngarava, Victor Nyauchi, Sikandar Raza, Milton Shumba, Donald Tiripano.

## Jemi out of The Hundred

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

**I**ndia batter Jemimah Rodrigues' stint at the ongoing 'The Hundred' lasted just two matches after she was ruled out of the remainder of the tournament due to a wrist injury.

Rodrigues was a part of the Northern Superchargers side.

"Northern Superchargers batter Jemimah Rodrigues has unfortunately been forced to end her season in The Hundred due to injury," the tournament's official website said.

Rodrigues, who was part of India's silver medal-winning side at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, had earlier injured her wrist during a league stage match against Barbados at the quadrennial event. She had finished as the fifth highest scorer in the CWG with 146 runs.

The extent of the injury is not known yet. The Indian team would hope Rodrigues recovers in time for the away series against England next month.

India and England are scheduled to play a white-ball series comprising three T20Is and as many ODIs, starting September 10.

In The Hundred, the 21-year-old Rodrigues smashed 51 off 32 balls in Superchargers' opener against Oval Invincibles in a losing cause before making two in the next match against London Spirit.

The Indian batter has been replaced by Ireland's Gaby Lewis.

Superchargers campaign began with a nine-wicket defeat



## KNIGHT TO MISS INDIA SERIES AFTER UNDERGOING HIP SURGERY

PTI ■ LONDON

**E**ngland skipper Heather Knight will miss the home series against India next month as she has undergone a hip surgery and is likely to remain out of action till the end of the year.

Knight, who is missing out on the ongoing season of The Hundred, is also likely to be ruled out of the Women's Big Bash to be played in October. The 31-year-old had



injured herself during the first T20I against South Africa in July. She had to take injections on her hip joint for the pain during the series.

to the Invincibles last week but they bounced back in their second game, beating London

Spirit by five runs in Leeds. She was the top scorer for the Superchargers last year.

## NZ name strong 'A' squad for India tour

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

**N**ew Zealand on Friday announced a strong 'A' squad, including seven cricketers with international experience, for their upcoming tour of India featuring both red and white ball series in September.

It will be the first time that a New Zealand 'A' side will be playing overseas since the 2018 tour to the United Arab Emirates, where it played against Pakistan 'A'.

The India tour will feature three four-day matches and three one-day matches in Bangalore and Chennai. New Zealand A last toured India in 2017.

Besides players with international experience, the 15-member squad also features five players with a chance to represent New Zealand 'A' for the first time -- Chad Bowes, Matt Fisher, Ben Lister, Robbie O'Donnell and Joe Walker.

Tom Bruce (Central Districts) and O'Donnell (Auckland) have been named co-captains for the tour. New Zealand 'A' will depart for India on August 26.

"It's great to have A fixtures back on the touring calendar and even more exciting to have the team playing in foreign conditions," New Zealand selector Gavin Larsen said in a statement.

"With a mix of red ball and white ball matches it's a great chance to see the players in a variety of situations against what we know will be a very strong home side.



"The conditions present a great opportunity for the spin bowling group in particular, ahead of future tours and ICC events in the subcontinent. "Touring India is one of the great experiences for any cricketer and I know the players and staff are looking forward to the challenge," he added.

The group includes players such as Mark Chapman, Jacob Duffy and Dane Cleaver, who had had success with the Black Caps during the recent series in Europe.

**New Zealand A Squad:** Tom Bruce (c), Robbie O'Donnell (c), Chad Bowes, Joe Carter, Mark Chapman, Dane Cleaver (wk), Jacob Duffy (Otago), Matt Fisher, Cameron Fletcher (wk), Ben Lister, Rachin Ravindra, Michael Rippon, Sean Solia, Logan van Beek, Joe Walker.



## SA win 1st Test vs Poms

AP ■ LONDON

**E**ngland was given a reality check in its new era under Ben Stokes as the team fell to defeat by South Africa by an innings and 12 runs inside three days in the first Test at Lord's on Friday.

After taking a lead of 161 runs into the second innings, the Proteas dismissed England for 149 in 37.4 overs and went 1-0 ahead in the three-match Test series.

Under new captain Stokes and new coach Brendon McCullum, England had swept a series 3-0 against New Zealand in June and also beaten India in a Test in July by taking an aggressive approach to its batting.

That didn't work against South Africa and its hostile

pace attack. England lost its 20 wickets in the match in a total of 82.4 overs.

The South Africans resumed on 289-7 on Day 3 and were bowled out for 326 after an hour's play.

England didn't even make it to tea.

The second test starts Thursday in Manchester. Earlier, Marco Jansen fell just short of a maiden Test fifty before Anrich Nortje added a useful 28 not out as South Africa were dismissed for 326 in reply to England's first innings 165 - a lead of 161 runs.

Stuart Broad and England captain Ben Stokes both took 3-71 but not before the Proteas tail had added a further 37 runs after resuming on 289-7.

South Africa led by 124 runs overnight after a rapid stand of

72 in just 75 balls between Jansen (41 not out) and Keshav Maharaj (41) had followed a painstaking 73 by opener Sarel Erwee.

But they lost Kagiso Rabada without adding to their total off Friday's third ball of the day when his pull off Matthew Potts was brilliantly caught one-handed by a leaping Broad at mid-on. Stokes, who had rocked South Africa with a burst of two wickets for five runs in seven balls on Thursday, took up the attack alongside Durham teammate Potts.

The new-ball was taken as soon as possible, with South Africa 291-8 off 80 overs but Stokes did not immediately bring senior pacemen James Anderson and Broad — England's all-time leading Test wicket-takers — into the attack.

## Eng Tour: Jhulan back for ODIs, uncapped Kiran Navgire picked for T20Is

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**V**eteran pace spearhead Jhulan Goswami made a comeback in the Indian women's ODI squad for the tour of England which also saw hard-hitting Women's T20 Challenge sensation Kiran Navgire receiving a maiden call-up in the shortest format.

India will be in England on a two-week white-ball tour that comprises six white-ball games — three WT20Is and three WODIs.

The T20I matches will be held in Hove (Sept 10), Derby (Sept 13) and Bristol (Sept 15) while the ODIs are scheduled at Hove (Sept 18), Canterbury (Sept 21) and Lord's (Sept 24).

Goswami, who will be 40 in three months time, had last played for India at the ODI World Cup in New Zealand in March against Bangladesh.

While her contemporary Mithali Raj had retired, the veteran seamer was nursing an injury and wasn't picked for the Sri Lanka tour.

While there were speculations that she could retire but the

201-match seasoned campaigner is ready to add to his tally of 252 wickets, which is highest in the world in 50-over format.

The T20I squad saw the return of Richa Ghosh in the main squad after being questionably left out of the CWG team at the expense of Taniyaa Bhatia, who has once again regained her place in both squad. While Richa is in T20I squad, Yastika Bhatia has managed to retain her place in the ODI team.

But the biggest pick was the burly Kiran Navgire, a Maharashtra native, who plays domestic cricket for Nagaland. Her 34-ball-69 which had five towering sixes for Velocity during a Women's T20 Challenge game against Trailblazers gave a glimpse of his power-hitting and alongside Shafali and Richa would add impact to the team.

Among those who once again missed out are veteran seamer Shikha Pandey, who has been repeatedly ignored and leg-spinner Poonam Yadav, who perhaps needs to reinvent her bowling to make a comeback.

## AIFF Polls: Bhutia files nomination

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**T**he legendary Bhaichung Bhutia on Friday filed his nomination for the president's post in the upcoming AIFF elections but getting through won't be easy for the former footballer as several candidates with political affiliations have also thrown their hats in the ring.

There are ex-footballers turned politicians and politicians who aspire to enter sports administration in the fray along with long-time sports administrator, who want to grab the top job in All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The deadline to file nominations for the post expired on Friday. The much-delayed elections are scheduled for August 28.

Bhutia's name has been proposed by his former national team colleague Deepak Mondal and seconded by "eminent woman player" Madhu Kumari.

However for him to succeed it is imperative that electoral college is not without former players. As of now FIFA statuettes do not allow their presence. A clear picture will emerge when Supreme court



## Sports Ministry requests FIFA, AFC to allow Indian clubs play AFC tournaments

**NEW DELHI:** The Sports Ministry has requested the world football governing body FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to allow Indian clubs -- Sree Gokulam Kerala FC and ATK Mohun Bagan -- compete in the tournaments as scheduled despite the ban on AIFF.

With FIFA suspending the All India Football Federation (AIFF) late on Monday, there was chaos as Gokulam Kerala women's team had already reached Uzbekistan when FIFA's suspension of AIFF was announced.

Club Championship.

The women's team is scheduled to compete against a team from Iran on August 23 and one from the host nation on August 26 in Qarshi, while ATK Mohun Bagan is slated to play the AFC Cup 2022 (Inter-Zone semifinals) on September 7 in Bahrain.

The ministry wrote an email to FIFA and AFC, apprising them of the fact that Gokulam Kerala was already in Uzbekistan when FIFA's suspension of AIFF was announced.

PTI

resumes its hearing on the issue on Monday.

Former Mohun Bagan and East Bengal goalkeeper Kalyan Chaubey, a BJP leader from West Bengal, who has unsuccessfully fought one general and one state assembly elections, will be the biggest threat to Bhutia.

Chaubey as a footballer is no match to Bhutia but a look at the former custodian's proposer (Gujarat Football Association) and seconder (Arunachal Pradesh) explains the impact his presence could make to the outcome of these elections.

Gujarat is the state of two of India's biggest political leaders (PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah) while Arunachal Pradesh is former sports minister and current Law Minister Kiren Rijiju's home state.

There Ajit Banerjee, who is IFA (West Bengal) president but his primary identity is him being the elder brother to West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee.

He wouldn't have entered the fray had he not had the go-ahead from the party leadership.

The third footballer in the list and youngest candidate is 36-year-old former India midfielder Eugeneson Lyngdoh, who is now an MLA. He represents regional heavyweight United Democratic Party in Meghalaya.

Lyngdoh, who played for India alongside Sunil Chhetri, entered active politics when his father passed away and won the election from Mawphlang constituency.

There is NA Haris from Karnataka State Football Association, who is a local Congress MLA and a very active participant in AIFF politics.

There is a second Congress member and a surprise nominee in Rajasthan's Manavendra Singh, who was formerly with BJP.

He has been a member of Parliament in Lok Sabha and also happens to be former defence minister Late Jaswant Singh's son.

## Praggnanandhaa makes it four wins in a row

PTI ■ MIAMI

**I**ndian prodigy R Praggnanandhaa handed world No.6 Levon Aronian a 3-1 thrashing in the fourth round to notch up his fourth consecutive win in the FTX Crypto Cup, the American finale of Champions Chess Tour, on Friday.

The 17-year old Indian is in joint lead with 12 match points along with world No.1 Magnus Carlsen, who defeated Quang Liem Le of China 3-1.

Praggnanandhaa won the third game with white pieces after the first two in the four-game match ended in a stalemate. First, he won with white pieces to take a 2-1 lead after game three and stormed to victory in 44 moves in the fourth to seal an emphatic win over the acclaimed American star.

Having started his campaign with victory over Alireza Firouzja, the Indian GM has subsequently beaten Anish Giri and Hans Niemann.

Carlsen, meanwhile, secured a similar result, winning games three and four after the first two were drawn.