

**OPINION 6**  
COMMON 'ENEMY'  
NO 1' IS CHINA

**WORLD 8**  
WINTER OF DISCONTENT FOR  
RUSSIAN TROOPS

**MONEY 10**  
SENSEX SURRENDERS EARLY  
GAINS AS IT STOCKS CRACK

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QUARTERS TODAY  
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## Pratibha leads HP CM race; Gandhis to decide

Cong won in name of Virbhadra, so it should choose CM from family: Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/SHIMLA

After day-long parleys, a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party in Himachal Pradesh passed a resolution authorising the party high command to pick the CLP leader who will be the next Chief Minister of the State.

Sources indicated the "high command" means Congress' first family Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said views of newly-elected MLAs in Himachal Pradesh are being sought to bring out consensus on who will be their leader.

Sources said front runner for the top job is Pratibha Singh, Congress MP and the wife of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh.

While interacting with the media, she indicated she is in the race for the top job. Congress workers raised slogans in support of Singh, who is also the State party chief.

Former State chief of the party Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and outgoing legislature party



Himachal Pradesh Congress President Pratibha Singh being congratulated by supporters after the party's victory in the State Assembly elections, in Shimla on Friday

leader Mukesh Agnihotri are also among the frontrunners for the Chief Minister's post.

"It will be only between Pratibha or her confidant Mukesh," a member involved in

the day's proceedings told *The Pioneer* over phone.

Throughout the day Congress observers Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former

Chief Minister of Haryana Bhopinder Singh Hooda and AICC incharge for Himachal Pradesh Rajeev Shukla conducted several rounds of meeting. They also met the State Governor and also attended the CLP meeting.

Senior Haryana Congress leader Karan Singh Dalal was also part of the Congress delegation which met the Governor. A separate meeting was held between the Congress observers and Pratibha Singh at a hotel.

Before the observers went to meet the Governor, their vehicle was surrounded for a few minutes by the supporters of Pratibha. They raised slogans that the Chief Minister should be from the family of Virbhadra.

Similar sloganeering was witnessed outside the Congress office. Pratibha too told a section of media that when the party has won and brought votes in the name of Virbhadra then it cannot shy away from choosing a CM candidate from the family.

"I am not in the race for the top post but my mother is one of the contenders for the post of chief minister," her son and Congress MLA from Shimla Rural Vikramaditya Singh said. He added that "collective will of MLAs will be kept in mind and then observers will convey the same to the high command".

## Mayor from AAP as it got mandate, says BJP

BJP will play role of strong Opposition, says party Delhi chief

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking U-turn from their position on the election of the Delhi Mayor after their defeat in the MCD polls, the Delhi BJP on Friday said the next Mayor will be from the AAP as it got the majority and the BJP will play the role of a "strong Opposition".

"The AAP has got the people's mandate, so they can have their mayor. We extend them good wishes," Delhi BJP chief Adarsh Gupta said when asked if his party would contest the mayoral poll. He was addressing a Press conference with Leader of Opposition the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri.

"The vote percentage of the BJP has increased by around three per cent since the last municipal corporation elections of 2017 when the party got 36.08 per cent of the votes," Gupta added. He also said the BJP secured around 40 per cent of the votes, losing by just over 2 percentage points.

Despite the AAP's overwhelming win in the national Capital, the BJP had suggested that the mayor's election is still an "open game". It noted that Chandigarh, where the



Arvind Kejriwal-led party was the largest, has a mayor from the BJP ranks. Several BJP leaders had earlier hinted that the party might go for the Mayor's post despite losing the civic polls.

BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya thanked Delhi people for reposing faith in the BJP and for giving more votes in the wards falling under Kejriwal's "corrupt" Ministers' constituencies.

He added in a tweet, "Now over to electing a Mayor for Delhi. It will all depend on who can hold the numbers in a close contest, which way the nominated councillors vote, etc. Chandigarh has a BJP mayor, for instance".

Hints dropped by other party leaders, including Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Tajinder Pal Bagga, also gave rise to speculation that the

BJP might go for the mayor's post.

"The AAP has been exposed in these elections due to anti-corruption campaign run by the BJP. The people of the Assembly constituency from Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Minister Satyendra Jain have rejected them due to friendship with liquor mafia and hawala business respectively," claimed Gupta.

However, Leader of Opposition Bidhuri said that the tall claims of Chief Minister Kejriwal that the BJP will shrink to only 20 seats once again turns to dust.

The MCD mayor is elected by all 250 councillors in the House, seven Lok Sabha and three Rajya Sabha members from the city, and 14 MLAs nominated by the Speaker of the Delhi Assembly.

### CAPSULE

#### PM CHAIRS MEETING OF GUVS, CMS ON G-20

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a virtual meeting of Governors, Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors in the National Capital on Friday to discuss aspects relating to India's G20 presidency, saying it is a unique opportunity for the country to showcase its strengths.

#### '1.6 MN INDIANS GAVE UP CITIZENSHIP SINCE 2011'

**New Delhi:** More than 1.6 million Indians have renounced their citizenship since 2011, including 183,741 this year, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan told the Lok Sabha on Friday.

#### MAN BOOKED FOR TRYING TO RAPE BOY IN WEDDING

**Ghaziabad:** A 34-year-old man was arrested for allegedly trying to rape a boy who had come here with his family on a visit from Adelaide city of Australia, police said on Friday. The boy's family was staying with his father's friend in Chhattarpur area of Delhi and had come here to Akash Nagar colony of Masuri to attend a marriage, police said.

#### AI FLIGHT WITH 173 ON BOARD HAS FLAT TYRE

**Kathmandu:** A New Delhi-bound Air India aircraft with 173 people on board was forced to abort its flight from Kathmandu on Friday after it suffered a flat tyre before take off, an official said. The aircraft was scheduled to depart from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport to New Delhi at 4:30 pm local time. A duty officer at Air India confirmed that the flight AI 216 suffered a flat tyre.

## Din in RS at private member's Bill on Uniform Civil Code

Bill will destroy social fabric: Opp; RS Chairman calls for division, Bill introduction OK'd with 63 votes in favour, 23 against

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The introduction of a private member Bill by a BJP member for the preparation and implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) across the country resulted in chaos in the Rajya Sabha on Friday. The Opposition members urged BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena to withdraw the Bill and also asked Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to not accept the legislation as it will destroy the secular fabric of the country.

The controversial private member's Bill seeks to provide for a panel to prepare a UCC. BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena moved for leave to introduce the Bill to provide for the constitution of the national inspection and investigation committee for preparation of a UCC and its implementation across India and for matters connected therewith during the private member's business.

However, Opposition members from Trinamool Congress (TMC), Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Samajwadi Party (SP), Communist Party of India (CPI), CPI (Marxist), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Congress protested against the introduction of the Bill saying, if passed, it will "destroy" the social fabric and unity in diversity that is prevalent in the country.

With the Opposition members seeking withdrawal of the Bill, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar called for division and the motion for the

introduction of the Bill was passed with 63 votes in favour and 23 against it.

In the past, although the Bill was listed for introduction, it was not moved in the Upper House. The Bill envisages a collection of laws to protect the personal rights of all citizens without considering religion.

"We have a private member's Bill that is totally unconstitutional, unethical, anti-secular. It is being introduced as a private member's Bill by an indulgent Government to test the waters in a very dangerous game. This is brinkmanship," Jawhar Sircar of the Trinamool Congress said. He further said, "There is still time to refrain from making demonstrations of a temporary majority and inflict one sided opinion on a very secular and plural India."

MDMK MP Vaiko accused the ruling dispensation of "implementing one after another agenda of the RSS and the BJP", and said, "They have finished Kashmir. Now they have come to Common Civil Code." He said it is leading towards "disaster of the country and its disintegration and minority people are terribly hurt".

Similarly, Abdul Wahab of Indian Union Muslim League (IUMI) said the Bill has been attempted to be introduced many times in the past and "this is a sort of provocation deliberately the BJP" and asserted that the UCC cannot be implemented in India.

Leader of the House Piyush Goyal objected to the allegations of the Opposition members. "It is a legitimate right of a member to raise an issue, which is a directive principle of the Constitution... Let this subject be debated in the House. At this stage to cast aspersions on the Government, to use the names of the very members of the Constituent Assembly to try to criticise at the introduction stage is uncalled for," he retorted.

## ISRO trials propel India into hypersonic vehicle elite club

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to develop indigenous niche technology, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) have jointly conducted ambitious hypersonic vehicle trials.

The trials achieved all required parameters and demonstrated hypersonic vehicle capability, the ISRO said on Friday. Russia, China, and the US are the other countries having this sophisticated technology.

A hypersonic vehicle is a vehicle that travels at least 4 times faster than the speed-of-sound, or greater than Mach 4. A hypersonic vehicle can be an airplane, missile, or spacecraft. These vehicles are highly manoeuvrable and do not follow a predictable arc as they travel and can deliver conventional or nuclear payloads within minutes.



The Indian hypersonic vehicle will take another three to four years to become fully operational.

In 2020, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully demonstrated the hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology with the flight test of the Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV).

With this successful demonstration, many critical technologies such as aerodynamic configuration for hypersonic manoeuvres, use of scramjet propulsion for ignition and sustained combustion at hypersonic flow, thermo-structural characterisation of high-temperature materials, separation mechanism at hypersonic velocities were proven.

## Tiger deaths in India cross 100 mark 3rd year in row

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

For the third year in a row, the number of tiger deaths in the country has crossed the 100-figure mark.

However, much to the relief of wildlife officials and animal lovers, the number of total deaths in the eleven months of the current calendar year at 107, including 22 cubs and ten sub-adults, is less than the 127 deaths recorded last year.

The number of tigresses killed so far this year stands at 17 against 16 last year. In 2021, the number of tiger cub deaths was comparatively less at 15.

In 2020, during a lockdown induced by Covid-pandemic, India saw 106 tigers succumbing to deaths due to various reasons such as natural deaths, poaching, electrocution, infighting, and poisoning.

The wildlife officials are keeping their fingers crossed hoping that the number of tiger deaths this year is lesser or



at least it does not surpass the figure reported last year.

The Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), an NGO in the sector, contradicts the Government's data and instead has estimated that in the first eleven months India has already lost 129 tigers, including 35 falling prey to poachers.

According to the wildlife conservation organisation, last year at least 115 died natural

deaths/ in infighting and man-animal conflict while poaching claimed 56 lives.

As per the Government data available from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Madhya Pradesh has reported the highest number of tiger deaths at 32 followed by Maharashtra which has witnessed 25 deaths of the big cats in the first 11 months this year.

Karnataka registered 13 deaths, while Assam, Rajasthan and Kerala lost six and five striped cats each respectively. Three tiger deaths were reported from Andhra Pradesh, while two each died in Bihar and Tamil Nadu.

The detailed analysis of the data showed that at least 62 striped cats died inside their home i.e. in the tiger reserves, most of them fighting to protect their turfs while as many as 45 were killed outside the tiger reserves or on the forest fringes.

## Croatia in semifinal, Brazil loses on penalties

AP ■ AL RAYYAN

Croatia knocked Brazil out of the World Cup on Friday, beating the five-time champions 4-2 in a penalty shootout to reach the semifinals for the second straight time.

Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic saved a penalty attempt by Rodrigo and Marquinhos later hit the post.

The match had finished 1-1 after extra time, with both goals coming in the additional 30 minutes. Neymar scored late in the first half of extra time to give Brazil the lead, but Croatia equalised when Bruno Petkovic scored in the 117th.

Neymar's goal moved him into a tie with Pelé as Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 77 goals.



Croatia will next face either Argentina or the Netherlands to try to return to the World Cup final four years after losing the title to France.

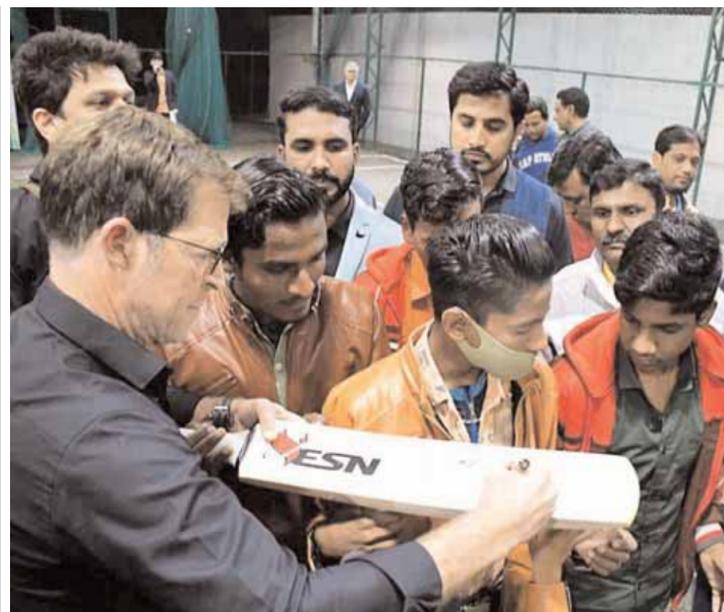
Five of Croatia's last six matches at World Cups have gone to extra time, including in its penalty shootout win over Japan in the round of 16 in Qatar. The team has been successful in eight of its last 10 knock-

out matches at the tournament.

Brazil was trying to return to the semifinals for the first time since 2014. The team hadn't made it to the last four since hosting the tournament eight years ago, when the Selecao was eliminated by Germany 7-1.

Brazil was trying to defeat a European opponent in the knockout stage of the World Cup for the first time since the 2002 final against Germany, when the team won for the last time.

Neymar moved into a tie with Pelé as Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 77 goals on Friday.



South African former cricketer Jonty Rhodes with specially-abled budding players during his visit to Bhojpur Club in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

# 83 lakh new names added in 38 government schemes

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the officers should deliver the government schemes to the bottommost with full dedication. Now the government is not running from Bhopal, it is running from Chhapal. The Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva camps were organized in every village and ward, in which officials and people's representatives reached and solved the problems of the people and worked to connect the eligible people with the government schemes.

The Chief Minister participated in Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva Abhiyan approval letter distribution programme at Bichua in Chhindwara district on Friday. He laid the foundation and dedicated development works worth more than Rs one thousand crore at the venue itself. He also symbolically distributed benefits to the beneficiaries of various schemes. Chouhan also dedicated the Atal Khet Mahakumbh and free health camp card to be held in the district from December 15. Chouhan said that the names of 83 lakh new beneficiaries have been added to 38 different government schemes in the camps organized in the state under the Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva Abhiyan. Approval letters are being distributed to all of them by setting up camps. All these beneficiaries should

start getting the benefits of the scheme from next month. He appreciated everyone including the district administration for the success of the campaign in Chhindwara district. In Chhindwara district, 5 lakh 11 thousand 164 applications were received in this campaign, out of which 4 lakh 81 thousand 285 were approved. Chief Minister Chouhan said that mafia and power brokers will be crushed in the state. Those who do bungling in the ration of the poor will be handcuffed and sent to jail. On the complaint of irregularities in distribution of ration in one block of the district, the Collector was directed to investigate and take strict action. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the government will reward the officers and employees for good performance and

will not spare those who are negligent. He directed to suspend with immediate effect the Chief Municipal and Health Officer of Chhindwara and the Block Medical Officer of Bichua for negligence in work. The Chief Minister congratulated Patwari, Panchayat Secretary and CEO Janpad Panchayat of the area for good performance. Chouhan instructed that there should not be any delay in redressing the grievances of the people. Expressing displeasure over the delay in replacement of transformers in Harrai village, he directed to replace the faulty transformers within 3 days. The Chief Minister said that if the payment is made without laying the pipeline in Chhindwara Irrigation Complex, it will not be tolerated. Chouhan said that work is

being done for the development of cities like villages. Soon a state-level conference of the representatives of the urban bodies will be organized like the conference of Sarpanchas. Chouhan said that Rs 7 crore has been sanctioned for the development of Chhindwara city. Giving information about the PESA Act, Chief Minister Chouhan said that the Act is not against anyone, it is in fact beneficial for all. Now no tribal will be able to usurp the land of another. If the land has been usurped, the Gram Sabha will have the right to take it back. Chief Minister Chouhan said in strong words that I will not allow the vicious cycle of religious conversion and love jihad to continue on the land of Madhya Pradesh. This is not love but only Jihad.



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan participated in Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva Abhiyan approval letter distribution programme at Bichua in Chhindwara district on Friday. Pioneer photo

# Rare surgery of two feet long tumor on the back of a man conducted

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Rare surgery for a 2 feet long tumor on the back was operated at AIIMS Bhopal in the Department of Neurosurgery in a 31 years old male, who was a resident of Ashok Nagar (Madhya Pradesh). The procedure was done on 6th December 2022 at AIIMS Bhopal. The tumor was extremely vascular. The weight of the tumor was around 4.5 kgs. A 31 years old male approached with a monstrous swelling over the back in Neurosurgery OPD and was admitted for complete evaluation. Patient had multiple swellings

over the back but one swelling gradually increased in size over the last 30 years and now had become unbearable for the patient. MRI and CT spine was done and there was a giant tumor on the back and was abutting the spine and the mediastinum. It was a highly vascular and caused spinal deformity which makes it extremely challenging to operate. Intradepartmental meeting was held by Prof. Amit Agrawal, Dr. Adesh Shrivastava, Dr. Sumit Raj, Dr. Pradeep Chouksey and it was decided to operate as soon as possible. The surgery was done by Dr. Sumit Raj and Dr

Manal Khan (Plastic Surgeon) along with Dr. KaustavSaha. Patient was taken up for surgery with taking all precautions. The patient was operated on 6th December 2022. At the end of the procedure patient primary closure was done and the aim of surgery was achieved. He was mobilized the next very day and now he feels relieved from the heavy weight on the back. Anesthesia team comprised of Dr. J P Sharma and Dr. Anupama. It is an extremely rare case. Such cases are done only in specialized centers. And patient did not have to pay anything extra as he was a Ayushman beneficiary.

# Two days live surgical workshop

Bhopal: Under the able guidance of Prof Ajai Singh, Executive Director & CEO AIIMS Bhopal, Department of ENT - Head & Neck Surgery is organizing two days live surgical workshop on facial aesthetic and rhinoplasty surgeries on December 9 and 10, 2022. More than 40 delegates participated in this live surgical workshop out of which 25 ENT specialists were from various medical colleges of MP and other states. Dr Vikas Gupta and his team have organized this workshop in a very interactive way so that all the participating delegates could learn maximum out of it. Various facial aesthetic surgeries including rhinoplasty and scar revision surgeries are being performed in the modular operation theatre and broadcasted live into ENT seminar hall where all the delegates could watch the surgical procedures with one-to-one discussion with the operating surgeon.

# Rains likely in few regions on December 12 and 13

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

After foggy weather conditions rainfall would make cold conditions more intense possibly after 72 hours, few regions would witness light to moderate rainfall on December 12 & 13 in the state. Mercury dipped to shivering levels as Umaria recorded 5.7 degree celsius which was the coldest in the state while Raisen and Betul recorded 6.6 and 6.7 degree celsius respectively. The Meteorological Department has forecast night mist in about ten districts of the state. The day temperature in Madhya Pradesh is running between 25 to 29 degree Celsius. Due to rainfall the day temperature would dip to 20 degree Celsius in



most of the areas. State capital recorded the night temperature at 10.3 degree celsius and day temperature at 25.9 degree celsius. Over half a dozen regions recorded night temperature at 7 degree celsius. The mercury has reached below 10 degrees in 46 districts of the state. Fog conditions have been witnessed in the morning and evening. The Meteorological Department has expressed the possibility of night mist (mavatha) in the next 2 days. During this, there is a possibility of light rain in many areas of the state

from December 12 to 16 due to Cyclone Mandaus which will reach Chennai by the night of December 10. Its effect will be visible in Madhya Pradesh from December 12 and this will increase the chances of rain. Light clouds may remain in Barwani, Betul, Itarsi, Bhopal, Indore, Sagar, Rewa, Chhindwara and Shahdol from the night of December 12. Light rain may occur in Rewa, Sagar, Bhopal, Barwani, Chhindwara, Itarsi, Damoh and Umaria on the night of December 13. Cloud cover in Barwani, Indore, Bhopal, Sagar, Rewa, Singrauli, Betul and Khandwa would be witnessed and light to moderate clouds may remain in Madhya Pradesh till December 15.



BJP workers light lamps to celebrate the party's victory in Gujarat State Assembly elections, in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

# Crime branch police bust a gang of thieves, solve over a dozen burglaries

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Over two dozen incidents of burglaries were confessed by the gang busted by Crime branch Bhopal, gang was active in the state capital for the past two years and have committed crimes in Kolar, Bagevania, Katarahills and Misrod police station areas. The accused used to sell the stolen goods to their accomplice living in Dhar district. The accused have committed incidents of theft and embezzlement in the city of Indore in the past. During the investigation, when a pattern was found similar in the crimes of theft and burglaries police team closely checked around 250 CCTV cam-

**The accused have committed incidents of theft and embezzlement in the city of Indore in the past**

eras installed in the state capital and managed to track the gang and arrest their members. The nabbed accused were identified as Bhanggu alias Bhangiya Dabur(26), Par Singh alias Parash(25), Santosh Bhanwar(25), Nihal Singh Deokar (38) and from their possession, the tools used to commit the burglary, a twelve bore gun, single bore gun and cartridges, motorbike were recovered. Firearms were stolen from the Kolar area. In investigation the accused revealed 9 crimes in Kolar area, 9 in Misrod area, 5 in Bagevania area, 1 in Katarahills area. The accused would stay in outer areas of the city in search of work and by making excuses of work they would receive locked houses during the day and would target them at night. At the time of the incident motorbikes used in the incident would be hidden in nearby bushes or areas. The absconding accused are Keelu alias Kailash Beside, Ramesh Chauhan alias Nana and Gaurav Jain.

**Guide to real estate: Residential vs Commercial**  
Bhopal: Whether you're looking for a place to call home or an office to start your business, the decision of whether to invest in residential or commercial real estate comes down to what you're looking for. Navigating the key differences The risk & volatility is more in residential real estate when compared with commercial properties that offer stable long term incomes said Viineet Chellani, Founder & Director at Jai Guru Ji Asset Deals LLP. However, loans for investing in residential properties are more easily available when compared with commercial investments. If we talk about the lease, it is longer in commercial real estate than in residential. However, the leasing process is much easier in residential real estate investments.

# AIIMS Bhopal organises CME on road safety

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

With an aim to provide road safety information for road users to encourage safer road user behaviour among current and prospective road users and reduce the number of people killed and injured on our roads every year, AIIMS Bhopal organised a CME on Road Safety. The Executive Director AIIMS Bhopal Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh told to the students of AIIMS Bhopal on being a Good Samaritan and voluntarily come forward to administer immediate assistance or emergency care to a person injured in an accident, or crash, or emergency medical condition, or emergency situation. The Executive Director also informed the students that Good Samaritan Law protects Good Samaritans from harassment on the actions being taken by them to save the life of the road accident victims. The Executive Director and the students, faculty and staff of AIIMS Bhopal took a pledge

**The ED informed the students that Good Samaritan Law protects Good Samaritans from harassment on the actions being taken by them to save the life of the road accident victims**  
to save someone's life and take it upon as our moral duty being a good citizen. Road and transport are an integral part of every human being. The present transport system has minimized the distances but it has on the other hand increased the life risk. Every year road crashes result in loss of lakhs of lives and serious injuries to crores of people. India is an unfortunate victim of a large number of road crash fatalities. According to the Law Commission of India, 50% of these victims died of preventable injuries and could have been saved if they had received care on time.

# Real estate demand in India to boom in 2023

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The real estate industry, which has a long history and is thought to be impervious to market fluctuations, has grown rapidly in recent years, and this upward trend is anticipated to continue in the years to come. By 2023, it is predicted that India's real estate market would be worth Rs 13,00,000 crores. This expansion is being powered by a burgeoning population, rising wages, and increased urbanization. Every investor wants to invest in real estate for a variety of reasons, said Sunil Sisodiya, Founder & Chairman Geetanjali Homestate Pvt Ltd. First of all, it is an asset that is not impacted by stock market volatility. Second, it frequently offers a consistent source of income. Thirdly, it has the potential to increase in value over time, which might result in capital gains. Finally, economic trends will continue to shape the real estate industry. Overall, the real estate industry is anticipated to remain a competitive and dynamic market in 2023, offering possibilities for investors of all experience levels.

# 27-year-old unmarried woman commits suicide

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 27-year-old unmarried woman committed suicide by consuming sanitiser on Thursday at Ratibad; she was suffering from mental illness. Preeti Tiwari was suffering from mental illness for the past six years and was undergoing treatment. After she reported illness on Thursday she was rushed to JP hospital and later referred to Hamidia where she died during treatment. Her father is a retired policeman and she used to live with the family. The deceased was a trained rifle shooter and failed to bear discarding at a major event after she was declared unfit. After that incident she used to remain depressed and later suffered mental illness. Earlier she tried to commit suicide by cutting her wrist but was saved due to taking her to the hospital on time but this time family failed to save her. Police have started an investigation into the matter. Meanwhile, the police have registered a case of murder after autopsy report revealed that 29-year-old youth found

**Earlier, she tried to commit suicide by cutting her wrist but was saved due to taking her to the hospital on time but this time family failed to save her**

death at Jambooree Maidan on November 29 was stabbed by a sharp edged object. The deceased identified as Pramod alias Babu Odh was stabbed to death by a sharp edged object which was revealed in the autopsy report. The deceased was stabbed over his waist from the backside. Police suspect that it is murder but possibility of accidental death could not be ruled out as the deceased was habitual drinker and in an inebriated state he might have fall and died. He used to work as a labourer and was addicted to liquor.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan with Tribal artists performs Gadi Sela dance at Bichua in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh on Friday. Pioneer photo

# New DNA lab being build in Bhopal to accelerate testing

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The number of samples pending in various labs for DNA matching from across the state has reached 10 thousand. A new DNA testing lab is being built in Bhopal to increase the number of tests. It can test hundreds of samples every month. Later, when the number of scientific officers increases, a hundred more samples can be tested. This lab

is ready to start from February. Earlier it was planned to launch in December, but preparations could not be completed. Apart from this, one lab each is being built in Gwalior and Jabalpur. Their capacity will initially be 100 sample images. Both these labs will also be operational by the end of next year. Currently there is one lab each in Bhopal, Sagar and Indore for testing DNA samples. All three locations

combined have a capacity to test 600 samples per month. This is the highest number of samples tested in any state. The number of samples is not decreasing due to increase in rape cases. Due to lack of testing capacity as per requirement, testing of 10 thousand samples is stuck in the state. In the pending samples, old ones are checked and new ones are added, so that the figure is not less than 10 thousand.

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# Govt refutes India's poor rank in Global Hunger Index

The report does not reflect India's true picture as it is a flawed measure of hunger, says Irani

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

As the Government on Friday in Parliament rejected the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 report placing India at 107th place, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar urged members to analyse private studies as they can be based on inadequate data or dictated by interests of others.



He made this observation during the Question Hour in the Upper House when Union Minister Piyush Goyal was replying to a query raised by Jose K Mani(KC(M)).

The Chairperson also appealed to members to go through these studies before referring to them while raising any issue. Mani said India's rank was 107 among 121 countries. Neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are ahead of India in the index and only Afghanistan is behind, he noted.

Though the government has continuously questioned the methodology used in the index, the prevalence of hunger and poverty in the country is well seen, he said.

Stating that there were zero starvation deaths in the country, Goyal replied that as regard the hunger index, the name itself is a misnomer.

"Referring to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) under which the government provided five kg grains over and above the National Food Security Act limit, he said, "We have in a way eliminated

hunger or starvation from the country. Every state has written that not a single death occurred due to starvation during the last two years." He said the hunger index is a private index made by some private non-government organisations based on a subject not related to hunger. So, they first have to decide what the nomenclature should be, he said.

The minister also said the statistics are drawn out of data which is unverified and also on measurements "we don't relate to India. I think we must recognise what is official and validated and what is mere propaganda." In a reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani dismissed India's ranking in the GHI, terming it as a "flawed measure of hunger".

"Global Hunger Index (GHI) does not reflect India's true picture as it is a flawed measure of 'Hunger'. It should not be taken at face value as it is neither appropriate nor representative of hunger prevalent in a country," Irani said in reply to Congress MP Karti Chidambaram. Dismissing the

four indicators of GHI, Irani said, "Out of its four indicators, only one indicator, i.e., under-nourishment, is directly related to hunger.

"The two indicators, namely, Stunting and Wasting, are outcomes of complex interactions of various other factors like sanitation, genetics, environment, and utilisation of food intake apart from hunger which is taken as the causative/outcome factor for stunting and wasting in the GHI."

Dhankhar said, "In our country iconic status is granted to parameters which are often baffling...Don't have any rationale, and utilisation of food intake apart from hunger which is taken as the causative/outcome factor for stunting and wasting in the GHI."

"Try to digest what I have said. We must analyse the calibration... We should not be captive," he said. "Our country cannot be allowed to be hurt by calibration from outside on premise which we don't believe. That doesn't mean that the calibration outside does not have credibility. We have to get into those areas," he said.

Speedy compensation to farmers injured in Lakhimpur Kheri incident last year and hassle free travel to pilgrims to Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan through the Kartarpur corridor were also raised by the Elders. Raising the law and

order situation in Bihar, Satish Chandra Dubey (BJP) cited several incidents of crime to allege that the state was moving towards 'jungle raj part two.' He also claimed the public was living in an atmosphere of fear. As he raised the issue, MPs from the RJD, JD(U) and the Congress protested his remarks.

They got support from other parties, including the Samajwadi Party and the Aam Aadmi Party(AAP). Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar pacified the MPs and advised them to ensure decorum in the House. Sushil Kumar Modi (BJP) wanted an amendment to the Jammu and

Kashmir Reorganisation Act to allow for the nomination of two Kashmiri Pandits and one displaced person of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the assembly.

He said the Delimitation Commission has recommended representation for Kashmiri Pandits and displaced people from PoK by way of nomination in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Raising the issue of compensation to those injured in Lakhimpur Kheri violence, Jayant Chaudhary(RLD) said the Uttar Pradesh(UP) government had promised to give jobs to the kin of the four farmers who lost their lives after a

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Raghav Chadha(AAP) elaborated upon the difficulties pilgrims face while visiting Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan through the Kartarpur corridor opened in 2019.

## Bihar's law & order, compensation to Kheri victims raised in Rajya Sabha

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Issues ranging from alleged worsening law and order situation in Bihar, nomination of two Kashmiri Pandits in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and problems faced in withdrawing money from banks by the next of kin of deceased figured prominently in the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

Speedy compensation to farmers injured in Lakhimpur Kheri incident last year and hassle free travel to pilgrims to Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan through the Kartarpur corridor were also raised by the Elders. Raising the law and

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Dubey responded to Chowdhury by saying RBI decided to go ahead with demonetisation to end the menace of terrorism, black money and fake currency. He also alleged that the Congress sides with the "tukde tukde gang" those involved in corruption.

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### IN SHORT

#### RAJNATH, BSY APPOINTED GUJARAT OBSERVERS

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda were on Friday appointed as observers for the Gujarat BJP Legislature Party meet.

#### 50 PRIVATE MEMBER BILLS IN LOK SABHA

New Delhi: More than 50 private member bills, including the one seeking to revert to the old system of voting through ballot papers instead of electronic voting machines (EVMs), were introduced in Lok Sabha on Friday. The bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was introduced by BSP member Danish Ali.

#### MEASLES IMMINENT THREAT, SAYS WHO

New Delhi: The WHO has declared measles as an 'imminent threat'. According to a WHO report, 9 million people were infected with measles in 2021. The number of people who died from measles that year was as high as 128,000. Moreover, the steady decline of measles vaccination drives due to the pandemic induced lockdowns has led to more children getting diagnosed with measles or dying from it.

#### DEVELOP 2ND-GENERATION COVID VACCINES: PANEL

New Delhi: There is an urgent need to develop second-generation vaccines in view of the constantly mutating Covid-19 virus, encourage vaccine development on more efficient platforms and evaluate the efficacy of the existing vaccines for the disease, a parliamentary panel has said.

#### 'NOT ENOUGH TAKERS FOR TECHNOLOGY'

New Delhi: Speaking at a programme of Central Electronics Limited (CEL), a PSU under Department of Scientific Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology, Union Minister Jitendra Kumar on Friday lamented that sometimes best of the R&D institutes tend to follow a downhill course because there are not enough takers for the technologies developed by them.

#### KERALA GETS THREE ADDITIONAL JUDGES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Friday approved the proposal for appointment of three Additional Judges. Justices Abdul Rahim Musaliar Badharudeen, Viju Abraham and Mohammed Nias CP, as Permanent Judges in the Kerala High Court.

#### SC ASKS BIHAR GOVT TO GIVE INFRA SCHEDULE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Bihar government to specify schedule for construction of infrastructure for special courts which would deal with cases under the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act.

#### SC: ACCOMMODATE UG MEDICAL STUDENTS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday asked Centre, National Medical Commission (NMC) to find out a solution to lodge those undergraduate medical students who have returned from foreign countries like Ukraine and China, saying their career will be left in lurch if no solution is found at this stage.

## Cong raises demonetisation in LS

**New Delhi:** The issue of demonetisation was raised in the Lok Sabha on Friday by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury who criticized the government's decision on November 2016 to demonetise high-value currency notes, claiming the move did not meet the desired goals as cash in circulation and fake currency have gone up. Congress member's comments were countered by the BJP's Nishikant Dubey who said the Reserve Bank of India took the

"big step" to eliminate corruption and terror financing which were "rampant" under the Congress rule.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, Chowdhury said cash in circulation increased from Rs 18 lakh crore in 2016 to Rs 31 lakh crore currently. Also, fake currency and deposits in Swiss banks have increased, he claimed. "The health of the economy is in a bad shape because of demonetisation. Demonetisation was launched with the objective of

bringing back black money and stopping fake currency and terrorism. But none of the objectives of demonetisation has been fulfilled," Chowdhury said.

Dubey responded to Chowdhury by saying RBI decided to go ahead with demonetisation to end the menace of terrorism, black money and fake currency. He also alleged that the Congress sides with the "tukde tukde gang" those involved in corruption.

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## Daughter belonging to tribals entitled to equal share in dad's property: SC

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Maintaining that a female tribal is entitled to parity with male tribal in intestate succession, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre to examine the issue and consider amending the provisions

of the Hindu Succession Act so as to make it applicable to the members of the Scheduled Tribes. The apex court said when the daughter belonging to the non-tribal is entitled to equal share in the property of her father, there is no reason to deny such a right to the daughter of tribal communities. As



per Section 2(2) of the Hindu Succession Act, the Hindu Succession Act will not be applicable to members of the Scheduled Tribes.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Krishna Murari said there is no justification for denying the right of survivorship (a right of a person to property on the death of another having a joint interest) so far as the female members of Scheduled Tribes are concerned.

"It is directed to examine the question by the Central Government to consider it just and necessary to withdraw the exemptions provided under the Hindu Succession Act in so far as the applicability of the provisions of the Hindu Succession Act to the Scheduled Tribes and whether to bring a suitable amendment

or not. "We hope and trust that the Central Government will look into the matter and take an appropriate decision taking into consideration the right to equality guaranteed under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India," the bench said. The apex court said a female tribal is entitled to parity with male tribal in intestate succession.

"To deny the equal right to the daughter belonging to the tribal even after a period of 70 years of the Constitution of India under which right to equality is guaranteed, it is high time for the Central Government to look into the matter and if required, to amend the provisions of the Hindu Succession Act by which the Hindu Succession Act is not made applicable to the members of the Scheduled Tribe," the bench said.

The top court's observations came while dismissing a plea on whether a daughter (belonging to Scheduled Tribes) is entitled to the share in the compensation with respect to the land acquired on survivorship basis under the provisions of the Hindu Succession Act.

The bill, if approved, will also regulate their transfers and to lay down judicial standards and provide for account-

## CPI-M tables Judicial Commission Bill in RS amid Collegium row

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Amid the ongoing Collegium row in the country, the CPI(M)'s Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya on Friday introduced a private member Bill in the Rajya Sabha seeking to regulate the appointment of judges through the National Judicial Commission. However, it was opposed by AAP MP Raghav Chadha. The National Judicial Commission Bill, 2022 was introduced after the majority of voice votes were in favour of tabling it in the House.

Bhattacharyya moved bill that aims to regulate procedure to be followed by National Judicial Commission for recommending people for appointment as the Chief Justice of India and other judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices and other judges of High Courts.

The bill, if approved, will also regulate their transfers and to lay down judicial standards and provide for account-

ability of judges, and establish credible and expedient mechanism for investigating into individual complaints for misbehaviour or incapacity of a judge of the apex court or of a high court and to regulate procedure for such investigation.

It also proposes for presentation of an address by parliament to the president in relation to proceeding for removal of a judge and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

AAP member Chadha opposed the bill, saying concept of NJAC has come under consideration of Supreme Court three times in 1993, 1998 and 2016.

"All three times, while giving importance to independence of judiciary, the Supreme Court dismissed framework of NJAC. I have stood to oppose NJAC which my honourable colleague has introduced," Chadha said. "We are attempting to do a constitutional impossibility," Chadha said.

## UP traders protest GST raids on businesses

# HM to meet Maha, K'taka CMs to resolve border row

PNS | PTI ■ NEW DELHI | MUMBAI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will meet the chief ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka here on December 14 to soothe tempers on the border dispute between the two states, NCP leader Amol Kolhe said here on Friday.



his personal intervention. In a letter to Shah, they claimed that "high-handed" actions by Karnataka had "hurt the sentiments" of the Marathi-speaking people in the border districts at a time the matter was in the Supreme Court.

The Karnataka-Maharashtra border row escalated into violence after vehicles from both states were attacked and damaged in Belgaon and Pune.

Since its creation on May 1, 1960, Maharashtra has claimed that 865 villages, including Belgaon (now Belgavi), Karwar and Nipani, should be merged into Maharashtra. Karnataka, however, has refused to part with its territory.

The meeting came on a day the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) partially resumed bus services to Karnataka from Kolhapur in southern Maharashtra after consulting local police authorities, an official said here.

The state-owned public transport body had suspended 382 out of 1,156 services to Karnataka, mainly between Kolhapur and Belagavi via

Nipani, after protests erupted over the border row between the two states. Some MSRTC buses were defaced in Karnataka. Buses from Karnataka were similarly targeted in Maharashtra. The MSRTC spokesperson said that normal services between Kolhapur and Belagavi via Nipani restarted from Friday afternoon.

Meanwhile, a Lok Sabha member from the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena, an ally of the BJP, on Friday accused the BJP government in Karnataka of resorting to "strong-arm tactics" against the state's Marathi-speaking areas.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha, Dhairyasheel Mane, the member from Maharashtra's Hatkanangle, said the Marathi-speaking parts of Karnataka had been witnessing protests and agitations and there was an "atmosphere of terror" in the region.

"The state government there, the chief minister has made some statement that has caused anxiety among the people there. There is tension along the border. A law and order problem has arisen," Mane said.

He said Karnataka Police had been resorting to strong-arm tactics in a big way and the Kannada Vedic organisation was treating Marathi-speaking people in an unjust manner.

# Cong slams Guj unit for poor poll results

Asks State leadership to introspect, signals hard decisions in offing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after its worst-ever performance in Gujarat Assembly elections, the Congress on Friday blamed the State leadership for the poor show and said it is time to introspect as well as take "tough decisions". The grand old party which has been struggling to remove Narendra Modi's hegemony from Gujarat for about two and half decades now accused the Aam Aadmi Party

and the AIMIM of colluding with the BJP, saying they were "informal alliance partners" of the ruling party.

The party took respite from Himachal Pradesh and appreciated its State leadership and the campaign led by Priyanka Gandhi and said the high decibel campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Himalayan State did not work.

"For us, the Gujarat results show the need for introspection and for taking tough decisions. In Gujarat the election results have been very disappointing and are far below our expectations. It is a very sad reflection on the State's organisation," Congress chief spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said at AICC Press briefing.

In Himachal Pradesh, given the fact that the Prime Minister campaigned extensively besides BJP president J P Nadda and Union minister Anurag Thakur, both of who hail from Himachal, the BJP has still lost," Ramesh alleged.

He also blamed the AAP and the AIMIM for the poor performance of Congress, saying both the parties were BJP's "informal alliance partners" in Gujarat. The party however avoided to answer anything on the role of Rajasthan Chief

Minister Ashok Gehlot who was incharge of the Gujarat elections and campaigned extensively despite of the impending crisis in his State.

Ramesh also said that an atmosphere of fear was created in Gujarat to ensure that many sections of society who supported the Congress do not come out and vote.

He credited the Congress' promise to restore the old pension scheme as one of the primary reasons for the party's success in Himachal.

# Yogi magic works as BJP wins back 8 of 12 Guj seats lost to Cong

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

When Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath started an election campaign in Gujarat, he was given a task of winning back the constituencies which the Bharatiya Janata Party had lost to Congress and therefore out of 25 seats where he campaigned 12 were occupied by Opposition leaders.

Yogi's magic worked there too as the party won eight of these seats. Out of the constituencies in which Yogi Adityanath campaigned, 10 were occupied by the Congress, one by an Independent and one by the Bharatiya Tribal Party.

The Bharatiya Janata Party won eight of these seats. BJP's Ritesh Bhai Basava won the Jhagadia seat held by the Bharatiya Tribal Party by a margin of 23,500 votes.

Yogi Adityanath held roadshows in three constituencies and the BJP's lotus bloomed in all of them.

In Viramgam constituency, which was represented by Congress in assembly, people greeted Yogi with chants of Jai Shri Ram, and after Yogi's appeal to vote for BJP, they voted en masse for the party following which Hardik Patel won there by the margin of 51,707 votes.



Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi during a safari, at Ranthambore National Park in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan

# INS Mormugao to be commissioned in Mumbai ahead of Goa Liberation Day

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day ahead of the Goa Liberation Day on December 19, the Indian Navy's latest indigenous guided stealth destroyer Mormugao - armed with surface-to-surface BrahMos missiles and Barak-8 long range surface-to-air missiles - will be commissioned in Mumbai on December 18.

Built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL) as part of the Project 15B destroyers or the Visakhapatnam-class, Mormugao was delivered to the Indian Navy by the MDL on November 24.

The commissioning of Mormugao a year after the ship sailed for her maiden sortie on December 19, 2021.

The Indian Navy played a pivotal role in Goa's liberation struggle and dedicating the ship's name to the maritime state of Goa will not just enhance the bonding between the Indian Navy and the people of Goa, but also link the ship's identity permanently to the crucial role the Navy played in nation-building.

Mormugao is a seaport city situated in the eponymous Mormugao sub-district of the district of South Goa in the tiny State of Goa along the Arabian Sea on western coast of India.

The indigenous content in P15B class destroyers is 72% which is a notch above their predecessors P15A (59%) and P15 (42%) Class Destroyers, reaffirming the Government's focus in the 'Make in India' programme.

# Gokhale's rearrest in Gujarat BJP misusing EC, settling scores with Opp, says TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after the Gujarat Police rearrested Trinamool Congress national spokesperson Saket Gokhale the Bengal ruling outfit on Friday slammed the BJP Government for misusing the Election Commission to settle scores with the opposition parties.

"The recent development - where our national spokesperson was arrested at a time when model code of conduct was still in vogue in Gujarat - only proves how the Election Commission has surrendered before the BJP Government," TMC national general secretary Abhisek Banerjee said.

The TMC has sent a five-member team of MPs to Morbi in Gujarat where the Gokhale was taken after his arrest. Among the TMC leaders who were sent to Gujarat were Dola Sen, Shantanu Sen, Sunil Mondal and AsitMal.

Gokhale was first arrested on December 6 from Jaipur airport for tweeting against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Later he was granted bail and then rearrested on December 8 leading the TMC leadership to cry vendetta.

"The party (TMC) demands unconditional release of our national spokesperson," Banerjee said even as sources said that he had again been granted bail.

Gokhale was earlier arrested after he tweeted on the Prime Minister's visit to Morbi post the collapse of a hanging bridge that led to 135 deaths. In the tweet he said that the expenditure incurred by the Prime Minister's visit to Morbi was far more than the compensation provided to the kin of the victims.

Subsequently he was arrested on December 6 by the Gujarat Police for peddling false reports. He was released on December 8, but hours after his release he was once again arrested by the police.

Reacting to Gokhale's arrest senior TMC parliamentarian Sukhendu Shekhar Roy wondered why the police would not arrest Mumbai actor and BJP leader Paresh Rawal for making derogatory remarks about the Bengalis.

"They (police) were silent on a Mumbai film actor's comment on the Bengalis but they arrested Gokhale for writing a tweet... we all know that model code of conduct is still in vogue in Gujarat... if so then how the Election Commission could order his arrest... it does break any electoral law... it is nothing but a witch hunt... clearly and act of political vendetta," Roy said.

A team of senior TMC leaders are scheduled to take up the matter with the EC on Monday, sources said.

# PSPL's signboard removed after Shivpal OK's merger post SP's victory in Mainpuri bypoll

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) founded by Shivpal Singh Yadav has formally ceased to exist as the signboard of the party was taken off from its office at a government bungalow in Raj Bhavan Colony.

The PSPL flag was also removed from the party office. A notice pasted on the gate of the bungalow informs that this is the camp office and residence of Shivpal Yadav.

PSPL founder Shivpal Singh Yadav had on Thursday announced the merger of his party with the Samajwadi Party. The announcement was made by Shivpal Yadav in the presence of his nephew and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Saifai.

Akhilesh Yadav presented a party flag to his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav in Saifai, indicating the merger of PSPL with SP. An SP flag was also put on Shivpal Singh Yadav's vehicle.

In 2016, Akhilesh had shown the SP exit door to his uncle Shivpal due to family disputes. Shivpal later formed his own party, Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia). However, the PSPL failed to win any seat in the state in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and 2022 UP assembly polls.

# Govt panel urges Indian diaspora to invest in UP, take part in investors' summit '23

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To achieve Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's objective of turning the State into a \$1 trillion economy, a delegation including UP Industry Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' and PWD Minister Jitin Prasada held a roadshow in Frankfurt, Germany, on Friday.

The Uttar Pradesh Government's outreach to the Indian diaspora ahead of the Global Investors' Summit 2023 is evoking a good response.

Earlier on Thursday, the delegation from the State met Indian business leaders in Frankfurt and invited the Indian community to expand their businesses in Uttar Pradesh and participate in successfully organising the UP Global Investors' Summit 2023.

Senior government officials, including Navneet Sehgal, Excise Commissioner, Senthil C Pandian and Pranjal Yadav, Secretary, MSME department, were also present.

The delegation reached Frankfurt on December 8 and met leaders of some eminent Indian business groups during a dinner hosted by the consul general of India in Germany.

Speaking on the occasion, the delegation urged these business leaders to choose Uttar Pradesh as their invest-

ment destination. Investment and skill development and exchange of skilled labour in sectors such as logistics, textile, healthcare and pharma, tourism, automotive and electric vehicles (EV) were also discussed on the occasion.

Indian industrialists who remained present included Shantanu Mohan, Senior Vice-President, Trail Blazer Tours India, Vijay Kapoor, Managing Director, Crystal & Somas, Chitra Agarwal, Managing Partner, CSA Healthcare, Gautam Mehta, Business Development Manager, Skyways Logistics and Dr Satish K Batra, President, Horizon Industries.

Dr Amit Telang, Consul General of India in Frankfurt, and members of the Consulate General in Frankfurt joined the delegation for dinner on the occasion. Through the roadshow in Germany, the delegation of the Government of Uttar Pradesh will contact German companies like Samson, Continental AG, Innoplexus AG, and Zack Technologies GmbH and will prepare investment intentions for Uttar Pradesh.

The delegation visited Samson AG Headquarters in Frankfurt and invited its Chief Executive Officer Andreas Wildt to invest in the UP.

# Zoo, night safari in UP's Kukrail likely by 2023, says Min

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



WELCOME TO KUKRAIL FOREST

Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Environment, Forest, Climate Change and Zoological Gardens (Independent Charge) Arun Kumar Saxena said that a target had been set for establishing Kukrail zoo and night safari by the end of the year 2023 and the next foundation day of Lucknow zoo would be celebrated in Kukrail.

"This decision has been taken so that the work of establishing Kukrail zoo and night safari is started as soon as possible," the minister said and added that the work of digital survey of Kukrail zoo and night safari had been completed.

He said work on the camp structure and war room should be completed by the end of

February so that the upcoming review meeting in this regard could be held in the war room itself.

Saxena gave these instructions during the departmental review meeting held at Parijat auditorium. On the lines of One District One Product scheme, he gave instructions to all the divisional forest officers of the state to make available the proposal of One District, One Wetland in each district of the state.

"Wetlands in each district should be developed under eco-tourism," he said.

On the tree plantation campaign he said that if any plant had dried up during the tree plantation campaign, another plant should be planted immediately in its place. Its monitoring will also be done by a third party.

# Shraddha's father meets Fadnavis, seeks Aftab's hanging, slams Palghar police

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A month after the ghastly murder of his daughter Shraddha Walker came to light, her father Vikas Walker met Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, castigated the Palghar police for their failure to "save" his daughter and rooted strongly for the hanging of Shraddha's live-in partner and alleged killer Aftab Poonawala.



Vikas Walker, father of Shraddha Walker, addresses the media after meeting with Dy. CM Devendra Fadnavis, in Mumbai on Friday

that justice would be given to his family and his daughter Shraddha, and appropriate punishment shall be given to the accused.

Walker - who was accompanied by senior BJP leader Kirit Somaiya, when he met Fadnavis - said: "There should be investigations against Aftab's family members, relatives and all others involved in the incident."

"As of now, the case is being investigated by the Delhi Police and Vasai police. It is going well. But, in the initial stages, the Vasai and Nala Sopara had bungled up the case leading to the murder of my daughter," Walker said.

"The Delhi Police have assured us that we will get justice. The Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister (Fadnavis) has also assured us of the same," he said.

Talking to media persons after meeting the Deputy Chief Minister, Walker said, "Had the Vasai Police and Nala Sopara Police in Palghar district taken timely action in the matter, my daughter could have been saved from being murdered by Poonawala".

Walker also demanded a thorough investigation against the Poonawalla family members so as to establish their role

# Australian investors meet Yogi, show will to invest in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A delegation of Australian investors met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence here on Friday.

During the meeting, the delegation, led by Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to India Sarah Storey, discussed the possibilities of investment in various sectors in Uttar

Pradesh and expressed its enthusiasm for participation in the Global Investors' Summit 2023, the state government said in a statement.

The chief minister said the UP government was organising a Global Investors' Summit in Lucknow from February 10 to 12 next year. "With the aim of increasing the per capita income in the state, it is our endeavour that the country

and the world can benefit from the immense business opportunities available in the state," he said.

"This Investors' Summit will prove to be useful in providing an integrated platform for the global industrial world to cooperate in economic development. The cooperation of Australian entrepreneurs and investors will be useful in taking this summit to new

heights," he added. Uttar Pradesh, blessed by nature and God, was today creating a new identity as the growth engine of India's economy, Yogi Adityanath said, adding that it is the fourth largest state in India in terms of size.

"Our state is home to 25 crore people, making it India's largest labour and consumer market. The government of

Uttar Pradesh is developing infrastructure at a rapid pace to ensure seamless connectivity through air, water, road and rail networks, which will enhance the accessibility of logistics to enable industries to access global and domestic markets," he said.

"We have the world's most fertile land, and the richest water resources," Yogi Adityanath said.



A fisherman rows his boat across the Hooghly river at sunset, in Nadia district on Friday

# Stalin launches Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission on Friday to protect the natural resources in the State besides restore them on a long-term basis. The state will achieve carbon neutrality much ahead of 2070 target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said while launching the pioneering initiative, which takes the climate agenda on priority with district missions and climate officers already in

place in the state. The state is first to launch its own Climate Change Mission to make Tamil Nadu a climate smart state.

"Let the Dravidian model guide (the nation) not only in social justice but also in ecological justice," Stalin said in a tweet, after launching the mission at the TN Climate Summit 2022. During the budget for 2021-2022, the state government announced the launch of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission for an outlay of Rs 500 crore to undertake climate change management.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Bad beginning

The Veep should have better avoided criticism of the apex court in his Rajya Sabha speech

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has begun his tenure as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha with a combative note. In his maiden address in the Upper House, he expressed his displeasure over the fact that the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill, unanimously passed by Parliament, was “undone by the Supreme Court.” This was, according to him, a “severe compromise of parliamentary sovereignty and disregard of the mandate of the people.” The remark was as uncharacteristic as it was avoidable. Uncharacteristic because when a person enters a high office, they prefer to say nice things and sound accommodative. Platitudes rather than barbed comments are heard on the first day. But it looks like Dhankhar is yet to shed his belligerence that he exhibited in Kolkata as West Bengal Governor. He became a thorn in Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s side, incessantly slating her government and its actions. It is widely believed that he has been rewarded for his bellicosity. At any rate, his elevation may have inspired other Governors to become more aggressive; one example is Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan. But Dhankhar must realise that his statements will now be highlighted and scrutinised much more than they were earlier. He should have avoided criticism of the apex court in such strong words. He must remember that the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary are three integral organs of the system which have to work in tandem, not fight with each other.



This is not to say that the Supreme Court’s decisions cannot or should not be criticised; they can be and must be, for that is how a vibrant democracy functions. But the manner in which criticism is made is very important—more so when the person slamming an apex court verdict holds a Constitutional office, as Dhankhar does. Hinting that the top court of the land disregarded the mandate of the people was not just excessive but also in bad taste. We commented earlier that the Government’s preference for the NJAC was justified. Three or half of the now disbanded NJAC comprised top judges only; two other members were also appointed in a manner in which government representation was in a minority. It looked like a reasonable system but the Supreme Court invalidated it in 2015. So, the collegium system continues. A few weeks ago, Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju described the collegium system as “opaque.” In fact, he claimed that a majority of judges agreed with him: “Judges are not happy with the collegium system today.” He claimed that when judges select judges, there is politics. In fact, “the politics of us politicians is nothing to what goes on in the judiciary.” By echoing the Government’s position on an important issue, Dhankhar has not presented himself as an impartial Chairman of the Rajya Sabha who could hope to enjoy bipartisan support in the House. This is unfortunate.

### PICTALK



A fisherman rows across the Hooghly river during sunset, in Nadia district

# Common ‘enemy’ No 1’ is China

Our Asian neighbour, riding on the might of its economic muscle, doesn’t mind being brazenly expansionist even at the cost of global peace



BHOPINDER SINGH

George Fernandes was perhaps the first Indian politician to call out the Chinese as ‘enemy number one’. It had raised hackles, piqued debate and seen as a tad bit alarmist and premature, as the hyphenated relation with Pakistan was still consuming emotions. However, it didn’t take long for the neologism of *Zhongguo shiji* or Chinese Century, to confirm George Fernandes’s forewarning. The advent of Xi Jinping as the President of China in 2013 accelerated the portents of an expansionist and authoritarian Dragon that would threaten the peace of established global order.

Back in the United States, the erstwhile Soviet Union was the centrepiece of its military strategy till its implosion with the *Revolutions of 1989*. A brief run of the US as the solo hegemonic power in the 90s ensued. However, it was the George Bush administration which recognised the emerging realities with the Pacific Ocean emerging as the theatre of tensions and focus of deployment in *Cold War 1.0.2*, with China having supplanted the Soviet Union/Russia, as the primary enemy. Given the physical distance between the mainland of US and China, constraints of a viable and sustainable ‘long-range power projection’ became inevitable, and therefore the urgency for establishing credible and strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific realm. This doctrinal evolution was the progenitor to the strategic conceptualisation of *Sino-centric ‘blocs’* like *QUAD* (Quadrilateral – Japan, India, Australia and US) and *AUKUS* (Australia, UK and US), as indeed the ‘*Pivot to Asia*’ policy by the subsequent Obama Administration. Barack Obama was believed to have been sworn into the Oval Office as the ‘first Pacific President’. But it was Donald Trump who transformed the US-China narrative into open hostility – Trump spoke of Chinese expansionism in the geopolitical and geo-economic realm that needed to be checked, bluntly. From person-



ally calling Xi an ‘enemy’, escalating trade-wars, threatening Chinese allies like Pakistan and North Korea to even calling the Covid-19 virus as ‘Chinese Virus’, Trump opened the floodgates to China.

Incumbent Joe Biden administration has stayed the course on China and Biden himself described his conversation with Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Group 20 summit at Bali as, ‘very blunt with one another’. Even though it is the traditional *cold war* nemesis i.e., Russia, which is in a bloody conflict with the US-supported Ukraine, and is doing so in the midst of the earlier imagined theatre of Eastern Europe – US remains firm in holding the strategic view that it is China and not Russia (hence, Indo-Pacific theatre and not the European or the Middle Eastern region) that is going to be the ‘enemy number one’, going forward. Even the recently released *2022 China Military Power Report* by the US Defense Department confirms China as, ‘the most consequential and systemic challenge to the US national security and a free and open international system’. It went on to add



BACK IN THE UNITED STATES, THE ERSTWHILE SOVIET UNION WAS THE CENTREPIECE OF ITS MILITARY STRATEGY TILL ITS IMPLOSION WITH THE REVOLUTIONS OF 1989

that Beijing was, ‘the only competitor with the intent, and increasingly, the capacity to shape the international order’. The dragon’s intent is underscored by the fact that despite the crippling financial implications of the Covid pandemic, China has managed to double its nuclear arsenal to 400 from 200 warheads in 2020. Even their ballistic missile testing in 2021 has been more than the sum total testing done by the rest of the world!

Months earlier, the US Defense Department had released the *2022 National Defense Strategy* where it had explicitly noted, ‘The most comprehensive and serious challenge to US national security is the PRC’s coercive and increasingly aggressive endeavor to refashion the Indo-Pacific region to suit its interests and authoritarian preferences’. Importantly for India, it had specifically covered the Indian concerns as the conflict on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Summer of 2020 was one of the three specifically mentioned regions of concern, ‘a broader pattern of destabilizing and coercive PRC behavior that stretches across the East China Sea, the South

China Sea, and along the Line of Actual Control’.

Today, the haunting commonality of China underwrites the brewing Indo-US equation, and they feel mutually comfortable and impelled enough to do joint Military Exercise *ala Yudh Abhyas* (literally, War Practice) – and the indispensability of the said relationship is essentially cemented and predicated on the perceived threat perception from China. Towards the same, leniency of overlooking Delhi’s legacy purchase of arms and oil from Russia, is par for course. Russia is a pale shadow of its past and China is the proverbial Dragon in the room for both Delhi and Washington DC to tame.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GUJARAT VOTE BELONGS TO MODI

Sir — The BJP’s victory in Gujarat by record-breaking 156 seats, 86 per cent of the 182 seats grabbing 52.5 per cent votes has surprised thousands. But the credit must go to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was leading the campaign all the way for the BJP and his popularity, which was unlinked to the performance of the State Government, helped power the BJP to a historic victory. Beside Modi, the entry of AAP (which played spoiler on many seats to the Congress) and the defection of 19 Congress MLAs to the BJP (not only pushing the BJP’s tally to 111 in the last Assembly but also a majority of Congress turncoats or their family members fielded by BJP emerged victors), created confusion in the Opposition space. In Gujarat, Modi is more popular than his party, and the Opposition is unable to create the politics or programmes that can challenge it. But in Himachal Pradesh, Modi’s extensive campaigning was not enough. Why did the BJP’s double engine Government run out of steam in Himachal; was not there any public welfare and development? Narendra Modi’s development model is only for Modi’s home State?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

### MUMBAI BREATHE HEAVY

Sir — India’s financial capital Mumbai has been detecting ‘very poor’ air quality for the past few days. While it is India’s capital, Delhi, that makes headlines for having dangerous levels of air pollution during the winter months, Mumbai is considered to have better air quality due to its vast coastline. However, Mumbai overtook Delhi’s pollution levels several times this week, the *BBC* reported. Mumbai has joined a growing list of Indian cities that have bad air. As per experts, rapid construction, adverse weather conditions and increasing pollution from vehicle emissions are a few of the main factors responsible for the deteriorating air quality. The level of PM 2.5 — a fine particulate matter that can clog lungs and cause

### Not all’s hunky-dory in Qatar



There’s a lot more happening behind the scenes than meets the eye! The world is glued to the football World Cup matches currently going on in Qatar, with the final slated to be played on December 18. Statistics show how the Government of Qatar, since the day their country was allotted to hosting of the 2022 World Cup, started a period of brutal torture on migrant workers. Harassment of labourers, keeping them in inhumane conditions, salaries not being disbursed in time, confiscating their pass-

ports to make them work 12-18 hours under severe heat conditions: All these were normal conditions and widely reported. According to confirmed reports, data from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka showed that there were 5,927 deaths of migrant workers in Qatar during 2011-2020. Besides, data from Pakistan’s embassy in Qatar has confirmed 824 more deaths of their workers between 2010 and 2020. Instead of showing sympathy to the families of the deceased, the Qatari Government continues to ridicule the charges even today. Just recently, in an interview, tournament owner Nasser Al Khater said ‘death is a natural part of life’ in response to a question asked by journalists on the workers who died. This answer has spread anger among human rights organisations and activists around the world. Does FIFA still feel that awarding the host to Qatar was the right decision? Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

A host of diseases — was 308 in Mumbai on Friday at 8:30 am, compared to Delhi’s reading of 259, according to Government data. Many Indian cities often report PM 2.5 levels well above the safe limit. Meanwhile, local hospitals in Mumbai have reported an increase in the number of people coming in with breathing difficulties and other ailments related to the poor air quality. Doctors have advised people to wear masks and avoid going out when not necessary. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Calcutta, in the late 60s. In 1979, he chaired a Planning Commission Task Force which used nutritional requirements to formulate poverty lines for rural and urban areas. Several anecdotes of real life situations and handling of real life situations make his persona even bigger. One such incident relates to his unique methodology in solving complex matters. He was then the JNU VC, and the students were on a hunger strike. He too went on a satyagraha to support their cause. Whatever may be the motive, it cannot be denied that he adopted a wider world view. From 1996-98, he served as the Minister of Power, Planning and Programme, as a member of the Planning Commission implemented programmes at the Centre, attained greater heights by virtue of his balanced and meticulous economic acumen and foresight. Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

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

## SOUNDBITE

Congress’ Bharat Jodo Yatra was attracting the attention of the whole world and the youth associated with it would prove to be an asset for Rahul Gandhi. Rajasthan CM — Ashok Gehlot

The opportunity for India to buy Russian oil at a cheap price comes from the fact that Ukrainians are suffering from Russian aggression and dying every day. Ukraine Foreign Minister — Dmytro Kuleba

I’ve chosen consciously to put at risk the thing that is most dear to me, and that is my work. And the cost has been huge and it’s been personal and emotional in the sense that I don’t get to do the thing that I love doing, which is acting. I don’t get to do it enough. Actor — Swara Bhaskar

I will only decide who is going to be the captain when I reach the stadium. I don’t know the lineup. What I have always done is focus on the immediate match. Portugal team manager — Fernando Santos

Like Hindus and Muslims, Christians also have their own festival so they should get the chance to celebrate these festivals. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury — Congress MP

## The ayurveda circle

Among ancient India’s biggest gifts to the world, we must embrace it emphatically first

Union Minister of State for Tourism Shripad Naik has rightly advocated the need for giving benefits of ‘Ayurveda’ to the world. The 9th World Ayurveda Congress is being organised by the World Ayurveda Foundation with support of the Union Ministry of AYUSH and Government of Goa. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the valedictory session on December 11. “It (Ayurveda) is not just medicine, it’s our tradition. We need to give benefits of it to the world,” he said. “Ayurveda has been facilitated by the setting up of a separate Ministry of AYUSH, credit of which goes to Modi” Naik added. He also said that the Modi government took Yoga to the world. And that is perhaps where he was off the mark. Indeed the AYUSH ministry was formed to give fillip to the alternative medicines especially Ayurveda but has it achieved its objective is rather questionable. More than 5,000 delegates and 200 delegates from 30 countries are attending the congress. Though conclaves like this do help, the minister and the government at large should understand that it takes more than just words to make a system popular. Equating it to Yoga would be wrong as Yoga was already popular in the west and the credit for that certainly does not go to the government.

The Ministry of AYUSH, is responsible for developing education, research and propagation of traditional medicine systems in India. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H) was made into a ministry by the Modi Government in 2014. But in its eight years there is hardly anything that AYUSH can be proud of. It started with much fanfare but has delivered nothing. It promised 100 AYUSH hospitals across the country were proposed, an Institute of Naturopathy in Pune at the cost of Rs 1,000 crore and posting 4,000 AYUSH practitioners across the country. Perhaps the AYUSH ministry can throw some light on the progress made. Somewhere the ministry lost its sense of direction and got embroiled in unnecessary controversies with its advisories which were not backed by scientific research. It failed to provide an infrastructure for alternative medicine and create awareness about the alternative medicines. The minister would do well to come up with a viable plan to provide facilities for the alternative medicines. Before that happens it would be just lip service to a great cause by the union ministers, nothing more.



**FIRST COLUMN**  
**DIGITAL NOMADISM: AN INSPIRATIONAL TREND**

Organisations should enter into agreements with nomads



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Businesses have witnessed unprecedented trends during Covid times. One area that has seen a major revamp is the place of work for employees. The pandemic gave wings to an already fledgling idea of digital nomadism and changed employees' workstations forever.

Apart from the office, a digital nomad can work remotely from any place like a beach, a library or even a foreign country while traveling. According to a survey conducted by MBO Partners, this trend is fast rising. In the US alone, the number of digital nomads increased by 50 per cent to 11 million in 2020 and is expected to grow to a massive 35.7 million by 2025. It is interesting to note that the composition of this group changed from freelancers, independent consultants and entrepreneurs to regular, traditional, office goers with 9-5 work hours.

But who are these digital nomads? A research by Harvard Business Review finds that an average digital nomad is a digitally savvy, well-educated and highly skilled individual employed in tech industry, the creative arena, digital marketing and so on. Although digital nomadism became popular during the pandemic, this trend does not show any signs of slowing down. There are some ways in which employers can cater to this demand for flexible remote working facilities.



Firstly, the flexible policies that can provide freedom to employees can help companies attract talent. Many companies like Airbnb, 3M and Lift have taken cue and have developed and implemented adaptable remote working policies. The second most important requirement to promote digital nomadism is strong technological investments. To allow employees data access, many companies are using cloud-based technologies.

Thirdly, it is easier for companies with open office design concepts to step ahead and transform into a culture of digital nomadism. Although it is difficult for traditional companies with fixed 9-5 working hours and hierarchical seating arrangements to take a leap into remote working, companies which already open work spaces with different and new design elements like lounges, game rooms, project rooms and hotdesks, can help transition from flexible work style to nomadic work style.

So are companies in general ready with their policies to attract digital nomads? It is found that in spite of the growing trend of digital nomadism, only few organisations have formally designed policies for them. Therefore, digital nomads generally travel without their organisations knowing about it. In most cases, the immediate supervisor would have this information, but due to lack of concrete organisational policies would just turn a blind eye. However, this lack of clear policies can leave a firm open to any litigation or regulatory risks.

Generally, a person working in a particular location comes under the jurisdiction of that state/country, and the laws and regulations of the country apply to her irrespective of the location of the employer. So being present in another state or country, there is a possibility that digital nomads unintentionally end up creating the presence of the employer as a permanent establishment exposing it to an array of legal, regulatory, taxation laws and rules. Organisations should realise that the trend of digital nomadism is here to stay. To attract and retain employees, organisations should enter into agreements with digital nomads to clearly specify the terms and conditions of remote working.

Social media is playing an important role in the rise of digital nomadism. Owing to their strong social media presence, digital nomads communicate about their experiences through vlogs, blogs and Instagram accounts, making their lifestyle coveted. Although digital nomadism started out as a choice, it is more of an aspiration now. Organisations must adapt quickly and include the requirements of employees who want to enjoy being free to travel.

(The author is an associate professor at Amity University)

# Cong, Savarkar and the Karat syndrome

Since the 1980s, Communists have been sneaking into the Congress and allegedly toxifying the minds of the top leadership in the party and the Govt



M NAGESWARA RAO

India's independence movement produced freedom fighters from a kaleidoscope of ideologies, from the radical left to the civilisational right. The freedom that we enjoy today is the result of their cumulative efforts and collective sacrifice. Therefore, every Indian should feel proud of those sons of motherland who gave up the prime of their youth, underwent tremendous hardships, atrocities, and humiliation, with the sole aim to free the motherland from the foreign yoke.

Our current ideological incongruence with theirs should never be a barrier in being grateful and reverential to them. It is, however, understandable that some center-left establishmentarians who came to power immediately after independence could not outgrow their personal animosities. But that is long past. Why should the third generation leaders after independence abhor Hindu-right leaders of the freedom movement who suffered more than the most?

In Hindu thought, except the supreme Brahman even the manifested gods are not perfect, what to speak of humans. And freedom fighters like any human beings had their own follies and defects in their persona. Further, before the might of the State even the strongest break down. Many top leaders of all ideological shades too had at times cozied up to the colonial rulers to avoid adverse personal consequences. And as the British were most brutal to the freedom fighters from the Hindu-right, some of its leaders had to buckle to survive, for you can't fight war unless you are alive. Therefore, maligning them by selectively highlighting certain of their deeds out of context is both unfair and ungrateful.

In any case, what is it that we gain by vilifying those who fought for our freedom? Inexplicably, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar is the most prominent Hindu-right freedom fighter who remains the prime target of left-liberals. He was an atheist, a prolific writer, an ideologue, a powerful orator, and a firebrand revolutionary leader. He wrote 'The Indian War of Independence 1857' for its 50th anniversary and 'The Essentials of Hindutva' among many others. The British banned the former book even before it was published.

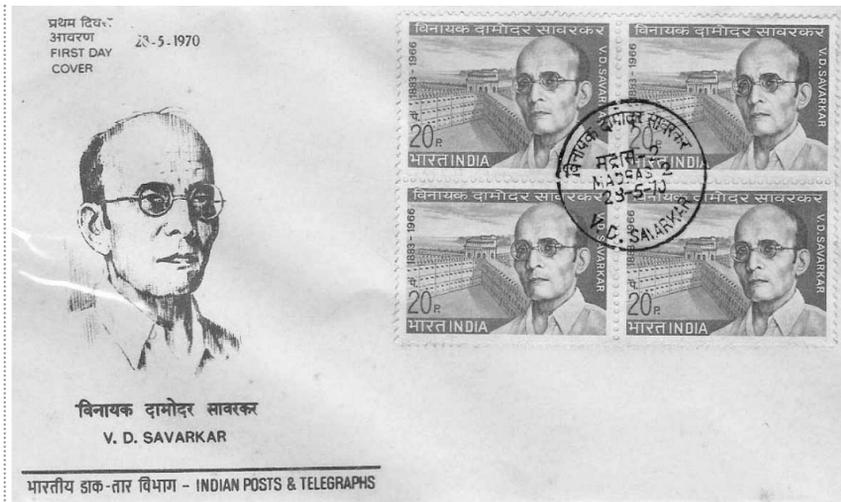
For waging war against the colonial government, the British sentenced him to 50 years of imprisonment and transportation for life. He was lodged in the infamous Cellular Jail in the Andamans. The punishment there was inhuman. It ranged from hard labour to extra hours on the grinding mill, to standing handcuffed for a week, to bar-fetters for six months, to confinement in solitary cells, to four days of starvation diet and to cross bars for 10 days, a punishment which compelled the victim to keep his legs apart.

Savarkar endured all that inhuman torture for 11 long years, which others could not even imagine to be for 11 min-



**AS OPPOSED TO THE PRAGMATISM OF HIS PREDECESSOR HARKISHEN SINGH SURJEET, PRAKASH KARAT IS EXTRAORDINARILY RIGID IN IDEOLOGY AND VIRULENTLY ANTI-HINDU. NO WONDER, DURING HIS ERA, THE CPI(M) HAD THE SHARPEST DOWNFALL FROM WHICH IT COULD NEVER RECOVER**

(The author is a former Director, CBI. The views expressed are personal)



utes. Based on his mercy petitions, which was a legal avenue available for all, he was shifted to Ratnagiri Jail and then released to be confined to only Ratnagiri district for 15 years. Was there any prominent leader of freedom movement from any ideological stream who underwent the kind of inhuman sufferings as did Savarkar?

Indira Gandhi celebrated Savarkar. In 1970, her government issued a commemorative postage stamp on him. In a letter of May 20, 1980 for his birth centenary, she said that Savarkar's daring defiance of the British Government has its own important place in the annals of freedom movement. "I wish success to the plans to celebrate the birth centenary of this remarkable son of India," she said. In 1983, Indira Gandhi got a documentary film on Savarkar made through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. She also gave a grant to the Savarkar memorial in Mumbai. This is a representative example that the old Congress not only did not have any ill-will towards Hindu right or Savarkar but they also celebrated the contribution and sacrifices of the latter.

With the waning of Communism in post 1980s, many leftists sneaked into Congress pastures, bringing their visceral hatred for anything Hindu, including Savarkar, and toxified minds of Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi. Their hidden agenda is to transform the Congress into a new Communist party.

For several decades the RSS-BJP used to loathe Gandhi, Nehru, and

several Congress leaders of freedom struggle, but it did not give them any political dividends. As they needed to deepen their political acceptability, they course-corrected and started appropriating leaders from other ideological streams. They built the world's tallest statue of Sardar Patel. They incorporated Gandhi and Ambedkar in their pantheon. They eulogise Indira Gandhi as Maa Durga.

They fete PV Narsimha Rao to gain cross political legitimacy for their own brand of reforms. They installed a statue of Bose under the India Gate canopy. After appropriating Swami Vivekananda, Tagore, Jaya Prakash Narayan, they are now even celebrating anti-Hindu Periyar and Jyotiba Phule. Sooner than later, they will also appropriate Nehru. The list is getting longer despite feeble protests of the Congress against BJP stealing their icons.

The results of the general elections, from 1951 to 2019, show that a party (not a coalition) could secure absolute majority only when Hindus consolidate for it. From 1951 to 1971, Hindus were solidly with the Congress for its inclusivity. Emergency distanced them but marginally. The dismal failure of the Janata Party experiment brought them back to the Congress in 1980. The last time Congress secured absolute majority was in 1984 as Hindus hugely consolidated in the wake of tragic assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Thereafter, it secured a near majority in 1991 due to Hindu consolidation in the phases of election

that took place after the terrible assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. The UPA rule from 2004 to 2014 badly alienated Hindus from the Congress as it was widely seen for the first time as anti-Hindu. As a result, Hindus massively rallied behind the BJP as never before, giving it absolute majority for the first time in its history in 2014 and repeated it in 2019. More importantly, the election data indicate that historically Hindus reposed faith in the Congress more than in any other party when it was centrist and not anti-Hindu.

Here is a lesson for the Congress. Prakash Karat is a top apparatchik of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and was its national chief from 2005 to 2015. As opposed to the pragmatism of his predecessor Harkishen Singh Surjeet, Prakash Karat is extraordinarily rigid in ideology and virulently anti-Hindu and had no personal skin in the electoral game. No wonder, during his era the CPI(M) had the sharpest downfall from which it could never recover.

To recap, while on the one hand, Congress is losing its icons to the RSS-BJP on the other its diatribe for no rhyme or reason against Hindu-right and historical personalities like Savarkar is pushing Hindus away from it. Why is the Congress in self-destructive mode?

Because the Congress leadership is in the intellectual grip of left-liberals, who have no skin in the electoral game. They are doing to the Congress what Prakash Karat did to the CPI(M).

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**

**HE (CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL) IS A 'NAMOONA' FROM DELHI WHO IS A SYMPATHISER OF TERRORISTS.**  
— UP CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH



**ELECT THE BJP IF YOU WANT ABUSES, HOOLIGANISM, CORRUPTION AND UGLY POLITICS, BUT SUPPORT US IF YOU WANT SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ELECTRICITY, WATER AND ROADS.**  
— DELHI CM ARVIND KEJRIWAL

# Highlight of COP27 was 'Loss and Damage Fund'

Increasing climate risk around the globe requires a more strategic and broader approach to incorporate optimisation of consumption

The 27th edition of the United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties, COP27, concluded recently at Sharm El-Sheikh and made positive but limited progress. The Egyptian COP27 Presidency has defined the summit's four key goals.

With mitigation, all parties, especially those in a position to "lead by example", are urged to take "bold and immediate actions" and to reduce emissions to limit global warming well below 2°C. With adaptation, parties have to ensure that COP27 makes the "crucially needed progress" towards enhancing climate change resilience and assisting the world's most vulnerable communities. The goal of finance called



JAIDEEP MUKHERJEE



VAISHALI MISHRA



GAURAV BHATIANI

(Jaideep and Vaishali work with Smart Power-India) and Gaurav is with RTI International (India).

for making significant progress on climate finance, including the delivery of the promised \$100 billion per year to assist developing countries. With collaboration, the UN negotiations stuck to the consensus-based approach, as reaching an agreement will require "inclusive and active participation from all stakeholders".

Increasing climate risk requires a more strategic and broader approach to incorporate optimisation of consumption. Doing more with less, adopting circular economy principles and removing incentives for inefficient equipment, business models and lifestyles need to be at the forefront and centre of the conversation. Inspiration needs to be drawn from the words of

Mahatma Gandhi that "the world has enough for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed". This applies not only to energy, but also conserving water, building materials, transportation, food and textiles. Definitive progress was made on the long-standing carbon market process, but many operational decisions were postponed for future negotiations.

Further, the negotiations remained confined to a relatively narrow agenda on fossil fuels and therefore missed the opportunity to comprehensively address all sources of GHGs.

While COP26 focused on mitigation, the highlight of COP27 was creation of the 'Loss and Damage Fund' to support most vulnerable

countries impacted severely by climate disasters. Countries in Asia (India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Philippines), Africa (Kenya, Malawi, Chad, Niger), Pacific Islands (Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati) and Caribbean Islands (Haiti) are amongst the most vulnerable and impacted.

An area of particular attention is the inadequacy of current climate financing models. Global climate finance remains below the third of annual requirements. At COP27, negotiators deliberated on setting a 'new collective quantified goal on climate finance' in 2024, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.

With millions of people in developing nations lacking access to reliable energy and

depending on fossil fuels for their energy requirements adds to the carbon emission.

Energy access will power the socio-economic aspirations of 2.8 billion people without electricity. For an equitable and inclusive green transition, a scaled-up and integrated approach is required to support the clean energy transition to distributed renewable energy and grid-based renewables and will reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Distributed renewable energy is relevant even for cities since they consume 60-80 per cent of energy and generate 70-75 per cent of GHG emissions. Hence, enabling energy transition will require significant effort in reforming urban planning and infra-

structure delivery. Technology convergence across electricity, telecom, and transport present newer opportunities for reducing carbon footprints, improving quality of life, reducing cost, and enhancing long-term sustainability. Underground utility systems, which are gaining global popularity, can be integrated with the master plans. Such an approach will require new regulations and institutional structuring to include energy as a part of urban planning. Thus, a strategic approach to urbanization presents a large opportunity, given a strong positive correlation between per capita income and urbanisation.

Last year, the Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) in Glasgow reiterated the global community's ongoing response

to the Paris Agreement to tackle the climate crisis while declaring a state of global emergency. The goal to achieve net-zero global emissions by 2050 while keeping the increase in global average temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius in comparison to pre-industrial levels was well-intentioned.

COP 27 balanced that with progress on adaptation and the creation of a loss and damage fund. Barbados Climate Envoy called the fund "a small victory for humankind". However, the overall ambition and, more importantly, action on all fronts need to be significantly and urgently scaled to achieve more significant victories in mitigating the global emergency.

# Winter of discontent for Russian troops

THE CONVERSATION/AP ■ WEST POINT (US)

With Russian troops digging trenches to prepare for an expected winter standoff, it would be easy to conclude that fighting will slow in Ukraine until after the ground thaws in the spring. But evidence from the Ukrainian battlefields point to a different trajectory.

As a career US special forces officer who conducted field research on the 2008 and 2014 wars in Georgia and Ukraine, it is my view that this war has demonstrated that only one side, the Ukrainians, can execute effective combat maneuvers.

I believe that the Ukrainians will attempt to launch a large-scale counteroffensive in late winter when the ground is still frozen.

not nearly as cold and snowy as many believe.

Donetsk, for example, has an average temperature of nearly 25 degrees Fahrenheit (-4 degrees Celsius) in January and February.

Its snowiest month, January, averages only 4.9 inches of snow, or .12 metres. Both January and February average just as many rainy days as snowy days — roughly two days of each.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF RUSSIAN ATTACK

Since the invasion began in February 2022, Russia made most of its gains in the first month of the war when it seized Kherson, surrounded Mariupol, and was on the doorsteps of Kyiv and Kharkiv.

But Russia soon gave up on Kyiv and withdrew all its forces from the north.

Failing to achieve quick victory, Russia instead settled on making incremental gains in the east and south.

Over the next five months, Russia captured Mariupol, but little else of tactical or strategic value.

During this time, Ukraine built up its combat power with new weaponry from the West and planned a large counteroffensive, which it initiated on August 28, 2022.

In the first week of the counteroffensive, Ukraine liberated more territory than Russia had captured in the previous five months.

The success of the counteroffensive showed that Ukraine's military was superior to Russia's in every category with the exception of size.

It had better doctrine, leaders, strategy, culture and will — and it had just proved that it could effectively fight battles with a combination of artillery, tanks, soldiers and air attacks.



erated more territory than Russia had captured in the previous five months.

By September 12, 2022, Ukraine had liberated much of Kharkiv Oblast as Russian troops routinely fled from their positions.

After liberating the entirety of Kharkiv Oblast in early October 2022, Ukraine turned its attention to Kherson in the south.

These attacks left Russian forces west of the Dnipro River in an untenable position.

Realizing this, Russia shockingly announced on November 9, 2022, that it was withdrawing from Kherson.

Two days later, Russia had completed its withdrawal from the west bank of the river.

Limiting Russia's options further, these strikes have been less effective as the war has progressed.

Early in the war, most of Russia's missiles made it through Ukraine's limited air defences.

With the help of western air defence systems, Ukraine was shooting down 50 per cent of Russian missiles in October and is now intercepting over 80 per cent of them.

But snow will have an impact on Russia's already stressed and under-performing logistical system, and the cold will further lower — if that is possible — the already low morale of Russia's poorly outfitted and undertrained soldiers.

As the smaller military, Ukraine cannot afford to take heavy losses.

Thus far, it has used a strategy of defending territory when it could, retreating when it should to preserve combat power, and attacking when the opportunities have presented themselves.

Ukraine effectively employed this strategy to defend Kyiv in the first month of the war and during the September 2022 counteroffensive to reclaim the Kharkiv and Kherson oblasts.

An important question must be asked: Why did it take six months for Ukraine to launch its counteroffensive?

One reason is that Ukraine had to wait several months for promised Western aid to arrive at its bases.

In my view, a significant factor is the lengthy amount of time it takes to plan large counteroffensives and to position supplies, equipment and forces.

The fact that Ukraine conducted the counterattacks in succession suggests that Ukraine lacks the combat power to conduct two large-scale counterattacks at the same time.

Ukraine is going to need time to regroup, refit and plan for its next large-scale operation.

Thus, it seems reasonable that Ukraine will have to wait at least 30 to 45 days — maybe more — before it is ready to execute its next counteroffensive, which would be in the heart of winter.

While conducting an attack in winter may be difficult, off-road movement in the spring could become impossible, as the Russians discovered during their initial invasion in muddy and wet terrain.

It seems reasonable to conclude that Ukraine may wish to initiate its next counteroffensive while the ground is still frozen — and Russian troop morale is at its lowest point since the invasion.

## WINTER'S IMPACT ON WAR

Historically, the pace of fighting does slow in the winter. Weapons and other equipment can freeze up in extreme cold, and it's much more difficult to shoot a weapon while wearing thick gloves.

Shorter days are a factor. Despite technological advances, most of the fighting during this war has occurred during the day.

But this winter may be different for the Ukrainian military.

First, Ukrainian winters are

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कार्यालय अधिकासी अभियन्ता, अनुराखण्ड जल संस्थान

**उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान**

लेन नं.-1, तरुण विहार, मोघरोवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001

Phone/Fax No.: 0135-2671940, E-mail: eemdujs@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक: 4010/ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक: 09.12.2022

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं के कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, सिंगल बिड के आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.सं.	विकास खण्ड	कार्य विवरण	बरोहर धनराशि (रु.में)	निविदा का मूल्य (रु.में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	सहसपुर	कोटड़ा कल्याणपुर पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	146500.00	₹4000 +GST	06 माह
2	विकासपुर	माजरी पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	254250.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
3	विकासपुर	कटापथर पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	230300.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
4	विकासपुर	लांजा पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	84100.00	₹3000 +GST	6 माह
5	डोईवाला	मोहम्मदपुर बड़कली पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	187100.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
6	सहसपुर	बिसनी नाहड पेयजल योजना में सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, मुकूब मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	182000.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
7	विकासपुर	सोना पेयजल योजना में सतही जलाशयनिर्माण, मुकूब मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	252850.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
8	विकासपुर	ढोली पेयजल योजना में सतही जलाशयनिर्माण, मुकूब मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	116900.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
9	विकासपुर	आदुवाला पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशयनिर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, विद्युत संयंत्र सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	270350.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
10	विकासपुर	बाडवाला पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशयनिर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, विद्युत संयंत्र सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	306000.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
11	विकासपुर	बाँवपुर कुँद पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशयनिर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, विद्युत संयंत्र सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	287450.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
12	विकासपुर	कुन्जा एवं कुन्जाग्रान्ट पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	259300.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
13	रघुपुर	घास्कोट पेयजल योजना में सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	156000.00	₹4000 +GST	06 माह
14	रघुपुर	धनीला पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, मुकूब मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	182850.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
15	रघुपुर	छमारीली पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, मुकूब मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	80820.00	₹4000 +GST	06 माह
16	रघुपुर	बाडवाली पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, मुकूब मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	80000.00	₹4000 +GST	06 माह
17	रघुपुर	सर्नाल पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, मुकूब मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	143200.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
18	सहसपुर	रिखोली पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, मुकूब मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	175150.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
19	सहसपुर	पुरीहियावाला पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, मुकूब मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	115460.00	₹4000 +GST	06 माह
20	डोईवाला	खाड रामवाला पेयजल योजना में वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, विद्युत कार्य, सम्बन्धित संयंत्र की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	107450.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
21	सहसपुर	अदुवापुर पेयजल योजना में उर्ध्व जलाशय मरम्मत, नलकूप विकास, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	217800.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
22	डोईवाला	खीरकाली पेयजल योजना में उर्ध्व जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट की सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	137000.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह

निविदा सम्य सादर (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत् है:

क्र.सं.	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाइन प्रकाशन की तिथि	19.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	19.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि	23.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि	26.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि	31.12.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	बिड ऑनलाइन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निर्धारित शुल्क, बिड सिक्योरिटी, स्टॉम्प पेपर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज)	31.12.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
7	बिड खोलने की तिथि	02.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित सवाल जानकारिता के हार्ड उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

राजेन्द्र पाल अधिकासी अभियन्ता

'जल संचय-जीवन संचय'



## Bulgarian parliament OK's military aid to Ukraine

AP ■ SOFIA, BULGARIA

Bulgarian lawmakers on Friday approved the country's first military assistance package to Ukraine involving a classified list of weapons prepared by the government.

The National Assembly voted 148-46 with one abstention in favor of the weapons to Kyiv following months of political squabbling on the issue in the Balkan NATO member state.

Bulgaria previously agreed to repair Ukrainian military equipment at its factories but refused to send weapons directly to opposition from President Rumen Radev and the country's Moscow-friendly political parties. Along with Hungary, Bulgaria was the only European Union member country to initially refuse to give Ukraine weapons following Russia's invasion.

While the full list of weapons remains classified, cabinet members told reporters ahead of the vote that the package included small arms and ammunition. Defense Minister Dimitar Stoyanov said in a TV interview that the aid "is fully aligned with Ukraine's priorities" but added that Bulgaria will neither provide S-300 missile systems nor MiG-29s fighter jets.

FM: Helping Ukraine self-preservation

Ukraine's finance minister says crucial Western financial support is "not charity" but "self-preservation" in the fight to defend democracy as his country deals with growing costs to repair electrical and heating infrastructure wrecked by Russian attacks.

Serhiy Marchenko also told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday from Kyiv that he believes European Union officials will sort out a dispute with Hungary that has blocked a key 18 billion-euro (USD 18.97 billion) aid package and would cover much of Ukraine's looming budget gap.

Marchenko said financial support for Ukraine is tiny compared to what developed countries spent to combat emergencies like the global financial crisis of 2008 and the COVID-19 pandemic. And that the money bolsters freedom and security far beyond his country's struggle, he added.

"It's not charity to support Ukraine," Marchenko said. "We are trying to protect freedom and democracy of all (the) civilized world."

He said the damage from Russian missile attacks on civilian infrastructure such as power stations would cost 0.5% of annual economic output next year, adding to the burden as Ukraine tries to cover a budget deficit equivalent to USD 38 billion. The World Bank put Ukraine's gross domestic product at just over USD 200 billion in 2021, so the damage could amount to roughly USD 1 billion.

Ukraine needs outside financing to cover the budget deficit caused by the war. Cash or loans help it avoid printing money at the central bank to cover basic needs like paying people's pensions, a practice that risks fueling already painful inflation.

## US sending \$275 million in military aid to Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US is sending an additional USD 275 million in military aid to Ukraine, including large amounts of ammunition and high-tech systems that can be used to detect and counter drones in its ongoing war with Russia, according to US officials.

The total aid amount is smaller than most of the recent packages the US has delivered, and it comes as many military officials and experts predict a reduction in attacks during the winter. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Russia appears to be slowing its military activities to regroup and launch a new offensive when the weather warms.

The officials said the latest package of aid includes 80,000 rounds of ammunition for howitzers and an undisclosed amount of ammunition for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, known as HIMARS. It also includes systems to counter drones and air defences, along with more HUMVEES, generators and other combat equipment. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the aid package prior to its public release, which is expected Friday.

Drone attacks by both sides have been increasing, making detection of the unmanned explosives critical for Ukrainian forces. Russia bought hundreds of attack drones from Iran over the summer, and officials said this week that Moscow is looking to do more of the same.

Russian forces have increasingly targeted Ukraine's civilian infrastructure including power plants, leaving thousands without heat and electricity as the winter months set in.

In addition, several recent drone attacks struck two strategic Russian air bases more than 500 kilometers from the Ukraine border early this week. Moscow blamed Ukraine, which didn't claim responsibility.

Including the latest aid, the US has now committed more than USD 19.3 billion in weapons and other equipment to Ukraine since Russia attacked on February 24. The aid will be provided through presidential drawdown authority, which allows the Pentagon to take weapons from its own stocks and quickly ship them to Ukraine.



## Griner back home in US after Russian prisoner swap

AP ■ SAN ANTONIO

American basketball star Brittney Griner returned to the United States early Friday after being freed in a high-profile prisoner exchange following nearly 10 months in detention in Russia. The deal, which saw her swapped for notorious arms dealer Viktor Bout, secured the release of the most prominent American detained abroad and achieved a top goal for President Joe Biden. But the US failed to win freedom for another American, Paul Whelan, who has been jailed for nearly four years.

Griner is a two-time Olympic gold medalist, Baylor University All-American and Phoenix Mercury pro basketball star.

Her status as an openly gay Black woman, locked up in a country where authorities have been hostile to the LBGTQ community, injected racial, gen-

der and social dynamics into her legal saga and brought unprecedented attention to the population of wrongful detainees.

Biden's authorization to release Bout, the Russian felon once nicknamed "the Merchant of Death," underscored the heightened urgency that his administration faced to get Griner home, particularly after the recent resolution of her criminal case on drug charges and her subsequent transfer to a penal colony.

Griner was seen getting off a plane that landed Friday at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas.

The athlete, who also played pro basketball in Russia, was arrested at an airport there in February after Russian authorities said she was carrying vape canisters with cannabis oil.

Before her conviction, the US State Department declared Griner to be "wrongfully detained" — a charge that Russia has sharply rejected.

The Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed Thursday's swap, saying in a statement carried by Russian news agencies that the exchange took place in Abu Dhabi and Bout had been flown home.

Biden spoke by phone with Griner. US officials said she would be offered specialised medical services and counselling.

In releasing Bout, the US freed a former Soviet Army lieutenant colonel whom the Justice Department once described as one of the world's most prolific arms dealers. He was arrested in Thailand in 2008 and extradited to the US in 2010.

Bout was serving a 25-year sentence on charges that he conspired to sell tens of millions of dollars in weapons that US officials said were to be used against Americans.

Following Griner's arrest at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport in February, she pleaded guilty in July but still faced trial because admitting guilt in Russia's judicial system does not automatically end a case.

She acknowledged in court that she possessed canisters with cannabis oil but said she had no criminal intent and she accidentally packed them.

Her defence team presented written statements that she had been prescribed cannabis to treat pain.



## Putin must face tribunal: Ukrainian Nobel Prize winner

AP ■ MOSCOW

A representative of one of the organizations sharing this year's Nobel Peace Prize said Friday that she thinks Russian President Vladimir Putin must face an international tribunal for the fighting in Ukraine.

Oleksandra Matviichuk of Ukraine's Centre for Civil Liberties said during a news conference in Oslo, Norway

# US keeps eye on China's space activities for potential risks

AP ■ BEIJING

The US is closely monitoring Chinese activities that potentially threaten American assets in space as debris rapidly accumulates in low Earth orbit, the head of United States military operations in space said Friday.



A woman in a patterned dress holds a smartphone, looking up at the sky. In the background, a large satellite dish or antenna structure is visible against a dark sky.

Commander of US Space Command Army Gen. James Dickinson also cheered the overwhelming passage in the United Nations of a resolution that countries not conduct direct-antisatellite tests that create vast fields of space debris, which endanger satellites and space stations.

Of the four countries that have conducted such ASAT tests, the United States was the only one that voted in favour, while China and Russia voted no and India abstained.

"We can't continue to contribute to the debris that we find in the space domain," Dickinson said in a telephone news conference with reporters in Asia. Most of that debris lies in crucial low Earth orbit, which has become "congested, competitive and contested," he said.

Even tiny shards of metal can pose a danger and the number of objects is growing rapidly.

China is now tracking more than 48,000 in near Earth orbit, including satellites, telescopes, space stations and pieces of debris of all sizes, up from 25,000 just three years ago, Dickinson said.

China in 2003 became the third government to send an astronaut into orbit on its own after the former Soviet Union and the United States. Its program has advanced steadily since.

The Chinese space program drew rare international criticism after it conducted an unannounced test in 2007 in which it used a missile to blow up a defunct Chinese satellite, creating debris that continues to

pose a hazard.

Beijing believes that "space is a very important piece to not only their economic or the global economic environment, but also the military environment, so we continue to watch that very closely as they continue to increase capabilities," Dickinson said.

The secretive Chinese program is run by the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, precluding it from participating in the International Space Station or engaging in most forms of cooperation with NASA.

Proceeding with little outside help, China last month launched the last of three mod-

ules for its own space station, which briefly hosted six Chinese astronauts in space during a turnover of the three-person crew.

It also has rovers on the moon and Mars and is planning a crewed lunar mission sometime in the future.

With US-China tensions high over Taiwan, the South China Sea, trade and technology, space is increasingly becoming a potential flash point.

In addition, the Pentagon last week released an annual China security report that warned Beijing would likely have 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035, and that it has provided no clarity on how it plans to use them.

China continues to "build capabilities that, really quite frankly, hold most of our assets at risk in the space domain," Dickinson said.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has further showed space to be a "contested domain that must be protected. It's a role that we at US Space Command take very seriously," he said.

"I'm seriously focused on our pacing challenge, China," Dickinson said, using a description of Beijing that has become standard in the Pentagon.

# Bill protecting same-sex, interracial unions approved

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House gave final approval Thursday to legislation protecting same-sex marriages, a monumental step in a decades-long battle for nationwide recognition that reflects a stark turnaround in societal attitudes.

President Joe Biden has said he will promptly sign the measure, which requires all states to recognise same-sex marriages. It is a relief for hundreds of thousands of couples who have married since the Supreme Court's 2015 decision that legalised those marriages and have worried about what would happen if the ruling were overturned.

In a statement after the vote, Biden called the legislation a "critical step to ensure that Americans have the right to marry the person they love." He said the legislation provides "hope and dignity to millions of young people across this country who can grow up knowing that their government will recognise and respect the families they build."

The bipartisan legislation, which passed 258-169 with 39 Republican votes, would also protect interracial unions by requiring states to recognise legal marriages regardless of "sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin." After months of negotiations, the Senate passed the bill



A group of people, including a woman in a white dress, stand together and hold a sign that says "THE RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT". They appear to be at a legislative event.

last week with 12 Republican votes.

Democrats moved the bill quickly through the House and Senate after the Supreme Court's decision in June that overturned the federal right to an abortion — including a concurring opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas that suggested the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision legalising same-sex marriage could also be reconsidered.

While many Republicans predicted that was unlikely to happen, and said the bill was unnecessary, Democrats and GOP supporters of the bill said it shouldn't be left to chance.

"We need it," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who presided over the vote as one of her last acts in leadership before stepping aside in January. "It is

magic."

The bill is "a glorious triumph of love and freedom," Pelosi said, tearing up as she celebrated its passage.

In debate before the vote, several gay members of Congress talked about what a federal law would mean for them and their families. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., said he and his husband should be able to visit each other in the hospital just like any other married couple and receive spousal benefits "regardless of if your spouse's name is Samuel or Samantha."

Rep. Chris Pappas, D-N.H., said he was set to marry "the love of my life" next year and it is "unthinkable" that his marriage might not be recognised in some states if Obergefell were to be overturned.

# Myanmar rescues 154 Rohingya from boat in distress

AP ■ BANGKOK

More than 150 Rohingya have been rescued off the coast of Myanmar after their boat started taking on water, Myanmar's military said.

Myanmar's state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation sent two boats from an offshore operation to rescue the 154 people — 106 males and 48 females — after spotting their boat in trouble, the military said in a statement Thursday.

It was not clear whether the vessel was the same boat carrying Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh that had been reported to be in trouble earlier this week in the waters of neighbouring Thailand.

Thailand's navy spokesman Vice Admiral Pokkrom Monthathapin said Friday that crews had been sent to look for the boat in the Andaman Sea after it received the reports, but had found nothing. UNHCR, the United Nations' Refugee Agency, said it did not have independent information on the boat reportedly experiencing engine troubles in Thai waters, but urged countries in the area to help.

In a report earlier this month, UNHCR reported there had been a dramatic increase in the number of people attempting to cross the Andaman Sea this year.

# Lanka shuts schools as extreme weather brings pollution

AP ■ COLOMBO

Schools across Sri Lanka were closed on Friday as health and environment officials said the air quality in most parts of the island nation was unhealthy partly due to extreme weather conditions.

Polluted air from neighbouring India was aggravating the problem, authorities said, as a storm in the Bay of Bengal triggered heavy rains and winds across Sri Lanka in recent days.

A haze hung over the capital, Colombo, and other parts of the country, with the level of

fine particles in the air reaching unhealthy levels.

"The current pollution has arisen due to the combination of local air pollutants and transboundary air pollution," said the National Building Research Organisation, a state agency involved in environmental monitoring and risk management.

"This condition can be seen in all parts of Sri Lanka and it has a tendency to cause health problems," it added.

Director General of Health Services Asela Gunawardena said the condition would con-



A wide-angle view of a cityscape, likely Colombo, Sri Lanka, showing buildings and a hazy atmosphere.

tinue for the next two weeks and he advised people to limit the amount of time they spend outdoors and to wear a face mask when they are outside to minimize their health risk.

At least two people were killed and another two were injured as heavy rains and winds lashed many parts of Sri

Lanka the past two days. Dozens of houses were damaged by falling trees and several roads were blocked.

The Department of Meteorology said Friday that a severe cyclonic storm was in the Bay of Bengal, about 230 kilometres (143 miles) northeast of Sri Lanka, and likely to move toward India.

# Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia for Chinese leader Xi's visit

AP ■ DUBAI

Gulf Arab leaders and others in the Mideast met Friday in Saudi Arabia as part of a state visit by Chinese leader Xi Jinping, seeking to firm up their relations with Beijing as decades of US attention on the region wanes.

Before a joint meeting with Xi, representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council met in a summit helmed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, further signalling his control of a kingdom still overseen by his father, the 86-year-old King Salman.

Among them was Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, whose country now hosts the FIFA World Cup and has largely restored ties to its Arab neighbours after a years-long boycott. Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, whose island nation still has strained relations with Qatar, also attended.



Prince Mohammed made a point in his opening remarks, aired on state television, to applaud Qatar for its hosting of the World Cup. He also could be seen warmly greeting Sheikh Tamim before the meeting, something unthinkable only two years earlier amid the boycott.

The GCC includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The leader of the Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, did not attend, instead sending the ruler of the emirate of Fujairah, Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed

Al Sharqi. Kuwait's crown prince and a representative of Oman's sultan also attended.

Xi's visit comes as China relies on the Gulf Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, for billions of dollars in crude oil imports to power his country's economy. While the US still maintains bases across the region and stations tens of thousands of troops, Gulf Arab nations feel Washington's attention has shifted elsewhere after the end of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. They also want to maintain relations with China even as US officials believe they face a growing threat from China in Asia and Russia as Moscow wages its monthslong war on Ukraine.

During Xi's visit, Saudi officials have said deals had been signed between Riyadh and Beijing, including some involving Chinese technology company Huawei on cloud-computing, data centres and other high-tech ventures.

# Bangladesh police arrest 2 top Opp leaders

PTI ■ DHAKA

Police in Bangladesh on Friday arrested two top leaders of the main Opposition party BNP, a day before its planned grand rally in the capital to call for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Standing Committee member Mirza Abbas were picked by the detective branch personnel from their homes in separate pre-dawn raids in the capital city.

"DB (detective branch) men arrested Mr Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir from his Uttara (area) residence at about 3 am. There are some cases against (pending against) him," Uttara police station's officer in charge Zahurul Islam told newsmen.

# German coup plot fuelled by conspiracy claims, Covid steps

AP ■ BERLIN

An alleged plot to topple the German government, led by a self-styled prince, a retired paratrooper and a Berlin judge, had its roots in a murky mixture of post-war grudges, antisemitic conspiracy theories and anger over recent pandemic restrictions, experts say.

Police detained 25 people on Wednesday described as being part of Germany's Reichsbürger, or Reich Citizens, movement.

While the name might suggest a link to the Nazi era, it actually refers to the first modern pan-German nation formed when Prussia's King Wilhelm I and his chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, united numerous smaller states into a single empire, or Reich, in 1871.



A group of people, some in military-style clothing, stand outdoors. One person is holding a sign.

Russia's war in Ukraine, chaos in Haiti and rising violence by criminal groups in Mexico contributed to a 30% spike in the number of journalists killed doing their work in 2022 over the previous year, according to a new report released Friday.

The International Federation of Journalists says that 67 journalists and media staff have been killed around the world so far this year, up from 47 last year.

# 67 scribes, media workers killed on job this year

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The Brussels-based group also tallied 375 journalists currently imprisoned for their work, with the most in China, Myanmar and Turkey. Last year's report listed 365 journalists behind bars.

With the number of media workers killed on the rise, the group called on governments to take more concrete action to protect journalists and free journalism.



A group of people, some in military-style clothing, stand outdoors. One person is holding a sign.

More media workers were killed covering the war in Ukraine — 12 in total — than in any other country this year, according to the IFJ. Most were Ukrainian but also included those of other nationalities such as American documentary filmmaker Brent Renaud. Many deaths occurred in the first chaotic weeks of the war, though threats to journalists continue as the fighting drags on.

The IFJ said "the rule by terror of criminal organizations in Mexico, and the breakdown of law and order in Haiti, have also contributed to the surge in killings." 2022 has been one of the deadliest ever for journalists in Mexico, which is now considered the most dangerous country for reporters outside a war zone.

**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	Provision of shed at Goods Platform at Shakurbasti station (SSB) & Provision of roads at Goods PF at Shakurbasti (SSB) in the section of ADEN/DLI.
2	Approx cost of work	Rs. 4,26,99,078.30/- (Rupees Four Crore Twenty Six Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Seventy Eight & Thirty Paise Only)
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 3,63,500/- (Rupees Three Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Only)
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	03.01.2023 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
7	Allocation	20536203

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. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/95/2022-23/W-3 Dated: 08.12.2022 3279/2022

**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	Improvement of Goods PF and PF No. 01 & Provision of Goods Shed at Goods Platform (Line No 07) of Adarsh Nagar Station (ANDI) in the section of ADEN/DLI.
2	Approx cost of work	Rs. 4,24,99,856.55/- (Rupees Four Crore Twenty Four Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Six & Fifty Five Paise Only)
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 3,62,500/- (Rupees Three Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	03.01.2023 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6	Website Particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
7	Allocation	20536203

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. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/93/2022-23/W-3 Dated. 08.12.2022 3278/2022

**APPENDIX IV A**  
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]  
**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 13.01.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 16,41,211/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Forty One Thousand Two Hundred Eleven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HLLDMKT00305915, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 01.12.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 02.12.2022 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Rajesh Dewan and Poonam Dewan.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 48,20,000/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Twenty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 4,82,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Two Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

Unit No. 1052, Carpet Area 1860 Sq. Ft. 5th Floor, Tower No. 1st, Parker Residence, Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana-131001.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.indiabullshomeloans.com](http://www.indiabullshomeloans.com). For bidding log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in)

Date : 05.12.2022  
Place : SONEPAT

Sd/  
Authorized Officer  
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Sunita Devi is the owner of Built up Property bearing No. 749/13, area measuring 42 x 35 Sq. Yds. Situated in the area of Village Sikdarpur, in the abadi of West Rohatash Nagar, Ilaga Shahdara, Delhi, vide G.P.A. Will and AT5 dated 05.12.2006 and 11.06.2007. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its sale/mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, West Nagar, A, Delhi-15  
Ph: 011-4112527-28, kumarassociates.advocates@gmail.com

**UJVN LIMITED**

H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephone: 2763508, Fax: 0135-2763507  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Ref. No.: 900 **DATE EXTENSION E-NOTICE-1** Dated : 09.12.2022

Due to unavoidable reasons date of submission and opening of bids against Tender no. : E-CH(Maint.)-24/2022-23 are extended as given here below:-  
**Last date for receipt of bid in the portal:** 16/12/2022, 18:00 hrs.  
**Last date of submission of document in hard copy:** 17/12/2022, 13:00 hrs.  
**Date of opening of bid on the website:** 19/12/2022, 15:30 hrs.  
For Further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"  
**Executive Engineer (Maint.)**

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

**UJVN Limited**

H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No: 899 **E-Tender Notice** Date: 08/12/2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Generation) Chibro Power House, Chibro, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-  
**Tender No 22e/EE(G)/CPH/2022-23** for "SITC of Multisler System with all accessories including dismantling at Chibro Power House.  
**Estimated cost:** Rs. 1,96,43,458/- GST Extra.  
**Date of availability of bid document on website:** 08-12-2022 from 11:00 Hrs.  
**Last date for submission of bids on website:** 02-01-2023 up to 16:00 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>" **EE (G), Chibro**

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

**INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED**

CIN: L31909DL1995PLC277176  
C-24, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110 024, India  
Tel: 491-11-41552579,  
Email: [info@integratedtech.in](mailto:info@integratedtech.in) | Website: [www.integratedtech.in](http://www.integratedtech.in)

**NOTICE OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING AND E-VOTING INFORMATION**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Extra Ordinary General Meeting ("EGM") of the Members of Integrated Technologies Limited ("the Company") will be held on Friday, January 6, 2023 at 1 p.m. (IST), to transact the special business, as set out in the Notice of the EGM. The Company has sent Notice of the EGM on Friday, December 9, 2022, only through electronic mode, to those members whose email IDs have been registered with the Company/Depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. Friday, December 2, 2022, in compliance with the circulars/Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Securities and Exchange Board of India. The aforesaid notice is also available on the Company's website [www.integratedtech.in](http://www.integratedtech.in) website of the stock exchanges i.e. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), website of NSDL (agency for providing the Remote e-Voting facility) i.e. [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

The company is providing remote e-voting facility to all its members to cast their votes on all resolutions set out in the notice. Members, holding shares as on the cut-off date for e-voting i.e. Friday, December 30, 2022, may cast their votes, electronically, on the businesses set out in the EGM Notice, by referring to procedure for remote e-voting given in the EGM Notice, and also available on the e-voting website of NSDL (agency for providing the Remote e-Voting facility) i.e. [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

The remote e-voting period commences on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 (9.00 a.m. IST) and ends on Thursday, January 5, 2023 (5.00 p.m. IST). The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL thereafter, and members may note that once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. b) the Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the EGM may participate in the EGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again during the EGM. (c) the Members participating in the EGM and who had not cast their vote by remote e-voting, shall be entitled to cast their vote during the EGM.

The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them as on the cut-off date for e-voting i.e. Friday, December 30, 2022. Members can cast their votes on the businesses set out in the EGM Notice, either through remote e-voting facility made available on the above dates or vote at the meeting.

Any person who acquires shares and becomes a Member of the Company after the dispatch of the Notice of EGM and holding shares as on the cut off date 1 e December 30, 2022, may obtain the login ID and password for remote e-voting by sending a request to NSDL at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in). Any person/entity, who has not registered his/her email ID in the Company's records and holds equity shares as on the cut-off date for e-voting i.e., Friday, December 30, 2022, may obtain Login ID and password for e-voting by following the instructions given in EGM Notice or by sending an email to NSDL at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in). However, if a person/entity is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then they can use their existing User ID and password for casting their votes.

Members holding shares in physical form, whose email addresses are not registered with the Company, may register their email address, by providing Folio No, Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self-attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self-attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) to the email address of the Company at [info@integratedtech.in](mailto:info@integratedtech.in)

In case of any enquiry/ guidance, in respect of remote e-voting, please refer to the "Downloads" section on the NSDL website, [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) or may call on the toll free no. 1800 1020 990 / 1800 224 430 or contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Assistant Manager, NSDL, Trade World, 'A' Wing, 4th Floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013 at the designated email ids: [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or at telephone no. 18001020990/1800224430.

Note: Shareholders are requested to update their PAN, e-mail IDs, mobile No's & bank details with company or RTA or Depository Participants as applicable

**For Integrated Technologies Limited**  
Sd/  
Priyanka  
Compliance Officer & Company Secretary

Date: 10.12.2022  
Place: Delhi

# Ministries seized of duty structure issue: Niti VC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery on Friday said the Finance and Commerce Ministries are seized of the matter related to inverted duty structure, but did not elaborate pointing out that the next Union Budget was round the corner.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will announce the tax proposals in the Union Budget 2023-24 which is scheduled to be presented to the Lok Sabha on February 1.

Replying to queries during the CII Global Economic Policy Summit 2022 here, Bery said Niti Aayog has been doing "some internal work" on the issue of inverted duty structures. Also, both the finance ministry and the commerce ministry are seized of the issue, he added.

"But you know, since we are approaching budget time, I don't want a headline that promises that this is going to be, you know, on the agenda. So I just say I hear you and I will take it back," the Niti Aayog Vice Chairperson said. Inverted duty structure refers to taxation of inputs at higher rates than finished products that results in build-up of credits and cascading costs.

Earlier Bery said country's G-20 presidency is an event for all of India with states and Centre combined.



"We are here at an important moment in terms of India's climb up the size of economy ladder, with the eyes of the world being on India and with the mandate given to us by the prime minister to think through Viksit Bharat (Developed India)," he said. He was in a conversation session on Indian Economy @2030 with Sanjiv Bajaj, President, CII, and Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Limited. The Niti Aayog Vice Chairman also observed that

India has an innate resilience, and despite the many criticisms that are made of both the Indian policy establishment and the Indian private sector, whenever there is a challenge, the system seems to work. "Our watchword going forward should be 'if ain't broke, don't fix it,'" he said. Bajaj noted that India is at a very interesting place at a time when "we have been a resilient economy that is still exposed as the world is going through a period of uncertainty".

# Sensex surrenders early gains as IT stocks crack

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex declined nearly 390 points on Friday, pressured by heavy selling in IT and energy stocks despite a positive trend in global markets.

Rising crude oil prices and relentless foreign capital outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened strong but came under severe selling pressure to close 389.01 points or 0.62 per cent lower at 62,181.67. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty declined 112.75 points or 0.61 per cent to 18,496.60.

HCL Tech was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 6.72 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Wipro, TCS and Reliance Industries.

On the other hand, Nestle India, Titan, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's, IndusInd Bank and ITC were among the gainers, advancing up to 2.24 per cent.

"Today's downfall in the domestic market was sparked by IT stocks extending their losses after warning of a potential slowdown in business on global recession fears. This was further aggravated by banks losing their grip as PSBs suffered heavy sell-offs."

"However, global bourses were largely positive, although



the Fed is expected to raise interest rates by 50 basis points next week," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. On a weekly basis, the Sensex lost 686.83 points or 1.09 per cent, while the Nifty shed 199.50 points or 1.06 per cent.

"Markets seems to be consolidating for last few sessions as participants are lightning their position ahead of crucial US Fed meeting next week. US PPI data to be released later on Friday as well as US CPI data on 13th December would be keenly watched as they would influence the Fed's interest rate decision."

"Further, FIIs have remained net sellers (₹5,500 crore) in December so far (barring one positive day) and added to the overall pressure in the market... We expect weakness in tech stocks to continue on account of weak growth outlook."

# Inflows via mutual funds SIP hit fresh high at ₹13,306 cr in Nov

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Flows in the mutual fund industry through systematic investment plans or SIPs route rose to an all-time high of ₹13,306 crore in November, reflecting the growing maturity and confidence of investors.

However, inflows in equity mutual fund schemes plunged 76 per cent to ₹2,258 crore in November from Rs 9,390 crore in the preceding month, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed on Friday.

This was also the 21st straight month of inflows into equity schemes.

As per the data, flows through SIP was ₹13,306 crore in November, surpassing the previous high of ₹13,041 crore in October.

The inflows through SIPs have been above the ₹12,000-crore mark since May. It was ₹12,976 crore in September, ₹12,693 crore in August, ₹12,140 crore in July, ₹12,276 crore in June and ₹12,286 crore in May. Before that, it stood at ₹11,863 crore in April.

With this, the total inflow has reached ₹87,275 crore in the first eight months of the current fiscal. This came following an inflow of over ₹1.24 lakh crore in the 2021-22 financial year.

"The healthiest trend in the Indian equity market now is the steady increase in SIPs, which have touched a new record of



₹13,307 crore in November. It is a proven fact that SIPs are the most successful mode of investment for retail investors," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Increasing SIPs shows that Indian equity investors are maturing, Vijayakumar said and suggested that SIP investors should not discontinue their investment when markets correct sharply.

S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, noted that foreign investors have been booking profits but domestic flows through SIPs are at lifetime highs, which reflects the growing maturity and confidence of the domestic investors.

Also, mutual funds added 11.27 lakh SIP accounts during the month under review, taking the total to about 6.04 crore.

SIP is an investment methodology offered by mutu-

al funds wherein an individual can invest a fixed amount in a chosen scheme periodically at fixed intervals, say once a month, instead of making a lump sum investment. The SIP instalment amount can be as small as ₹500 per month.

NS Venkatesh, Chief Executive, AMFI, said that mutual fund investors have shown resilience and continue to invest in SIPs, with consistent contributions month-on-month.

Overall, the mutual fund industry registered a net inflow of ₹13,263 crore in November, slightly lower from ₹14,045 crore in the previous month, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

"Market continues to react to global headwinds. Rate hikes will continue to impact global markets but not for long, irrespective of whether the mutual fund industry has performed well."

# Gold falls ₹30; silver jumps ₹558



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell ₹30 to ₹54,305 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid appreciation in rupee, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹54,335 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, jumped ₹558 per kg to ₹67,365 per kilogram.

The rupee appreciated 19 paise to 82.19 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday on broad dollar weakness and a firm trend in domestic equities.

"Domestic market gold prices were a bit negative following a stronger rupee," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at \$1,791.9 per ounce while silver was up at \$23.07 per ounce.

"Gold and silver price inched higher amidst the fall in dollar index, as the investors focusing on key US inflation data and Federal Reserve's rate hike decision due next week," Navneet Damani, Senior VP — Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

# SBI board to take call on raising capital via bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State Bank of India (SBI) said its board will meet on December 14 to decide on raising capital through Tier 1 bonds.

As per a regulatory filing, SBI said it will seek "approval for raising of Additional Tier 1 (AT 1) capital by way of issuance of Basel III compliant debt instruments in INR and / or any other convertible currency through a public offer or private placement to Indian and / or overseas investors up to March 31, 2024."

The fundraise would help the bank grow its loan book.

Earlier this week, SBI announced that its personal banking advances, excluding high value home loans, have crossed the ₹5 lakh crore-mark.

The country's largest lender took a year to book the



last ₹1 lakh crore of advances, as against over 15 months for the previous ₹1 lakh crore and over 30 months for the ₹1 lakh crore before that.

SBI has 22,309 branches, over 65,000 automated teller machines and 66,757 business correspondent outlets, which drive its entire retail banking franchise.

Earlier in July, the board had approved raising up to ₹11,000 crore through Basel-III compliant debt instruments.

# Forex kitty soars \$11 billion to \$561.16 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's foreign exchange reserves soared by \$11.02 billion to reach \$561.162 billion for the week ended December 2, Reserve Bank data showed on Friday.

This is the fourth consecutive week of rise in the reserves. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had grown by \$2.9 billion to \$550.14 billion. For the week ended November 11, the forex kitty had jumped by \$14.72 billion in its second fastest weekly acceleration ever.

In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, increased by \$9.694 billion to \$496.984 billion during the week to December 2, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.



Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves increased by \$1.086 billion to \$41.025 billion.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$164 million to \$18.04 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was also down by \$75 million to \$5.108 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

# Govt selects 67 entries with ₹42,500 cr investment potential under PLI scheme for specialty steel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has selected a total of 67 entries with an investment potential of ₹42,500 crore under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel.

The proposed investments are expected to generate 70,000 job opportunities and add 26 million tonnes of specialty steel capacity in the country.

A total of 79 applications were received from 35 small and large steel-making companies with investment commitments totalling ₹46,000 crore to add downstream capacity of 28 million tonnes (MT) by 2030, the steel ministry said in a statement.

After several extensions, the final window for participation in the PLI scheme closed on September 15, 2022.

"Sixty-seven applications from 30 companies have been selected. This will attract committed investment of ₹42,500 crore with a downstream



capacity addition of 26 MT and employment generation potential of 70,000," the ministry said. Applicants include all major steel players like Tata Steel, JSW Steel, JSPL, AMNS India and SAIL, a senior steel ministry official had earlier told PTI.

The Union Cabinet in July last year approved a ₹6,322-crore PLI scheme to boost the production of specialty steel in India.

Some of the categories of specialty steel included in the scheme are coated/plated steel products, high strength/wear-resistant steel, specialty rails, alloy steel products, and steel wires, and electrical steel.

# Srei CoC evaluates bids, finalisation likely in 2-3 days

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Consolidated Committee of Creditors (CoC) of twin Srei companies may take two-three days to select the resolution plan from among three bids for the Kolkata-based NBFC entities, a senior official said on Friday.

Since Wednesday, the CoC is holding internal meetings besides deliberating with the three — Varde Partners and Arena consortium, government-backed bad bank NARCL and Authum Investment and Infrastructure — in Mumbai for Srei Infrastructure Finance (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance (SEFL).

The consortium of Varde



Partners and Arena has submitted a bid value of ₹14,000 crore, while National Asset Reconstruction Co Ltd (NARCL) submitted a resolution worth ₹13,500 crore. The third bid of Authum Investment and Infrastructure is valued at ₹7,000 crore, a government official who attended the meeting told PTI.

The value of resolution plans could not be independently verified.

The total value of resolution plans submitted by the applicants involves upfront cash payout, deferred payments by way of instruments like NCDs and OCDs and a timeline to clear the dues ranges between three and seven years.

"Authum's cash payout component is the highest at Rs 2,800 crore and promises to complete the payout of total committed value within 3.5 years. The other two bidders will take 5-7 years to clear the payments. The CoC is scrutinising the offers made for each of the assets of the two companies," the official said.

There is an attempt to convince the bidders to revise their bid terms.

# Rupee gains 10 paise to close at 82.28 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 10 paise to close at 82.28 against the US dollar on Friday, tracking the weakening of the American currency in the overseas market.

Forex traders said muted domestic equities and foreign fund outflows weighed on investor sentiments and restricted the gains.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.30 and touched an intra-day high of 82.08 and a low of 82.33 against the greenback.

It finally settled at 82.28, registering a rise of 10 paise



over its previous close of 82.38. Forex traders said investors awaited the outcome of a slew of central bank meetings next week for additional clues on the pace of rate hikes.

"Focus will now be shifting to the FOMC policy statement. The central bank could raise rates by 50 bps and maintain a less hawkish stance," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

# Sebi clarifies on 'schemes of arrangement' for entities with listed debt securities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday clarified on the framework pertaining to 'schemes of arrangement' for entities that have only listed their debt securities.

Scheme of arrangement is a court-approved agreement between a company and its shareholders or creditors.

Sebi, in November, had put in place operational guidelines pertaining to "scheme of arrangement" by entities who have listed their debt securities — non-convertible debentures (NCDs) or non-convertible redeemable preference shares (NCRPS).

Under this, the entity that has listed NCDs or NCRPS and



which intends to undertake a scheme of arrangement or is involved in a scheme of arrangement would file the draft scheme with stock exchanges for obtaining a no-objection letter, before filing such scheme with any court or tribunal.

Further, the exchange would have to forward such draft schemes to the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Sebi clarified that the operational guidelines issued in November would not apply to a scheme of arrangement which solely provides for an arrangement between a debt

listed entity and its unlisted wholly-owned subsidiary.

However, such debt listed entity would file the draft scheme of arrangement with stock exchanges for the purpose of disclosure. Besides, stock exchanges would disseminate the scheme documents on their websites.

Earlier, the regulator had amended rules with respect to scheme of arrangement, involving merger, amalgamation among others, by entities who have listed their non-convertible debt securities or non-convertible redeemable preference shares.

# TVS Motor's Singapore arm to acquire EV related tech, assets in Germany

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

TVS Motor Company on Friday said its Singapore-based subsidiary has inked a pact to acquire Electric Vehicle (EV) related technology and assets in Germany.

The company, through its wholly-owned subsidiary TVS Motor (Singapore) Pte Ltd (TVSM Singapore) has signed an agreement to acquire the assets, TVS Motor Company said in a statement.

TVS Singapore will be acquiring the assets through its subsidiary BBT Vermögensverwaltungs GmbH (name proposed to be changed to Celerity Motor GmbH), it added.

The purchase will help strengthen the company's expansion in the electric two-wheeler market globally, TVS Motor said.

The company, however, did not disclose financial details.

# Sebi brings framework for foreign investment in AIFs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday came out with a framework for alternative investment funds (AIFs) raising capital from foreign investors.

At the time of on-boarding investors, the manager of an AIF would have to ensure that the foreign investor is a resident of a country whose securities market regulator is a signatory to the International Organization of Securities Commission's (IOSCO)

Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding or a signatory to a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with Sebi.

"AIFs may accept commitment from an investor being Government or Government related investor, who does not meet the aforesaid condition, if the investor is a resident in the country as may be approved by the Government of India," the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

Further, the investor contributing 25 per cent or more in the corpus should not be a person mentioned in the Sanctions List notified by the United Nations Security Council and should not be a resident in a country identified in the public statement of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The investor should also not be from a country that has not made sufficient progress in addressing the deficiencies or has not committed to an action plan developed with FATF to

address such deficiencies.

In case an investor who has been on-boarded to a scheme of an AIF subsequently does not meet the specified conditions, the manager of the AIF will not drawdown any further capital contribution from such investor for making investment, until the investor again meets the conditions.

The same would also apply to investors already on-boarded to existing schemes of AIFs who do not meet specified conditions, Sebi said.

# BUSINESS BRIEF

**CEO OF THE YEAR AWARD CONFERRED ON NTPC CMD**  
New Delhi: Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC has been bestowed with the CEO of the Year Award at the 24th Annual Platts Global Energy Awards held in New York for his outstanding contribution to the power sector. The CEO of the Year demonstrates the ability to sustain their sector amid universal headwinds while undeniably supporting the employees who propel their organization into the future.

# STUFF OF DREAMS

## Croatia shoot-out Brazil, enter FIFA World Cup semifinals



### Morocco chasing WC history against Portugal

AP ■ DOHA

Morocco head into Saturday's last-eight clash with Portugal knowing they are only one step away from making history as Africa's first World Cup semi-finalists, but they face a buoyant opposition fresh from scoring six goals against Switzerland.

Walid Regragui's Moroccans are in uncharted territory after a surprise run which saw them finish top of Group F after beating Belgium and Canada before a stunning victory over Spain on penalties in the last 16.

The Atlas Lions are only the fourth African side to reach the quarter-finals — after Cameroon in 1990, Senegal in 2002 and Ghana in 2010.

Morocco have enjoyed the vast majority of support from the crowds at all their games in Qatar and that is likely to be the case again at Al Thumama Stadium. "I think it's impossible for us to do this without the fans," said coach Regragui after knocking out Spain.

"A lot of fans came to Qatar from a lot of countries — America, Europe, Morocco. They love their country and what I can tell them is this — we can do nothing without them, I need them for the quarters and, hopefully, we'll make history."

There has still never been a country from outside Europe or South America in a World Cup



final, but Morocco want to put that right.

"Why not aim for the sky? We needed to change and we needed to change our mentality," Regragui said after the group stage.

"We're not going to stop here. We're going to respect every opponent. But we are going to be very difficult opponents. So why not dream about lifting that trophy?"

Morocco are unbeaten in seven matches since Regragui took over from the sacked Wahid Halilhodzic in August.

They have conceded only once in that time, an own goal against Canada.

Morocco have overcome several injury problems to get this far in Qatar, with full-backs Achraf Hakimi and Noussair Mazraoui carrying knocks for most of the tournament.

Centre-back Nayef Aguerd hobbled off injured against Spain, while captain Romain Saïss soldiered on despite pick-

ing up an injury during extra time.

"Since the start of the competition, we've been playing with a team that's not 100 percent, that's why it's even more extraordinary," said Regragui.

"We've managed to create a family, and we feel that we have a people behind us."

Spain struggled to create any clear-cut chances against the dogged North Africans but Portugal will be a different proposition after a fluid attacking display against the Swiss.

Coach Fernando Santos took the big decision to drop Cristiano Ronaldo to the bench, but it paid dividends as the superstar striker's replacement Goncalo Ramos scored a hat-trick in the 6-1 rout.

Portugal are in the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time since 2006, when they beat England on penalties before being knocked out by France.

They beat Ghana and Uruguay in the group stage before losing to South Korea, but without Ronaldo in the lineup, Portugal's attacking players appeared freer against Switzerland.

The 21-year-old Ramos stole the headlines, while Bernardo Silva, Bruno Fernandes and Joao Felix all impressed.

The prize for the winners is a semi-final against England or France and the chance to reach the World Cup final for the first time.

### Santos calls for line to be drawn under Ronaldo affair



AP ■ DOHA

Portugal coach Fernando Santos admitted on Friday that Cristiano Ronaldo had been unhappy to be dropped to the bench as he pleaded for a line to be drawn under the affair.

The veteran striker was a substitute for the first time at a World Cup since 2006 for his side's last-16 match against Switzerland, which they won 6-1. A report in Portuguese newspaper Record said Ronaldo had threatened to quit the squad

after he was told he was not in the starting line-up.

The Portuguese football federation denied the report and Ronaldo himself took to social media to state that the squad was "too united to be broken by outside forces".

Santos, speaking on the eve of Portugal's quarter-final against Morocco, said he had spoken to Ronaldo on the day of the game against Switzerland.

"I invited him to my office, and told him 'you will not be one of the starters', so it would not be a surprise," he said.

"I told him he would be important (but) in terms of the strategy, I told him 'it's better for you not to play'. I saved him for the second half."

Santos said five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo never threatened to leave the team camp, although he was upset about being dropped.

"Cristiano, for obvious reasons, was not very happy about it," said Santos. "He's always been a starting player except for one or two games on the bench — obviously he was not happy."

"He told me 'do you really think it's a good idea?' But we had a normal conversation in which I explained my viewpoints."

"Of course, he accepted. We had a frank and normal conversation, he has never told me he wanted to leave our national team."

Santos said Ronaldo showed his commitment to the team by celebrating Portugal's goals and leading the players to applaud the fans.

"It's high time we stop with this conversation, stop the controversies," said the coach, trying to draw a line under the affair.

"It's high time for you to leave Ronaldo alone, in acknowledgement for what he's done for Portuguese football."

### Deschamps warns England of Mbappe threat

AP ■ DOHA

France coach Didier Deschamps is confident Kylian Mbappe can still make the difference in Saturday's World Cup quarter-final showdown with England even if the opposition put their focus on stopping the superstar forward.

Mbappe is the top scorer at the tournament with five goals in four games, including a brace in the 3-1 win over Poland in the last 16, and England will need to find a way of countering the Paris Saint-Germain striker.

But the holders have formidable quality around Mbappe, with Olivier Giroud, Ousmane Dembele and Antoine Griezmann all impressing in Qatar too.

"I imagine England will take measures like our four previous opponents did but Kylian has the ability to make the difference," Deschamps told reporters on Friday.

"Even in the last game, when he wasn't at his best like



is the excitement.

"This is the next stage but there is no stress, no need to hold back. It is magnificent to play a World Cup quarter-final."

While France are the defending champions, England appear to be growing as a team on the back of their run to the semi-finals in Russia four years ago and the final of Euro 2020.

France goalkeeper and captain Hugo Lloris — who has spent nearly a decade in the Premier League with Tottenham — was full of praise for Gareth Southgate's England.

"If you look at the English squad they have more players here who were in Russia than France do," said the 35-year-old, who is set to win his 143rd cap and overtake Lilian Thuram as his country's all-time record appearance maker.

"They were semi-finalists at the World Cup, runners-up at the Euro. There is a real progression and I believe this team is getting more mature. They are here to win."

in the first two, he was still decisive, but if we can share around the danger that stops too many precautions being taken against Kylian.

"But Kylian will always be Kylian, with the ability to be decisive at any moment."

The pressure is intensifying for both sides, but Deschamps has won the World Cup as a

player and a coach and the 54-year-old encouraged France not to let the occasion get the better of them.

"As is the case for us and all teams who reach the knockouts, you don't have a second chance," he admitted.

"The further on you go the greater the quality, but the demands are higher too and so

### Southgate vows front foot approach

AP ■ DOHA

England manager Gareth Southgate has urged the Three Lions to take the game to defending champions France in a blockbuster World Cup quarter-final clash on Saturday.

Southgate's men are the joint top scorers in the tournament with 12 goals in their four games in Qatar so far but will come up against the firepower of the tournament's top scorer in Kylian Mbappe.

The threat of the Paris Saint-Germain forward has led to suggestions Southgate could change his formation with an extra defender added to deal with France's front four of Mbappe, Olivier Giroud, Antoine Griezmann and Ousmane Dembele.

But Southgate has hinted he intends to force France into worrying more about how to stop England's array of attacking talent.

"There is no point going into a game like this and just covering up and sitting on the ropes. We believe we can cause problems with the ball and we intend to do that," Southgate told ITV.



England reached the semi-finals four years ago as France went onto claim their second World Cup in Russia.

The Three Lions then got to a first major tournament final in 55 years at Euro 2020 before losing on penalties to Italy on home soil at Wembley.

But Southgate is hopeful that those experiences will help his side end the wait for a major trophy that stretches back to the 1966 World Cup.

"We've beaten some big teams. We know we have the experience of high pressure nights behind us and as a team we've been resilient through a lot of situations, but they all prepare you for nights like this," added Southgate.

"We got to the first final for 55 years. We've won a semi-final and been to a semi-final of the World Cup before."

"But, of course, it is a big game against a high quality opponent. Everything that has happened in the past is history, it all comes down to Saturday night."

# INDIA STARE AT CLEAN SWEEP

PTI ■ CHATTOGRAM

A struggling Indian team, severely depleted by a spate of on-field injuries and fitness-related problems, will be determined to avoid the ignominy of a clean sweep against Bangladesh in the final ODI of the three-match series here on Saturday.

Bangladesh, riding on two contrasting yet brilliant knocks from Mehidy Hasan Miraz, have already sealed the series after winning the first two matches but if Litton Das' men can blank the 'Men in Blue' 3-0, it will be a historic first in the country's cricket.

Not only will it be an icing on the cake for the hosts but also significantly dent the visiting team's confidence ahead of the Test series, starting at this very venue in less than a week's time (December 14).

For India, there were 20 cricketers originally available for this series since there was a very short turnaround time between the first ODI in Bangladesh and the last game in New Zealand as some players in both squads were common.

But call it a cruel twist of fate as within a week things have gone from bad to worse and they only have 14 fit and available players to choose from for the final game.

Such has been the plight that Kuldeep Yadav has been flown into Chattogram on SOS basis as the Indian bowling attack looks thin on experience. The left-arm wrist spinner with 118 wickets from 72 ODIs will be the most experienced bowler in the line-up.

Regular skipper Rohit Sharma sustained a left thumb dislocation and has flown back home. Up and coming pacer Kuldeep Sen suffered a back injury after playing his first international game. Seamer Deepak Chahar continued his saga of breaking down in almost all the series he has played since his comeback



from a long lay-off.

Add to this, Axar Patel suffered a hit in the ribs and missed the first game while Rishabh Pant, who flew all the way from New Zealand, reportedly had a niggle and had to be rested for excessive workload prior to this series. In fact, there will be two forced changes in the playing eleven with Rohit and Chahar already unavailable.

It is there to be seen whether India bring in Ishan Kishan into the playing XI as an opener or stand-in skipper KL Rahul, who is now a

designated middle-order batter-keeper in this format, decides to promote himself just like during the tour of South Africa.

The other option is continuing with Virat Kohli-Shikhar Dhawan combination and get someone like Rahul Tripathi, who can also bowl some cutters at mid 120 clicks, in the playing XI. If the team management goes for a pure batter rather than a utility player, then the stylish Rajat Patidar could get his first game for India.

In case of Chahar's replacement, there isn't a back-up pacer available and the team might not have an option but to fall back to all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed, who could be the sixth bowling option.

India's five-pronged bowling attack will be Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umran Malik, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel.

With no Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ravindra Jadeja, the Indian bowling unit's performance at the back-end has been far from impressive.

While a full-strength Bangla-

desch will start as favourites in the final game, the bigger worry will be KL Rahul, the skipper.

His record, save in the ODI series win against a below-par Zimbabwe, has been dismal and the last thing he would need is another clean sweep defeat against his name after the tour of South Africa.

Till now, there has been little or no indication that Rahul is a long-time future India captain, not having displayed any above average leadership acumen in the matches that he has captained so far.

## I've been working on my power-hitting: Sundar

PTI ■ CHATTOGRAM

He is not the quintessential power-hitter. But, keeping in mind the Indian team's requirements ahead of next year's World Cup, Washington Sundar is working "specifically" on how to hit the ball long and hard.

Known to rely more on timing and placement, Washington has also played a few blunders, the most recent coming in the tour of New Zealand. And who can forget his 14-ball 40 against Rajasthan Royals in the IPL, representing Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"That's the role I have been getting in the last few years or so. That's what that particular position demands, and I have working quite specifically that way.

"Whatever positions demand me to do, I have been practising that way. I have been working in those specific manners," Washington said on the eve of the third ODI against Bangladesh.

Washington is happy that his hard work is reaping dividends.

"I am glad that all the hard work has been coming good in the last few months or so. Hopefully, I will continue to do really well in the coming months and years as well."

The all-rounder, who has picked up five wickets in the two preceding matches of the series which India have already lost, is looking to be the player for all situations and positions.

"It was a great opportunity for me in last game. With the World Cup next year, I want to be the player who could play in any situation, in any sort of combinations, and wherever the team needs. To win games, wherever they ask me to play, I will play. That's the kind of player I want to be.

"I want to be able to contribute to my potential, contribute in a way that the team gets to win most of the games, and eventually, be very, very successful in the World Cup. I just want to be in the present and keep doing well,



keep getting better in every aspect of the game."

India lost both their matches in Bangladesh from winning positions, having the hosts at 136 for nine in a chase of 187 in the opener and then reducing them to 69 for six before letting them off the hook to make 271 for seven in the second match.

"To be honest, we had our opportunities in both the games. First game, they needed about 50 runs to win with one wicket and we had a good opportunity. And even the last game, we had a good opportunity.

"In the first innings, they were 70 for six and with the way Shreyas and Axar were batting, we were going to win quite convincingly and Rohit bhai, the kind of knock he played, it was unreal.

"It was just about winning those critical moments, probably doing one or two things better here and there. We will look to end the one-day series on a high."



## India 'A' crush B'desh 'A' by an innings & 123 runs

PTI ■ SYLHET

Left-arm orthodox spinner Saurabh Kumar ran through Bangladesh 'A' batting line-up as India 'A' clinched the two 'Test' series with a commanding innings and 123-run victory in the second and final game here on Friday.

With his performance, Saurabh has staked a strong claim to replace an injured Ravindra Jadeja in the Indian Test squad for the upcoming series against Bangladesh, starting December 14.

Having conceded a mammoth 310-run first innings lead, Bangladesh 'A' performed even worse in their second innings, being shot out for a paltry 187 in 79.5 overs.

In the first innings, Bangladesh were a shade better, scoring 252 and India replied with a massive 562, riding on skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran's superb 157.

Saurabh, who also had a five-wicket haul in the second innings of the drawn first 'Test', took 6 for 74 in 30 overs to become one of the architects of the series win.

The Uttar Pradesh spinner also finished with a haul of 15

scalps in two games to emerge as the top wicket-taker in the series. Bangladesh 'A', with seasoned former skipper Mominul Haque in their ranks, were expecting to bat it out for three sessions and eke out a draw.

However, Mominul (6) was smartly snapped up behind stumps by keeper Kona Bharat in the fifth over of the morning and there was no looking back for India 'A'.

Opener Shadman Islam (93 not out) did fight it out and also had a 54-run fourth wicket stand with Shahadat Hossain (29) but Saurabh broke that stand with Yash Dhull taking a catch.

Navdeep Saini (2/54 in 16 overs), who was given an extended spell because of his possible call-up to the senior squad, then got two wickets in three deliveries to send half of the home side packing. He first trapped Jaker Ali leg-before and then had Yashavi Jaiswal pouch Mohammed Mithun in the slips to reduce Bangladesh 'A' to 145 for 6.

Saurabh then quickly polished off the tail to set up a nice win as Umesh Yadav (2/34 in 15.5) completed the proceedings.

## Call on Rohit's availability for Test series to be taken later: Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A call on injured India captain Rohit Sharma's participation in the upcoming two-match Test series against Bangladesh, starting December 14, will be taken later, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Friday.

Rohit had suffered a blow to his thumb while fielding in the slips during the second ODI against Bangladesh in Mirpur on December 7.

"The BCCI Medical Team assessed him and he underwent scans at a local hospital in Dhaka. He has flown to Mumbai for specialist consultation and will miss the final ODI. A call on his availability for the upcoming Test

series will be taken later," Shah stated in a press release.

While the BCCI will wait for an update on Indian skipper's availability, it can be safely concluded that with a dislocation as well as stitches, it will be near impossible for Rohit to train and then play a five-day match starting Wednesday. It is also not just about batting but also fielding.

With India having a packed schedule of white-ball games throughout January, whether the risk will be taken in a Test series against Bangladesh is there to be seen.

The BCCI has also instructed injury-prone pacer Deepak Chahar and rookie Kuldeep Sen to report to



National Cricket Academy (NCA) for assessment of their hamstring and back injuries respectively, informed Shah.

"Fast bowler Kuldeep Sen complained of stiffness in his back after the first ODI. The BCCI Medical Team assessed him and he was advised rest from the 2nd ODI. Kuldeep has been diagnosed with a stress injury and is ruled out of the series.

"Fellow fast bowler Deepak Chahar sustained a left hamstring strain during the 2nd ODI and is also ruled out of the series. Both Kuldeep and Deepak will now report to NCA for further management of their injuries," Shah stated.

## Australia thrash India in 1st Women's T20I

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Opener Beth Mooney made short work of a 173-run target with a belligerent 57-ball 89 to power the Australian women's team to a convincing nine-wicket victory over India in the first T20 International here on Friday.

Mooney smashed 16 fours during her stay in the middle, and was helped by Tahlia McGrath's unbeaten 29-ball 40, which included four boundaries and two sixes. Australia thus took a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Earlier, the experienced Deepti Sharma blazed away to an unbeaten 15-ball 36 to power India to 172 for five.

Sharma smashed four successive boundaries in the final over, bowled by Megan Schutt to boost India's run rate after Richa Ghosh (36 off 20 balls) and the returning Devika Vaidya (25 off 24) added 56 runs for the fifth wicket.

Chasing a stiff target, the formidable Australian opening pair of skipper Alyssa Healy and Mooney gave Australia the start it needed,



adding 73 runs in just under nine overs.

Healy and Mooney played some wonderful shots during their scintillating partnership to put the Indian bowlers under pressure.

Making matters worse was a dropped catch by Radha Yadav at backward point off Renuka Singh, giving Mooney a life when the batter was on 4. Medium pacer Renuka was then hit for three successive fours by Mooney, even as her captain struck the first six of the Australian innings.

If the dropped catch was

not enough, India's fielding overall was poor.

Vaidya, playing her first T20I since her debut in 2014, effected the first breakthrough when she had Healy caught by Harmanpreet.

The loss of the skipper, for a 23-ball 37, failed to disturb Australia's momentum as Mooney found an able ally in Tahlia McGrath.

It was as good as over for India after Mooney took 18 runs in the 15th over to bring the equation down from 55 runs off 36 balls to only 37 runs in the last five overs.

## Ahmed's 7-114 on Test debut helps Pak rein in Poms

AP ■ MULTAN

Unheralded Abrar Ahmed bagged a rich haul of seven wickets in a dream debut as Pakistan's spinners kept England's aggression in check on the first day of the second Test on Friday.

The 24-year-old mystery spinner grabbed 7-114 and got plenty of help from the dry wicket at Multan Cricket Stadium to dismiss England for 281 inside the first two sessions.

England got rid of both Pakistan openers — Imam-ul-Haq and Abdullah Shafique — early before captain Babar Azam's unbeaten 61 carried the home team to 107-2 at stumps when bad light stopped play with 10 overs still remaining in the day.

Saud Shakeel, who scored a gritty half century in Pakistan's 74-run defeat in the first Test at Rawalpindi, was not out on 32.

Ahmed was surprisingly left out from the first Test despite picking up 43 wickets in this season's first class tournament. He mystified England with his sharp googlies and car-



rom balls with only Ben Duckett (63) and Ollie Pope (60) scoring rapid half centuries.

Leg-spinner Zahid Mahmood made a forgetful Test debut at Rawalpindi, but finished off the tail just before tea to end up with 3-63 after Ahmed's brilliance constantly posed challenges to England's aggression.

Duckett and Pope both

scored half centuries in the first session before falling to Ahmed as the legspinner became only the second bowler in the history to pick up five wickets before lunch in his debut Test and England reached 180-5.

Left-arm spinner Alf Valentine of the West Indies was the other bowler to do so when he debuted against England at Manchester in 1950.

## BWF World Tour Finals: Prannoy stuns world No.1 Axelsen

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Already out of reckoning, top Indian shuttler HS Prannoy stunned world number one and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in three games to end his BWF World Tour Finals campaign with a memorable win here on Friday.

The tie was already inconsequential for Prannoy, seeded third in the tournament, as he had lost his earlier two Group A matches but the Indian pulled



off a shock 14-21, 21-17, 21-18 win over the top seed Dane in 51 minutes to at least end his campaign on a high. This was Prannoy's second career win over Axelsen, whom he had beaten during the Indonesia

Masters last year. The career head-to-head record is, however, in favour of Axelsen at 5-2.

On Thursday, Prannoy had lost to China's Lu Guang Zu in his second Group A match to bow out of the semi-final race. The 30-year-old from Kerala had lost 21-23, 21-17, 19-21 in a gruelling 84-minute contest.

The top two players in each group will make it to the knockout stage. Prannoy is the lone Indian competing in the season-ending tournament.

## Head, Labuschagne centuries put Oz on top

AP ■ ADELAIDE

Travis Head and Marnus Labuschagne posted big hundreds in a 297-run partnership to set Australia on course for a declaration in the second Test on Friday before Michael Neser took two wickets under lights to consolidate the home team's dominance in the day-night match against West Indies.

Head's 175 and Labuschagne's 163 helped Australia to 511-7 before stand-in skipper Steve Smith declared the innings just before the second interval on Day 2.

Opener Tagenarine Chanderpaul resisted the Australian bowling attack for 98 deliveries, scoring a defiant unbeat-



en 47 as West Indies struggled to 102-4 at stumps.

Paceman Neser (2-20) had West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite (19) and No. 3 Shamarr Brooks (8) caught behind and Nathan Lyon took a return catch to dismiss Jermaine Blackwood (3) and become the leading all-time wicket-taker at the Adelaide Oval, surpassing the great Shane Warne's career haul of 56.

Allrounder Cameron Green chimed in late with the wicket of Devon Thomas (19) before Chanderpaul, in his second Test, and night-watchman Anderson Phillip (1 not out) navigated the final four overs to stumps, with the West Indies still trailing by 409 runs. "We had them out

there for nearly two days, then took advantage of the night session," said Neser, one of two injury-enforced changes to Australia's bowling attack after a 164-run win in the first Test at Perth. Offspinner Lyon moved to 57 wickets at the Adelaide Oval in his 12th test and is expected to play a greater role as the pitch deteriorates this week.

"He's a great athlete," Neser said. "He's been performing for many years now — it's great to see him getting milestones."

Labuschagne also had a milestone moment earlier Friday when he surpassed 3,000 career Test runs in his 51st innings, a rate second only to Australian legend Donald Bradman.