

**OPINION 6**  
IS DEMOCRACY  
REALLY IN DANGER?

**WORLD 8**  
FIRST UKRAINE GRAIN SHIP FOR  
HORN OF AFRICA REACHES DJIBOUTI

**MONEY 10**  
INDIA TO BECOME HIGH-INCOME  
NATION BY 2047: EAC-PM

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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## CAPSULE

### GAUTAM ADANI WORLD'S THIRD-RICHEST PERSON

**New Delhi:** Business conglomerate Adani Group's chairman Gautam Adani is now the world's third-richest person after overtaking France's Bernard Arnault according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index. With a total net worth of \$137.4 billion, 60-year-old Adani has surpassed the wealth of Louis Vuitton chairman Arnault and is now just behind business magnate Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos in the ranking.

### OPEN OFFER FOR NDTV TO BE LAUNCHED ON OCT 17

**New Delhi:** The Adani Group will launch its open offer on October 17 for acquiring an additional 26 per cent stake in media firm NDTV. The open offer will tentatively close on November 1.

### HC SUMMONS DGP IN DUMKA GIRL'S KILLING

**Ranchi:** The High Court of Jharkhand on Tuesday took suo motu cognisance of the Dumka schoolgirl death case and ordered the Director General of Police to file a report.

### PHOGAT PROBE REPORT WITH HRY GOVT: GOA CM

**Panaji:** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said his Government has submitted a "confidential report" on the investigation into the case of alleged murder of BJP leader Sonali Phogat to Haryana Chief Minister and Director General of Police.

### ACTOR KRK HELD OVER 'DEFAMATORY' TWEETS

**Mumbai:** A court here on Tuesday sent actor Kamal Rashid Khan, aka KRK, in 14-day judicial custody after he was arrested by the city police over his alleged defamatory tweets.

# Soren shifts 32 UPA MLAs to Raipur to keep flock intact

Jharkhand CM to hold Cabinet meeting with Mins on Sept 1

PRANAV PRATYUSH ■ RANCHI

Amid the ongoing political crisis in Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren shifted 32 Legislators of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) on Tuesday to Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur in an attempt to keep the flock intact.

Soren said that the shifting of the Legislators was a part of the UPA's strategy to thwart any attempt of horse-trading by the Opposition BJP in the State. He has called a meeting of his Cabinet Ministers on September 1.

"This is not a new tradition. The ruling coalition is ready to face any situation. Plans are made on a strategy and you have seen a glimpse of the strategy earlier and today also. In the future, too, you will see that the ruling coalition will give a befitting reply to the conspirators in the State," said the CM coming out of the Ranchi Airport.

On when he will also leave the State, the CM replied, "I will get back to you on this."

The UPA Legislators started reaching Soren's official residence since morning with bags and baggage. After a brief



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren with UPA MLAs leaves for Raipur airport on way to Raipur amid speculation of his disqualification as an MLA, in Ranchi on Tuesday

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meeting and lunch, they left for Ranchi Airport in two luxury buses. Soren and some Ministers of his Cabinet also accompanied the MLAs to the airport. However, sources said that six Ministers of the JMM quota in the State were among the 17 Legislators, who did not go to Raipur.

Sources revealed that the MLAs will stay at Mayfair Lake Resort in Raipur. The ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh has made all arrangements in advance.

Among the JMM(S) Legislators, who did not board

the Indigo flight to Raipur included CM Hemant Soren, his brother Basant Soren, Lobin Hembrom, Joba Manjhi, Champai Soren, Jagrath Mahto, Hafijul Hassan, Mithilesh Thakur and Savita Mahto (recovering after surgery).

Sources said that Basant Soren and Lobin Hembrom have been asked to camp in Dumka in the wake of the Ankita murder case.

From the Congress' fold, Pradeep Yadav did not go due to ill-health, Mamata Devi is recuperating after delivery and

three Legislators, who are trapped in a cash recovery case, are in Kolkata.

Sources said that State Congress in-charge Avinash Pandey, JPCC president Rajesh Thakur and four Congress quota Ministers will return to Ranchi on Wednesday as the CM has called a Cabinet meeting on September 1.

Notably, the Governor House is still silent on the Election Commission letter sent to the Governor in the office-of-profit case of CM Hemant Soren.

Continued on Page 2

# Power addictive like liquor: Anna to CM

New policy will encourage sale of alcohol, spur graft, Hazare tells Kejriwal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran social activist and architect of the high pitch 'anti-corruption campaign' of 2011, Anna Hazare has written a sharply-worded letter to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal attacking his Government's new Excise Policy.

Hazare, who was Kejriwal's political mentor, said it seemed that the CM was "sunk in the addiction of power" and there was a gap between what he preaches and practices.

Hazare who along with Kejriwal and other leaders had led a stir for the enactment of a stringent anti-corruption law during the Congress-led-UPA Government, said it seemed the new policy will encourage liquor sale, consumption and spur corruption.

The 85-year-old activist reminded Kejriwal of his earlier stand on liquor vends and the sale of alcohol and cigarettes. He pointed out several villages in Maharashtra where he was successful in stopping or limiting the sale of alcohol. He said he expected Kejriwal to implement a similar policy in the national Capital as well, but

that didn't happen.

"I had expected a similar policy (like in Maharashtra). But you didn't do it. People seem to be trapped in a circle of money for power and power for money. It doesn't suit a party that emerged from a major movement", wrote Hazare.

"You joined us because of the Lokpal movement. Since then, you and Manish Sisodia have visited Ralegan Siddhi village several times. You have seen the work done by the villagers. Liquor, bidis, and cigarettes have not been sold in the village for the last 35 years. You were inspired to see this. You praised this too. The AAP had talked about adopting the political path. But you forgot that forming a political party was not the aim of our movement," he wrote.

"The policy will spur corruption and this thing is not at all in the interest of the people. But still, you took the decision to bring the new liquor policy. Like addiction to liquor, there is an addiction of power and it seems that you have sunk into it," Hazare said in the letter.

Last month, Delhi

Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the implementation of Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22.

Hazare, while citing the complete liquor ban in his village Ralegan Siddhi in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district, asked Kejriwal to recollect the latter's book 'Swaraj' written in 2012 which favoured liquor ban.

The activist, who had penned the book's foreword, said he has written a letter to Kejriwal for the first time since he became CM and that it pains him to read reports about the Delhi Government's new Excise Policy.

"You wrote several idealistic things in the book. Everyone had hopes from you but it seems that after becoming the CM, you forgot that ideology and that is why the Delhi Government came up with a new liquor policy," he said.

It seems with the new policy, liquor sales and consumption will get encouraged and liquor shops could be opened everywhere.

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# SC terms infructuous, closes 11 pleas related to 2002 Guj riots

Top court also closes contempt proceedings against Kalyan Singh in Babri case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered closure of all petitions related to the 2002 Gujarat riots as well as contempt petitions against former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister the late Kalyan Singh and others for the demolition of Babri Masjid.

Citing the 2019 Ayodhya judgment, the Bench comprising Justices SK Kaul, AS Oka and Vikram Nath said the issue of the masjid's demolition in 1992 did not survive now. The contempt plea was pending for a long time and the peti-



tioner had died in 2010.

"I appreciate the fact that the matter ought to have come up earlier," Justice Kaul said. The counsel appearing for the petitioner said the order passed by the apex court in 1992 was violated and after that the contempt petition was filed. He said nearly 30 years have gone by and the petitioner had filed several applications for listing of the matter.

"I appreciate your concern. But, now nothing survives in this matter," Justice Kaul observed, adding, "You cannot

keep whipping a dead horse."

The Bench said it was unfortunate that the matter was not taken up. "We are making an endeavour to take up old matters. Some may survive, and some may not survive. ... Now, you have a full verdict delivered by a larger Bench," it said.

The Bench noted in its order that the petitioner has passed away and the issue has been settled by a Constitution Bench in November 2019.

Closing 11 petitions related to the 2002 Gujarat riots, the apex court said the cases had become "infructuous", including the one filed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), almost 20 years ago.

Besides the NHRC, organisations like 'Citizens for Justice and Peace' (CJP) of activist Teesta Setalvad, had then moved the top court seeking various reliefs, including a court-monitored probe of the riots.

Continued on Page 2

# SC refuses to give nod for Ganesh Chaturthi at Idgah Maidan in Bengaluru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to grant permission for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations at Idgah Maidan in Bengaluru and ordered status quo on land by both parties. The order was passed by a Bench of Justices Indira Banerjee, AS Oka and MM Sundresh at 6.20 P.M. well past the normal working hours of the court.

The SC said for 200 years the ground was not used for such purposes and there was no reason to change it now.

The Bench also returned the matter on land ownership back to the single-judge of the High Court to be decided on merits. "Status quo as of today to be maintained. Issues to be taken up by single-judge. SLP disposed of," the order said.

The court was hearing two

Midnight plea to stop fest at Hubballi too

**New Delhi:** Another petition to stop Ganesh Chaturthi rituals on a second Waqf property in Hubballi was heard by the Karnataka High Court in a late-evening hearing held at the chambers of Justice Ashok S Kinagi.

appeals filed by Central Muslim Association of Karnataka and the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf (appellants) challenging a Karnataka High Court verdict. The petitioners approached the top court against the State's permission for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations on what they claimed to be Waqf property.

Continued on Page 2

# BJP firing from Anna's shoulder: Kejriwal

They have been saying there's a scam in liquor policy, but public is not listening to them: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that the BJP was firing from Anna Hazare's shoulders after the noted Gandhian wrote a five-page letter attacking the Delhi Government's Excise Policy.

The Chief Minister said that they (BJP) have been saying there's a scam in the liquor policy, but the public is not listening to them. "Ab yeh Anna Hazare ji ke kandhe pe rakh ke bandukh chala rahe hain," he said.

The AAP convenor said that using an individual as a platform, the way the BJP is doing with Hazare, is "common in politics".

Kejriwal said that whenever they (BJP) say something and the people do not listen to them, they bring someone forth. "During Punjab elections, they said Kejriwal is a terrorist.

Continued on Page 2



Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia at the Vasundhara branch of Punjab National Bank amid a search of his bank locker by Central Bureau of Investigation officials in connection with alleged irregularities in Delhi Excise Policy, in Ghaziabad on Tuesday.

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CBI trashes charges against L-G Saxena

**New Delhi:** Rejecting the AAP's allegations against Delhi Lt. Governor VK Saxena, the CBI has said it has not found the role of any individual other than the two accused cashiers of Khadi Gram Udyog Bhavan.

Details on P3

CBI found nothing in my bank locker, says Sisodia

**New Delhi:** After a CBI team on Tuesday morning conducted searches at a bank locker in Ghaziabad, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia claimed that he got a clean chit as the investigating agency had found nothing in his bank locker.

Details on P3

# BJP axes leader after video of help tortured for 6 years goes viral

AGENCIES ■ RANCHI

In a shocking incident, a Jharkhand BJP leader Seema Patra, who is also the wife of a former IAS officer Maheshwar Patra, has been accused of confining and torturing a tribal woman who was working in their house as a domestic help for the last six years.

The BJP suspended Seema Patra, a member of the National Working Committee of the party's women wing, after the video was widely shared online on Tuesday.

In the video, Sunita, who is lying on a hospital bed in RIMS, Ranchi, looking emaciated, shocked and dazed can be seen describing her ordeal, which included her teeth being



smashed in with an iron rod.

Jharkhand BJP chief Deepak Prakash ordered the action against Seema Patra after the videos of her domestic help with injury marks on her body, accusing her of torture went viral. The video of Sunita, who is incapable of sitting up due to the repeated assaults, evoked strong reactions and there were calls for Seema Patra's arrest.

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# 64 of Azad loyalists, including ex-DY CM, resign from J&K Cong

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

As many as 64 staunch loyalists of Ghulam Nabi Azad, including former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand, former Ministers from Doda Abdul Majid Wani, Dr Manohar Lal Sharma from Billawar, Choudhary Gharu Ram, and former MLA Balwan Singh, on Tuesday announced their resignations from the primary membership of the Congress Party.

The resignation spree is expected to continue in support of the veteran leader in the run-up to the announcement of a new political outfit on September 4.

Over a dozen prominent Congress leaders, including



Former J&K Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand addresses a press conference in Jammu on Tuesday

PTI

former Ministers and Legislators, besides hundreds of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, municipal corporators and district and block level leaders have already left the Congress to join Azad over the past four days.

Continued on Page 2

# Navy to shed colonial vestige: PM to unveil desi ensign on Vikrant's commissioning

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissions the first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, at the Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi on September 2, he will also unveil a new naval ensign (Nishan) doing away with the colonial past and befitting the rich Indian maritime heritage.

The Prime Minister's Office on Tuesday announced the unveiling of the new ensign or nishan and commissioning of the 42,000 ton aircraft carrier costing more than ₹20,000 crore. The current ensign of the Navy is a white flag with horizontal and vertical red stripes, symbolising the Cross of St George, with the emblem of India, Ashoka Lion, superim-



posed on the intersection. The Tricolour is placed in the upper canton next to the staff. In the new ensign, the Cross will be deleted and the naval crest depicting an anchor will be added, sources said here on Tuesday.

Moreover, a commonality will be maintained with the

flags of the Army and the Indian Air Force, they said adding this is the fourth time since 1950 that the naval ensign will be changed.

The first change was on January 26, 1950 when India became a Republic and the Navy Crest and flags were duly Indianised.

While the Union flag was replaced by the Indian flag, the ensign and Distinguishing Flags continued to have British legacy in the form of the Red St George's Cross.

The Crown in the naval crest, depicted with an anchor, was replaced by Ashoka Lion for the Indian Navy's Emblem.

The invocation to Lord Varuna (The Sea God) in the Vedas was adopted by it for its emblem, with the Motto: "Sam no Varunah", meaning: "Be auspicious unto us Oh Varuna". The inscription of Satyameva Jayate below the State Emblem was included in the crest.

While other ex-colonial navies discarded the Red St George's Cross in their new ensigns and flags, the Indian Navy retained it till 2001.

Continued on Page 2

NCR-PULSE



New Delhi: At least 30 women who achieved excellence in their respective fields including health and economy were honoured at a "Women in Leadership Conclave" organised by SHE (society for health and empowerment), a voluntary organization and Lok Kala Parishad here recently. The function was presided over by Chief Guest Geeta Shukla, a Rajya Sabha Member of parliament (MP) and Guest of Honour, Vishakha Shailani, a member of NDMC.

**NO IDOLS TO BE IMMersed IN YAMUNA: POLLUTION BODY**  
New Delhi: The Delhi Government's pollution control body has asked district magistrates to ensure idols are not immersed in the Yamuna or any other water body in the national Capital during this year's Ganeshotsava and Durga puja. Violations are punishable with a fine of Rs 50,000 or a jail term of up to six years, it said in an order issued Monday.

**KEJRIWAL TO VISIT TN TO LAUNCH 3 PROJECTS**  
New Delhi: A couple of months after the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin visited Delhi school, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday said he will visit Tamil Nadu on September 5 to launch three projects there, including schools of excellence on the lines of the national Capital. Kejriwal thanked Tamil Nadu CM Stalin for inviting him to the southern State.

**DUBAI-BOUND INDIAN HELD FOR SMUGGLING RYIALS**  
New Delhi: A Dubai-bound Indian passenger was apprehended by CISF personnel at the Delhi airport on Tuesday for allegedly smuggling Saudi Riyals worth Rs 41 lakh by concealing them in 'lehengra' buttons. The man was intercepted by the security personnel at the Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International airport during security checks at about 4 AM.

**CM INSPECTS UNDER-CONSTRUCTION GOVT HOSPITAL**  
New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday conducted an on-site inspection of 330 bed under-construction State Government hospital in Sarita Vihar. Addressing the media, Kejriwal said, "This highly modern, first of its kind hospital will hopefully be ready by October-November. We took up a project to construct seven new 100 per cent ICU hospitals during COVID to prepare Delhi to fight any pandemic like situation in the future too."

**2 DOZEN AAP WORKERS JOIN BJP IN GURUGRAM**  
Gurugram: Two dozen workers of the AAP, including the former AAP district president of Gurugram, Mahesh Yadav (Sarpanch) joined the BJP on Tuesday. The former AAP members joined the saffron outfit at 'Gurukamal' - the BJP's local office - in the presence of State President Om Prakash Dhanekar. "All these workers, who were angry with the policies of the AAP, have joined the BJP and in future, they will work for the BJP with a dedicated heart and will serve the public," Dhanekar told the media.

**JNU RECTOR RESIGNS AFTER PROTESTS AGAINST HIM**  
New Delhi: The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Rector Ajay Kumar Dubey has resigned after a series of protest against him by the RSS-affiliated ABVP. According to an official circular released on August 29, professor Ajay Kumar Dubey has resigned from the post of Rector of the University and the same has been accepted by the competent authority with immediate effect.

**DCW VOICES CONCERN OVER RISE IN CRIMES IN DELHI**  
New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Tuesday voiced concern over the surge in cases of crime against women in the national capital and said it is necessary to take strong steps to prevent the name of Delhi from getting spoiled. "According to NCRB data, crimes against women increased by 41 per cent in 2021 and the crimes against children increased by 32 per cent," said DCW chief, Swati Malviwal in a tweet.

**PROTEST HELD OVER ZARGAR'S ADMISSION CANCELLATION**  
New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) students staged a protest against the university administration on Tuesday over the cancellation of activist Safuora Zargar's admission. The students accused the university administration of targeting Zargar as she was at the forefront of several protests. Zargar, along with various student organisations, including the Students Islamic Organisation of India (SIO), the Fraternity Movement and the Campus Front of India, joined the protest.

सार्वजनिक सूचना

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत M/s Zestha Projects Pvt. Ltd. के भूखण्ड संख्या-26/01 सेक्टर केपी-03 ग्रेटर नोएडा को दिनांक 20.08.2013 को मानचित्र स्वीकृति प्रदान की गयी थी। तदोपरान्त विकासकर्ता द्वारा (I.T. Commercial & Ginger hotel) का अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र (Occupancy Certificate) हेतु दिनांक 17.11.2021 को आन लाईन के माध्यम से आवेदन किया गया है, जिसका आवेदन संख्या- CC-2416 है, तत्क्रम में UP Apartment Act-2010, Amendment 2016 in Section 4 Sub Section-B, के अन्तर्गत परियोजना के आवंटियों से आपत्ति / सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जाने का प्राविधान है। इस सम्बन्ध में विकासकर्ता द्वारा प्रस्तुत कार्यपुर्ति मानचित्र एवं Declarations of UP Apartment Act 2010 का परीक्षण किसी भी कार्यदिवस में सुबह 9:30 से सायं 6:00 बजे के मध्य नियोजन विभाग में तथा प्राधिकरण को वेबसाईट पर किया जा सकता है।  
अतः उपरोक्त परियोजना के आवंटियों द्वारा Completion Map एवं Declarations of UP Apartment Act 2010 के सम्बन्ध में सूचना प्रकाशित करने के 30 दिनों के अन्दर आपत्तियाँ / सुझाव आमंत्रित की जाती है। उपरोक्त के निहितार्थ अपनी आपत्तियाँ लिखित से अपने आवंटन पत्र, नाम, पता एवं दूरभाष नम्बर के साथ कार्यालय समय व कार्यदिवस में ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण के मुख्य प्रशासनिक कार्यालय, भूखण्ड संख्या-1, नॉलेज पार्क- 04, ग्रेटर नोएडा में स्थित नियोजन विभाग में सूचना प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिवसों के अन्दर जमा कराया जा सकता है।  
प्रभारी महाप्रबन्धक (नियोजन / वास्तु) ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned asset will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD. VS Sh. Nishar Khan & Anr. CS (Comm) No.: 11/2021	Vehicle No. UP14HT4602 Make and Model- ASHOK LEYLAND LTD., PARTNER Manufacturing Year - 2018

**Auction Date:** 8th September 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.  
**Mode of Auction:** Online Venue: <https://auctions.cardekho.com/#/>  
**Contact Person:-** Santosh Balabantaray (9163343439)/ Ankil Soni (8085250890)

**Terms of Sale**  
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to inspect and satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.  
Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd., 22/8, A C Bose Road, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700020 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

Adani to launch open offer for NDTV on Oct 17

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Group will launch its open offer on October 17 for acquiring an additional 26 per cent stake in media firm NDTV.

The open offer for acquiring 1.67 crore equity shares, for which a price of Rs 294 per share has been fixed, will tentatively close on November 1, said an advertisement by JM Financial, which is managing the offer.

If fully subscribed at a price of Rs 294 per share, the open offer will amount to Rs 492.81 crore,

On August 23, Adani group announced to acquire a 29.18 per cent stake in NDTV through the acquisition of

VCPL, which holds a 99.99 per cent stake in RRPR Holding.

Following this Adani group firms - Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Limited (VCPL) along with AMG Media Networks and Adani Enterprises Ltd - have proposed to acquire an additional 26 per cent or 1.67 crore equity shares.

Days after this announcement, NDTV's founder promoters asserted that the deal cannot go ahead without Sebi's nod.

In an order passed on November 27, 2020, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) restrained NDTV founders -- Radhika Roy and Prannoy Roy -- from the securities market for two years and that period ends on



November 26.

As restrictions are still in force, hence a prior written approval from Sebi was required for Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Limited (VCPL) for the exercise of the conversion option on the warrants, NDTV founders had said.

RRPR Holding Ltd and Adani group have approached Sebi, seeking clarity on the applicability of the regulator's earlier order regarding the conversion of warrants into shares, which has become a decisive factor in the hostile takeover battle for the media group.

Though Adani group has already rejected NDTV's assertion saying that promoter entity RRPR Holding is not a part of the regulator's order that restrained Prannoy and Radhika Roy from accessing the securities market.

Terming the contentions raised by RRPR Holdings as "baseless, legally untenable and devoid of merit", VCPL had said the holding firm is "bound to immediately perform its

obligation and allot the equity shares" as specified in the Warrant Exercise Notice.

VCPL had said RRPR is not a party to the Sebi Order dated November 27, 2020, and the restraints do not apply to it. The Warrant Exercise Notice was issued by its subsidiary VCPL under a contract, which is binding on RRPR, it added.

On August 23, the Adani group announced to launch an open offer to buy an additional 26 per cent stake in the company, which operates three national news channels - English news channel NDTV 24x7, Hindi news channel NDTV India and business news channel NDTV Profit.

The key element behind the takeover bid is an unpaid

loan that NDTV's promoter entity RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd had availed from VCPL. NDTV had taken a loan of Rs 403.85 crore in 2009-10 and against this amount, warrants were issued by RRPR. With the warrants, VCPL had the right to convert them into a 99.9 per cent stake in RRPR in case the loan was not repaid.

Adani group first acquired VCPL from its new owner and exercised the option to convert unpaid debt into a 29.18 per cent stake in the news channel company.

The promoters of NDTV had claimed that they were completely unaware of the takeover until Tuesday and that it was done without their consent.

‘Among 8 UTs, Delhi had max human trafficking cases in 2021’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Among the eight Union Territories, Delhi recorded the highest number of human trafficking cases in 2021 with a 73.5 per cent rise in cases over 2020. However, all the 509 victims of human trafficking in 2021 were rescued.

According to National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data, most of the trafficked people were for forced labour, while a few of them were for sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and petty crimes. However, none of the victims was trafficked for child pornography, begging, drug peddling or removal of organs.

A senior Delhi Police officer said in 2020 the entire

nation faced multiple pandemic-induced lockdowns. "Naturally the city witnessed an increase in human trafficking cases in 2021 when the movement of people resumed gradually."

"Migration is also a major reason. Being a hub for job opportunities, certain dealers try to lure youngsters and jobless people with lucrative offers and primes of a handsome salary. However, after reaching the destination they face the reality. Either they are not paid at all or are paid less than what was promised," the officer added.

According to NCRB data, 509 victims were trafficked in 2021 of whom a majority were male and 143 females. Also, 437 victims of human traffick-

ing in Delhi were below the age group of 18, including 100 girls. Only 72 adults were trafficked, including 43 females.

The NCRB data also showed that 174 persons have been arrested for human trafficking in 2021 and 13 charge-sheeted while none have been convicted, acquitted or discharged by the courts.

According to another senior police officer, "Compared to other states or Union Territories, cases are promptly registered in Delhi. We are prompt and better when it comes to policing."

"We also have a facility for online registration of complaints and every complaint is enquired for its authenticity and action is taken accordingly," the officer said.

SC terms infructuous, closes 11 pleas related to 2002 ...

**From Page 1**  
A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit and Justices S Ravindra Bhat and JB Pardiwala considered the submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, the counsel for the court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT), and the lawyers of various petitioners including Aparna Bhat, appearing for the CJP, and said there was nothing left to be decided in these pleas now.

"Since all the matters have now become infructuous, this court is of the view that this court need not entertain these petitions any longer. The matters are therefore disposed of as having become

infructuous," the Bench ruled.

The Bench took note of the submission of the SIT that the trial in the 'Naroda gaon' riots case, one of the nine cases which were probed and prosecuted by the SIT, was in the final stages in the trial court, while other matters have been decided by the lower courts and are pending in appellate stages either in the Gujarat High Court or in the apex court.

Around the same time, the NHRC also preferred a plea before the top court, and under the directions of the Bench, an SIT was constituted and asked to conduct and monitor the investigation in nine major riots cases.

BJP axes leader after video of help tortured for 6 years goes...

**From Page 1**  
Police are expected to record her statement soon, following which they may move to arrest Seema Patra.

29-year-old Sunita, who hails from Gumla in Jharkhand, was employed by the Patras about 10 years ago.

Their daughter Vatsala was moving to Delhi and Sunita went along as her help. After four years Vatsala and Sunita

returned to Ranchi and her six-year-long nightmare began.

Sunita has alleged that she was tortured by Seema Patra who beat her up with a hot tawa and rods. She alleged that she was even made to lick urine off the floor. Sunita says that in the end it was Seema Patra's son Ayushman who came to her rescue. "It is only because of him that I am alive today," she says in the video.

Trial runs on Mumbai Metro line-3 begin

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The trial runs on the 32.5 km underground Mumbai Metro Line-3-- involving Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ corridor -- began on Tuesday.

Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy chief minister Fadnavis flagged off the trial run at Sariputnagar in Aarey Colony temporarily car-shed inside a 3 kms tunnel till the Marol Naka Station.

Initially, the design proving train trial runs will be conducted on the Down main line in about 3 Kms section between Ramp at SEEPZ to Marol Naka, while static tests will be performed on trains. The Train Trial Runs for Dynamic testing of Rolling Stock upto the maximum permissible speed of the train trials section.

The Oscillation trials of Rolling Stock with RDSO have been planned in this 5 Km long section between Ramp at SEEPZ to Sahar Road station. The Service Trials will be planned after Depot facilities for Line 3 are ready with availability of required numbers of Train sets.

Navy to shed colonial...

**From Page 1**  
On August 15, 2001, the design of the ensign was changed and the Cross was removed from the Indian Navy crest.

In 2004, however, the original ensign was adopted again as there were complaints within the force that the blue of the naval crest was indistinguishable from the sky and the ocean. The present ensign was changed back to St George's Cross with the addition of the Indian emblem in its intersection. In 2014, the ensign and the naval crest were updated to include the national motto "Satyameva Jayate" in the Devanagari script.

Meanwhile, the PMO said here on Tuesday Modi will be in Karnataka and Kerala on September 1-2 to attend several programmes, including a visit to the birthplace of Adi Shankaracharya at Kalady village near Cochin airport. He will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of projects worth around Rs 3,800 crores in Mangaluru. The PMO noted that Modi has been a strong proponent of self reliance, especially in strategic sectors, and the commissioning of INS Vikrant will mark a significant step towards this. It will be the first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier.

SC refuses to give nod for Ganesh...

**From Page 1**  
The petitioners were represented by senior lawyers Kapil Sibal and Dushyant Dave.

In the morning the petition was argued before two-judge bench, which initially heard the matter, and referred the case to a three-judge bench. This was due to difference of opinion between the two judges on the bench - Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia.

This led to an urgent mentioning before Chief Justice of India (CJI) UU Lalit at 3.45 pm. The CJI then proceeded to constitute a three-judge bench to hear the case on an immediate basis. The three judge bench started hearing at 4:30 pm.

The appeals filed before the apex court challenged a division bench order of the Karnataka High Court allowing the State Government to consider applications seeking use of the Idgah Maidan in Bengaluru for religious and cultural activities. The order under challenge was passed on August 27 by a division bench of Acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Savanur Vishwajith Shetty in the State's appeal against an interim order passed by a single-judge. Justice Hemant Chandangoudar had allowed

the use of the Idgah Maidan only for Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations, as a public playground and use by the Muslim community to offer prayers on the days of Ramadan and Bakrid festivals as an interim measure. However, this order was modified by the division bench to the extent of asking the Government to consider applications for all religious and cultural activities while the dispute to the land was pending.

Sibal argued that it is an admitted position that no religious function has been performed of any other community in the Eidgah for last 200 years.

"In 1964 , we had an injunction in our favour from Justice Hidayatullah. This is Wakf property under the Wakf Act. In 1970 also, an injunction was granted in our favour. Once it is wakf, character cannot be challenged. Now under the new Act, they said the wakf character is in dispute," he said.

Sibal pointed out that a single-judge of the High Court had ruled in their favour. "Thereafter the single-judge order was modified (by division bench). So a 200 year old character of the land is sought to be changed. Suddenly they wake up in 2022 and on what ground," Sibal said.

Soren ships 32 UPA MLAs to Raipur...

**From Page 1**  
The EC has also reserved its order in a similar case against JMM MLA from Dumka Basant Soren. However, as a precautionary measure the MLAs have been shifted to Raipur, said sources.

The Speaker's Court in Jharkhand Assembly on Tuesday completed hearing an anti-defection case against BJP MLA Babul Marandi and reserved its order. Looking at the timing of the hearing, political experts said that the Speaker's court decision could come any day after the Governor takes his call in CM Hemant Soren's case.

If the membership of Hemant Soren and Basant Soren ends, the Speaker may disqualify Babul Marandi as a member of the House, he said.

In the 81-member House, the JMM-Congress-RJD combine has 49 MLAs, while the BJP has 26 MLAs.

Power addictive like liquor: Anna tells...

**From Page 1**  
Hazare and Kejriwal were the key faces of the anti-graft movement in 2011 to demand appointment of a Lokpal.

Hazare said after becoming the CM, Kejriwal forgot about the Lokpal and Lokayukta law. "You did not make any effort to bring in a strong Lokayukta Act, but instead the Delhi government has brought in a policy on liquor which destroys the life of people and affects women. This shows there is a gap between what you preach and practice," he said.

Kejriwal, a long time associate of Hazare, has in the past been criticized by the social activist. Hazare who has often been described by the Delhi Chief Minister as his 'Guru' had undertaken fast-unto-death in Delhi during his anti-corruption campaign but thereafter retreated to his home state Maharashtra.

BJP firing from Anna's shoulders...

**From Page 1**  
When people started laughing at them, they brought Kumar Vishwas forward and made him say it. Now they are saying there is a scam in the Excise Policy, the CBI has not found anything and has given an informal clean chit. The people are not listening to them so they are now firing from Anna Hazare's shoulder. This is politics," Kejriwal said.  
On Tuesday, the Delhi Assembly witnessed ruckus with the proceedings adjourned twice amid sloganeering by AAP and BJP MLAs, who trooped into the Well of the House. However, when the House met again at 12 noon, Deputy Speaker Rakhi Birla adjourned proceedings till 1 P.M. amid uproar by Legislators from both sides who came to the Well carrying placards.

# CBI: Only 2 cashiers involved in converting old currency notes

## Khadi Gram Udyog Bhavan case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a rebuff to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) allegations against Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena, the CBI has said it has not found the role of any individual other than the two accused cashiers of Khadi Gram Udyog Bhavan, who had allegedly converted Rs 17 lakh of old currency to new notes after demonetisation. The CBI had already filed a chargesheet against head cashiers Sanjeev Malik and Pradeep Kumar Yadav in December 2017, after conducting a thorough investigation in the matter, officials said, adding the trial is going on before the relevant court in the case. The agency's reaction came a day after AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak claimed in the Delhi Assembly that Saxena had pressured his employees to exchange demonetised notes worth Rs 1,400 crore in 2016, when he was the chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). During the House proceedings on Monday, the AAP legislators trooped to the Well, alleging that the "scam" was worth Rs 1,400 crore, demanding Saxena's resignation, besides a probe by the CBI and

the ED. The development came days after Saxena recommended a CBI probe into alleged corruption in the implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 and the AAP's accusations that he was "interfering" in the city Government's work. Based on the LG's recommendations, the CBI registered an FIR in connection with the alleged excise policy scam and searched Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's residence earlier this month. Sisodia is the prime accused in the case. The accused cashiers had deposited Rs 17.07 lakh in demonetised currency notes in Khadi Gram Udyog Bhavan's account maintained with the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur between November 9 and December 31 in 2016, in violation of instructions issued by the government, the agency has alleged in its FIR. The manager of Khadi Gram Udyog Bhavan had issued an order prohibiting acceptance of demonetised notes at its Connaught Circus store on November 9, 2016, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared withdrawing Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 denomination notes from circulation.

## Saxena flags violation of accounting norms, audit delay in edu sector

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the liquor scam and schoolgate, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday flagged the gross violation of accounting procedures, financial mismanagement and inordinate delay in auditing in the public education sector, under the Higher and Technical Education Department. Saxena also directed the Vice Chancellor of Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU) to submit an explanation for delaying CAG audit for five years along with details of officers responsible for this lapse, within 15 days. The LG Secretariat has also written to all VCs to ensure that meetings of the Court of University are held at least twice in a year. According to the sources, Saxena has expressed serious concern over the undue delay in conduct of audit of the university and has directed the VC to submit an explanation for the delay along with details of officers responsible for this lapse, within 15 days. A proposal to get the accounts of DPSRU pertaining to 2015-16 audited by the CAG was cleared by the then LG in

May 2019, they said. "It may be noted that DPSRU moved the proposal under the provisions of Section 27 of the University Act and Section 20 of the CAG Act 1971, instead of the relevant and applicable Section 19 (3) of the CAG Act. This essentially delayed the audit. The CAG had also asked that the entrustment of audit of accounts of four other Universities including Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi), Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW), Delhi Technological University (DTU) and Netaji Subhash University of Technology (NSUT) be also conveyed under Section 19(3)," they informed. "It took the Delhi Government more than one year to comply with the advice of the CAG and finally a proposal to this effect under the Section 19(3) was made in August 2022, wherein the file for the same yet again came to the LG's Secretariat from the Chief Minister without his signature, with an observation on the file by the Joint Secretary to CM, to the effect that 'Hon'ble CM has seen and approved.' Obviously the CM didn't want to take the

responsibility for the lapses in accounting and violation of rules of CAG," they said. "Saxena has expressed grave concern over unjustifiable and undue delays of more than five years in audit of accounts of Universities under Delhi Government by the CAG," they said. "Saxena has directed the Training and Technical Education/Higher Education Department to take immediate action to ensure entrustment of audit of accounts of all State Universities in accordance with the statutes in place to the CAG," sources stated. "The LG has also directed that in future entrustment of audit accounts of all Universities is done immediately on its becoming due, without any delay," they said. "The LG, in the course of discharge of his duties as Chancellor has also come across serious and continuous procedural lapses on part of the State Universities and has taken a very serious view of it. Be it non-audit of accounts in time, unanswered audit objections or not holding of the mandatory annual meetings of the 'Court of Universities' all point towards non transparency, adhocism and disregard of accountability," they claimed.

## House proceedings adjourned twice amid sloganeering by AAP, BJP MLAs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly witnessed ruckus on Tuesday with the proceedings adjourned twice amid sloganeering by AAP and BJP MLAs, who trooped into the well of the House. When the House met again at 12 noon, Deputy Speaker Rakhi Birla adjourned proceedings till 1 pm amid uproar by legislators from both sides who came to the well carrying placards. While the AAP MLAs raised slogans demanding an independent probe into a six-year-old case against Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, the BJP leaders demanded the sacking of Ministers Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain over alleged corruption charges. For the third consecutive day, the BJP members marshaled out from the House of the Delhi Assembly, seeking resignation of Sisodia in the alleged excise policy scam and education scam. The Leader of the Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said after being expelled from the House, the BJP members sat on a dharna near the statue of Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh in the assembly premises and demanded a probe into the liquor scam and education scam as well as the DTC scam and the Jal Board scam. BJP members demanded resignation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as he has no moral right to remain in power after these scams.



## Assembly Secretariat bans entry of MPs, leaders after ruckus

New Delhi: In view of the tense situation due to the overnight protest at the Assembly premises by MLAs of the ruling AAP and Opposition BJP, the Assembly Secretariat on Tuesday issued an order banning the entry of MPs and political party leaders in its premises. BJP leader and South MP Ramesh Bidhuri, however, arrived at the Assembly reception and also told reporters that all his party MPs will take part in the Session, irrespective of the Secretariat order. He was stopped at the gate. "The Deputy Speaker has observed that as members from the ruling and Opposition parties are staging protests inside the Assembly complex, security arrangements should be tightened in and around the Assembly complex to ensure no untoward incidents take place," the order read. It said only one visitor, accompanied by an MLA,

will be allowed to enter the Assembly complex after identity verification. "However, MPs or leaders shall not be allowed to enter the Assembly complex keeping in view their security and the prevailing tense situation," it added. Sharing a copy of this order, BJP MLA from Rohini Vijender Gupta said on Twitter, "Kejriwal Government is scared! Entry of MPs of Delhi has been banned in the Assembly." While the AAP MLAs are pressing for a probe against Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena in a six-year-old case, the BJP leaders demanded the sacking of ministers Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain. The ruling party has accused Saxena of pressuring two of his subordinates to get demonetised currency notes worth Rs 1,400 crore exchange during his term as Khadi and Village Industries Commission chairman in 2016.

## CBI found nothing in my bank locker: Sisodia



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AAP MLAs display placards during a protest against Lt Governor Vinai Saxena at the State Assembly, in New Delhi on Tuesday

After a team of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday morning conducted searches at a bank locker in Ghaziabad, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia claimed that he got a clean chit as the investigating agency has found nothing in his bank locker. Sisodia and his wife were present as the four-member team, including a woman officer, conducted the search at a Punjab National Bank branch in Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, on the outskirts of the national Capital. Meanwhile the CBI has not reacted on the Sisodia's claims but the BJP leader said he is misleading the people. The CBI was acting under pressure, Sisodia said after the search was over. "Just like my home, they did not find any-

thing in my lockers. Jewellery of about Rs 70,000-80,000 of my children, my wife...I am happy that I got a clean chit from the CBI in searches today (Tuesday). "They have found nothing (incriminating) from searches of my locker or residence," Sisodia said. Earlier in the morning, camera crews jostled with each other and curious crowds gathered to see what was happening as Sisodias as well as CBI team arrived at the bank. The Delhi Deputy Chief Minister said he was happy "the Prime Minister got my house searched but could not find anything." He sent the CBI to get my locker searched but could not find anything. This is the proof that I and my fam-

ily have come out clean in all the inquiries done by the prime minister. I have got a clean chit in all the probes done by the prime minister and not a single penny of questionable nature has been detected. I have full faith in my truth," Sisodia said. He said all the CBI officers were cordial with him and his family. "There is pressure from the Prime Minister to put me behind bars for two to three months... Truth shall triumph," a smiling Sisodia said. Reacting after his deputy said the CBI found nothing upon searching his bank locker, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said honesty and patriotism of Sisodia stand vindicated in front of the entire nation. Kejriwal alleged that the

## AAP continues protest, seeks Saxena removal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday continued their protest throughout the day inside Delhi Legislative Assembly demanding Lieutenant Governor's Vinai Kumar Saxena removal till the CBI and ED investigation is completed. The AAP spokesperson, Saurabh Bhardwaj, questioned the role of the erstwhile Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Chairman, not being investigated in the alleged Rs 1,400 crore scam at KVIC. He asked why his name was not mentioned in the FIR and further termed this to be a direct case of money laundering. "The allegations were directly leveled against the Saxena, despite this, the CBI did not investigate him nor was his name registered in the FIR. This scam was committed when he was the chairman of Khadi

Village Industries. In such a situation, the role of Saxena should be investigated through CBI and he should be arrested," said Bhardwaj. "The AAP has answered every so-called question and false allegation of the BJP. Now BJP should answer why Prime Minister, Narendra Modi waived the loans of his rich friends by imposing GST on milk and curd," said Bhardwaj. "Why was the role of the then Chairman, Saxena not investigated in the Rs 1,400 crore scam in Khadi Village Industries? Why was his name not mentioned in the FIR?" he questioned. "The AAP demands that a case be registered against Saxena and an investigation by CBI-ED. Until his role in the scam is not ascertained, an important constitutional post like that of the LG should not be occupied by him and he should resign," Bhardwaj added.

action was triggered by "dirty politics". "Nothing was found from Manish's home, nothing from his locker. CBI found nothing in its search. The honesty and patriotism of Manish stand vindicated in front of the entire nation. It is evident that the entire action was triggered by dirty politics. Hope, this dirty politics will stop and we will be allowed to work," Kejriwal

tweeted in Hindi while sharing a TV news clip of Sisodia's interaction with reporters. Later speaking in the Assembly, Sisodia also dubbed the BJP a "bacha chor" party while referring to the arrest of a BJP corporator in an alleged child kidnapping case. Sisodia claimed he has answered all questions posed by the BJP about the excise policy and CVC report on classrooms and

## Sharab, shiksha scams twin towers of corruption: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting hard at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government, BJP leader Shahzad Poonawalla and MP Manoj Tiwari on Tuesday alleged that 'sharab' (liquor policy) and 'shiksha' (education) 'scams' had become the "twin towers of corruption" in the city and the Arvind Kejriwal dispensation was gradually building more floors. The BJP leaders also alleged that the Delhi Government escalated the cost of building classrooms by multiple times and projected several school toilets as classrooms to justify the "bloated" bills. At a Press conference, Poonawalla said, "People asked for 'pathshala' (schools), but the AAP Government gave 'madhushala' (liquor shops). 'Reverse Robinhood' model in Delhi Government, money meant for poor taken away to fill coffers of liquor mafia." "Under the new excise policy, liquor stores started receiving Rs 363 and the Government started receiving only Rs 8. I call this Reverse



Robinhood. "They were filling the pockets of the liquor mafia with the money of the poor, that too in the Covid period." "The sale of liquor went up, but there was burglary into the government coffers. If it is a 750ml bottle (of liquor) which comes for Rs 550, then under Old (liquor) Policy, liquor stores were receiving Rs 33 and Rs 330 was going to the government coffers," Poonawalla said. Tiwari cited the incident in which a Government school student in outer Delhi's Nangloi was injured after a ceiling fan in her classroom fell on her head. "So far, the AAP's morality was falling, and now ceiling fans in their



schools are also falling," he said, mocking the Kejriwal Government. Semi-permanent structures were used in many Government schools and that is the reason why fans are falling off the ceilings, he alleged. Tiwari also alleged there was a scam in the construction of schools and the Government had escalated the cost of construction in many projects multiple times. He flashed a report claiming that a cost of "Rs 5 lakh was bloated to Rs 33 lakh", and in many schools, toilets were "counted and projected as classrooms" to justify the cost escalation. There was no immediate reaction from the AAP or Delhi Government.

## Tipplers finding hard to lay hands on liquor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As most of the liquor shops have been closed in the national Capital, tipplers are finding it difficult to get liquor. Most of the booze lovers were roaming in their areas in search of open liquor vends to liquor. In South Delhi's two liquor vends were shut in Malviya Nagar, two liquor vends in Vasant Kunj area were closed, a liquor vend Green Park was found closed. Meanwhile, in East Delhi, four liquor vends were closed in Jagatpuri, a liquor vend in Star City Mall in Mayur Vihar was shut, two liquor vends in Cross River were shut, one in Saini Enclave and Dayanand Vihar market. In Southeast, liquor was out of stock at liquor vend at Sibal Cinema and Badarpur village. In West Delhi, three liquor



vends at Patel Nagar were closed due to no stock of liquor, however, liquor shops were opened in Rajouri, Kirti Nagar, Rajendra Nagar and Karol Bagh but with limited stock of liquor. "Since past three days, liquor shops have limited stock of selected liquor brands and too cheap ones. It is hard to find a shop which

has all liquor brands available. Either they are out of stock or closed," said Pankaj Kumar, a resident of Chhatrapur. "Booze has been out of stock in east Delhi for the last one week. I had roamed around in Delhi to search for an open liquor store to buy booze but there were long queues and we had to wait for

an hour to buy it," said Aditya Mishra, a resident of Jagatpuri area. Some liquor buyers at Karol Bagh liquor vend said most of the people have also stocked booze as the policy was going to end on August 31. The liquor store crunch at the Indira Gandhi International Airport and NDMC areas will continue for some more days even as the Delhi Government agencies are slated to take over the retail liquor business in the city from September 1, officials said. They said over 300 vends have been readied in various parts of the city and 360 liquor brands have registered so far in consonance with the city Government's decision to go back to the old excise regime with its four agencies running 500 liquor in Delhi from September 1. Several new shops opening from next month will be locat-

ed near Metro stations where the footfall is high and safety measures are relatively better. The Excise Department has also issued licences for liquor vends in six malls which will open from September 1, the officials said on Monday. Also, the department will focus on premium vends in the coming days. These shops will have larger space and a variety of liquors of top brands, they said. "We hope to soon issue licences for shops in NDMC areas as well as at the IGI airport after the private players exit the retail liquor business on August 30. As of now, no licenses have been issued for these two areas," said an Excise department officer. The process of registering liquor brands has also picked up pace and 44 manufacturers out of 60 who had applied have been registered.


## 2 Govt school students hurt after ceiling fan falls on their heads


STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two students of a Government school in outer Delhi's Nangloi were injured after a classroom ceiling fan fell on their head. The incident occurred on Saturday. Police said they have registered an FIR in connection with the incident while the one of the girl, injured in the incident, said, "The fan fell off the ceiling in the classroom on August 27 when the classes were going on. The ceiling had a damp and water was dripping from it because of which the ceiling broke off and the fan fell down." Meanwhile, the Delhi Government said they have taken immediate cognisance of the matter. "This is a lapse at the hands of the school authorities and appropriate action has been taken in this regard, including the termination of the estate manager of the said school. Legal proceedings have also been initiated for

negligence," said an official. "The administration of every school was asked to report any maintenance related issues in the recent past so we could get them fixed immediately. "We are in touch with the children's family, they are fine and required medical help is being extended to them," said the official. Police said the students have been admitted to a private hospital in Nangloi and are undergoing treatment. According to a senior police official, police has received two police control room

(PCR) calls on Saturday from Sonia Hospital, Nangloi regarding the medico-legal cases (MLC) of two girls identified as Nasrin (14) and Anjali (15), both residents of Prem Nagar. "Both the girls got injured in a classroom by falling of a ceiling fan on them in GGSS School, JJ number-2, Nangloi. The students were admitted to Sonia Hospital by the school staff," said the senior police official. "The investigating officer reached the hospital, where statement was not given by the students or parents in this regard.

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI**  
ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL OFFICER  
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**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Bids are invited on behalf of Commissioner, MCD through below mentioned e-Tender from eligible bidders:-  
E-Tender Notice No. CO/Advt/E-Tender-04/2022-23/MCD/NIT/D-410 dated 30.08.2022 for allotment of advertisement rights through Public Toilet Clusters with operation & maintenance under the jurisdiction of MCD on monthly license fee basis in two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for an initial period of three years.  
The Last Date of Submission of bids in above e-tender is :- 22.09.2022, till 16.00 Hours.  
The detailed Tender documents are available on MCD's website i.e. [www.mcdonline.nic.in](http://www.mcdonline.nic.in) and <https://etender.gov.in/eprocure/app>  
Commercial Officer,  
Advertisement Department, MCD

RO No. 29/DPI/MCD/2022-23

# 45K women committed suicide in 2021: NCRB

'Over 50% were housewives'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 45,026 females — more than half of them housewives — committed suicide in 2021 in India. Out of the total 1,64,033 cases of suicide reported in 2021 at the pan-India level, as many as 1,18,979 were males, according to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

"Of females who committed suicides, the highest number (23,178) was of house-wives followed by students (5,693) and daily wage earners (4,246)," the NCRB report said. According to the report, majority of suicides committed by housewives were reported in Tamil Nadu (3,221 out of 23,179) followed by Madhya Pradesh (3,055)



and Maharashtra (2,861 suicides) which accounted for 13.9 per cent, 13.2 per cent and 12.3 per cent of total such suicides during 2021 respectively. It was observed that 66.9 per cent (1,09,749 out of 1,64,033) of the suicide victims were married while 24.0 per cent were unmarried (39,421). Widowed and widower, divorcees and separated categories have accounted for 1.5 per cent (2,485 victims), 0.5 per cent (788 victims) and 0.5 per cent (871 victims) of total suicide victims respectively during 2021.

The male to female ratio of suicide victims for the year

2021 was 72.5 : 27.4, which is more as compared to 2020 (70.9 : 29.1). The proportion of female victims were more in marriage related issues (specifically in dowry related matters) and impotence and infertility.

The age group (18 - below 30 years) and persons of 30 years - below 45 years of age were the most vulnerable groups resorting to suicides.

These age groups accounted for 34.5 per cent and 31.7 per cent suicides respectively. Family problems (3,233), love affairs (1,495) and illness (1,408) were the main causes of suicides among children (below 18 years of age). A total of 28 transgender have committed suicide.

Out of the 28 transgender, nine were unemployed persons and seven were daily wage earners, two were self-employed persons and one each under housewives, professional, salaried persons, while eight fall under other category.

# China's claim over Arunachal outrageous: German Ambassador

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As stand-offs continue at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh for more than two years, German Ambassador to New Delhi Philipp Ackermann has said China's infringements along India's border are a violation of the international order and should not be accepted. He also termed as "outrageous" China's claim over Arunachal Pradesh.

The German ambassador said at the same time there is a need to understand Europe's outrage over the Russian attack on Ukraine. His remarks in an interaction with the media here on Tuesday came in the backdrop of India refraining from voting against Russia in the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Terming the Russian attack on Ukraine as the most serious aggression in the world in the last 70 years, the envoy said he believed the Indian side also very well recognises that it is a



violation of international law.

Ackermann said India and Europe may not agree to "every single line" when it comes to the Ukraine crisis, but there was an understanding of the problem between the two sides. "We are aware of the Indian problem at the Northern border.

We should not forget that China claims Arunachal Pradesh is part of China. We see very clearly that the infringement at the border is extremely difficult and should not be accepted," he said.

Ackermann said India should also differentiate between what is happening at

the border with China and Ukraine. "This (Russian attack on Ukraine) is by dimension is completely different than what we see at the border (India-China border) at an abstract level," he said. "I think the Indian side very well recognises the violation of international law," the envoy said about the Indian position on Ukraine.

The ambassador welcomed India's recent vote at the UN Security Council allowing the Ukrainian president to address the global body virtually. It is progress in India's position, he said.

The German envoy said the Russian invasion of Ukraine has been a constant subject of discussion between Germany and India, adding it has "manifold impact" including on food and energy security.

Ackermann said Russia has been playing around with energy supply to Germany and that Moscow has a contractual obligation to supply 20 per cent gas to it. Now they have stopped it for the last few days, he added.

# SC to examine constitutional validity of 10% EWS quota in admissions, jobs

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would first examine the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision to grant 10 per cent reservation to Economically Weaker Sections in admissions and jobs before hearing appeals against a High Court verdict which had set aside a local law granting quota to Muslims.

A five-judge Bench of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, by four different opinions, had declared as unconstitutional and violative of Articles 15(4) and 16(4) (State's power to grant quota to socially and educationally backward classes) of the Constitution, the Andhra Pradesh Reservation of Seats in the Educational Institutions and of appointments/posts in the Public Services under the State to Muslim Community Act, 2005.

Nineteen petitions, including the appeal of the State Government, have been filed challenging the High Court verdict quashing the quota for Muslims in admissions and jobs in the State. The Constitution bench said since the issues are overlapping, it would take up the pleas relating to EWS quota first followed by the matters relating to Muslim reservation law.

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# Only speculation, says Tharoor on his candidature for Cong presidential poll

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor is exploring the possibility of running for the post of Congress president though he is yet to take a final call on it. The former Union Minister in the Congress-led UPA Government, however, maintained that reports about the possibility of him contesting for the party president's post were "only speculation".

Nevertheless, he said he would be able to clearly say about his candidature only after the election notification is announced. Tharoor exhorted many candidates to come forward to present themselves for consideration as putting forward their vision for the party and the nation will surely stir public interest.

At the backdrop of his party colleague Anand Sharma questioning the process of elections in the just-held CWC meeting, Tharoor called for a "free and fair" election. He also said an election to the top party post "is good for the party". The Congress Working Committee on Sunday decided to hold the election for the party's full-time president on October 17.

"There is only speculation.

I have not announced anything. All I said is that there should be an election and that is good for the party," Tharoor said. "Let many candidates come forward and participate in election in democratically functioning party. That is good for party," Thiruvananthapuram MP said responding to queries. In an article, he said ideally the party should have announced elections also for dozen seats on CWC itself which are supposed to be elected.

"Allowing members of the party drawn from the AICC and PCC delegates to determine who will lead the party from these key positions, would have helped legitimize incoming set of leaders and give them a credible mandate to lead party," said Tharoor, who was among the group of 23 leaders who wrote to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in 2020

seeking organisational reforms. On the recent exit of party veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad, Tharoor wrote that the latest in

a steady spate of departures has been fuelling incessant media speculation and a daily dose of obituaries for the party.

# 'Govt has no strategy to tackle Chinese apps duping Indians'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday alleged that several Chinese Apps have siphoned off Rs 500 crore after duping lakhs of Indians through debt traps and accused the Government of having no strategy to tackle them.

AICC spokesperson Gourav Vallabh claimed that an investigation between January and February 2021 found more than 1,100 digital loan apps available across play stores and claimed the RBI accepted that at least 600 such apps were operating illegally.

"As per RBI, there was a jump of 12 times in loans on digital platforms between 2017 to 2020. Till now, 52 individuals in our country committed suicide due to blackmailing by these loan apps," Vallabh said at AICC Press conference.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh trained his guns on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking, "China first snatched India's land, now it is collecting personal data of Indian citizens through loan apps. 52 people have lost their lives after being trapped in these apps.

Why is the Prime Minister, who talks about showing red eyes to China, sitting with his eyes closed today." "The incompetence of the central government and agencies has led to multiple cases of suicides due to such debt traps. Chinese loan app companies have siphoned off

Rs 500 crore from India through the hawala route.

There has been no strategy, no focus by the Modi government in evaluating priorities. Certain Chinese apps were banned in 2020 but the action on such apps has been lackluster," Vallabh said.

He also accused the Modi government of lacking the courage to even talk against the Chinese aggression. "The government has completely surrendered when tackling international conspiracy and aggression against us," he alleged. Claiming that it has been two years since the news emerged of Chinese loan apps duping lakhs of Indians through conspiracy of debt trap, Vallabh alleged the Modi government has weakened the Indian economy pushing millions into poverty.

"When ED and other agencies visit each and every opposition leader, why were they sleeping when at least Rs 500 crore was siphoned off from India by these Chinese loan apps," the Congress leader asked.

Noting that several lives have been lost due to harassment by these money lending apps, he asked, "What is the Modi government waiting for to act on such apps?" He also termed the RBI as clueless. "Does the Modi government want an India with its citizens and data being controlled by the Chinese Government? How come these Chinese loan apps are able to operate in our country," he said.

# Attacks on places of worship of Sikhs in Af concern India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

Expressing concern over recent attacks on places of worship of minority community in Afghanistan, including Sikhs, India has termed it as "hugely alarming" and warned about "significant increase" in presence of the Islamic State - Khorasan Province (ISIL-K) in the country.

Sounding this note of caution in a session of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), India also flagged linkages between proscribed outfits such as Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed and provocative statements by other terror groups pose a direct threat to the region's peace and stability.

"As we have repeatedly stated at the Security Council, India has direct stakes in ensuring the return of peace and stability, given our position as a contiguous neighbour and long-standing partner of Afghanistan, as well as our strong historical and civilisational linkages to the Afghan people," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said.

Speaking at the UNSC briefing on Afghanistan late Monday requested by Russia under the Chinese presidency of the Council, Kamboj underlined that on terrorism, the recent findings of the 1988 Sanctions Committee's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team Report indicate that current authorities in Afghanistan need to take much stronger action to fulfill their anti-terrorism commitments. "There is a significant increase in presence of ISIL-K in country and their



capacity to carry out attacks. ISIL-K, with its base reportedly in Afghanistan, continues to issue threats of terrorist attacks on other countries," she said.

Kamboj told the Council that the series of attacks at religious places of the minority community, including the recent attack at the Sikh Gurudwara on June 18 in Kabul followed by another bomb explosion near the same Gurudwara on 27 July, is "hugely alarming."

Kamboj stressed the need to see concrete progress in ensuring that "such proscribed terrorists, entities, or their aliases do not get any support, tacit or direct, either from Afghan soil or from the terror sanctuaries based in the region."

On the political front, she said India continues to call for an inclusive dispensation in Afghanistan which represents all sections of Afghan society.

A broad-based, inclusive, and representative formation is necessary for both domestic and international engagement, she said as she expressed New Delhi's concern at developments in Afghanistan which directly impact the well-being of women and girls.

UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths told Council that Afghanistan is not just a humanitarian crisis but "an economic crisis.

# CSIR lab starts studying impact of twin towers' demolition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Following the demolition of the Supertech twin towers in Noida, a team of scientists from the CSIR lab Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) has started studying the impact of the vibration and conducting material, demolition and construction-related research collected by the high-tech gadgets they had deployed at the buildings for scientific purposes.

Around 20 hi-tech seismographs and 10 black boxes -- an electronic device to record sound in aircraft -- were among the equipment placed inside the twin towers while drones with thermal image cameras were deployed outside the structures to capture pictures and videos that would help in future research.

The CBRI was appointed by the Supreme Court as a technical expert for the demolition of Supertech's nearly 100-metre-tall illegal structures in Noida's Sector 93A.

It was the CBRI that selected Mumbai-based Edifice Engineering that safely brought down the structures by 'water-fall implosion' that caused no structural damage to nearby buildings as close as nine metres.

The CBRI had roped in the Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) for ground vibrations. Its teams from Dhanbad in Jharkhand and Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh were present during the demolition. "We had 19 seismographs. These are high-end and highly technical seismographs which were installed in a 150-metre range from the twin towers.

Some equipment were placed in the basements of the twin towers while others were placed on different floors so that we could get the magnitude of the vibration of the two buildings," a senior scientist

from CBRI said. "All the information gathered from these equipment and instruments will help us in future for material studies, demolition and construction-related research.

We also used instruments like geophones to record and study the movement of vibrations within buildings and also give an idea about the load a building could during such activities besides devices to study soil conditions," the scientist said.

The thermal imaging cameras form images using infrared radiations and are largely used in fires and other disaster management activities to detect people engulfed in thick smoke and dust. "Several high-technology equipment and instruments were placed inside the twin towers and their findings will be very useful for future studies. There has been no structural damage in the nearby residential towers of ATS Village and Emerald Court societies.

Besides a compound wall of ATS Village, some window panes have broken. We had asked for a post-demolition structural audit which is to be done by Supertech. Once that is done, its findings will help us analyse the demolition," said the scientist.

# IN SHORTS

**MP CM MEETS BJP PRESIDENT NADDA**  
**New Delhi:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday met BJP president J P Nadda here at the latter's residence and apprised him about the works and efforts being made for public welfare in the state. This was Chouhan's first meeting with Nadda after he was dropped from the party's parliamentary board, its highest decision-making body, earlier this month

**SC STAYS CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST AMEESHA PATEL**  
**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has stayed criminal proceedings for offence of cheating and criminal breach of trust against Bollywood actor Ameesha Patel in connection with summons issued by a trial court in Jharkhand.

**SC TO HEAR PLEA SEEKING NORMS ON RAPE**  
**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will hear on November 15 a petition seeking a mechanism to probe complaints of sexual harassment against judicial officers, and sitting and retired judges.

**SC GRANTS 6 WEEKS TO IDENTIFY MINORITIES**  
**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted six weeks to the Centre after it sought more time for wider consultation with stakeholders on the issue of identification of minorities, including Hindus, at the state level.

The Supreme Court of India perused the status report filed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs which said meetings were held with the states on the issue.

# Call for prioritising blood pressure as public health emergency

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With uncontrolled hypertension becoming one of the main reasons for spate of cardiovascular diseases, health experts have called for prioritising blood pressure as a public health emergency.

The Government has a target to 25 per cent relative reduction in hypertension prevalence by 2025. Achieving this goal will require effectively treating at least 15 crore people by 2024, the eminent doctors said as they suggested that improvements in screening of patients with high blood pressure can help ensure that their blood pressure remains under control.

"Although easy to diagnose and relatively simple to treat with low cost medicines, high blood pressure is now a full-fledged health crisis with at least 1 in 4 adult Indians suffering from this condition. It is con-



sidered the world's largest killer, responsible for at least 10.8 million deaths and 212 million disabilities adjusted life years (DALY). "Worldover, at least 1.4 billion people live with this chronic condition.

In India, untreated and uncontrolled blood pressure has become a leading cause for premature death and disability," Dr AM Kadri, Executive Director, State Health System Resource Centre, Gujarat Government said at the event attended by top experts from AIIMS Jodhpur and Gorakhpur, Dept of Health and Family

Welfare, Gujarat, ICMR-National Institute for Implementation Research on NCDs (NIIR-NCD), National Health System Resource Centre (NHSRC) and India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI). Dr Piyush Gupta, Cardio-Vascular Health Officer (CVHO), WHO, Jaipur, added, "Having state specific treatment protocols was a game changer for us. It improved control rates, medicine supplies were better managed and streamlined the workload of health workers at the front line. We are also actively working towards ensuring that people come back for their treatment."

Dr Pankaj Bharadwaj, Additional Professor, Dept. of Community and Family Medicine and Dean, School of Public Health, AIIMS Jodhpur, called for local level solutions, awareness building, creating robust patient support groups, and discussions with policy-makers.

# Coast Guard makes video of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Fostering the national initiative of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, the Indian Coast Guard has compiled a video and a publication to highlight their participation in the national fervour.

A book named "From Sir Creek to Gangasagar" was unveiled by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar in the presence of Director General Coast Guard VS Pathania in Chennai.

This publication is a compilation of initiatives taken all along the peninsular India and hinterlands, where the innovative presence of the Indian Coast Guard has been showcased through national integration.

The book brings out the dynamism of tricolor in all possible dimensions including ashore, afloat and in the air, officials said here on Tuesday.

# ‘Maha tops in IPC crimes in 2021, UP at 2nd spot’

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra recorded the highest number of cases in the country under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 2021 at 3,67,218, while Mumbai was placed second among major metropolitan cities in registration of criminal offences, according to a National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report.

According to the report, at least 174 different types of criminal offences were registered under IPC sections every day in Mumbai, which included 14 cases of "violent crimes" in 2021. Data from the New Delhi-headquartered

NCRB, which is part of the Union home ministry, showed a rise of 27 per cent in criminal cases (63,689) in Mumbai (during lockdown-like restrictions) in 2021 as against 50,158 in 2020 and 40,684 in 2019. Violent crimes like murder, kidnap and rape, and offences against senior citizens, women and children, too, rose in the financial capital last year, said the report. Maharashtra also topped in registration of cases related to "riots" across the country. As many as 8,709 such offences (which included 77 cases of communal riots, 86 political, 67 caste conflict, 355 agrarian, 197 linked to money, 1,259 land and prop-

erty dispute, 304 family dispute) were recorded in the state in 2021. Maharashtra was followed by Bihar (6,298), Uttar Pradesh (5,302), Karnataka (4,193), Tamil Nadu (2,275), Haryana (2,253) and Odisha 2,220, as per the NCRB report.

The number of cases reported and calculated is as per population in lakhs. As per the population rate calculated per lakhs, Mumbai was placed 11th in the country in the total number of crimes among major cities in 2021 - the city was at the 15th spot in 2020. The number of IPC cases registered in Maharashtra in 2021 was 3,67,218, the highest in the



country, but it was down by 6.8 per cent from 3,94,017 in 2020, and the western state was followed by Uttar Pradesh

(3,57,905), said the report. Mumbai ranked second nationally when it comes to crimes committed by juve-

niles. The metropolis recorded 611 crimes committed by minors, which included several cases of theft and assault, it said. There were also cases of voyeurism, sexual harassment, kidnapping and stalking where minors were taken into custody by police in the financial capital, said the report. Looking at crime percentage, Mumbai stood second with 63,689 cases in 2021.

Delhi topped the list both in terms of population count and crime rate with 2.89 lakh cases recorded during the period, the data showed. The report showed though Mumbai was placed second among major cities as per the number of

crime cases reported, as per population in lakhs, it was in the 11th spot. Maharashtra cities of Nagpur and Pune were placed sixth and 14th. Last year, Mumbai recorded 7,820 cases of theft and 4,594 of hurt. Other major offences recorded during the period were forgery/fraud/cheating (4,899), rash driving (2282), kidnap/abduct (1590), sexual harassment (401), death by negligence (386), rape 364, rioting (303) and murder (162), among others, said the report. Though the NCRB data showed cyber offences rose by 15.6 per cent in Mumbai in 2021, several such cases may have gone unreported as many

written complaints were not converted into a first information report (FIR), according to experts. According to the report, a total of 2,883 cases of different types of cyber offences were registered in 2021 in the financial capital as against 2,433 in 2020 and 2,527 in pre-COVID-19 year of 2019. Maharashtra overall witnessed a meagre rise of 1.5 per cent in cyber offences in 2021 at 5,562 as against 5,496 in 2020 and 4,967 in 2019, the data showed. A majority of such cases reported in Maharashtra were related to debit/credit card, sexual exploitation, causing disrepute, anger, personal revenge and extortion, the report added.

## Kerala Assembly passes Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Bill despite UDF boycott

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After hours-long heated arguments between the ruling and Opposition benches, the Kerala Assembly on Tuesday passed the controversial Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to make the executive the appellate authority over reports by the Lok Ayukta, even as Congress-UDF boycotted the proceedings before the voting.

Announcing their boycott, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly V D Sathesaran said it was a "black day" in the history of the state Assembly and the UDF did not want to witness the "killing" of the anti-

corruption agency using the majority in the Assembly.

"The opposition cannot support the attempt made by the government to eliminate and weaken an anti-corruption agency. We are registering our stern opposition against passing this bill...We will fight it tooth and nail," he said.

The opposition also asked if the bill was passed, how could the Assembly take a decision on a verdict pronounced by the Lok Ayukta against the Chief Minister in a case.

Earlier, Congress legislators Ramesh Chennithala and P C Vishnunath raised a point of order saying that adding new amendments in the Bill, which



was sent to the subject committee last week, was in violation of the rules but Speaker M B Rajesh rejected it and gave a ruling in this regard.

Law Minister P Rajeev rubbished claims of the opposition, saying that the subject

committee had the power to make changes in the bill.

Though the opposition, had last week vigorously argued against the introduction of the bill or it being sent to the subject committee, both were approved by the House.

## Eight dead as SUV falls into gorge in J&K's Kishtwar, 3 critically injured

PTI ■ KISHTWAR/JAMMU

Eight people, including a 16-year-old girl, were killed and three others sustained serious injuries when the car in which they were travelling skidded off the road and plunged into a 300-foot gorge in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said. The vehicle was on its way from Chingam to Chatroo and the accident occurred around 3.15 pm near Bonda village. All the passengers who died belonged to Bonda village, officials said.

They said, rescue teams, comprising police, and Kashtriya Rifles personnel and local villagers, carried out the rescue

operation.

Five people were found dead on the spot and three others succumbed to injuries while being taken to a hospital, officials said, adding three more injured were hospitalised in a critical condition. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Shafqat Bhat reached the scene of the accident immediately after hearing the news and was seen supervising the rescue operation, officials said. The deceased were identified as Bashir Ahmad (35), his



brother Nazir Ahmad (25), Mohammad Akbar (28), his brother Fareed (25), Nusrat Banoo (16), Fareed Hussain (25), Shareef (25) and Noor Hussain (35). The injured — Khatoun Begum (45), Akhter Hussain

(30) and Manzoor Ahmad (25) — are undergoing treatment at the Government hospital, they said. Union Minister Jitendra Singh termed the accident as "unfortunate" and said "all possible help, as required, will be provided." Lt Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives and directed the district administration to ensure best possible treatment to the injured. "Extremely pained by the loss of lives due to a tragic road accident in Kishtwar,

## Cong questions timing of Azad's letter to Sonia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday questioned the timing of Ghulam Nabi Azad's letter to party chief Sonia Gandhi attacking the leadership and asked why this "divine knowledge" did not dawn upon him before 2021 "when his seat and bungalow were safe".

Amidst the slugfest between Congress and Azad, senior Congress leaders and members of G-23 Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Anand Sharma and Prithviraj Chavan met Azad at his residence. Sharma, Hooda and Chavan



held discussions at Azad's residence and are learnt to have discussed the future strategy of the G-23.

"Whoever resigns from the party, writes five-page letters. Going by the English used in the letter, it seems some Britisher has written that. But the question is why did this divine knowledge

not come to you before 2021? All answers lie in that," Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said at AICC Press conference.

The party further took a jibe saying now that Azad's Rajya Sabha seat and his Delhi bungalow are not safe, "divine knowledge has dawned upon him and he is writing five-page letters in British English.

Asked about Azad's attacks on the Congress leadership while severing five-decade-long ties with the party, Vallabh said, "The divine knowledge which was attained today, why was that

not attained before 2021? Because before 2021 your seat was secure and your bungalow was safe. When there was a crisis on the seat and the bungalow, divine knowledge dawned on you and now you are writing big letters," he said.

In a fresh attack on the Congress, former leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday said the "ailing" party needs medicines which are being provided by compouncers instead of doctors.

In the G23 members meeting with Azad they are learnt to have also discussed the organisational elections,

including that of the Congress president, amid reports that Shashi Tharoor, who is a member of the group, is considering contesting the election for the top party post.

The G-23 had written a letter to Sonia Gandhi in August 2020 demanding an organisational overhaul and elections at all levels of the party. The G-23 had also been critical of certain decisions of the party leadership. Tuesday's meeting comes days after Azad resigned from the Congress and announced that he will float his own outfit in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of assembly elections there.

## Contempt case against Prashant, Tejpal dropped

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dropped a contempt case against noted lawyer Prashant Bhushan and journalist Tarun Tejpal filed in 2009 over their remarks against the judiciary. A bench of Justices Indira Banerjee, Surya Kant and M M Sundresh closed the proceedings after senior advocate Kapil Sibal informed that an apology has been tendered.

"In view of the apology tendered by the contemnors, we do not deem it necessary to proceed with the contempt. The contempt proceedings are dropped," the bench said. The top court had in November 2009 issued contempt notice to Bhushan and Tejpal for allegedly casting aspersions on some sitting and former top court judges in an interview to a news magazine.

## Coal scam: ED notices to Abhishek, kin

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday issued a notice to Abhishek Banerjee, Trinamool Congress national general secretary and nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to appear before its officials in Kolkata on Friday. The notice has been sent in relation to the coal scam

The notice comes a day after Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew and Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee attacked the BJP Government for using the Central agencies against the political opposition.

A second notice too has been sent to his sister-in-law Maneka Gambhir asking her to appear before the officials in Delhi. The Calcutta High Court provided some respite to Gambhir directing the ED to question her in Kolkata apart from restraining the agency from taking strong action against, her.



"We have summoned Abhishek Banerjee to appear before our sleuths here. Our officials from New Delhi will come to interrogate him," ED sources said adding the Department has already sought protection from central forces.

Both ED and Central Bureau of Investigation are investigating the coal smuggling case in which a number of top Eastern Coalfield officials and some police officers have been arrested along with prime accused Anup Majhi and Vikas Mishra.

Incidentally Mishra's elder brother Vinay Mishra a former TMC Yuva (party youth wing) general secretary --- during when Banerjee was the State TMC Yuva president --- who

was also named in the scam have currently fled the country and is reportedly hiding in island nation of Bhaniatu. He is known to have surrendered the Indian citizenship and acquired the one of the island nation.

Both Banerjee and his wife Rujira Narula Banerjee had earlier been questioned by the ED and CBI reportedly regarding a bank transaction in Thailand.

The ED notice comes not only against the backdrop of the recent arrests of top two TMC leaders Partha Chatterjee --- in school level recruitment scam --- and Anubrata Mondal --- in cow smuggling case but also a day after junior Banerjee launched a scathing attack on Union Home Minister Amit Shah alleging his son Jay Shah had refused to accept and wave Indian National Flag after India defeated Pakistan in Dubai on Sunday.

Banerjee also alleged that as Shah as the Home Minister was the master of the BSF and

CISE, all the proceeds that came from coal and cattle smuggling went to him.

On Tuesday Banerjee tweeted, "HM Shah has a dual task at hand: To teach his son about Nationalism at home and sort the police under his ministry... The abysmal crime rates of Delhi have us all in shock." He also wrote "take lessons from the Bengal model of governance instead of playing puppeteer with" ED.

The TMC leadership also said that the ED notice was a part of the BJP's plan to divert attention from Monday's massive turnout in the Trinamool Congress Chatra Parishad rally from where both the Chief Minister and her nephew launched a scathing attack on the BJP.

In fact the Chief Minister also said that she expected an action by the central agencies "soon after the success of this rally," adding "tomorrow they may send a notice to Abhishek or even his two-year-old daughter."

## 3 LeT terrorists gunned down in Shopian

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR

A joint team of the security forces on Tuesday eliminated three local Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists in Nagbal area of Shopian.

According to police, the operation was launched on the basis of specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area.

During the cordon and search operation the hiding terrorists opened firing on the security forces leading to encounter in which all three terrorists were neutralised.



According to a police spokesman, "the killed terrorists have been identified as Danish Khursheed Bhat, Tanveer Wani & Towseef Bhat". They were involved in several terror crime cases. Terrorist Danish was involved in recruitment of youth into terror ranks in Shopian, police spokesman added.

## Preventing citizen from voicing opinion against law violates right to free speech: Sonia, Rahul tell HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Preventing a citizen from expressing a bonfide opinion against any bill or law passed by Parliament is violative of the right to free speech and principles of democracy, Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have contended before the Delhi High Court while opposing a plea for a hate speech FIR against them in the February 2020 riots here.

The Gandhis, in two separate affidavits, submitted no case was made out for the court to issue direction for registering an FIR against them



and there was no requirement to order constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter. No interference and the case of issuance of direction to register an FIR against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi is not made out and no interfer-

ence is called for by this court to pass any order.

The high court, while hearing a batch of petitions related to the 2020 riots in north-east Delhi, had on July 13 allowed several amendment applications wanting to implead political leaders, including Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, as parties to proceedings seeking FIR and investigation against them for allegedly delivering hate speeches leading to the communal conflagration.

On Monday, a bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Amit Sharma listed the matter for further hearing on September 27.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

# Unedifying

According to the latest NCRB data, Delhi reported over 40 per cent rise in crimes against women in 2021

Over 40 per cent annual rise in crimes against women in 2021 in Delhi puts many a question mark over the claims made by various authorities regarding the law and order situation. The fact that these numbers are from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), and not some garrulous NGO, means that these cannot be swept under the carpet. At any rate, the facts and figures are horrifying: two girls were raped every day in 2021 in Delhi, which made it the most unsafe metropolitan city for women in the country. Further, the national capital also recorded the highest number, 833, of cases of girl child rape among the metropolitan cities, as per the NCRB data. This is beside the reported 2,022 cases of assault on women with intent to outrage their modesty. In 2021, there were 13,892 crime cases against women in 2021 the national capital whereas in 2020 the number of cases was 9,782. Which means that almost one third of the total number of crimes against women in cities, 43,414, last year took place in Delhi. Opposition parties cannot use the NCRB data to score political points over the Bharatiya Janata Party because Delhi, where police are under Central Government, is not the only state where the crimes against women soared. In fact, the maximum number of rape cases was reported from Rajasthan during 2020 as well as 2021, 5,310 and 6,337, respectively. In Madhya Pradesh, which was second in terms of rape cases in 2020 and 2021, the corresponding numbers were 2,339 and 2,947.

In fact, five states with maximum number of rape cases in 2020 and 2021 were Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam. Of these states, two—Rajasthan and Maharashtra—were ruled by non-BJP parties. In other words, what is common among all political parties is their incompetence to check crime against women. There are two main reasons for the growing crimes against women. One is the sclerotic justice and police systems. Little is being done to introduce reforms in these systems. Second, often the issue of crimes against women gets lost in the swamps of doctrinaire phraseologies. On the one hand are the feminist activists, most of whom are of a Left-liberal disposition. Their explanations of the crimes against women and the remedies they recommend are as elusive as these are esoteric: everything they say is so much spiced with fashionable terms like ‘patriarchal’, ‘misogynist’, and ‘othering’ that the real issue gets buried in the arcane argot. On the other hand are the sanskaris who love to blame everything on the decadent pashchatya sanskriti. Meaningful discourse over the subject in the public arena hardly takes place. As a result, the laws, rules, and regulations are drafted under the pressure of events—e.g., the bloodcurdling Nirbhaya case of 2012. This is not how laws and rules should come into being in a vibrant democracy, but this is how it is.



A man dressed as King Mahabali walks near a floral carpet made in a bid to create a Guinness record in Kozhikode

## Time for image makeover

Will Congress finally have a non-Gandhi president after 22 years or the ‘parivarwaad’ will prevail as ever

Congress the oldest party in the country is going to elect its president on October 17. Sonia Gandhi became the president of the party after Sitaram kesri and continues to hold the post. Kesri was the last non Congress president. For the last 22 years the Congress had a Gandhi as the president. For a brief period from 2017 to 2019, Rahul Gandhi became the president but resigned along with many other post holders after the crushing defeat in 2019. Now that the process has been kick-started for the election by party president Sonia Gandhi and endorsed by the CWC. The Nominations papers can be filed from September 24 till September 30 and the last date for withdrawal of nomination paper would be October 8, Voting would be held on October 17 and the result would be announced on October 19. The party's decision to hold election comes after two of its senior leaders openly criticized the party's high command for not listening to them, one has already left the party the other may be weighing options. After the departure of Ghulam Nabi Azad who was one of the disgruntled leaders of the group, the so-called G-23, and defiant Anand Sharma, the party high command must have thought about the damage control or at least put some semblance of democracy in the party. But what kind of contest it would be?

Will someone have the courage enough to challenge the Gandhi trio and file a nomination paper would be interesting to watch. Ashok Gelout is being touted as front runner while Shashi Tharoor might throw in his hat. If Sonia Gandhi is replaced by Rahul Gandhi (which is most likely the case) elected unopposed the whole exercise would look sham. The coterie is already clamoring for his takeover. Contrary to the popular belief Gandhis have not been the president of the party most of the time, JB Kripalani and not Nehru was congress president at the time of independence. He was president for brief period so was Indira Gandhi who held number of time but her total tenure was less than ten years. Sonia Gandhi has had the longest tenure as congress president. Patel, Jagjivan Ram, PV Narsimharao, Sitaram Kesari, and many others held the congress president post for a considerable period of time. Should the party decide to choose a non-Gandhi president it would be a great image booster. It also would negate the PM's ‘parivarwaad’ rant and improve the ratings of the Gandhis.

# Is democracy really in danger?

Contrary to the popular perception being created by certain individuals, democracy is thriving in the country

Traversing over the last several months, one would be hard pressed to read a newspaper or remember a television channel wherein someone has not complained that in India, democracy is being bypassed, or that “democracy is in danger”. Or, the more politically fashionable accusation that we are being ruled by “fascist forces” who are hell-bent on devouring democracy. Those who say this do not the foggiest idea of what fascism is, leave alone the historical circumstances that gave birth to this ideology.

If one were, for the sake of argument, to entertain the accusation that democracy is indeed in danger, the natural corollary to such an accusation would be: from whence does this “danger to democracy” arise? If democracy is supposedly imperiled because of the ruling dispensation, why then do not the Opposition parties gather to unite and try to win elections whenever and wherever they are held? The meetings and conclaves for forming Mahagathbandhans have been many but seldom does a bandhan emerge.

In years past, I have sat in Parliament and participated in its proceedings actively. During the time I was a member, not once did we walk out. Nor did the Congress opposition walk out. There were a significant number of Marxists too. What I learned is that, for the opposition, Parliament is the best platform to perform on. Its two main faces are: to oppose by pointing out the flaws in policies of the government and equally to seize opportunities to project its/their programs when they come to power. For the last many Parliament sessions, I cannot remember any of the opposition members projecting what policies they propose to follow when they came to power. What an exquisite opportunity it is for the Opposition to propagate its manifesto on the floor of the Parliament with the TV channels blazing. But lately, and especially since 2004, it has been a frequent occurrence for the Opposition members to rush



to the well of the house and force an adjournment of the house. The session time lost is mostly a loss for the Opposition, which has few other televised platforms to articulate on a national scale. For the government, so long as it can have its legislation passed, its task is accomplished. But what does the Opposition gain? On the contrary, quite a large segment of the people watching the spectacle of walkouts, feel that the MPs draw their salaries and benefits but do very little or no work.

There are more effective ways of protesting, such as wearing black, covering faces with other colours, and sitting on the staircase and not their seats. To tell the public watching television, they could carry a few posters. The Opposition parties can think of other peaceable ways whereby the public can know of the protest, yet the Houses of Parliament can carry on. Democracy even then would seem to be alive and kicking. The legislatures would seem to be working, the executive would appear to be taken to task from time to time and low should consider how they can be seen to be



ANYTHING DONE TO OBSTRUCT THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WOULD EVENTUALLY HURT THE INTERESTS OF THE MINORITIES, THE OPPOSITION, AND ANY GROUP WITH FEWER MEMBERS

active and prompt.

Anything done to obstruct the public institutions from working would eventually hurt the interests of the minorities, the Opposition, and any group with fewer members. It is remarkable how well democracy has dug deep roots in our country despite all its diversities, including many people lagging in education. Dynasties have successfully cropped up over the decades because leaders have preferred to give short shrift to ideologies, programs, and manifestoes. Unfortunately, party members and voters have allowed leaders to get away to the advantage of leaders, their favourites as well as relatives. As it is, in a country of diversity and different languages, communication is difficult which is why voters find it easier to identify with personalities rather than programs.

The lasting link between the voter and ruler is the trust that the former develops in the latter. The election of a candidate is not in absolute terms but a choice of the voter between the candidates who contest in his/her constituency. Generally, he chooses the candidate who

appears to be better for her interests. One may or not agree with her choice but it is her choice nonetheless. By and large, there is common sense behind the choice. I go back to 1962 after the Chinese invasion. Logically, the then ruling party, i.e., the Congress should have been wiped out. But this did not happen. What was the quality of the opposing candidates across the country? And were they organized enough to be relied upon to govern the country? How is the situation any better today? To the thinking citizen, floor crossing in hordes or large groups, with the by now all-too-common drama of legislators being bundled off and held captive in five-star hotels, supposedly to prevent their poaching by other parties, is not funny at all. Several faults contribute to reducing the voter's trust in the system. After all, the very people who routinely express fears about democracy and its future are the people who readily cross the assembly floor.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### STRAIN IN INDO-CHINA RELATIONS

Sir —The statement made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar that the state of the Line of Actual Control will determine the state of the relationship between India and China, and blame the Xi Jinping-led country for strained ties and Asia's future depends on how the ties between the two countries develop in the foreseeable future. It's important to note that for the ties to return to a positive trajectory, they must be based on mutual sensitivity, mutual respect and mutual interest.

China has indulged in aggressive posturing at the Line of Actual Control since 2020 when the soldiers of both countries clashed in eastern Ladakh following weeks of tension on the border due to the communist country's attempt to transgress LAC. Twenty Indian soldiers and an unspecified number of Chinese soldiers died in brutal hand-to-hand combat. Multiple rounds of India-China military-level talks have failed and the standoff continued unabated with reports of the communist country rapidly enhancing infrastructure near the *de facto* border. With this, all is not well in the relationship between India and China.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### TREAT STUDENTS WITH SENSITIVITY

Sir — This refers to ‘Punished to stand for five days, student lands in hospital’ (August 29). The heart-rending picture of a degree student being hospitalised due to a loss of sensation in her legs speaks volumes about some educational institutions that are still resorting to handing out excess and severe punishment to students. Though the corporal punishment has been banned and is strictly prohibited by the Government, some educational institutes don't refrain from severe punishments. A BCom second-year student at Social Degree College at Vemulawada, late in returning to the hostel from home, was punished by the warden severely.

She was made to stand between 9 am and 6 pm daily for five days at a stretch, and it took a heavy toll on her health, her

## All's not lost for Congress



This refers to ‘Cong revival may be difficult but not impossible’ (August 30) by Kalyani Shankar. A revered columnist, Kalyani has not only elucidated on the existential crisis the ‘grand old party’ is currently embattled with in view of its old cronies leaving one after another at this crucial juncture in pursuit of, on the face of it, greener pastures on the other side of the fence when the Congress's organisational elections, including that of its president, are round the corner.

Impartially speaking, the analysis also accounts for a pragmatic recipe for the party's revival premised on the mass contact, a core strategy and reworking of its plans ahead of the Assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, followed by Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Rajasthan.

A veteran leader and the Congress' Muslim face, Ghulam Nabi Azad's departure has recently come as a body blow to the party as Azad has not only been the Chief Minister of Jammu Kashmir but also held significant portfolios like Parliamentary Affairs and Health at the Centre. The Congress central leadership needs to take the sage advice seriously that if Rahul Gandhi is reluctant for the party presidency, he must not be forced to join the race while there are senior and politically sagacious leaders in the G-23, sulking in solitude for long owing to the leadership's indifference.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

feet were asleep. Unable to bear the strain, she swooned and fell down. All educational institute managements must instruct all their teachers, physical education teachers, administrative officers and wardens to be lenient in dealing with students, especially girls. Teachers must motivate with some maxims to mould the character of their students to be punctual and maintain discipline. They must avoid severe corporal punishment to students. The adage ‘Spare the rod and spoil the child’ sometimes proves to be fatal and formidable.

Zubair Khan | Hyderabad

### ISRAEL HAS DONE WRONGS, TOO

Sir — The West Bank was once part of Jordan. It was captured by Israel, a Jewish country, in the brief war of 1967. In the 20th century, the most persecuted community on this earth was the Jews. For this, its respect will always remain in our hearts. But after World War II, the Israelis have caused no less havoc. They have been

humiliating the Philistines ever since. In their place, someone should learn from the Israelites to assert their rights by forcefully entering their land. The mass eviction of 1,200 Palestinians has now begun in the occupied West Bank.

Israel is setting up its military training centre in that place. The United Nations and the European Union are shedding crocodile tears by saying that doing so is not only a war crime, but it is a serious violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Israel has been committing thousands of such violations, is committing and will continue to do so. The world used to just watch the spectacle in silence and will continue to watch. Yes, this world definitely gives long arguments against Islamic extremism. But it never opposes the cause of becoming and creating extremism. What kind of contradiction is this?

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

Many creative and diverse efforts are being made all over the country against malnutrition.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

The Central investigative agencies have lost their credibility during the NDA regime.



RJD leader —Shivanand Tiwari

There are times when I've been really depressed and it takes me weeks.



Actor —Karan Tacker

I am a product of what she's done. I wouldn't be here without Serena, Venus, her family.



Japanese tennis player —Naomi Osaka

Pakistan's people are our priority. We won't spare any effort to assist them.



Pak Army chief —Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa

FIRST COLUMN

REMEMBERING PRINCESS DIANA




DANICA KIRKA

Diana is remembered for her humanitarian work. Twenty five years on she remains queen of hearts

Above all, there was shock. That's the word people use over and over again when they remember Princess Diana's death in a Paris car crash 25 years ago this week. The woman the world watched grow from a shy teenage nursery school teacher into a glamorous celebrity who comforted AIDS patients and campaigned for land mine removal couldn't be dead at the age of 36, could she? It was disbelief that cemented Diana's legacy as the woman who brought lasting change to Britain's royal family, helping bridge the gap between centuries of tradition and a new, multicultural nation in the internet age.

First, there was the outpouring of grief from the public who streamed to the princess' home at Kensington Palace to mourn the loss of a woman most had never met. That alone forced the royals to recognise that Diana's common touch had connected with people in ways that hadn't yet occurred to the House of Windsor. Those lessons have since inspired other royals, including Diana's sons, Princes William and Harry, to be more informal and approachable. For proof, look no further than the glitzy concert that was a centerpiece of June's Platinum Jubilee celebrating the queen's 70 years on the throne. It wasn't obvious Diana would be a royal rebel when she married Prince Charles. A member of the aristocratic Spencer family, Diana was known for flouncy bows, sensible skirts and a boyish blond bob when she started dating the future king.



But she blossomed, becoming an international style icon the moment she walked down the aisle of St. Paul's Cathedral shrouded in lace and followed by a 25-foot train on July 29, 1981. From that moment on, reporters and photographers followed Diana wherever she went. While Diana hated the intrusion, she quickly learned the media was also a tool she could use to bring attention to a cause and to change public perceptions. That impact was seen most famously when the princess opened the UK's first specialised ward for AIDS patients on April 9, 1987. Such ribbon-cutting ceremonies are a staple of royal duties. But Diana realised there was more at stake. She reached out and took the hands of a young patient, demonstrating the virus couldn't be transmitted by touch. The moment, captured by photos beamed worldwide, helped combat the fear, misinformation and stigma surrounding the AIDS epidemic. A decade later, Diana was even more media savvy. Seven months before she died, Diana donned a protective visor and flak jacket and walked down a path cleared through a minefield in Angola to promote the work of The HALO Trust, a group devoted to removing mines from former war zones. The images brought international attention to the campaign to rid the world of explosives that lurk underground long after wars end. Today, a treaty banning landmines has been signed by 164 countries.

On August 30, 1997, a group of paparazzi camped outside the Hotel Ritz in Paris in hopes of getting shots of Diana and boyfriend Dodi Fayed pursued their car to the Pont de l'Alma tunnel, where their driver lost control and crashed. Diana died August 31, 1997. A stunned world mourned. Bouquets of flowers, many including personal notes, carpeted the grounds outside Diana's home in Kensington Palace. The public reaction contrasted with that of the royal family, who were criticised for not quickly appearing in public and refusing to lower the flag over Buckingham Palace to half-staff. The mourning prompted soul-searching among members of the House of Windsor. They set about to better understand why Diana's death had prompted such an overwhelming spectacle.

*(The writer is a senior journalist)*

# Build integral human world order for peace

## Integral humanism propounded by Pt Deen dayal Upadhyaya is the most relevant ideology for building a new world order

The past few years have witnessed a gradual shift in the geopolitical scenario in the world with many unrelated events providing the background for the change. The happenings in different parts of the world such as Yugoslavia, Syria, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war are slowly making people realize that the current world order is not capable of providing a framework which will bring sustainable peace and prosperity in this universe.

Many of the institutions which were created after World War II as part of the new world order are losing their significance and are in no position to perform their perceived pivotal role. After the end of the Cold War era, it was thought that the atmosphere of conflict and confrontation would diminish and the western political and development model followed by Europe and led by the USA would provide the required leadership and direction. But this has proved to be elusive.

The choice before the world is to just replace the current power equations with a new set of power dynamics, which is likely to continue with its exploitative and authoritative character or attempt to bring about a paradigm shift with the advent of an entirely new world order based on fresh fundamental ideological notions and concepts for running the world.

We also need an order which does not consider exploitation of nature as a birthright of humans but one which believes in living in harmony with it. We need an order which is integral in nature and humanist in character.

For this purpose the philosophy of Ekam Manavvad, or Integral Humanism, propounded by the leading thinker of independent India, Late Pt Deen dayal Upadhyay is one of the very important treatises. Pt Deen Dayal ji had derived the thought from the ancient Indian culture, traditions, knowledge, systems and with his immense erudition he had very succinctly developed ideas and concepts which are current and extremely pertinent for modern India. These need to be deliberated and applied for providing solutions to the problems of present day India and taking it on the path of sustainable and inclusive development. Ekam Manavvad not only applies to the field of culture but more importantly provides a framework for social, political and economic management of the country which is in synergy with the soul of India and which does not blindly follow the western model.

While studying the Integral Humanism for developing new paradigms for political, social and economic policies and management, he should not be looked at from the prism of the political affiliation he belonged to, but



IN A STUDY THE WORLD ECONOMY - A MILLENNIAL PERSPECTIVE, ONE OF THE TOP ECONOMIC HISTORIANS, ANGUS MADDISON, SHOWED THAT UP TO AROUND THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY INDIA'S SHARE IN WORLD GDP WAS AROUND 24.5 PER CENT

*(The author is Director, Ekam Manav Darshan Adityan Kendra, Varanasi)*



to the fact that as a thinker he tried to bring about new and relevant perspectives which connect with the glorious past of our country and which can provide solutions to the multitude of our current day problems. India's rich legacy is manifested not only in the fields of culture, philosophy, science, etc., but also its great economic achievement.

In a study sponsored by OECD, The World Economy - A Millennial Perspective, one of the top economic historians, Angus Maddison, has shown that up to around the early 18th century India's share in the world GDP was around 24.5 per cent. This could have been possible only if the social, political and the economic models being followed during those times were of a great standard. Kautilya propounded his Arthshastra around 3rd century BC, which is a detailed treatise on almost all aspects of statecraft. This was almost 2000 years before Adam Smith wrote the Wealth of Nations, the precursor of Capitalism. There are numerous other ancient texts which give invaluable knowledge and insights into the best practices and principles of running the State. Unfortunately, we lost these during the period of colonial subjugation and became subservient to the policies foisted upon us by the colonial masters which were primarily meant to fulfill their interests.

Post-independence, while conceiving the policies and strate-

gies for the future of this country, we had a chance but did not use it to delve into our prior wisdom, practices and systems, which had proven so successful, but plainly copied from the structure which were being used elsewhere. As Pt Deen Dayal has stated, we are just not supposed to blindly go back in the past and follow it because we live in a dynamic and fluid world where many things change with time and also we should not just negate everything which had been developed in the west. We should have a model which is based on our unique culture, traditions, beliefs, circumstances, past wisdom but integrated with the best practices and knowledge of other systems which are not in conflict with it.

The nature of our culture has been Integral. We have had a holistic view of a human being which is not confined just to his body but considers him an amalgamation of body, mind, intellect and soul. He is ultimately happy and satisfied only when all of these aspects are taken care of. Unfortunately, most of the policies have been designed to fulfill the requirements of the body, which should be the priority but cannot suffice. Many of the degradations in the society arise because of this approach and which manifest itself in more tangible ways in the form of corruption, poor workmanship, conflicts, and apathy.

With an integral approach,

humans and nature are seen intrinsically related to each other. This gave ways for traditions for dealing with rivers, forests, animals, and other elements of nature. We had deified all these -- sun, wind, water, trees, and animals. In the Capitalist approach, the enlightened self-interest of humans are at the core of the philosophy and so nature was something to be exploited for serving the interests of man. All the environmental protection policies now being formulated are reactionary, as climate change has attained critical dimensions.

Our culture always kept Dharma at the highest pedestal. Dharma is not religion. It is basically the innate law such as the conduct and the behavior expected from any individual or any institution. The actions of individuals and institutions in our country were judged on the parameters of Dharma. This has been the basic character or soul of this nation. The ruler also had to follow his Dharma, he did not have the divine right to rule as has been in the western concepts. When this basic character is not followed, the maladies and problems are bound to happen. The State cannot be run only with the help of penal provisions. Just being a democracy is not enough. The majority can decide who will rule, but what the ruler has to do through its various wings -- the executive, legislature, judiciary -- has to be decided and judged on the parameters of Dharma.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE PARTY NEEDS MEDICINES FOR TREATING IT, WHICH ARE BEING PROVIDED BY COMPOUNDERS INSTEAD OF DOCTORS —FORMER CONGRESS LEADER GHULAM NABI AZAD



HE'S BEEN TASKED TO SLANDER (THE CONGRESS). BY GIVING INTERVIEWS INDISCRIMINATELY, MR AZAD DIMINISHES HIMSELF FURTHER — CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY JAIRAM RAMESH

# Covid-19 forced street kids to sell drugs

## The pandemic had a devastating impact on railway-connected children, who faced miseries after operations ceased

Several street children, who themselves or through their families depended on the Railways' ecosystem for their livelihood, were forced to sell drugs, steal iron rods and beg in order to survive during the pandemic, according to stories covered in Balaknama, which is a newsletter brought out by street children. Balaknama sheds light on a wide ranging issue that affects children living in streets spread across Delhi, Noida, Lucknow and Agra.

Overall, all such children saw families losing their jobs, running out of funds to buy food and pay rent, facing lack of drinking water, clocking long waiting time in queues to get food and parents getting pushed into debt, flagged Balaknama team in its April-May 2020 edi-



MAMUNI DAS

*The article is written as a part of the WNCB Awards for Untold Stories on child labour. Author is a senior journalist (Charkha Features)*

tion, the first issue published after the outbreak of the pandemic and the subsequent nationwide lockdown.

Bringing out the newsletter, Balaknama team worked 'virtually' during the phases of pandemic to continue publishing the newsletter. The team formed a WhatsApp group where everyone could inform the newsletter's Editor about the stories they were pursuing, according to Sanjay Gupta, Founder of Childhood Enhancement through Training and Action (CHETNA), a civil society organisation, which drives publishing of Balaknama.

"The children learnt how to make Zoom calls, and reporters used phones to connect with other street connected children for stories and continued publishing Balaknama during

the pandemic," said Gupta.

Balaknama empowers street connected children, who plan, report and distribute the newsletter. To report and write for Balaknama, children have to "pursue their studies", said Gupta.

**How railway-connected children survived**

Sahil, another child who was good in studies, and whose mother sold various items in trains, had seen earnings cease. To survive, his family dipped into their savings that had accumulated through an informal mechanism (termed 'Committee') where a group of people pool in their money.

Some children - who were earlier ragpickers at railway stations - were pushed to sell intoxicants, reported

Balaknama in August 2020. By this time, phased unlocking had started as pandemic had spread in different intensities, but there were hardly four-five trains at a station.

Some children - who were ragpickers at Nizamuddin station but had lost income avenues as the station had closed - had been engaged by the house-owners as 'informers'. These children had to inform the house-owner about visitors, among others in the neighbourhood.

Another issue that has been cited is about the change in the passenger behaviour in trains due to the pandemic. The trains were cleaner and the passengers did not throw water bottles. This meant there were not enough empty plastic water bottles to be collected and sold.

Thus the rag-picking children started selling 'intoxicants'.

As people were carrying their own food in trains, street-connected children who sold food in trains began looking for alternatives, and some children had to steal iron rods, as per the September 2021 Balaknama.

The newsletter documented cases of children and families pushed to begging, kids being paid less and families surviving on one meal. In Sarai Kale Khan, Balaknama reporters found some children hiring handicapped persons at Rs 300 a day or Rs 150 for half a day, who would accompany them in buses to beg.

**Pushed to hunger**

A group of 30 rag-picking kids near Sarai Kale Khan had

no money to buy food or medicines, as per the young team of reporters. It was a time when trains were not operational. Many families and/or children are dependent on train operations and the railway ecosystem.

The rag-pickers rued that they were without clean clothes, and Aadhaar cards, an identity card that could have helped them get some benefit through government schemes. They sought help from Balaknama for admission at a shelter home where they could get food. Getting food, which was distributed in schools, involved long waits for hours in scorching heat.

Accessing government benefits was not possible for those who were without ration or Aadhaar cards or Jan Dhan Bank accounts. Also,

# Heavy fighting rages in Ukraine's Russian-occupied south

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine claimed to have destroyed bridges and ammunition depots and pounded command posts in a surge of fighting in the Russian-occupied south, fueling speculation Tuesday that its long-awaited counteroffensive to try to turn the tide of war was underway. Russia said it repelled the attack and inflicted heavy casualties.

The clashes took place in the country's Kherson region, where Moscow's forces rolled up major gains early in the war. But Ukrainian authorities kept the world guessing about their intentions.

While independent verification of battlefield action has been difficult, Britain's Defense Ministry said in an intelligence report that several Ukrainian brigades had stepped up their artillery fire in front-line sectors across southern Ukraine.

The port city of Kherson, with a prewar population of about 300,000, is an important economic hub close to the Black Sea and the first major city to fall to the Russians in the war that began six months ago. The port remains at the heart of Ukraine's efforts to preserve its vital access to the sea, while Russia views it as a key point in a land corridor extending from its border to the Crimean Peninsula, which it seized in 2014.

Occupation forces have spoken of plans to hold a referendum on making the



Kherson region a part of Russia and have pressured residents to take Russian citizenship and stop using Ukraine's currency.

Ukraine's presidential office reported that "powerful explosions continued during the day and night in the Kherson region. Tough battles are ongoing practically across all" of the area. Ukrainian forces, the office said, destroyed ammunition depots and all large bridges across the Dnieper River vital to supplying Russian troops.

The Ukrainian military

also reported destroying a pontoon bridge on the Dnieper that the Russian forces were setting up and hitting a dozen command posts with artillery fire.

Russian state news agency Tass that reported explosions rocked Kherson on Tuesday morning — most likely caused by air defense systems.

Alluding to the talk of a major counteroffensive, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address on Monday that one "won't hear specifics from any truly respon-

sible person" about Kyiv's intentions, "because this is war."

The British said that the most of Russia's units around Kherson "are likely undermanned and are reliant upon fragile supply lines" while its forces there are undergoing a significant reorganization.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov maintained that its forces stood up well and that Ukraine lost hundreds of troops, tanks and other armored vehicles in Monday's action. His claim could not be

independently verified.

Ukrainian independent military analyst Oleh Zhdanov told The Associated Press that "it will be possible to talk about the effectiveness of Ukrainian actions only after large cities are retaken." He added that Ukrainian forces had breached the first and the second lines of defense in the Kherson region several times in the past, "but it didn't bring about results."

"The most important thing is Ukrainian artillery's work on the bridges, which the Russian military can no longer use," Zhdanov said.

The war has ground to a stalemate over the past months, with casualties and destruction rising and the population bearing the brunt of the suffering during relentless shelling in the east and south.

Amid fears that the fighting around the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant could lead to a catastrophe, a U.N. atomic energy agency team set out on a mission to inspect and safeguard the complex. Ukraine and Russia have accused each other of shelling the area over and over.

Nikopol, a city just across the Dnieper from the plant, again came under a barrage of heavy shelling, local authorities said, with a bus station, stores and a children's library damaged. And a Russian missile strike targeted the city of Zaporizhzhia, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the plant, Ukraine said.

# Russia running into problems with Iran-made drones: US



AP ■ WASHINGTON

Russia has faced technical problems with Iranian-made drones acquired from Tehran this month for use in its war with Ukraine, according to Biden administration officials.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the U.S. Intelligence assessment, did not detail the "numerous failures."

They added that the U.S. Assesses that the delivery of Mohajer-6 and Shahed-series unmanned aerial vehicles over several days this month is likely part of a Russian plan to acquire hundreds of Iranian UAVs.

The Associated Press reported last week that Russia had recently obtained hundreds of Iranian drones capable of being used in its war against Ukraine despite U.S. Warnings to Tehran not to ship them. The Washington Post first reported that Russia has faced technical problems with the Iranian drones.

Russian operators continue to receive training in Iran on how to use these systems, which can conduct air-to-surface attacks, electronic warfare and targeting, on the battlefield in Ukraine, the officials said.

The Biden administration last month released satellite imagery indicating that Russian officials visited Khashan Airfield on June 8 and July 5 to view the Iranian drones. At the time, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan asserted that the administration has "information that the Iranian government is preparing to provide

Russia with several hundred UAVs."

Facing economic sanctions and limits on its supply chains due to its invasion of Ukraine, Russia is turning to Iran as a key partner and supplier of weapons. Russian aircraft was loaded with the UAV equipment at an airfield in Iran over several days this month before the weaponry was flown to Russia, the officials said.

White House national security council spokesman John Kirby told reporters earlier Monday that the administration had "no update" on whether the drones had been delivered. He added that the U.S. Has has "seen nothing that that gives us a sense of comfort" and that "the procurement, and delivery is still looming, is still in the offing."

Iran's foreign minister, Hossein-Amir Abdollahian, said last month that Tehran had "various types of collaboration with Russia, including in the defense sector."

"But we won't help either of the sides involved in this war because we believe that it (the war) needs to be stopped," he said.

The administration officials confirmed details of Iran supplying Russia with drones at a moment when the White House is also trying to prod Tehran to resume its compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal. The administration last week completed its review of Iran's comments on a European proposal to restart the agreement that was brokered during President Barack Obama's administration and scrapped by in 2018 by then-President Donald Trump in 2018.

# Volunteer sniper embodies Ukraine's versatile military

AP ■ KYIV

Before taking a shot, Ukrainian sniper Andriy buries his face in a foldout mat, breathing slowly and deliberately.

"I need to be completely relaxed, to find a place where I will not move the rifle when I pull the trigger," he says.

"I don't think about anything. It's a kind of vacuum."

In a semicircle around his head are boxes of bullets, printouts of charts, a heavy-duty stapler and a roll of tape.

Strapped to his wrist is a monitor, which is the shape of a jewellery box. It's a ballistics calculator to factor in the wind and other surrounding conditions. Bees persistently circling his head and scope are ignored.

After a long pause, he says the word "shot" in Ukrainian.

Crack! A sound not unlike a starting gun used at sporting events produces a reflexive jolt in people unaccustomed to war.

Six months ago, the noise might have startled Andriy, who had moved to Western Europe to pursue a career in engineering.

Andriy comes from Bucha, a district near Kyiv's airport that was hammered during the Russian advance.

Hundreds of civilian killings took place there, the bodies found in mass graves or left lying where they were shot in what the United Nations describes as potential war crimes.

Tall and with a good command of English, the sniper spoke to The Associated Press while practicing alone at an informal firing range near Kyiv, hoping to resolve some issues with his weapon through hours of trial and error before his next deployment.

He asked only to be identified by his first name and that some details of his civilian life remain private.

Andriy scrambled home, taking a flight to Budapest and arranging an 1,200-kilometer overland route that included paying "a big amount of money" to a driver willing to take a



risky journey eastward. Within a few days he had joined the ferocious fight around Kyiv, adopting the war nickname "Samurai."

He bought his own gear and a

U.S.-made sniper rifle, and began receiving training from a special forces instructor, connected through friends in the military.

"Early in the morning on Feb. 24,

I received a call from my mother. She lives in Bucha and told me the war had started. She could hear helicopters, airplanes, bombing and explosions. I decided to return," he said.

While not allowed to discuss any specifics of his operational activity, Andriy describes Ukraine's military as a force that prides itself on flexibility, harnessing a wide range of skills from its personnel to become more versatile in combat.

Snipers, he said, are often used to spot Russian military positions for artillery targeting.

"I have also gained experience in tactical medicine, with drones and shooting with assault rifles," he said.

Military specialists are encouraged to learn new skills and even find their own equipment, with Western suppliers still delivering to Ukraine in a private market that is monitored by the army.

To protect his hearing, Andriy acquired a set of hunter's headphones that suppress the noise from his rifle while amplifying voices.

"You really need these," he says.

Russia has more than doubled the territory it controls in Ukraine since launching the invasion in February, to about 20% of the country, but Andriy shares the optimism of many fellow Ukrainians that victory will be possible after the winter.

"I think with the help of our friends in Europe and the United States that we can push them out of our territory," he said.

His desire to become a sniper came from a familiarity with hunting rifles, common in Ukraine, and playing the role of a distance shooter in video games.

But his goal at war: "It's to return to my home, to my family," he says.

"No one of us wanted to be a warrior, a shooter, a sniper. It's just a necessity to be here now and do what we're doing here."

After a pause he adds: "I don't know how to explain this: I don't like to kill people. It's not something you want to do, but it's something you have to do."



# Germany upbeat on energy security; Russia cuts gas to France

AP ■ BERLIN

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Tuesday that his country is well-prepared to tackle a possible energy shortage because of Russia's squeeze on European gas supplies, even as fears grow about the juggernaut of rising prices that will likely hit consumers across the continent this winter.

Scholz spoke at the start of a two-day government retreat, attended also by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, which will focus on the impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the energy supply in Europe.

Scholz cited Germany's decisions to reactivate oil and coal-fired power plants, mandate the filling of natural gas storage facilities and lease floating liquefied natural gas terminals.

A decision on extending the operating life of Germany's three remaining nuclear power plants is also expected soon.

"All of this and many further measures have contributed to us being in a much better situation as far as supply security is concerned than could have been foreseen a couple of months ago," Scholz told reporters at the government's guest house in Meseberg, north of Berlin.

"We will be able to cope quite well with the threats that we face from Russia, which is using gas as part of its strategy in the war against Ukraine."

Scholz noted that gas storage facilities are already over 80 per cent full, more than they were at this time last year, and the government is expected to agree on a further package of measures in the coming days to help German consumers cope with steeply rising energy prices.

Russia's state-controlled energy company Gazprom further reduced gas deliveries to the French company Engie, raising fears that Moscow might cut off gas completely as political leverage over the war in Ukraine.

Gazprom informed Engie of a reduction in gas deliveries, starting on Tuesday, because of "a disagreement between the parties on the application of several contracts," according to the statement from the French energy company.

Deliveries for Engie from Gazprom have significantly decreased since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24.

# First Ukraine grain ship for Horn of Africa reaches Djibouti



AP ■ NAIROBI

The first ship carrying grain from Ukraine for people in the hungriest parts of the world has docked at the Horn of Africa port of Djibouti as areas of East Africa are badly affected by deadly drought and conflict.

Food security experts call it a drop in the bucket for the vast needs in the worst-hit Horn countries of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, the nation where this first shipment is going.

But the flow of grain from Ukraine for other hungry parts of the world is expected to continue, with another ship departing Tuesday for Yemen. The UN World Food Program has said it is working on multiple ships.

WFP says this first shipment

of grain will be shipped overland to northern Ethiopia, where millions of people have been affected by the country's Tigray conflict, which has now flared up again.

How any of the grain will reach Tigray is now in question as humanitarian deliveries by road and air have been suspended amid the fighting that sparked again last week between Tigray forces and Ethiopian ones. But Ethiopia's neighbouring Amhara and Afar regions also are expected to benefit.

WFP has said the 23,000 metric tons of grain on the first ship are enough to feed 1.5 million people on full rations for a month. But the UN has said 2.4 million in Tigray alone are severely food insecure and that 20 million people across

Ethiopia face hunger.

Millions of other people in the Horn of Africa region are going hungry because of drought, and thousands have died. Somalia has been especially hard hit because it sourced at least 90 per cent of its grain from Ukraine and Russia before Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

Food security experts have said it will take weeks for people in African countries to see grain from Ukraine arrive and even longer to see it bring down high food prices that have been a source of despair and protests in multiple nations.

Far more ships carrying grain from Ukraine have been going to richer places like Europe as existing business contracts are fulfilled.

## UN: First grain shipment leaves Ukraine for war-torn Yemen

AP ■ CAIRO

The first vessel carrying grain from Ukraine to conflict-torn Yemen since the war started in Europe departed a Black Sea port on Tuesday, the U.N. Food agency said. The move will help ease one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

The World Food Program said the MV Karteria, with 37,000 metric tons of wheat grain on board, left the Ukrainian port of Yuzhny. The WFP-chartered vessel will stop first in Turkey, where the grain will be milled into flour before sailing to Yemen, where over 17 million people are struggling.

WFP said the grain will provide a 50-kg bag of wheat flour each to nearly 4 million people that will last for about a month and will help the WFP address immediate gaps in assistance.

The Russian war in Ukraine, which started in February, has been deeply felt in Yemen, where a long-running conflict created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.



# EU to ramp up arms production, eyes Ukraine army training

AP ■ PRAGUE

European Union Ministers on Tuesday debated ways to ramp up weapons production, boost military training for the Ukrainian armed forces and inflict heavier costs on Russia, with no end in sight to a war that has ground on since February.

"We are depleting our stocks. We are providing so many capacities to Ukraine that we have to refill our stocks," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told reporters in the Czech capital, Prague, where he is chairing two days of talks between the bloc's defence and foreign ministers.

The aim among defense ministers is to work out how best to pool military materiel and resources, but also to bulk

purchase ammunition and weapons like air defense systems which Ukraine continues to need.

They will also discuss what role the 27-nation bloc could play in training new Ukrainian recruits on European soil, as casualties mount and deplete the army of experienced soldiers while officers who might normally provide training are tied up in battle.

Several countries already provide military training on a bilateral basis but some feel that it's important to throw the EU's combined weight behind the effort.

The Netherlands highlighted new demining training that it's providing with Germany.

"It would be good to put that on a more structured basis,

and to ensure that the EU collectively is doing that in a structured and organised way that can last for some time," said Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney, who is also responsible for his country's defense portfolio.

Others feel that might be too unwieldy.

"It's not maybe the quickest way. I'm not so convinced," said Luxembourg's defense minister, Francois Bausch. Austria was also cool on the idea.

Later Tuesday, foreign ministers will discuss whether to impose further visa restrictions on Russians, in an effort to ramp up pressure on President Vladimir Putin as the war he launched six months ago inflicts heavy economic costs on European and world economies.

# Heavy gunfire rocks Iraq's Green Zone amid violent protests

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Supporters of an influential Iraqi Shiite cleric fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns into Iraq's Green Zone as security forces returned fire on Tuesday, seriously escalating a month-long political crisis gripping the nation.

The death toll rose to at least 30 people after two days of unrest, officials said.

Those backing cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who resigned suddenly on Monday amid a political impasse, earlier stormed the Green Zone, once the stronghold of the US military that's now home to Iraqi government offices and foreign embassies. At least one country evacuated its diplomatic personnel amid the chaos.

Iraq's government has been deadlocked since al-Sadr's party won the largest share of seats in October parliamentary elections but not enough to secure a majority government — unleashing months of infighting between different Shiite factions.

Al-Sadr refused to negotiate with his Iran-backed Shiite rivals, and his withdrawal on Monday has catapulted Iraq into political uncertainty and



## Iraqi cleric calls on loyalists to withdraw after clashes

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Powerful Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called on his loyalists in the Government zone to withdraw after nearly 24 hours of fierce clashes with security forces and paramilitary groups.

In a televised speech Tuesday, al-Sadr gave his supporters, hundreds of whom stormed the government palace and have been

volatility with no clear path out.

The violence threatened to deepen the political crisis,

holding an ongoing sit-in outside the parliament building, an hour to leave.

Supporters of an influential Iraqi Shiite cleric fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns into Iraq's Green Zone and security forces returned fire Tuesday, a serious escalation of a monthslong political crisis gripping the nation.

The death toll rose to at least 30 people after two days of unrest, officials said.

though streets elsewhere in the country largely remained calm and the country's vital oil

continued to flow. Iran closed off its borders to Iraq — a sign of Tehran's concern that the chaos could spread.

Live television footage showed supporters of al-Sadr firing both heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades into the heavily fortified Green Zone through a section of pulled-down concrete walls. Bystanders, seemingly oblivious to the danger, filmed the gunfight with their mobile phones.

As al-Sadr's forces fired, a line of armoured tanks stood on the other side of the barriers that surround the Green Zone. Heavy black smoke at one point rose over the area, visible from kilometres (miles) away. At least one wounded man was taken away in a three-wheel rickshaw, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry visible in the background. At least 30 people have been killed and over 400 wounded, two Iraqi medical officials said. The toll included both al-Sadr loyalists killed in protests the day before and clashes overnight.

Those figures are expected to rise, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to release the information to journalists.

# CPC plans to hold key congress to endorse rare 3rd term for Xi



PTI ★ BEIJING

China's ruling Communist Party proposes to hold its 20th Congress in Beijing on October 16 which is widely expected to endorse an unprecedented 3rd term for President Xi Jinping.

A meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held on Tuesday decided that a plenary session consisting of functionaries of the party will be held on October 9 during which it will be proposed that the 20th Congress will be held on October 16 in Beijing, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Political bureau meeting presided over by Xi stressed that the 20th CPC National Congress is a congress of great significance to be convened at a crucial moment, as the whole Party and the entire nation embark on a new journey

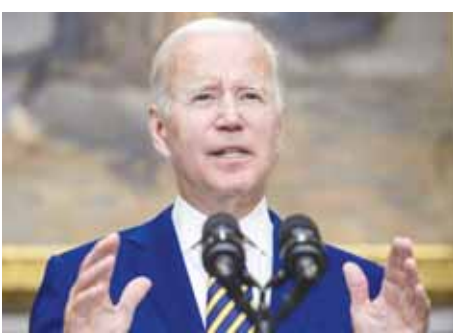
toward building a modern socialist country in all respects, and advance toward the Second Centenary Goal.

The CPC holds its all-important Congress once every five years during which it reviews the government and party work and endorse plans for the remaining five years.

Under the prevailing party conventions, the leadership and top officials change every 10 years.

Unlike his predecessors, who retired after 10 year tenures, 69-year-old Xi, who will be completing his second five year tenure this year, is widely expected to be endorsed for a third term at the 20th Congress.

Xi, regarded as the most powerful heading the Presidency, the party and the military, has been designated previously as a leader on par with party founder Mao Zedong, who remained in power until his death in 1976.



## Biden to deliver prime-time speech on 'battle' for democracy

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden will deliver a prime-time address "on the continued battle for the soul of the nation" Thursday outside Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the White House announced Monday.

Billed as a major address just over two months before the midterm elections, Biden, the White House said, will discuss how the nation's standing in the world and its democracy are at stake.

"He will talk about the progress we have made as a nation to protect our democracy, but how our rights and freedoms are still under attack," the White House said. "And he will make clear who is fighting for those rights, fighting for those freedoms, and fighting for our democracy."

Biden has increasingly sought to portray the November elections as a choice for voters between "ultra-MAGA Republicans" — a reference to former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan — and Democrats. He told supporters last week that they had "to vote to literally save democracy once again" — and labeled some Republican ideology as "semi-fascism."

NBC News was first to report on Biden's plans for the address.



## 2 dead, 5 injured in Phoenix shooting; suspect kills self

AP ■ PHOENIX

Two people were killed and five injured — including two police officers — when a man armed with a semi-automatic rifle and wearing tactical gear began a seemingly random attack in Phoenix on Sunday night before killing himself, authorities said.

Phoenix police identified the man on Monday as 24-year-old Isaiah Steven Williams. They said he was found to have a single gunshot wound to the head, consistent with a self-inflicted gunshot wound although the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's

Office will determine the cause of death.

It wasn't immediately clear Monday where Williams lived and if he had a criminal record.

Police said Williams was wearing a ballistic vest with steel plates in the front and back, a ballistic helmet, a gas mask and knee pads and was armed with a semi-automatic rifle along with several incendiary devices and multiple magazines for the rifle.

"Kevlar helmet, tactical vest, high-powered rifle — this individual was set on doing damage to our community," Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams said Monday.

# Pakistan, UN jointly appeal for \$160 m to deal with catastrophic floods

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Grappling with unprecedented floods, the cash-strapped Pakistan government on Tuesday teamed up with the United Nations to issue a flash appeal for USD 160 million to deal with the disaster that has displaced over 33 million people in the country that has become the "ground zero" of global warming.

The country-wide death toll has touched 1,136 as of Monday, with over 1,634 injured and 33 million displaced, according to the latest data issued by the National Disaster Management Authority, the chief national body tasked to deal with calamities.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal said on Tuesday that the country would need more than USD 10 billion to rebuild the infrastructure devastated by the raging floods, which roughly translates to 3 per cent of the country's GDP.



During a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday, it was decided to form a National Flood Response and Coordination Centre to provide proper institutional response to the calamity, which will comprise federal ministers, representatives of armed forces, chief ministers and experts.

"The Centre will serve as a bridge between disaster management authorities, donors and government institutions. It will collect and analyse latest information and pass it on to the relevant government agencies. It will also oversee rescue and relief work including restoration of infrastructure," the PM Office tweeted after the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan government and the United Nations jointly issued a flash appeal for USD 160 million to help the country deal with the catastrophic floods.

"Pakistan is awash in suffering," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in a video message. "The Pakistani people are facing a monsoon on steroids - the relentless impact of epochal levels of rain and flooding."

He said the funds will provide 5.2 million people with food, water, sanitation, emergency education, protection and health support.

## Lankan Prez asks parties to join Govt to prevent country from being used as 'tool of interference'



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Tuesday appealed to all parties to join the unity government to tackle the island nation's worst-ever economic crisis and prevent "strong economies" from using it as a "tool of interference," days after India and China verbally clashed over the docking of a high-tech Chinese ship at a port in the country.

His remarks came as he presented the revised budget for 2022 in his capacity as the minister of finance.

"We can no longer be a nation dependent on loan assistance. We can also no longer be used as a tool of interference by other countries with strong economies," Wickremesinghe said without naming any country. However, his remarks came days after China and India verbally clashed over the docking of 'Yuan Wang 5' at Sri Lanka's Hambantota port.

"All this can be achieved, only if we work together in unity with common consent. I reiterate the invitation to all the parties represented in this Parliament to join an all-party government. Since this unprecedented situation is the responsibility of us all, and therefore need to prioritise the necessities of the country".

## UK PM race: Sunak camp accuses Truss of avoiding scrutiny

PTI ■ LONDON

With just days to go before the polls close on Friday in the race to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister, former Chancellor Rishi Sunak's camp accused rival Liz Truss of avoiding scrutiny on Tuesday.

Foreign Secretary Truss, who is the current frontrunner according to pre-poll surveys and bookie's odds, was due to face tough questions from veteran BBC political journalist Nick Robinson in a one-on-one interview — already done by Sunak earlier this month. But the Cabinet minister pulled out of the interview hours before it was to air on Tuesday evening, with her team saying she could no longer spare the time.



"Liz Truss has cancelled her BBC One interview with Nick Robinson which was due to air this Tuesday evening (30th August) at 7pm. Ms Truss' team say she can no longer spare the time to appear on 'Our Next Prime Minister'," the BBC said in a statement.

"The other candidate for the Conservative leadership, Sunak, was interviewed by Nick on 10th August. We regret that it has not been possible to do an in depth interview with both candidates despite having reached agreement to do so," it notes.

## UN says 6 mn Afghans at risk of famine as crises grow

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Warning that Afghanistan faces deepening poverty with 6 million people at risk of famine, the U.N. Humanitarian chief on Monday urged donors to restore funding for economic development and immediately provide \$770 million to help Afghans get through the winter as the United States argued with Russia and China over who should pay.

Martin Griffiths told the U.N. Security Council that Afghanistan faces multiple crises — humanitarian, economic, climate, hunger and financial.

Conflict, poverty, climate shocks and food insecurity "have long been a sad reality" in Afghanistan, but he said what makes the current situation "so critical" is the halt to large-scale development aid since the Taliban takeover a year ago.

More than half the Afghan population — some 24 million people — need assistance and close to 19 million are facing acute levels of food insecurity, Griffiths said.

And "we worry" that the figures will soon become worse because winter weather will send already high fuel and food prices skyrocketing.

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**Tender Enquiry No.574/GHTP/EMC/ GMMC-27/Vol-35**  
**Dated: 26-08-2022**

Superintending Engineer Electrical Mtc. Circle, O&M invites E-Tenders for Periodical, preventive, breakdown & shutdown maintenance and annual overhauling of 2x210MW & 2x250MW Turbogenerator (Electrical Works), HT & LT Motors in main plant area, 16.50 KV, 15.75KV, 6.6KV & 415 V Bus Ducts, EOT Cranes/ Hoists (Electrical Works), etc. and operation & general cleanliness of lifts / Elevators of Stage-I & II. Detailed NIT and tender specification can be downloaded from website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from dated **02-09-2022** onwards.  
**Note:** Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

76155/12/1079/2021/16668 GHTP-50/22

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

Name of Work and its location	30-Elect-24-T-2022-22-E3 A) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Johnson make escalators installed at Delhi Main (02 Nos.) and NDLS station (10 Nos) total 12 Nos. for three years. B) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Johnson make escalators installed over Delhi Division for three years. C) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of 02 Nos. Johnson make escalators installed at ANVT Railway Station for three years. D) Provision of WEB based real time monitoring system for escalators at DLI (M), HN2M & NDLS stations.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 310.26 Lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 305/100.00
Date & time of submission of tender	21.09.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	21.09.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. <span style="float:right">2228/22</span>

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	Name of work	Annual operation and maintenance of sand filter, disinfection system and valve operation at Paharganj, Ram Nagar water complex, MSRR, DLT, Lahori gate Thompson Road near PF-16, RPSF water complex in the section of SSEF/NDLS under ADEN/NDLS.
2	Approx cost of work	Rs. 59,99,836.02/- ( Fifty Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Six and Two paise only)
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs.1,20,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	23.09.2022 @15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

(• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest Money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. • No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/50/2022-23/W-3 Date:- 30.08.2022 2221/2022

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**NOTICE OF THE 48TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT 12:30 P.M./IST THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING ("VC") OR OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS ("OAVM"), E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE**

Notice is hereby given that the 48th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Company will be held on **Wednesday, the 28th September, 2022 at 12:30 P.M./IST** through Video Conferencing (VC)/ other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) for which Registered office of the Company at 38E/252A, Vijay Tower, 3rd floor, Panchsheel Commercial Complex, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049, shall be deemed as the venue for the meeting to transact the businesses as set out in the AGM Notice.

Pursuant to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)'s General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April, 13, 2020, 20/2020 dated May, 05, 2020, 02/2021 dated January, 13, 2021 and 02/2022 dated May 5, 2022 and circular no. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May, 13, 2022 issued by SEBI ("Circulars") Companies are permitted to hold Annual General Meeting (AGM) through Video Conferencing (VC)/ other Audio Visual Means (OAVM), without physical presence of the Members at a common venue.

In compliance of the aforementioned circulars, Electronic Notice of AGM alongwith the explanatory statement as per section 102 of Companies Act, 2013, and procedure of Remote E- Voting/ Evoting, attending of the meeting through Video conferencing details, Annual Report for Financial year 2021-22 etc. has been sent electronically on **Tuesday, August 30, 2022** to the all the members at their email address whose email IDs are registered with Company/RTA/Depository Participant (DP). Further, the same are also available on Company's website <https://www.sunilhealthcare.com/annual-reports>, website of Stock Exchange i.e. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), and the website of Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. i.e. <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended from time to time, Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligation & Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015 and the Secretarial Standard on General Meeting issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, members of the Company have been provided with the facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be considered at the 48th Annual General Meeting (AGM) by electronic means through e-Voting services. The company has engaged services of Linkintime India Private Limited for availing of Instavote platform for casting the vote through "remote e-voting"/ e-voting.

The members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on **cut-off date i.e. Tuesday, the 20th September, 2022**, may cast their vote electronically on the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM through electronic InstaVote platform of Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>

Pursuant to SEBI circular dated December 9, 2020 on e-Voting facility provided by Listed Companies, Individual shareholders holding securities in demat mode can vote through their demat account maintained with Depositories and Depository Participants only post 9th June, 2021. For detail Remote e-Voting Procedure, please refer Note no. 22 of the Notice of the 48th AGM.

The members may note that:

- The remote e-voting period will commence at 9:00 A.M. on **Sunday, the 25th September, 2022 and will end at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, the 27th September, 2022 and thereafter e- voting module shall be disabled by Evoting agency.**
- Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the shareholder, the shareholder shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
- The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to their shares of the paid up equity share capital of the Company as on cut-off date of Tuesday, 20th September, 2022.
- Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after sending of the notice and holding shares as of the cut-off date i.e. Tuesday, 20th September, 2022, may obtain the login ID and password by following the instructions of Remote e-voting given in Note no. 22 to the Notice of AGM.
- A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting /voting at the Annual General Meeting through e voting.
- A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again at the AGM.
- Mr. Tara Chand Sharma, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No.5749 and CP no is 4078) and Proprietor of M/s. Jain Sharma & Associates, Company Secretaries, Jaipur has been appointed as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting and remote E voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
- In case shareholders' members holding securities in physical mode/ Institutional shareholders have any queries regarding e-voting, they may refer the **Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and InstaVote e-Voting manual** available at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>, under Help section or send an email to [enotices@linkintime.co.in](mailto:enotices@linkintime.co.in) or contact on: - Tel: 022 -4918 6000. The Member may also contact at [delhi@linkintime.co.in](mailto:delhi@linkintime.co.in), [cs@sunilhealthcare.com](mailto:cs@sunilhealthcare.com) or to our RTA at [rtal@alankit.com](mailto:rtal@alankit.com) or [lalitap@alankit.com](mailto:lalitap@alankit.com), for details instruction of e-voting and attending meeting through VC or OAVM, the members are requested go through the notice of the meeting (especially note no.23).
- Notice is further given that pursuant to **Section 91** of the Companies Act, 2013 read with read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015, the **Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain close from Wednesday, 21.09.2022 to Wednesday 28.09.2022 (both days inclusive)** for the purpose of Annual General Meeting of the Company.

**On order of the Board**  
**FOR SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED**

Sd/-	Regd. Office:
<b>ANIL KUMAR KHAITAN</b>	38E/252A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat, New Delhi-110049
<b>CHAIRMAN &amp; MANAGING DIRECTOR</b>	CIN No: L24302DL1973PLC189662
DIN: 00759951	Phone No: +91-11-49435555/00 Fax no 011-43850087
Place - New Delhi	Email ID: <a href="mailto:info@sunilhealthcare.com">info@sunilhealthcare.com</a>
Dated- August 30, 2022	Web: <a href="http://www.sunilhealthcare.com">www.sunilhealthcare.com</a>

# BSE Sensex, Nifty rebound over 2.5%

On strong gains in banking, IT stocks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty soared over 2.5 per cent to log their best single-day gain in more than three months on Tuesday driven by value buying in banking, IT and oil stocks amid mixed global cues.

The 30-share Sensex jumped 1,564.45 points or 2.70 per cent to settle at more than one-week high of 59,537.07. During the day, it zoomed 1,627.16 points or 2.80 per cent to a day's high of 59,599.78.

The broader NSE Nifty spurted 446.40 points or 2.58 per cent to close at 17,759.30 as all 50 components advanced.

The key indices logged their best single-day gain since May 20. The indices had tumbled more than 1.4 per cent on Monday after US Federal Bank chair Jerome Powell indicated last week that the central bank will stick to a strategy of rate hikes to cool inflation.

Making a sharp recovery, all the 30 Sensex shares ended in the green. Bajaj Finserv rallied the most by 5.47 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance which jumped 4.86 per cent.

IndusInd Bank jumped 4.38 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 3.96 per cent, ICICI Bank by



3.72 per cent, Kotak Mahindra Bank by 3.46 per cent, Tata Steel by 3.29 per cent and HDFC by 3.28 per cent.

Gains in Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Infosys, TCS, HUL, SBI, Axis Bank and ITC fuelled the rally. "Today's rebound indicates the domestic economy's resilience in comparison to its global peers.

Although the markets are currently at premium valuations, continued support from foreign investors aided domestic stocks to inch higher," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. A correction in crude oil prices and losses in the US dollar in the global markets also boosted the investor sentiment, analysts said.

"Markets made a remarkable recovery and gained over two-and-a-half per cent amid

mixed global cues. After the gap-up start, the benchmark moved from strength to strength till the end and settled around the day's high," Ajit Mishra, VP-Research, Religare Broking, said.

All the sectoral indices participated in the move wherein banking and financials contributed the maximum. In line with the trend, the market breadth was also inclined strongly on the advancing side, he said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.97 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.40 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices ended in the green, with realty rallying 3.51 per cent, bank advanced 3.33 per cent, finance jumped 3.18 per cent, utilities (2.82 per cent), power (2.82 per cent) and oil & gas (2.65 per cent).

# India to become high-income nation by 2047: EAC-PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM) on Tuesday released the India@100 roadmap that aims to guide the country's progress toward becoming a "higher-income nation" in the next 25 years.

The 'Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100' was released by Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman EAC-PM, Amitabh Kant, Sherpa, G20, Sanjeev Sanyal, Member, EAC-PM, and Professor at Harvard Business School Christian Ketels.

The roadmap is a collaborative endeavour between the EAC-PM and The Institute for Competitiveness and is developed by Dr Amit Kapoor, Chair, Institute for Competitiveness, Professor Michael E. Porter and Dr Christian Ketels.

It envisions setting new guiding principles for the country's growth journey over the following years and guiding different states, ministries and partners in India's growth to develop sector-specific roadmaps for achieving targeted goals.

The Competitiveness approach puts forth the idea of productivity as a driver of sustained prosperity. It emphasizes the context that a nation is able to provide firms to be more productive and for individuals to be able to partake in the value generated through their productivity, said a government press statement.

Based on this approach, the India@100 roadmap guides the way for India to become a high-income country by 2047 through sector-specific and region-specific policies.

The roadmap sets out to give new guiding principles that are based on clearly defined overall goals and the articulation of a new development approach embedded in integrating social and economic agendas.

The '4 S' guiding principles redefine our approach to attaining prosperity by stressing the need for prosperity growth to be matched by social progress, to be shared across all regions within India, to be environmentally sustainable, and to be solid in the face of external shocks.

By capturing these four important aspects, the '4 S' guiding principles pave the way for resilient and holistic development, said the statement.



# FinMin undertakes performance review of PSU banks; takes stock of financial inclusion drive



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday reviewed the performance of public sector banks (PSBs) in the backdrop of the first quarter numbers and asked them to step up lending to productive sectors of the economy.

The meeting chaired by Financial Services Secretary Sanjay Malhotra also deliberated on the need to cut non-performing assets and drive financial inclusion, sources said.

Managing directors and executive directors of all public sector banks who participated in the meeting were asked to focus on credit growth during the festive season, beginning in September.

# Goyal reviews ongoing free trade agreement negotiations



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday held a meeting to review the ongoing negotiations on different Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to fast-track the talks in order to boost exports and investments.

Deliberations on ways to fast-track negotiations are on "to achieve mutually beneficial FTAs, paving the way for increased exports, investments & people to people ties", according to a tweet by Goyal's office.

India is negotiating trade agreements with countries including the UK, Canada, Israel and European Union. Talks with the UK are expected to conclude this month.

In a trade pact, two or more countries either significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. Besides, they also relax norms to promote trade in services and attract investments.

India has so far implemented trade pacts with nations including the UAE, Singapore and Japan.

# Gold falls ₹66; silver up marginally

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price in the national Capital on Tuesday fell ₹66 to ₹51,469 per 10 grams amid rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at ₹51,535 per 10 grams. Silver, however, gained marginally by ₹4 to ₹55,550 per kilogram from ₹55,546 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24-carat gold in Delhi fell by ₹66 per 10 grams on sharp rupee appreciation despite steady COMEX prices," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

The rupee appreciated 7 paise to 79.84 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday in line with a positive trend in domestic equities.

# Rupee rises 47 paise to close at 79.44 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 47 paise to close at 79.44 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, supported by a firm trend in domestic equities.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.92 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 79.44 and a low of 79.92 against the American currency during the session.

It finally ended at 79.44 against the US dollar, up 47 paise from its previous close of 79.91.

In the previous session, the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 79.91 against the American dollar. The rupee fell to its all-time low of 80.15 against the US dollar in intra-day trade.

Meanwhile, the dollar



index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.06 per cent to 108.76.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 2.23 per cent to USD 102.75 per barrel.

"Indian rupee outperformed among the regional currencies following month-end rebalancing inflows and recovery in risk assets on the expectation of inflows. Most of the Asian currencies firmed after a sharp drop on Monday," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

# Accenture invests in hyperspectral satellite firm Pixxel

New Delhi: IT services firm Accenture has made a strategic investment, via Accenture Ventures, in Pixxel, a startup specialising in cutting-edge earth imaging technology.

Based in Bengaluru with a presence in Los Angeles, Pixxel is building high resolution 'hyperspectral' imaging satellite constellation to offer industry AI (Artificial Intelligence) powered insights that discover, solve and predict climate issues at a fraction of the cost of traditional satellites, a statement said.

Pixxel's satellites have the ability to capture images and reveal key data about the health of the planet. The company's planned constellation of 'hyperspectral' satellites will reshape how businesses across agriculture, defence, mining, environmental, and other critical industries make decisions on a global level. PTI

# Share pledging case: SAT quashes NSE, CDSL orders against Kotak Mahindra Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has quashed orders passed by stock exchange NSE and depository CDSL against Kotak Mahindra Bank in share pledging case pertaining to Arcadia Share and Stock Brokers.

Quashing the directions, the appellate tribunal said that National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Central Depository Services (India) Ltd or CDSL had no powers to issue directions to a non-trading member.

In February 2021, the NSE had directed the lender not to invoke the pledge of the securities till the ownership of the pledged securities are ascertained in the demat account of Arcadia Share and Stock Brokers. Thereafter, CDSL imposed



a debit freeze, prohibiting the lender from invoking the pledged shares and recovering its dues. Following these orders, Kotak Mahindra Bank approached the appellate tribunal.

In its order, SAT said that respondent (NSE) as a stock exchange has jurisdiction only against its trading members and cannot issue any directions to any other entity including the appellant (Kotak Mahindra Bank) who is not the trading member.

# 'Audi maintaining high double-digit sales growth target in India this year'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



same period last year.

"No doubt, the first half was good. We are looking at high double-digit growth, but how much it will be I cannot say right now because the global challenges are still not over," Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon told PTI on Tuesday.

The supply chain is still not 100 per cent sorted out with the semiconductor shortage and shipment issues still lingering, besides energy prices in Europe posing new challenges, he added.

# Govt may invite financial bids for Shipping Corp sale in March quarter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is likely to invite financial bids for privatisation of state-owned Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) in the March quarter, an official said.

"The demerger of non-core and land assets of Shipping Corporation is at an advanced stage. The process is expected to be over in about three months' time, after which financial bids will be invited," the official told PTI.

The financial bids from potential investors are expected in the January-March quarter, the official added.

In May, the board of Shipping Corp had approved

an updated demerger scheme for hiving off the non-core assets of SCI to Shipping Corporation of India Land and Assets Ltd (SCILAL) including Shipping House, Mumbai and MTI (Maritime Training Institute), Powai to complete the process of de-merging all the non-core assets to the new company SCILAL.

As per the balance sheet of SCI, the value of non-core assets held for demerger as of March 31, 2022, stood at ₹2,392 crore.

In March 2021, the government had received multiple bids for privatisation of Shipping Corporation of India. However, the demerger process got delayed.

# CIL has not raised prices in 4 yrs, Coal India chairman says at AGM

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Coal India Ltd on Tuesday said the miner has not raised prices of the dry fuel in the last four years to ensure its supply at competitive prices to consumers compared to the international market.

While addressing shareholders at the company's 48th AGM, chairman Pramod Agrawal said that the CIL is committed to increase its production and supplies to the mandated levels to ensure that the country gets power at a "just" price.

Coal India meets 80 per cent of the country's dry fuel requirement.

"At a time when international coal prices are much higher, Coal India continues to supply its coal to Indian consumers at highly competitive

prices, with no price increase over the last four years," Agrawal said without elaborating.

The CIL chief had said earlier that the company was in discussion with all "stakeholders" on revising coal prices in the wake of a jump in operational cost.



# Coal companies to bring more than 2,400 ha area under green cover this yr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Coal companies are hopeful of beating this year's target of bringing more than 2,400 hectares of area in and around coalfields under green cover by

planting more than 50 lakh saplings, the government said on Tuesday.

Greening initiatives of the coal sector will help generate an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Greening drive is in full swing in coal mining areas and about 1,000 Ha of land has already been covered through block and avenue plantation, grassland creation, bamboo plantation and high-tech cultivation by August 15.

"With the achievements made so far, coal companies are confident of surpassing this year's greening targets," the coal ministry said in a statement.

# Housing prices rise in 42 cities in Q1 of FY23: NHB

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing prices rose in 42 cities in the first quarter of 2022-23, while the rates of residential units fell in five cities and remained stable in three cities, according to the price index Residex released by NHB.

All the eight major metros recorded an increase in the index on an annual basis -- Ahmedabad (13.5 per cent), Bengaluru (3.4 per cent), Chennai (12.5 per cent), Delhi (7.5 per cent), Hyderabad (11.5

per cent), Kolkata (6.1 per cent), Mumbai (2.9 per cent) and Pune (3.6 per cent), National Housing Bank (NHB) Residex said.

On a sequential basis, the 50-city index registered an expansion of 1.7 per cent in April-June 2022 against 2.6 per cent in the previous quarter, it said, adding the index is showing an increasing trend on a quarter-on-quarter basis since June 21.

The annual change in HPI at Assessment Price varied widely across the cities -- rang-



ing from an increase of 16.1 per cent (Coimbatore) to a decline of 5.1 per cent (Navi Mumbai).

The housing Price Index

(HPI) tracks the movement in prices of residential properties in select 50 cities on a quarterly basis with FY 2017-18 as the base year.

The 50-city HPI at Market Price for under-construction properties computed using the quoted prices for under-construction and ready-to-move unsold properties, also recorded an annual increase (year-on-year) of 5.7 per cent in the quarter ended June 2022 against 1.9 per cent a year ago, backed by the rising cost of building materials.

# Electric vehicles on Indian roads to touch 5cr by 2030; big opportunity for EV charging

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The total number of electric vehicles on Indian roads is likely to touch 5 crore by 2030, presenting an enormous opportunity for players in the charging ecosystem, according to a report by consultancy firm KPMG.

A large increase in electric vehicles (EV) sales is anticipated in India due to favourable factors on demand, supply and regulatory front despite a low penetration level

of about 1 per cent currently, KPMG said in its report -- Electric vehicle charging -- the next big opportunity.

According to the report, India's electric mobility story is rapidly evolving, with EVs gradually entering the mainstream, resulting in a three-fold rise in EV sales over the last fiscal year. The growth is currently being led by two-wheeler (2W), three-wheeler (3W), and bus segments.

"As of March 2022, the number of EVs on Indian



roads had surpassed one million. This number is likely to grow to 45-50 million EVs on road by 2030," it said.

This presents an enormous

opportunity for players in the EV charging ecosystem. "Currently, only about 1,700 public charging stations are operational across the country which is inadequate to support the EV growth," the report added.

There has been a strong government push to improve penetration of charging networks and increasing interest from public and private players, which is likely to bring in the much-required investments in this space, it said.

# SERENA NOT DONE YET

## Tennis legend wins her US Open first round match on emotional night

AP ■ NEW YORK

Serena Williams delayed her farewell to tennis on an electrifying opening night at the US Open on Monday as the sporting icon battled to victory in front of a star-studded crowd.

The 23-time Grand Slam winner — who earlier this month signalled she plans to retire from tennis after the tournament — drew on all of her experience to down lowly ranked Montenegrin opponent Danka Kovinic 6-3, 6-3.

A galaxy of celebrities ranging from Hollywood stars, fashion icons and former presidents were out in force at Flushing Meadows' Arthur Ashe Stadium to watch could have been Williams final appearance in a Grand Slam singles match.

But the 40-year-old ensured that her legions of fans will have at least one more chance to savor her talents as she dug out victory despite an error-strewn display.

"I feel so comfortable on this court and in front of everyone here," a jubilant Williams said after her victory.

"The crowd was crazy - they really helped pull me through. I was really pumped," added Williams, who won the first of her Grand Slam titles in the same arena in 1999 as a 17-year-old prodigy.

Williams admitted that deciding to walk away from the sport after 27 years as a professional was "such a hard decision."

"I think when you are passionate about something it is always hard to walk away," she said. "I have been trying to decide what to do. I love this game."

"But I was just like 'Alright, I think now's the time'. I have a family, there's other chapters



in life. I call it evolution."

Williams later refused to be definitive about her retirement however when asked if the US Open would be her last tournament, teasing the possibility that she may yet play on.

"I've been pretty vague about it, right?" she said. "I'm going to stay vague because you never know."

In other women's draw action on Monday, former world number one Simona Halep, seeded seventh, was the biggest casualty in the first round, crashing out 6-2, 0-6, 6-4 to Ukrainian qualifier Daria Snigur.

But there were no such problems for US teenager and 12th seed Coco Gauff, who cruised past France's Leolia Jeanjean 6-2, 6-3.

Meanwhile the men's draw got under way with a stunning upset for Greek fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, who was bundled out by Colombian qualifier Daniel Elahi Galan 6-0, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.

### REVENGE FOR DANIIL

Daniil Medvedev launched the defence of his US Open crown with a straight sets victory over lowly ranked American Stefan Kozlov.

World number one Medvedev, bidding to become the first man to successfully defend the US Open since Roger Federer in 2008, eased into the second round with a 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 win in 2hrs 1min.

Victory was sweet for Medvedev, who revealed he had regularly struggled to beat Kozlov when the two played at junior level.

"He was almost impossible to beat," said the Russian, citing one encounter where his opponent "destroyed me."

"I was happy to get my revenge today," Medvedev added.

### 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Andy Murray marked the 10th anniversary of his maiden Grand Slam triumph with an impressive US Open straight sets win over Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo on Monday.

The 35-year-old Murray defeated the 24th seed 7-5, 6-3, 6-3, showing no signs of recent cramping problems which plagued his hardcourt summer.

"It felt like five sets," said Murray after his first straight sets victory at the Slams since Wimbledon in 2017.



## 2019 champ Bianca shrugs off wardrobe malfunction in win

AP ■ NEW YORK

A hasty change of outfit worked wonders for Bianca Andreescu as she powered into the second round of the US Open on Monday.

The 22-year-old Canadian star, winner of the US Open crown in 2019, overcame Harmony Tan 6-0, 3-6, 6-1 to keep alive her dream of a second Grand Slam title.

However the victory was not without drama as a flustered Andreescu scrambled to change her clothing.

The former world number four arrived on court in a navy blue skirt, but with gusts of wind blowing her outfit around, she pleaded with the chair umpire to make a change.

"It's not my fault, it's Nike's fault, this dress is so bad," Andreescu could be heard complaining. "I need to go. This is so bad."

She quickly returned to the court wearing shorts

and a white top and set about navigating her way past Tan, who made headlines in June when she beat Serena Williams at Wimbledon.

Andreescu later explained her change of outfit after securing victory.

"It was just bothering me on some forehands. I just felt like it was kind of coming up a bit. Obviously the wind didn't help," she said.

She said she had pleaded with the umpire not to dock her a bathroom break — which he agreed to — and said she had not intended to criticise kit manufacturer Nike.

"He was very nice to say it was totally okay," she said. "I could have definitely used a different choice of wording."

"So I apologize to anyone I disrespected. I love Nike and I hope I can be with them for the rest of my life."

## Wu Yibing 1st Chinese man to win Slam match since 1959

AP ■ NEW YORK

Wu Yibing on Monday became the first Chinese man in 63 years to win a singles match at a Grand Slam when he knocked 31st seed Nikoloz Basilashvili out of the US Open.

Wu, 22, triumphed 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 in the opening round, firing nine aces in his 31 win-

ners past his Georgian opponent.

Mei Fu Chi, at Wimbledon in 1959, was the last Chinese man to win a match at the majors.

Wu, ranked 174 and who came through qualifying, is also the first Chinese man to win a US Open singles match since Cheng Guy in 1935.

"It's happy and exciting but still more matches to

come," Wu told atptour.com.

"The third set, I don't know if he was hurting or something. I just tried to make all the balls and tried to stay in the game, not thinking about winning or losing."

"That's why I guess I didn't show much emotions. I feel pretty calm."

Wu was the 2017 junior champion in New York but his professional career has

been dogged by injuries and he was sidelined completely from March 2019 until January 2022.

He was ranked a lowly 1,869 in March but has now won 14 successive matches.

Wu next faces Portuguese qualifier Nuno Borges who defeated United States of America wildcard Ben Shelton 7-6(8/6), 3-6, 7-6(5/7), 6-7(8/10), 6-3.

## Sharath Kamal opts out of World C'hips, Sathiyam to lead squad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's triple Gold medallist at the recent Commonwealth Games, Sharath Kamal, has opted out of next month's World Table Tennis Championships in China, citing personal reasons.

The event will be played in Chengdu from September 30 to October 9.

The 40-year-old Sharath had won the men's singles, mixed doubles and team title in the Birmingham Games.

G Sathiyam, the top-ranked Indian in the world at No. 37, will spearhead the country's challenge in the men's section while world No. 44 Manika Batra will lead the women's team.

Manika will be aiming for an improved performance after an underwhelming campaign at the CWG.

"National men and women coaches S. Raman and Anindita Chakraborty, Chris Adrian Pfeiffer (personal coach of Manika) and masseur Harmeet Kaur will be the other members of the contingent," Table Tennis Federation of India said.



"Unfortunately, however, the Birmingham CWG multiple medallist A Sharath Kamal has opted out of the team, citing personal reasons."

The Indian team is expected to leave for Chengdu on September 25.

### INDIAN TEAM

**Men:** G Sathiyam, Sanil Shetty, Harmeet Desai, Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar.

**Women:** Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, Reeth Rishya, Diya Chitale and Swastika Ghosh.

**Coaches:** S Raman and Anindita Chakraborty/Chris Adrian Pfeiffer (personal coach).

**Masseur:** Harmeet Kaur.

## VAR technology to make debut in U-17 Women's WC in India



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The upcoming Under-17 Women's World Cup in India will see the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology making its debut in the age-group showpiece, world football governing body FIFA announced on Tuesday.

The prestigious tournament, which was given the go-ahead by FIFA after lifting the 11-day-long suspension on All India Football Federation (AIFF), will be held in Bhubaneswar (Kalinga Stadium), Margao (JLN

Stadium) and Navi Mumbai (DY Patil Stadium) from October 11-30.

"The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup will give us important and significant insights into the qualities of the match officials who have been appointed. We are very happy that, also for the first time, VAR technology will be used at a FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup," said FIFA's Head of Women Refereeing Kari Seitz.

"This event will be another great opportunity to showcase the skills of the appointed VARs

and continue the development of our female VARs as part of the Road to Australia/New Zealand 2023 project," she said in a FIFA statement.

The VAR technology supports the decision-making process of the referee in four game-changing situations: goals and offences leading up to a goal, penalty decisions and offences leading up to a penalty, direct red card incidents, and mistaken identity.

Throughout a match, the VAR team constantly checks for clear and obvious errors related to these four match-changing situations. The VAR team communicates with the referee only for clear and obvious mistakes or serious missed incidents.

The U-17 Women's World Cup in India will be the third FIFA women's tournament to utilise VAR following the U-20 Women's World Cup Costa Rica 2022 and the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019.

This will be the second time the VAR technology will be used in India, the first one being from the quarterfinal stage of the AFC Women's Asian Cup the country hosted in January-February this year.

## PL: Bournemouth sack Scott Parker

AP ■ LONDON



English Premier League strugglers Bournemouth on Tuesday sacked head coach Scott Parker, days after they were thrashed 9-0 at Liverpool.

In a parting shot at Parker, owner Maxim Demin said in a statement that "in order for us to keep progressing as a team and a club as a whole, it is unconditional that we are aligned in our strategy to run the club sustainably."

"We must also show belief in and respect for one another." Parker had taken several public swipes at Bournemouth's management over their failure to strengthen the squad after their return to the top flight.

Gary O'Neil will take inter-

im charge of the team, who are 17th in the Premier League and have lost three of their four opening games, conceding 16 goals. The 41-year-old Parker, a former England international midfielder, had taken Bournemouth to promotion last season from the second-tier Championship.

## Man Utd to sign Brazil forward Antony for 100m euros

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United have reached an agreement to sign Brazil forward Antony from Ajax, the English Premier League club announced on Tuesday.

Ajax said they have agreed a transfer fee of 95 million euros (£81 million). Including add-ons, the fee could rise to 100 million euros (£86 million).

Dutch national news agency ANP said that if the deal goes through, it will be a record for an Eredivisie player, surpassing the 86 million euros maximum value of Frenkie de Jong's move from Ajax to Barcelona three years ago. Antony has scored 31 goals in 134 club appearances for Ajax and Sao Paulo, and two goals in nine senior appearances for Brazil.

By moving to Old Trafford,



**AJAX SAID THEY HAVE AGREED ON TRANSFER FEE OF 95 MILLION EUROS. INCLUDING ADD-ONS, THE FEE COULD RISE TO 100 MILLION EUROS**

the 22-year-old will be reunited with former Ajax manager Erik ten Hag, who has already brought defender Lisandro Martinez to United from the Dutch giants.

The transfer window closes on Thursday evening, when United will be in Leicester seeking a third successive Premier League victory. It is unlikely Antony will be involved against the Foxes, currently bottom of the table.

United started the season with humiliating defeats by Brighton and Brentford only to bounce back with a 2-1 win over bitter rivals Liverpool and last weekend's tough 1-0 win away to Southampton.

Martinez, Tyrell Malacia, Christian Eriksen and Casemiro have already arrive at Old Trafford during this transfer window.

## Newcastle in race against time to have Isak available for Liverpool

AP ■ NEWCASTLE

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe is "desperately hoping" club record signing Alexander Isak is available for Wednesday's Premier League match away to Liverpool.

Sweden striker Isak, signed for a reported £58 million (\$68 million) from Real Sociedad, was unable to make his debut at Wolves on Sunday because his work permit had not been processed.

Newcastle are still awaiting the documentation.



Asked on Tuesday if Isak would be available at Anfield, Howe replied: "We don't

know, we still don't know and I still don't know. I hope so, I desperately hope so."

"It would be great to see him involved for us, but we're in the hands still of other people."

"We're desperately hoping that gets done before the game, but there's no guarantee as I sit here now."

Howe said he believed the cut off point was quite late: "I think it's 75 minutes before kick-off."

"We don't know, so it could go down to the wire. We'll wait and see."



two-year deal to play for Valencia, the Spanish top-flight club said on Monday.

The 35-year-old Uruguayan was a free agent after leaving Manchester United, whom he joined from Paris Saint-Germain, where he scored 200 goals.

"Valencia CF have reached an agreement to sign Edinson Cavani for the next two seasons until the 13th of June 2024," the club said announcing the news.

Cavani has also scored 58 goals in 133 appearances for Uruguay and has expressed his desire to play at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Valencia are coached by

Italy's Gennaro Gattuso, who won the Italian Cup with Napoli in 2020.

### PAQUETA JOINS WEST HAM

Brazil international Lucas Paqueta joined West Ham for a club-record fee of £61.6 million (\$61.6 million) on Monday, ending his two-year stint at French team Lyon.

Lyon said the fee included £18.7 million in bonuses spread over the player's five-year contract.

Paqueta played against West Ham in the Europa League last season. He previously played for AC Milan.

# India ready to steamroll Hong Kong

PTI ■ DUBAI

KL Rahul couldn't have wished for an easier opposition to get his rhythm back as a buoyant India get ready to steamroll minnows Hong Kong in their second and final group league game of the Asia Cup here on Wednesday.

The Group A match won't be more than a glorified net session for Rohit Sharma's men against a team, mostly comprising Pakistani and Indian expats, who otherwise are not good enough to play first-class cricket in either of the two nations.

After a hard earned victory over Pakistan in a last over thriller, scripted by Hardik Pandya, the focus against Hong Kong will be on batters and their adequate game time.

Rahul, whose first T20I in 2022 was against Pakistan the other night, would want to come out all guns blazing and may take this opportunity to try an alternate batting approach at the onset, compared to what has been his style at the IPL.

In T20Is, teams are going for impact performance and often a 20 ball 45 is of greater value than a 90 not out of 65 balls.

Quality of an innings and its significance in the larger context of the game is more important at this stage as India get ready for the T20 World Cup to be hosted by Australia from October 16 to November 13.

Obviously, the quality of Hong Kong bowling, to put it politely, won't match up to Pakistan, but there is always a fear as one doesn't exactly know what to expect from an unknown entity.

Hence, it is important that Rahul uses this opportunity to the fullest to gain his confidence before the start of the Super Fours and business end of the tournament.

Skipper Rohit has made it clear that experimentation will continue and hence one shouldn't be surprised if there is another batting order that could be tried out on Wednesday.



India vs Hong Kong  
Live from 7:30pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

For Virat Kohli, the Hong Kong match will be all about another quality hitting time in the middle against an attack that is sure to feel intimidated by his sheer presence in the middle.

Even Rohit, after a subdued game against Pakistan, would like to deposit a few into the stands.

It would be interesting to see if Ravindra Jadeja is sent at No. 4 position against Hong Kong or whether Rishabh Pant is tried in place of Dinesh Karthik, just to give him some game time.

While India's top-order went back to its old safety first approach against Pakistan, it had a lot to do

with the quality of attack on display even without Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Perhaps, one could safely judge whether India's all-out attacking display in powerplay can work or not, only when they play against attacks which have more depth than England, West Indies or Sri Lanka. So, the real judge of the batting

THE GROUP A MATCH WON'T BE MORE THAN A GLORIFIED NET SESSION FOR ROHIT SHARMA'S MEN AGAINST A TEAM, MOSTLY COMPRISING PAKISTANI AND INDIAN EXPATS, WHO OTHERWISE ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO PLAY FIRST-CLASS CRICKET IN EITHER OF THE TWO NATIONS

order's attacking mindset will only be proved against sides like Australia, Pakistan, South Africa and New Zealand.

Games like Hong Kong does help in beefing up stats and no player would like to sit out.

Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravi Bishnoi could also get a look in, letting Yuzvendra Chahal and Jadeja cool their heels a bit.

## TEAMS (FROM)

**India:** Rohit Sharma (c), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Deepak Hooda, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan.

**Hong Kong:** Nizakat Khan (c), Kinchit Shah, Aftab Hussain, Aizaz Khan, Ateeq Iqbal, Babar Hayat, Dhananjay Rao, Ehsan Khan, Haroon Arshad, Scott McKechnie, Ghazanfar Mohammad, Mohammad Waheed, Ayush Shukla, Ahan Trivedi, Wajid Shah, Yasim Murtaza, Zeeshan Ali.



## I was mentally ready to bat at No. 4: Jadeja

PTI ■ DUBAI

His promotion to number four in the batting order was a masterstroke from the team management and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who made a crucial 29-ball 35 in India's tense win over arch-rivals Pakistan, on Tuesday said he was "mentally ready" for the challenge.

Against Pakistan, Jadeja came out to bat after opener KL Rahul and captain Rohit Sharma got out for nought and 12 respectively. He shared 52 runs with Hardik Pandya (33 not out) for the fifth wicket before the latter took India past the target of 149.

"Of course (I knew it coming)... I knew such a situation would come after seeing their playing XI. I was mentally ready. Luckily, I scored those crucial runs for the team," Jadeja said of India's famous five-wicket win against Pakistan in the Asia Cup opener on Sunday. "I was the only leftie in the top-seven, sometimes when left-arm spinners and leg-spinners are bowling, it's easy for a left hander to take chances.

"I just play according to the situation whenever I go out there. In T20, you don't have much time to think, you

just go out there and express yourself. I just have to score runs while batting and give breakthroughs when it's needed."

Asked if it (his batting at No. 4) is the way forward, Jadeja said: "It depends on the situation and the opponent bowlers."

Jadeja was promoted to negate the spin duo of Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz as both of them turned the ball away from a right-hander. The move paid off as Jadeja took India out of trouble after they lost Rohit and Virat Kohli (35) for the addition of just three runs to be 53/3 inside 10 overs.

Jadeja consolidated India's chase with a 36-run stand with Suryakumar Yadav (18) in the middle overs before he and Hardik put on the match-winning 52-run partnership.

Asked what he and Hardik discussed while batting, he said: "India-Pakistan matches are always high pressure games. You have high expectations.

"I don't think there was anything much to discuss, such things happen in T20 format. Everyone contributed in batting, bowling and catches. There was not much to discuss and dissect."

# Nobody can fill Jhulan's shoes: Harman



PTI ■ BENGALURU

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur on Tuesday paid a glowing tribute to Jhulan Goswami, saying the veteran pacer's passion for the sport is unmatched and "nobody can fill her shoes".

The 39-year-old, who is leading wicket-taker in international cricket in a career spanning more than two decades, is set to retire after the third and final ODI against England at Lord's on September 24.

"She goes to every game with the same kind of passion which is unmatched, nobody can beat that," Harmanpreet said in a media interaction here on the eve of their departure

## 'Power-hitters KP, Hemalatha can fill gaps team was lacking'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Uncapped power-hitters Kiran Prabhuv Navgire and Dayalan Hemalatha, who are in the Indian squad for the upcoming white ball tour of England, can fill the "gaps the team was lacking" in slog overs, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said on Tuesday.

Navgire, who smashed the fastest fifty in the Women's T20 Challenge in May, got her maiden India call-up for the three-match T20Is.

Off-spin all-rounder Hemalatha was recalled after two years on the back of a strong domestic season to be named in both the T20I and ODI squads for the England tour.

"We have added two new batters KP (Navgire) and Hemlatha. We can work on these two players who have

got that skill-set.

"They can bring a lot to the team," Harmanpreet said.

"They have the power, the skill. If we can work on them and add some more skills to their personal game that would really help our team to fill in the gaps the team is lacking right now."

Maharashtra batter Navgire, who plays for Nagaland, first hogged the limelight with her unbeaten 162 against Arunachal Pradesh in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy earlier this year before she was roped in by the Velocity team in the Women's T20 Challenge.

Hemalatha, who last played a T20I in 2019, had a fruitful domestic season, finishing fourth on the T20 run charts with 272 runs — the highest for a player batting outside the top three.

"I've seen the way they batted in

the domestic season. It's the right platform for them to bring in something which team was lacking.

No matter whatever format you play, you at least need six batters in the side," Harmanpreet said.

"We were lacking in the area because we didn't have those batters in the side. But now we have added two more extra batters (KP and Hemlatha). We want to give them opportunity," the Indian skipper added.

India's tour of England begins on September 10 and features three T20Is and three ODIs.

With the T20 World Cup due in February next year, Harmanpreet said the team management would look to give everyone "maximum opportunities" to identify the core of the side.



## Smith eyes T20 World Cup spot

PTI ■ TOWNSVILLE

Veteran Steve Smith is enjoying his revamped batting role and believes he can play a part in Australia's title defence at the T20 World Cup to be held at home later this year, if he continues in the same vein.

Smith was pegionholed as a sheet anchor in T20 cricket, including during Australia's maiden T20 World Cup-winning campaign in the UAE last year.

However, during the tour of Sri Lanka in June, the 33-year-old was relieved from his Mr. Fix It' tag by the team management, giving him the green light to go and play freely.

"I feel like when I'm playing good T20 cricket, I'm in that team (T20 World Cup) for sure," Smith was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au on Tuesday.

"The role that I've been given the last couple of years is the 'Mr. Fix It' role and that tag's

been taken away from me now."

The right-hander feels he can now play his natural game in the shortest format without any hesitation.

"For the Sri Lanka tour, and I felt like I could go out and just play with a lot more freedom and naturally and not have any kind of hesitation in the back of my mind.

"I can just take the game on and if I want to smack someone for six first ball, then I'm able to do that freely," Smith added.

With the emergence of the likes of Mitchell Marsh (who now occupies the No.3 spot that once belonged to Smith), Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis, Smith's position had been rendered doubtful in T20s.

In the series against Sri Lanka, Smith batted twice in the three T20s, scoring five off four in the second match before playing an unbeaten 37 off 27 balls in the third game.



## Rajkumar appointed as Delhi team chief for National Games

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Olympic Association has appointed Rajkumar as the Delhi team chief for the National Games to be held in Gujarat. He is the Senior Assistant Secretary in the Delhi Olympic Association.

Not only this, Rajkumar has also been a swimming player. He is also the Senior Vice President of Swimming Federation of India.

His name was announced by Delhi Olympic Association President Kuldeep Vats and General Secretary Rakesh Gupta. National Games are being organised after seven years.

Rajkumar told that the Delhi Olympic Association has given him the responsibility. He will try to complete it successfully. It will be his endeavor that Delhi performs better in the National Games.

National Games are to be organised in Gujarat from September 29 to October 10. In these games.

## Disney Star sub-licences ICC TV rights to Zee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Disney Star on Tuesday signed a licensing agreement with Zee, allowing the latter to broadcast all ICC men's and U-19 events for the 2024-2027 cycle.

The digital rights for ICC events remain with Disney Star. The current ICC rights holders had made the winning bid of around \$3 billion to secure the rights for Indian market last week.

The deal will enable Zee to broadcast ICC men's events, including the 2024 and 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, 2025 Champions Trophy and the ODI World Cup in 2027.

The two media companies will also get to share the

financial burden under this agreement.

"This is a first-of-its-kind partnership in the Indian media & entertainment landscape, and this association with Disney Star reflects our sharp, strategic vision for the sports business India.

"As a one-stop television destination for ICC men's cricket events until 2027, ZEE will leverage the strength of its network to offer a compelling experience for its viewers and a great return on investment for its advertisers," said Zee MD and CEO Punit Goenka in a statement.

Disney Star had emerged winners at the bidding table last week after staving off a strong challenge from Viacom 18, Sony Sports and Zee.

## Prannoy advances to last 16 in Japan

PTI ■ OSAKA

Indian shuttler HS Prannoy moved into the men's singles pre-quarter-finals of the Japan Open after his opponent Ng Ka Long Angus retired hurt midway in the first round here on Tuesday.

The unseeded Prannoy was narrowly leading the first game 11-10 when the world number 12 player from Hong Kong threw in the towel within seven minutes of their men's singles opener.

The world number 18 Indian will now take on former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the second round.

Prannoy had been in fine form at the BWF World Championships in Tokyo last week, stunning two-time world champion Kento Momota before getting the better of compatriot and Commonwealth Games gold medalist Lakshya Sen.



However, his stellar run ended in the quarterfinals as he lost to China's Zhao Junpeng.

In women's doubles, India's Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam lost 15-21, 9-21 against Korea's Yu Lim Lee and Ha Na Baek in the round of

32.

There were just two matches featuring Indians on Tuesday. On Wednesday, though, the likes of Lakshya Sen, Srikanth Kidambi, Saina Nehwal and Dhruv-Kapila-MR Arjun will begin their campaigns.

## Focus is on winning Nations Cup: Deep

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian women's hockey vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka on Tuesday said the Birmingham Commonwealth Games Bronze medal is a thing of the past now and the team is focussing on winning this year's FIH Nations Cup, a qualifier for next season's Pro League.

India, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, South Africa and hosts Spain are the eight participating teams in the Nations Cup to be held in Valencia from December 10 to 17.

The winner of the tournament will directly qualify for next season's FIH Pro League.

"We did well in Birmingham, but now that is a closed chapter. We have had a good break and

now we have to get back to work. I am sure chief coach Janneke Schopman will assess our previous performance and plan the upcoming days in camp accordingly," Ekka said.

"We have to do well in Spain in the FIH Women's Hockey Nations Cup, and for that the preparation begins from today. It won't be easy but training hard and doing the right things repeatedly during our sessions is the only thing we can do," she explained. The Indian women had finished a creditable third in their debut FIH Pro League outing in 2021-22 season.

