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CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY DECEMBER 1, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹2



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# Drugs worth ₹478 cr seized on Gujarat Assembly poll eve

Recovery of booze, cash, drugs 28 times of that seized in 2017, says EC

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of the first phase of polling in Gujarat, the Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday came out with startling figures of seizures of cash, liquor, freebies, drugs, and even drugs manufacturing units, made by enforcement agencies in the State. Overall, the seizures this time round are over 28 times the recoveries made during the 2017 Assembly polls in the State.

Voting will be held on Thursday for the first phase of Gujarat Assembly elections in 89 seats spread across 19 districts in Saurashtra-Kutch and southern parts of the State where 788 candidates are in the fray.

In fact, two drugs manufacturing units and drugs worth Rs 478 crore was unearthed on Wednesday itself with the enforcement agencies still carrying out their operations in Vadodara (Rural) and Vadodara City till late in the evening.

Voting will be held between 8 AM and 5 PM on Thursday across 14,382 polling stations, the office of the State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said in a release. Out of the 89 seats going to polls in the first phase, the BJP won 48 in the 2017 elections, the Congress had won 40, while one seat was bagged by an Independent candidate.

As per information shared by the EC, the Gujarat ATS unearthed two



mephedrone (synthetic drug) manufacturing units and about 143 kg of mephedrone worth about Rs 478 crore in Vadodara (Rural) and Vadodara City.

"The ongoing seizure process of heavy consignment of drugs is being led by a team of officers of ATS Gujarat. If added, the ongoing seizure of drugs, it becomes whopping 28 times. The ATS have detained five people from Nadiad and Vadodara and a criminal case is being registered in ATS Police Station, Ahmedabad under relevant sections of the NDPS Act, 1985," the poll body said in a statement.

The EC further stated that the operation is in progress and complete details will be made available once the operation is completed. Besides the contraband seized in the ongoing operation, drugs worth Rs 61.96 crore have been recovered. The total seizures in the 2017 Gujarat Assembly Election

were Rs 27.21 crores. Going by the seizure chart as on November 29, 2022 which marks total seizures of Rs 290.24 crores, there is a massive jump in the amount of seizures which is 10.66 times of seizures in 2017.

The data showed that 411851.23 litres of liquor worth Rs 14.88 crore has been recovered despite prohibition of liquor in the state. The EC's enforcement authorities have seized precious metals and gold worth Rs 15.79 crore; freebies worth Rs 171.24 crore.

"The process of effective expenditure monitoring starts months before the announcement of elections and includes host of activities like appointment of experienced officers as Expenditure Observers, sensitizing and reviewing enforcement agencies for more coordinated and comprehensive monitoring, marking of expenditure sensitive constituencies, ensuring plan-

ning of adequate availability of field level teams in the monitoring process and regular follow-ups with DEOs/SPs with a view to curb role of money-power in vitiating elections. Visits by the Commission to review the electoral preparedness along with the review of Central Observers and DEOs, SPs has already been taken for comprehensive monitoring," the EC said in a statement on Wednesday.

Similarly, seizures in Himachal Pradesh assembly elections, where polling concluded on November 12, saw more than five-fold increase over figures of 2017 assembly elections. As compared to Rs 9.03 crores worth of seizures in 2017 Assembly Elections, the seizures in 2022 rose to Rs 57.24 crores.

Apart from the BJP, Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), 36 other political outfits, including the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) and Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) have also fielded candidates in various seats which will go to polls in the first phase. The BJP and Congress are contesting in all the 89 seats.

The new poll entrant AAP is contesting in 88 seats. Its candidate from Surat East constituency had withdrawn his candidature, leaving the party with one less seat to contest in the first phase.

Among other parties, the BSP has fielded 57 candidates, BTP 14 and CPI-M four candidates. As many as 339 independents are also in the fray in the first phase of polls. Out of the total 788 candidates, 70 are women including nine fielded by the BJP, six by the Congress and five by the AAP.

AAP's chief ministerial candidate Isudan Gadhvi is contesting from Khambhalia seat in Devbhumi Dwarka district of Saurashtra region that goes to polls on Thursday.

## Somebody has to speak up, says defiant Lapid

Kashmir Files has fascist features, jury shared my views: Nadav

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Israeli filmmaker Nadav Lapid, whose remarks on "The Kashmir Files" film triggered a major uproar in the country has defended his observations and said "somebody has to speak up."

He also said the film has fascist features and the entire jury shared his views.

His latest statements on Wednesday came two days after the filmmaker, who was the head of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) jury in Goa, said the film is a "propaganda" and "vulgar."

Israel Ambassador to New Delhi Naor Gilon had reacted sharply to his remarks on the closing ceremony of the festival on Monday and asked the filmmaker on Tuesday to apologise and said he should be ashamed.

Director of the film Vivek Agnihotri and actor Anupam Kher, who acted in 'The Kashmir Files', also slammed Lapid.

Speaking to Israeli news website Ynet over the phone on the controversy over his remarks, Lapid said, "It's crazy, what's going on here. It's a Government festival and it's the biggest in India. It's a film that the Indian Government, even



Israeli filmmaker Nadav Lapid has been facing flak for his comments on the movie 'The Kashmir Files'.



if it didn't actually make it, at least pushed it in an unusual way. It basically justifies the Indian policy in Kashmir, and it has fascist features." This comment was a rough translation of the interview in Hebrew.

He said there are claims that the move captured dimensions hidden by intellectuals and the media. "It is always the same method - that there is the foreign enemy, and there are traitors from within."

In his interview, Lapid said while he was watching the movie, he was shocked by the "transparent combination between propaganda and fascism and vulgarity". "I couldn't help but imagine an Israeli film like this in another year and a half or two," he told Ynet.

Asked if he anticipated the massive backlash to his remarks, Lapid said he was "apprehensive".

"It is not an easy position, you are a guest, I am the president of the jury here, you are treated very nicely. And then you come and attack the festival. There was apprehension, and there was discomfort," he said, adding, "Let's put it this

way: I'm happy to be on my way to the airport now."

The filmmaker said if the chairman of a foreign jury spoke critically about a film of his country, he would be "happy" even if it is "not a pleasant feeling". "In countries that are increasingly losing the ability to speak your mind or speak the truth, someone needs to speak up. When I saw this movie, I couldn't help but imagine its Israeli equivalent, which doesn't exist but could definitely exist. So I felt I had to," he said.

Meanwhile, in an exclusive interview to a private television channel in India, Lapid spoke at length about the controversy over his comments on "The Kashmir Files".

When told that his comment has erupted into a huge controversy and that the Israeli Ambassador had to apologise for what he said, Lapid said he is nobody's property. He also said politicians have a way of making profit out of controversies. Lapid said, "I accept the fact that The Kashmir Files is a brilliant movie. It was my duty to say what I saw."

## AAP may not even open account in Gujarat: Shah

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has downplayed AAP's challenge in Gujarat polls, claiming Arvind Kejriwal's party may not even open its account, and said the BJP State unit's announcement on setting up anti-radicalisation cell is a good initiative that can be considered by other States and the Centre.

In an interview to PTI, Shah described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity, all-round development of Gujarat during his tenure as the Chief Minister and the implementation of zero appeasement policy as the main reasons for people repeatedly reposing faith in the BJP over the last 27 years.

"The BJP will register an unprecedented victory in Gujarat. People have full faith in our party and our leader Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Shah, who has been crisscrossing the State and addressing five rallies a day in the run-up to the two-phase polls on December 1



Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his election campaign roadshow ahead of the Assembly elections, in Ahmedabad. PTI

and 5. On the question of AAP entering Gujarat Assembly elections, the BJP leader said, "Every party has a right to contest elections, but it is up to people whether they accept the party or not. AAP is nowhere in the mind of the people of Gujarat. Wait for election results, maybe AAP's name would not figure in the list of successful candidates."

While the Congress has been the BJP's principal rival in Gujarat, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal-led APP has

undertaken an aggressive campaign in Modi's home State. On the Congress, Shah said, "It is still the main Opposition party, but the party is going through a crisis, and its impact is visible in Gujarat as well."

Asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, Shah said sustained efforts are a must in politics. "I have always been of the view that politicians need to be hard working and it is good when someone works hard," he said.

## China warns USA not to interfere in ties with India

Beijing wants to stop border tensions from causing India to partner with US: Pentagon report

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI / WASHINGTON

With tension still persisting at the border in Ladakh, China has warned the US and asked it to refrain from interfering in its ties with India. It sought to pre-empt India from partnering more closely with the US in view of the border tensions. Underlining this point in its latest report on Chinese military build-up, Pentagon has said that throughout the face-offs, Chinese officials sought to downplay the severity of the crisis, emphasising Beijing's intent to preserve border stability and prevent the

stand-off from harming other areas of its bilateral relationship with India. The report was presented to the Congress late on Tuesday.

"The PRC (People's Republic of China) seeks to prevent border tensions from causing India to partner more closely with the United States. PRC officials warned US officials to not interfere with the PRC's relationship with India," the report said.

"In a section on the China-India border, throughout 2021, the PLA sustained the deployment of forces and continued infrastructure build-up along the LAC," the Pentagon said. Negotiation made "minimal progress" as both sides resisted losing perceived advantages on the border, it said.

The eastern Ladakh border face-off erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas. "Each country demanded the withdrawal of the other's forces and a return to pre-standoff conditions, but neither China nor India agreed on those con-

ditions," the Pentagon report said. "The PRC blamed the stand-off on Indian infrastructure construction, which it perceived as encroaching on PRC territory, while India accused China of launching aggressive incursions into India's territory," it added.

Since the 2020 clash, the PLA has maintained a continuous force presence and continued infrastructure build-up along the LAC. The 2020 Galwan Valley incident was the deadliest clash between the two nations in the past 46 years, the report said.

On June 15, 2020, patrols violently clashed in Galwan Valley resulting in the death of 20 Indian soldiers and four PLA soldiers, according to the PRC officials, it said.

China has previously criticised the US for commenting on its border dispute with India. In June this year, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian termed the critical remarks by a top US General on its infrastructure build-up at the China-India border as a "despi-

cable act" and criticised the attempts of some American officials to "add fuel to the fire", emphasising that Beijing and New Delhi have the "will and capability" to properly resolve their differences through talks.

Responding to US Army's Pacific Commanding General Charles A Flynn who termed the situation in eastern Ladakh as "alarming", spokesman Zhao had said, "The China-India boundary question is a matter between the two countries. Both sides have the will and capability of resolving the question through dialogue and consultation."

### China objects to Indo-US exercise

Beijing: China on Wednesday said it opposed the joint Indo-US military exercises being held near the Line of Actual Control asserting that it violates the spirit of the two border agreements signed between New Delhi and Beijing.

## Bilkis Bano moves SC against remission to rape convicts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bilkis Bano, who was gang-raped and seven members of her family slaughtered during the 2002 Gujarat riots, on Wednesday filed a plea before the Supreme Court challenging the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the case by the State Government. The top court said it will consider listing the matter for hearing.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha took note of the submissions of lawyer Shobha Gupta that the victim herself has challenged the grant of remission and release of the convicts.

"The review has to be heard first. Let it come before Justice Rastogi," the CJI said. When the counsel for Bano asked for the matter to be heard in open court, the Bench said, "Only the court concerned can decide that."

The CJI said he would take a call on the issue in the evening.

## CAPSULE

### CHINA'S EX-PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN DEAD

Beijing: Jiang Zemin, China's first head of state to have visited India in 1996 and heralded a new era of constructive cooperation between the two countries passed away on Wednesday due to leukemia and multiple organ failure in Shanghai at the age of 96.

### TERROR GROUP ISIS SAYS LEADER QURASHI KILLED

Beirut: The Islamic State jihadist group said Wednesday that its leader Abu Hasan al-Hashimi al-Qurashi has been killed in battle and announced a replacement. A spokesman said Hashimi, an Iraqi, was killed "in combat with enemies of God", without elaborating on the date of death.

## India's GDP growth fell to 6.3% in July-Sept quarter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic growth slowed down to 6.3 per cent in the July-September quarter of this fiscal, dragged down mainly by the poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors, official data showed on Wednesday.

However, India remained the fastest-growing major economy as China registered an economic growth of 3.9 per cent in July-September 2022.

The Indian economy grew by 8.4 per cent in July-September, 2021-22, as per the data released by the

National Statistical Office (NSO). The gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter this fiscal.

The second quarter GDP growth is almost at par with the RBI's projection of 6.3 per cent to 6.3 per cent released earlier this month in one of the articles published in its bulletin.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 38.17 lakh crore, as against Rs 35.89 lakh crore in Q2 2021-22, showing a growth of 6.3 per cent as compared to 8.4 per cent in Q2 2021-22," the NSO

statement said.

The real GDP in absolute terms stood at Rs 33.10 lakh crore in the July-September quarter of 2020. It had contracted by 6.6 per cent in the second quarter of 2020-21 on account of the staggering impact of lockdown restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus.

As per the data, Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 5.6 per cent to Rs 35.05 lakh crore in July-September this year.

The GVA growth in the farm sector is 4.6 per cent in the second quarter compared to 3.2 per cent a year ago.

## Rainbow items allowed at stadiums: FIFA

AP ■ DOHA

One day after Iran and Wales were eliminated at the World Cup, FIFA finally gave a public assurance on Wednesday that rainbow items and banners supporting protests in Iran will be allowed into stadiums. Stadium security staff organized by Qatari authorities had seized items with rainbow colours and slogans such as "Women. Life. Freedom" to stop them from getting inside stadiums.

In the first week of the tournament, seven European teams including Wales lost the fight to wear multi-colored "One Love" armbands during World Cup matches and some fans complained they weren't allowed to bring items with

rainbow colours, a symbol of LGBTQ rights, into the stadiums of the conservative Islamic emirate. The match between Iran and the United States on Tuesday was charged with emotion among Iranian fans, some of whom had come to Qatar not only to support their team, but the protest movement back home with banners and flags.

"FIFA is aware of some incidents where permitted items were not allowed to be displayed at stadiums," soccer's world body said in a statement on Wednesday, more than a week after some incidents were reported at World Cup stadiums. "FIFA has received assurances by authorities that venue commanders have been contacted



England and Wales players took a knee before their final World Cup group game to show solidarity with the fight against discrimination of all kind.

in relation to the agreed rules and regulations for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022." FIFA's assurances that have seemed to be overridden by Qatari authorities.

Wales and Iran will not play any more games at the World Cup after results late Tuesday sent England and the United States from their Group B into the knockout rounds.







# Haryana's daughters shining bright on global stage showcasing women's empowerment: Prez Murmu

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday praised Haryana for presenting the best examples of women empowerment for the entire country. The President, who is on a two-day visit to Haryana, interacted directly with the doctors, ASHA workers, and ANMs associated with the State's revolutionary 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' campaign on Wednesday.

The President also interacted with women sportspersons of the State during a programme organized at Haryana Raj Bhavan, in the presence of Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

"Daughters are the embodiment of power. Every



family should cooperate in taking daughters forward in every field so that they become empowered and continue to increase their contribution in every field. The way the daughters of Haryana have raised the pride of their families and state on the global stage in the sports field is one of the best examples of women empow-

erment," said the President.

She added, "If men and women walk together, the family, society, and country will progress. However, women face more challenges in their life than men, so it is the responsibility of the family, society, and government to nurture and empower the girl child."

Praising the Governor and the Chief Minister for the successful implementation of the 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' campaign in Haryana, the President hoped that the State will continue to boost the morale of its daughters by taking such revolutionary steps.

While interacting with the ASHA workers, doctors, and sportspersons, the President said that she feels happy to share experiences with them.

## Women Sportspersons Should be Brand Ambassadors of BBBP Campaign

The President also interacted directly with women sportspersons and learned about their life experiences. During this, mountaineer

Anita Kundu from Hisar district, who hoisted the tricolour three times on Mount Everest and the highest peaks of the seven continents, shared her life experiences. She told how her mother supported her after her father's death and today achieved this height today.

The Haryana government also gave full support to her. Similarly, Pooja Sihag and Suchika also shared their success stories.

The President said that the Chief Minister should ensure that whenever the team on the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign visits to make a family aware, it should also be ensured that such families should meet eminent women sportspersons so that they can be made to believe that daughters are pride, not a burden.

# Haryana Govt committed to deliver welfare schemes at doorsteps in villages: CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said that the State Government is committed to uplift the state's villages.

Khattar, interacting with the Gram Sanrakshaks through audio conferencing under the 'Gram Sanrakshak Samvad' programme, said that besides making concrete efforts to resolve issues of villagers at the village level, the State Government is committed to deliver welfare schemes at the doorsteps.

Under the 'Haryana Panchayat Sanrakshak Yojana -2021, Class-I officers, serving in various departments, were nominated as Gram

Sanrakshak, wherein the officers will ensure to resolve the problems of the villagers and ensure holistic development of the village adopted by them.

Khattar directed the Gram Sanrakshaks that they must reach their respective allotted villages on

December 3, and administer the oath to the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Apart from this, they will also cooperate in the making and distribution of Chirayu cards on December 10.

The Chief Minister further said that in the first week of every month, he will communicate with the Gram Sanrakshaks so that their feedback on assigned tasks can be

taken from them.

Inspiring the Gram Sanrakshaks to extend their social service to society, the Chief Minister said that they should meet the sarpanch and other volunteers to discuss the core issues of the village allotted to them.

He said that they must solve the problems of the villages by making proper coordination with the concerned departmental officers.

Also infusing the spirit of social service among the Gram Sanrakshaks, the Chief Minister said that work for society is possible by extending efforts from the heart.

Assigning four new tasks, he said that Gram Sanrakshaks will also be evaluated on the

basis of eight assigned tasks. "Gram Sanrakshaks will reach the village on December 3 to administer oaths to the sarpanches and panches, and on December 10 to distribute the new Chirayu cards.

They will also have to visit the senior secondary schools to review the utilization of the tablets given to the students and verify the income of 25 additional families in the village," said the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister said that the assigned task of getting the Parivar Pechan Patra completed should also be done soon. He further directed to complete all eight tasks by the end of December and submit their report on the portal [www.intraharyana.gov.in](http://www.intraharyana.gov.in).

## Punjab Govt to restart closed rest homes

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Days after the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann issued strict directives that the Ministers, MLAs and officials will use government's rest houses and circuit houses for stay instead of costly and luxurious hotels, the Punjab Government has initiated the process to restart the closed rest homes besides renovating them.

"Under the Chief Minister's directives to give priority to stay in government circuit houses or rest houses in the state and to make them fully functional, the State Government has identified seven closed canal rest houses which have been renovated and will be restarted," said that state Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Janjua in a meeting with the officials of Water Resources Department and Punjab Infrastructure Development Board (PIDB).

Giving details after the meeting, Chief Secretary said that many canal rest houses, built on the banks of canals in the State, have been closed for a long time and their condition has also deteriorated. In the first phase, the State Government has identified seven rest houses, which can be run by PPP mode.

These rest houses are located at Dholbaha (Hoshiarpur), Khanna, Banur, Kathu Nangar (Amritsar), Sidhwan Bet (Ludhiana) and Chamkaur Sahib, added the Chief Secretary. The Chief Secretary directed the officials that care should be taken that the heritage look of these should not be tampered with.

## SAD reconstitutes core committee; Rebels Jagmeet Brar, Ayali out

Sr Badal is chief patron, Brahmpura patron

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Wednesday re-constituted its core committee, while creating for the first time an advisory board, giving no place to the party "rebels" — former MP Jagmeet Singh Brar and party MLA Manpreet Singh Ayali.

Claiming to having given due representation to all sections of society, the Akali Dal has, for the first time, made the presidents of the Youth Akali Dal (YAD) and the Istri Akali Dal the ex-officio members of the core committee to bring in more cohesion in decision making.

In another first, the party has also created an Advisory Board to the SAD president.

Interestingly, the names Jagmeet Brar and Ayali do not figure in the reconstituted body — apparently for openly speaking against the party and not toeing its line.

Notably, SAD had dissolved all its committees and wings after the party suffered another defeat during the Sangrur bypoll. The move was initiated following the recommendations made by the Jhunda committee.

"SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal has given a new look to the party by inducting talent from all sections of society into its core committee which has been reconstituted with the induction of 12 more

## Pb CM in Gujarat; Labourers Hold Massive Protests Outside his Sangrur Residence

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The agricultural labour and trade unions on Wednesday held a massive protest outside the Sangrur residence of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who is currently on campaign trail in Gujarat ahead of the state assembly elections there.

The police had to resort to lathi-charge to stop the protesters from marching towards the Chief Minister's rented accommodation in Dreamland Colony on Patiala road.

It was only after the protesters were given an assurance of meeting with the Chief Minister—scheduled for December 21, the protesters called off their protest, as of now. At the same time, the labourers made it clear that they would intensify their protest in case the Government

failed to fulfill their long-pending demands.

Protesting under the banner of Sanjha Mazdoor Morcha — a joint front of eight labour unions, the protestors demanded an increase of minimum daily wages to Rs 700 under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA), implementing five-marla plot schemes for Dalits, and allotment of the third part of common panchayat land on lease to the community. Besides, they were also demanding amendment in law to solve the problem of reserved lands from village common lands, 33 per cent representation of Dalits in village cooperative societies, cancellation of FIRs registered against ZPSC members for protests and debt to Dalits without guarantee.

Even as the police denied

using force or cane-charging the labourers, the protestors claimed that their 22 members have been injured. Sangrur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Surendra Lamba denied any cane-charge saying that both sides pushed each other as cops tried to prevent labourers from reaching in front of CM residence. "There was no cane charge as cops only tried to stop labourers from reaching near CM residence. Cops have also suffered injuries," the SSP said.

"The police tried to stop us with big barricades, trucks, and other means when we started marching towards the Chief Minister's house as per our announced programme. They used force on us," said a Union member. In the video clips that surfaced on the social media, SP Manpreet Singh was seen using force on the protestors.

## Society for the Care of the Blind celebrates its Golden Jubilee

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Society for the Care of the Blind, Sector-26, Chandigarh, on Wednesday celebrated its Golden Jubilee by holding a cultural programme at Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh. Punjab Governor and UT Administrator

Banwarilal Purohit inaugurated the event by lamp lighting ceremony, which was followed by cultural bonanza by the students with special needs who performed folk songs and folk dances, including bhangra and Haryanvi dance. The event witnessed the attendance of students from various schools.

## BRIEFS

### SGPC chief asks Punjab Govt to stop release of 'Dastaan-e-Sirhind'

**Amritsar:** SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhani on Wednesday demanded from the Punjab Government to stop the release of film 'Dastaan-e-Sirhind' saying that the movie personifies the sahibzadas, sons of tenth Sikh Guru, due to which there is huge protest among the Sikh sangat (community). Several organizations and the sangat are expressing their protest to demand a ban on this film, he said, adding that several objections regarding this film have also reached the SGPC. "Punjab Government should take immediate action in this regard and at the same time, the censor board should also reconsider its decision," said Dhani.

### Free health check-up to 98,13,214 under 'Nirogi Haryana' scheme

**Chandigarh:** Haryana Health and Family Welfare Minister Anil Vij on Wednesday said that in the first phase of Nirogi Haryana scheme, the facility of free intensive health check-up will be given to 98,13,214 members of 24,75,380 Antyodaya families across the state. Vij said that recently, the scheme was inaugurated by the President Droupadi Murmu. To smoothly conduct intensive health check-up of the members of all these families, they have been divided into six categories according to age groups so that infectious and non-infectious diseases can be diagnosed on the basis of different age groups.

### Daler Mehndi's farmhouse among three sealed in Gurugram

**Gurugram:** Haryana Government's Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) has sealed three farmhouses, including one belonging to noted Punjabi singer Daler Mehndi near Damdama Lake in Sohna. The officials said that the sealing drive was carried out against three farmhouses in compliance with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) orders in the Sonya Gosh vs State of Haryana case on Tuesday. A team led by District Town Planner Amit Madholia carried out the sealing drive in the presence of Duty Magistrate Lachhiram, Naib Tehsildar, Sohna. "These are unauthorized farmhouses built without prior permission from the authority in the reservoir area of the lake. These were located in the Aravalli region," said DTP Madholia.

### Cong MP seeks registration of culpable homicide case in Kiratpur train accident

**Rupnagar:** Congress MP from Sri Anandpur Sahib and former Union Minister Manish Tewari on Wednesday demanded registration of a case of culpable homicide regarding the tragic death of three children in a train accident at Lohand bridge at Sri Kiratpur Sahib. In a letter written to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, he demanded compensation to the victims' families. He also raised question as why the train driver could not see the children on railway line at 11.30 in the morning.

### GLADA to start e-auction of 130 properties from Dec 11

**Chandigarh:** Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA) will conduct an e-auction of commercial, residential, and institutional sites from December 11 9 am till December 20 1 pm. Spokesperson of the Housing and Urban Development Department said that a total of 130 sites would be available for bidding which include 14 residential plots, 115 commercial sites (41-SCOs, 28-SCFs, 24-Booths and 22-shops) — situated in different localities in Ludhiana, Moga, and Ferozepur.

### PITEX in Amritsar from Dec 8

**Amritsar:** A five-day Punjab International Trade Expo (PITEX) is all set to begin in Amritsar from December 8. The trade expo is being organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) in collaboration with the Punjab Government. Amritsar Deputy Commissioner Harpreet Singh Sudan said that PITEX was eagerly awaited by locals as the exhibition had carved out a niche for itself during the last 15 years and will help in building Industrial relations. As per reports, the expo will have over 500 kiosks displaying array of products from the State and across the county.

### Punjab I&PR Dept bids warm farewell to TPO Attri on his superannuation

**Chandigarh:** Punjab Information and Public Relations Department on Wednesday gave a warm farewell to the Teleprinter Operator (TPO) Lakhwinder Attri on his retirement, after serving the department for nearly 36 years. Department's Additional Director Dr Opinder Singh Lamba, Joint Director Randeep Singh Ahluwalia, IPRO Navdeep Singh Gill along with others lauded the marvelous services rendered by Attri during his service in the department.

### CII held interactive session with Deputy Commissioner, IT (TDS)

**Chandigarh:** The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Chandigarh, on Wednesday organized an interactive session with Deputy Commissioner, Income Tax (TDS), Sohrab Singh Chauhan. The interaction provided members an opportunity to understand better the developments in direct taxation. Also the objective of the Session was to address concerns of CII member companies related to income tax.

# Farm fire cases in Punjab reduced by 30% this time compared to 2021: Min

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In Punjab, the incidents of stubble burning this year have reduced by 30 percent in comparison to the previous year. The claims were made by the state Environment Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer on Wednesday who asserted that the campaign launched by the State Government to prevent stubble burning during the paddy season has received a huge response.

Hayer said that the State Government, to stop the stubble burning, decided to go in for in-situ and ex-situ management. Besides, a special campaign was started to honour the farmers who did not burn stubble.

Quoting figures, he said that last year in 2021, total 71,304 fire incidents were reported from September 15 to November 30 in the State, while 49,907 fire incidents occurred during the same period this year — recording 30 percent reduction this year.

The Minister said that stubble burning is not the problem of Punjab alone, but of the entire country. "Despite the Union Government's rejection of the State Government's proposal to provide financial assistance to the farmers, the cases of stubble burning have reduced due to the State Government's efforts," he said.

He said that the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had demanded compensation

amount from the Center in which Punjab was also to contribute its share. "I had also put this demand before the Union Minister in the conference of environment ministers of the states.

Had there been a positive response from the Centre, there would have been a further decline in stubble burning cases," he said.

Hayer added that about 10 million straws have been managed through in situ management which is about 25 percent more than the previous year. Similarly, 1.8 million straw has been managed through the ex situ method which is more than 33 per cent over the previous year.

The students of schools,

colleges, and universities were also made part of the awareness campaign, and a total of 3,093 camps were organized this year.

Clarifying the cases of fire, he also said that if a farmer sets fire to waste after making straw bales instead of straw, that is also included in the case of fire through satellite image, but it doesn't result in pollution, that is why less pollution was recorded in the cities of Punjab compared to Haryana and other states.

"Punjab has sent the program for the next three years to the Center and the State Government is committed to completely eliminate stubble burning cases in the coming years," he said.







# All set for 1st phase of Guj Assembly polls in 89 seats

788 candidates in election race

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Voting will be held on Thursday for the first phase of Gujarat Assembly elections in 89 seats spread across 19 districts in Saurashtra-Kutch and southern parts of the state where 788 candidates are in the fray. Campaigning for the first phase of the elections in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled state ended at 5 pm on Tuesday.

Voting will be held between 8 am and 5 pm on Thursday across 14,382 polling stations, the office of the state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said in a release. Out of the 89 seats going to polls in the first phase, the BJP won 48 in the 2017 election, the Congress had won 40, while one seat was bagged by an independent candidate. Apart



Polling officials collect EVMs and other election equipment at a distribution centre before leaving for their respective polling stations ahead of the first phase of Gujarat Assembly elections, in Rajkot on Wednesday

PTI Photo

from the BJP, Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), 36 other political outfits, including the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) and Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) have also fielded candidates in various seats which will go to polls in

the first phase. The BJP and Congress are contesting in all the 89 seats. The new poll entrant AAP is contesting in 88 seats. Its candidate from Surat East constituency had withdrawn his candidature, leaving the party with one less seat to contest in the first phase. Among other parties, the BSP

has fielded 57 candidates, BTP 14 and CPI-M four candidates. As many as 339 independents are also in the fray in the first phase of polls. Out of the total 788 candidates, 70 are women including nine fielded by the BJP, six by the Congress and five by the AAP. AAP's chief ministerial candidate Isudan Gadhvi is contesting from Khambhalia seat in Devbhumi Dwarka district of Saurashtra region that goes to polls on Thursday. AAP state unit president Gopal Italia is contesting from Katargam in Surat.

Among other prominent candidates in the first phase are Rivaba Jadeja, the wife of cricketer Ravindra Jadeja, who is contesting from Jamnagar (North), and BJP MLAs Harsh Sanghavi and Purnesh Modi from different seats in Surat and five-time MLA Parshottam Solanki from Bhavnagar (Rural). Sitting Congress MLAs like Lalit Kagathara, Lalit Vasoya, Rutvik Makwana and Mohammad Javed Pirzada are

among the candidates in fray in the first phase from seats in Saurashtra region. Seven-time MLA and veteran tribal leader Chhotu Vasava is contesting from Jhagadia in Bharuch. With 54 seats, the Saurashtra-Kutch region will be crucial for the Congress as it seeks to better its performance.

In the region, the Congress won 30 seats in 2017 compared to 16 in the 2012 election. The BJP, on the other hand, was reduced to 23 seats in 2017 as against 35 won by it in the previous election.

In south Gujarat, the Congress in 2017 bettered its tally to 10 compared to six in the previous polls, while the BJPs tally dropped to 25 in the last election from 28 earlier. South Gujarat also comprises Surat city with 12 seats which have remained the BJP's bastion since a long time.

The BJP has this time found a challenger in the AAP which has fielded some of its senior state leaders from Surat and hopes to win seven-eight seats in the city, as declared by its national convener Arvind Kejriwal.

Gujarat AAP's state president Gopal Italia is the candidate from Katargam, general secretary Manoj Sorathiya from Karanj and Patidar community leader Alpesh Kathiriya from Varachha Road in Surat. Out of the total 4,91,35,400 registered voters in Gujarat, 2,39,76,670 are eligible to cast their votes in first phase of elections.

## Take strict action against ‘sponsored’ opinion polls, Cong urges EC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress has urged the Election Commission to take strict action against the alleged airing of "sponsored" opinion polls on the Gujarat Assembly election ahead of voting in the first phase on Thursday and claimed it was a brazen attempt to influence the electorate.

A delegation of Congress leaders led by AICC legal cell head Vivek Tankha met the Election Commission and apprised the poll body of the "violations by media". The opposition party urged the EC to take action against news

channels violating directions issued by it in respect of programmes related to the dissemination of election results.

They alleged that the media channels were predicting the poll outcome in a bid to influence the voters and this was a serious issue.

Tankha also claimed that they have information concerning the "safety of the ballot boxes" and urged the Commission to ensure there is no tampering. The Congress said it has observed that certain news channels have been publishing/publicising programmes related to the dissemination of results for the 2022 Gujarat Legislative

Assembly. "These programmes are publishing 'opinion polls' favouring one particular party over the other.

The programmes and their result prediction about the prospects of the various political parties in the Gujarat elections clearly aim to influence the electors of the constituencies going to polls," the memorandum said.

"The Commission must enforce what it commands. We request this Commission to utilise its powers under Article 324 of Constitution of India to address issue by passing immediate directions to news channels," memorandum also said. The Congress leaders urged

the EC to act with urgency as these violations undermine the sanctity of electoral laws and the authority of the Commission. "We all went to Election Commission and told it that level playing field is being disturbed by the media. Ahead of polling tomorrow, they are giving results methodically, as if result has come beforehand," Tankha said. He said the exit polls are banned and predictions are banned, but still this is being done. "There is no fear of Election Commission. The EC was worried about this issue and has assured us it will look into it as it was a serious matter.

## 952 illegal appointments so far in schools, CBI tells HC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation has so far been able to dig out the names of 952 people who obtained illegal appointments in Bengal school services.

The CBI probing the TET and school level appointment scam has told the Calcutta High Court that it has so far been able to find out 952 people who secured forged recommendations of appointment to various schools.

After getting the CBI report the Court stayed its own order directing the SSC to publish in its website the names of 183 fake candidates who had obtained appointments via illegal means.

The Court had also asked the Commission to get the names of the illegal appointees in newspapers. The Court deci-

sion had come after the SSC had told it that 183 people had been illegally appointed. However after the CBI's submission that it had dug out the names of 952 illegal appointees thus far, the Court stayed the earlier order and directed the investigation to be carried further.

The Court also made a passing remark which could further embarrass Trinamool Congress Government when the single Bench rued tendency of the State to rush to the Supreme Court to get stays against High Court orders disqualifying illegally appointed school employees — instead of helping the judiciary in disposing of such cases.

A section of higher judiciary had recently come under severe attack from TMC leadership who have questioned impartiality of some judges.

## Ex-Minister Nawab Malik's bail rejected

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Mumbai special court on Wednesday rejected a bail plea filed by Maharashtra's former Minister Nawab Malik in an alleged money laundering case involving underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

More than a fortnight after he had reserved his order, Special judge RN Rokade pronounced his order, rejecting regular bail to Malik. A detailed copy of the order was awaited.

Having concluded the hearing on a plea by Malik seeking bail in the alleged money laundering case on November 14 and had reserved the order, Special judge R N Rokade was to pass the order on November 23. The court had deferred the order to Wednesday (November 30).

Malik was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials on February 23 2022 after eight-long hours of intense questioning in connection with purchase of a huge plot of land at "a throw-away price" from two alleged henchmen of Karachi-based Dawood Ibrahim.

## EMU trains graze in Sealdah, no injury reported

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The passengers of a Kolkata local train had a providential escape when the EMU train they were travelling in grazed past another train on Wednesday afternoon at the entry point of the Sealdah station supposedly the busiest train terminus in the country.

The accident that led to no injuries resulted in the entire train services from Sealdah North station getting choked for several hours, Railway authorities said.

The accident occurred when the driver of one of the EMU trains bound for the carshed overshot the signal by a few metres and stopped barely a couple of feet ahead of a level junction of two tracks.

The other EMU train going to Ranaghat grazed past the driver's cabin of the first train leading to the first train getting derailed.

As the second train was at a very low speed a major accident was averted, E Chakrabarty the Eastern Railway CPRO said.

## Yogi: Muzaffarnagar safe, peaceful because of BJP Govt in State

PNS ■ KHATAULI/LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday that Muzaffarnagar was safe and peaceful today only because of the presence of the Bharatiya Janata Party Government in Uttar Pradesh, and warned people against Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal combine's conspiracy to create a "Taliban rule" in the State.

"Farmers could not go to their lands as their tubewell connections were disconnected, machines were stolen and their throats slit. Besides, girls could not go to school and women to markets because of safety issues.

And people were forced to flee Kairana and Kandala during SP and RLD rule. People can never forget the cruelty meted out to Sachin and Gaurav during SP's rule", Yogi remarked.

Urging people not to allow professional criminals of SP to enter the realms of power and to vote for the BJP in much larger numbers, while campaigning for BJP candidate Rajkumari Saini, wife of former BJP MLA Vikram Saini, Yogi said that the "Kawal ka bawal" was a curse of SP, adding that strictness was necessary to restore rule of law in UP and that was what his government did after taking over – "dealing with such elements in the language they understood the best".

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that strangely RLD that stood for farmers' interest and never supported criminals during late Chaudhary Charan Singh's time also became SP's partner in crime later on, serving as "daal mein tadka" even though farmers never received a fair deal during the SP government.

The chief minister added: "Vikram Singh Saini lost his membership not because of some family issue but because of trying to protect Muzaffarnagar's dignity and self-respect. It was a politically motivated and fabricated case." Yogi pointed out that the double-engine government of



the BJP in UP was following the mantra of 'Sabka Saath aur Sabka Vikas' to benefit the entire population, irrespective of caste or creed, with the development taking place and was extending the benefits of government welfare schemes to everyone without discriminating against, or appeasing anyone.

"We provided the benefits of Prime Minister Awas Yojana and Chief Minister Awas Yojana to every poor, toilets to every needy, in addition to electricity connections under Saubhagya Yojana and gas cylinders under Ujjwala Yojana to crores of deserving people. We are also providing an annual pension of Rs 12,000 to the elderly, to destitute women and widows and the differently-abled", he added.

Yogi said: "It's a land of religion and sends the message of peace. But when religion is in crisis, it has revolted also. Kanwar yatra, which could not take place during SP rule, was being taken out with much fanfare now and would be even grander once Gang Nahar is allowed to be built by the Forest department. Khatauli also boasts of having the biggest sugar mill today."

"Ram temple is being built in Ayodhya while Kashi and Mathura have been renovated and beautified. Mahendra Pratap Singh University is being built in Aligarh whereas Dhyanchand Sports University is also being constructed," he added.

Meanwhile, Yogi Adityanath thanked independent candidates Ravindra and Pradeep Thakur as well as Chaudhary Yashveer Singh, Abhishek Chaudhary, Bhopal Singh Gurjar for announcing their support for the BJP candidate.

## Punjab CM steps up AAP's free power pitch, brings bunch of 25K ‘zero’ electricity bills

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday brought a bunch of 25,000 "zero" electricity bills from his state and added the people of Gujarat will get similar bills if Aam Aadmi Party is voted to power in the Assembly polls.

Providing free electricity up to 300 units per month is one of the main election "guarantees" of AAP in Gujarat.

Voting for 182 Assembly seats will be held in two phases on December 1 and 5. The counting of votes will be taken up on December 8. The campaigning for the first phase ended on Tuesday evening.



Addressing a press conference here, Mann said the zero electricity bills were received by 61 lakh out of the 75 lakh households in Punjab, which is a testimony of AAP's commitment that it walks the talk.

"I have brought 25,000 zero electricity bills with the names and addresses which you can

check. To date, there are around 75 lakh electric metres in Punjab. As many as 61 lakh households have received zero electricity bills.

"The number of such bills for December will be 67 lakh because of low consumption in winter. The same will increase to 71 lakh in January. We do what we say, and we say what we can do. The same can happen in Gujarat. We have made a promise and will deliver," he said.

Mann said the Punjab government has set up 100 mohalla clinics till August 15 and plans to establish more than 500 more such clinics by January 26. The AAP government in Punjab had also guar-

anteed to revert to the old pension scheme (OPS) and the notification for the same has been issued, Mann said.

"Not just that, our government also stopped the pension to legislatures that saved crores of rupees of public exchequer," he added.

Mann was referring to the amendment bill passed in June this year by the Legislative Assembly putting an end to multiple pensions to ex-MLAs for every term served.

"The government's work is to collect tax and give it back to the people in the form of free electricity, infrastructure, roads, colleges, and mohalla clinics. We are setting up 16 medical colleges," he said.

## Awareness events to decrease damage during disasters: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Timely training of personnel, rescue measures and awareness programmes implemented and conducted with right intent, dedication and concerted efforts can bring down the impact of damage caused by disasters to the least, said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday.

Addressing the two-day 3rd Regional Conference on Disaster Management, organised under the aegis of National Disaster Management Authority, Yogi Adityanath said, "Strict vigilance and prior awareness are essential to control the impact of disasters. Timely training of personnel and rescue measures implemented and conducted with right intent only can bring down the impact of damage caused by disasters."

Emphasising the inclusion of disaster management and road safety in school curriculum, the chief minister said that if people knew what precautions they should take during floods, earthquakes, lightning, and fire mishaps, the loss of lives and property can be prevented.

On the occasion, Yogi also called for implementing an 'Early Warning System' to control deaths due to lightning strikes, particularly in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts.

While appreciating the role of Aapda Mitras in the prevention of disasters, the chief minister also stressed on involving gram panchayats in this work and increasing the number of Aapda Mitras.

A 'flood atlas' developed by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad was also unveiled by the chief minister on the occasion.

In the inaugural session of the two-day conference, referring to the three types of calamities

(adi daivik, adi bhautik and adi dahik) mentioned in Bhartiya Manisha, the chief minister also discussed the efforts being made by the state government in relation to all three.

Referring to the special geographical conditions of Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister also apprised everyone about the ongoing efforts for a permanent solution to curb floods, which have been causing huge loss of life and property in the state every year.

The chief minister said that till a few years ago, 38 districts of UP were affected by floods every year and today their number had been reduced to only four districts.

Sharing the efforts behind this success, the chief minister said that when the government was formed in 2017, he received a file of Rs 100 crore related to Elgin Bridge regarding flood protection. Such a huge amount was spent at one place every year.

In such a situation, he himself inspected the site and decided to channelise the river by dredging it. As a result, Bahraich, Gonda and Barabanki were saved from floods, and instead of spending Rs100 crore, only Rs 5 crore was spent.

Expressing the need to stop road accidents, the chief minister said, "Nearly 30,000 people die due to road accidents. This needs to stop. Awareness must be raised."

Extending best wishes for the two-day regional conference, the chief minister said that there were nine such states of North India which were frequently affected by disasters and to minimise these, this two-day event organised in UP, a state with the largest population of the country, would prove to be very important.

## BJP leaders slam Cong for using ‘abusive’ words against Modi

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

On the eve of the Gujarat Assembly polls' first phase, the BJP on Wednesday intensified its attack on the Congress over its president Mallikarjun Kharge's 'Ravan' jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said people will give a befitting reply to the opposition party.

During a roadshow, BJP president J P Nadda said Kharge's barb and another Congress leader Madhusudan Mistry's 'aukaat' remark at Modi expose the party's mindset and betray its frustration as the party stands nowhere while the BJP is getting one-sided support across the state.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told reporters that the people of Gujarat will give a befitting reply to those using abusive words for the prime minister who, he asserted, is Gujarat's "honour and pride".

Nadda alleged that Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have been unable to reconcile themselves to accepting Modi as prime minister and often used objectionable comments against him. Their party's leaders have taken cue from them in targeting Modi, he said. "Any



leader using such a language in democracy should be ashamed. People of India love and trust Modi," the BJP chief said.

Addressing a poll rally in Gujarat on Monday, Kharge had said the prime minister asks people to vote "looking at his face" in all elections. "Are you 100-headed like Ravan?" he had asked.

The BJP dubbed Kharge's remarks an insult to the people of Gujarat. Kharge's "Ravan" remark against Modi reflects the mentality of the "entire Congress leadership", Singh said. "Modi is Gujarat's honour and pride in the 21st Century. And today, foul language is being used by the Congress for our prime minister," he said. Voting for 89 of 182 assembly constituencies in Gujarat will be held on

Thursday in the first phase. Singh said other opposition parties are also trying to level baseless allegations against the prime minister.

Using abusive words for anyone does not reflect a healthy democracy, he said.

"The prime minister's post is not just a person, it is an institution. I am confident the people of Gujarat will give a befitting reply to those who had used abusive words for the prime minister, who is Gujarat's honour and pride," Singh added.

The BJP also posted on social media a collage of various controversial comments made by Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi's "maut ke saudagar" remark in 2007, targeting Prime Minister Modi.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Nicely placed

With G20 presidency, India is in a position to resolve the biggest issues, including the war in Ukraine

With India assuming the G20 presidency today, chances of resolution of global conflicts and major issues increase. Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said, "India is showing its might and transforming the world with its civilisational values." This may be a bit over the top, but there is no denying the fact that New Delhi, with its reasonably cordial ties with the nations like Russia and Iran, is nicely placed to play the role of an honest broker in various quarrels. The war in Ukraine is perhaps the biggest crisis the world faces today, its ramifications being economic, political, military, and cultural. Russian President Vladimir Putin, like almost everyone else, was convinced that there would hardly be any war. Ukraine is too small and weak to take on the might of the Russian military whose capabilities even the American generals acknowledge. The Russian bear, so went the received wisdom, will smother whatever army Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been able to cobble together. But it increasingly became a David-versus-Goliath contest, with Putin's forces suffering setbacks; they even had to evacuate the territories they had grabbed in the initial momentum of the offensive. At present, there is a kind of stalemate—not just military but also political. Putin may like to end the hostilities but for that he would need a face-saving armistice. The United States is unable to do that, primarily because of President Joe Biden's ineptitude. Last year, he had called Putin a "killer," incensing not just the Russian leader but also people.



European leaders, who have been extremely critical of Moscow because of the war it unleashed, are also not the folks Putin and his coterie would be comfortable with. Chinese President Xi Jinping too is known for belligerence rather than peace-making. In such a geopolitical milieu, India can initiate or boost proposals that could be viewed by the warring countries with an open mind. It is true that Ukraine is unhappy with India's refusal to condemn the Russian attack, but it is equally true that the Zelenskyy Government doesn't hold that grudge too strongly. Besides, Kiev couldn't be unaware of the fact that India has been following the policy of non-alignment for decades. At any rate, New Delhi's refusal to take sides also means that Moscow would be more inclined to listen to the ceasefire plan the former proposes. Three other things will also help India exercise authority. First, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has never badmouthed other leaders and countries; even during the crises of Balakot and Galwan, he did not use rough language. Secondly, he has experience in improving relations between countries. It is primarily because of his interventions that today we have excellent relations with Arab nations, despite the misdeeds of some saffron zealots. And, finally, in general India and Indians have a good image all over the world. All these factors are likely to help Modi have a successful G20 presidency.

### PICTALK



Taj Mahal with the setting sun, in Agra.

PTI

## Covid protests in China

The ongoing Covid protests in major cities across China are indeed unprecedented as well as surprising

Protests against strict Covid measures in China have now spread to the big cities. Demonstrators took to streets in the capital Beijing and the financial centre Shanghai. Many held up blank pieces of paper to express their discontent and acknowledge the censorship. What is surprising is how the protests have grown in their scope in matter of days. What started as a protest against the death of 10 people who died of fire in Urumqi where rescue wasn't allowed due to Covid protocols, quickly became an expression of anger and disapproval of the policies of the communist party. The protesters have called for President Xi Jinping to step down. Interestingly Xi awarded himself another term and there were no protests then. But at the core of the protests is people's hardships caused by arbitrary and stringent anti covid measures adopted by the Chinese government. Millions have suffered nearly three years of mass testing, quarantines, and strict lockdowns. People suffered in silence without raising their voice or at least not making it loud enough to cross Chinese borders.

It is very unusual for people to publicly criticize Communist Party leaders in China. Any anti government activity is severely dealt with by the government. So far the government has not tried to crush the rallies though some people were arrested in Shanghai and parts of the city cordoned off. To look politically correct people gathered on the banks of a river in the capital Beijing and sang the national anthem. The protests are now spreading to universities which must set off alarm bells for the

Communist government. During Saturday night's protest people shouted slogans such as "Xi Jinping, step down" and "Communist party, step down," something unheard of in China. Such demands are highly unusual in China. China has a history of suppressing protests with an iron fist - both online and offline. Such a large-scale defiance has not been witnessed since the 1989 Tiananmen movement. The protests are growing and getting bolder by the day, it is not that the Communist party is oblivious to it but maybe it wants to gauge how far it would go and then crack a whip, the only way it knows to deal with the protests and dissent. But then it could also underestimate the spark which sometimes is enough to burn a forest.



# 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'

India's G20 presidency commences today. Here is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reflection on the occasion.

The previous 17 Presidencies of the G20 delivered significant results - for ensuring macro-economic stability, rationalising international taxation, relieving debt-burden on countries, among many other outcomes. We will benefit from these achievements, and build further upon them.

However, as India assumes this important mantle, I ask myself - can the G20 go further still? Can we catalyse a fundamental mindset shift, to benefit humanity as a whole?

I believe we can.

Our mindsets are shaped by our circumstances. Through all of history, humanity lived in scarcity. We fought for limited resources, because our survival depended on denying them to others. Confrontation and competition - between ideas, ideologies and identities - became the norm.

Unfortunately, we remain trapped in the same zero-sum mindset even today. We see it when countries fight over territory or resources. We see it when supplies of essential goods are weaponised. We see it when vaccines are hoarded by a few, even as billions remain vulnerable.

Some may argue that confrontation and greed are just human nature. I disagree. If humans were inherently selfish, what would explain the lasting appeal of so many spiritual traditions that advocate the fundamental one-ness of us all?

One such tradition, popular in India, sees all living beings, and even inanimate things, as composed of the same five basic elements - the panchtatva of earth, water, fire, air and space. Harmony among these elements - within us and between us - is essential for our physical, social and environmental well-being.

India's G20 Presidency will work to promote this universal sense of one-ness. Hence our theme - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

This is not just a slogan. It takes into account recent changes in human circumstances, which we have collectively failed to appreciate.

Today, we have the means to



produce enough to meet the basic needs of all people in the world.

Today, we do not need to fight for our survival - our era need not be one of war. Indeed, it must not be one!

Today, the greatest challenges we face - climate change, terrorism, and pandemics - can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together.

Fortunately, today's technology also gives us the means to address problems on a humanity-wide scale. The massive virtual worlds that we inhabit today demonstrate the scalability of digital technologies.

Housing one-sixth of humanity, and with its immense diversity of languages, religions, customs and beliefs, India is a microcosm of the world.

With the oldest-known traditions of collective decision-making, India contributes to the foundational DNA of democracy. As the mother of democracy, India's national consensus is forged not by diktat, but by blending millions of free voices into one harmonious melody.

Today, India is the fastest



**DURING OUR G20 PRESIDENCY, WE SHALL PRESENT INDIA'S EXPERIENCES, LEARNINGS AND MODELS AS POSSIBLE TEMPLATES FOR OTHERS, PARTICULARLY THE DEVELOPING WORLD**

growing large economy. Our citizen-centric governance model takes care of even our most marginalised citizens, while nurturing the creative genius of our talented youth.

We have tried to make national development not an exercise in top-down governance, but rather a citizen-led 'people's movement'.

We have leveraged technology to create digital public goods that are open, inclusive and inter-operable. These have delivered revolutionary progress in fields as varied as social protection, financial inclusion, and electronic payments.

For all these reasons, India's experiences can provide insights for possible global solutions.

During our G20 Presidency, we shall present India's experiences, learnings and models as possible templates for others, particularly the developing world.

Our G20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the global South, whose voice often goes unheard.

Our priorities will focus on healing our 'One Earth',

creating harmony within our 'One Family' and giving hope for our 'One Future'.

For healing our planet, we will encourage sustainable and environment-friendly lifestyles, based on India's tradition of trusteeship towards nature.

For promoting harmony within the human family, we will seek to depoliticise the global supply of food, fertilizers and medical products, so that geo-political tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises. As in our own families, those whose needs are the greatest must always be our first concern.

For imbuing hope in our future generations, we will encourage an honest conversation among the most powerful countries - on mitigating risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and enhancing global security.

India's G20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive.

Let us join together to make India's G20 Presidency a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope.

Let us work together to shape a new paradigm - of human-centric globalisation.



NARENDRA MODI

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

Sir —Calling the sermons about the appointment of judges as the "law of the land", the Supreme Court is on a serious fault line because the very concept of collegium is not only undemocratic and unconstitutional but immoral also. While the current Minister of Law has dutifully tried to defy the dictates of such collegium being a part of the democratically elected Union Government, the judges who reached the position through the collegium have no moral authority to preach about the law of the land. The people of India elect their representatives to make or amend the laws of the land, and the Supreme Court ought to be the custodian of the constitution. But just because of the prejudices and selfish motives the supreme court judges have no right to press their malicious dictates on the people of this country, which the highest court has been doing not only as appointments of judges but through various judgments and comments against some individuals or the state also, especially after the present BJP Govt took over in 2014. The erstwhile spokesperson of BJP Nupur Sharma is one of them whose life threat was raised manifold due to the comments of SC. The SC must realise that democratic institutions thrive on mutual respect and independence and that Making Laws is the prerogative of the parliament, not the SC. The Supreme Court should be responsible enough in making comments which are taken note of by the people and the government alike. It is therefore important that the SC judges behave more responsibly in their conduct.

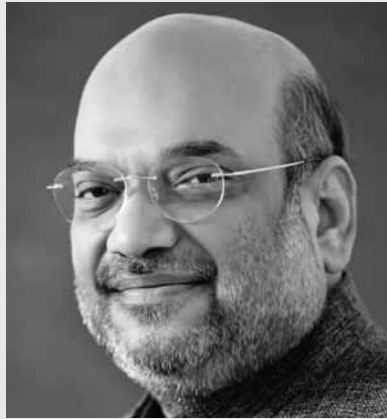
Let the better sense prevail upon the SC judges to make way for NJAC which was quashed by it. That only can be some hope for transparency and justice in the Courtrooms.

**Dr Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala**

### SEVEN SIXES IN AN OVER

Sir — Records are there to be broken. All we witnessed is 6 sixes in an over by Indian Ravi Shastri and Yuvraj Singh in competitive games in the past. But a

## Peace in Gujarat



Union Home Minister Amit Shah was spilling the beans when he claimed in an election rally in Gujarat that the State returned to permanent peace only after the "perpetrators of violence" — read Muslims — were "taught a lesson" in 2002. Sabarmati Express in flames at

youngster Ruturaj Gaikwad broke all records by scoring a six off a no-ball and thus creating a new record of 7 sixes in an over. Thus, the opener hit 43 runs in an over to set a list A world record in Vijay Hazare Trophy, matching the joint effort of Brett Hampton and Joe Carter off William Ludik for Northern Districts against Central Districts in a Ford Trophy game in 2018.

Gaikwad rewrote the record in the penultimate over of his team's Vijay Hazare Trophy Quarter Final match against Uttar Pradesh at Ahmedabad. Shiva Singh was the bowler to suffer the fate. However, the record for most sixes in an over, in all, is held by Lee German of New Zealand, who clubbed 8 over the fence during a Shell Trophy match at Wellington.

**CK Ramaniam | Mumbai**

### SC DOESN'T WANT MORE JUDGES

Sir — On Tuesday, November 29 the

the Godhra station, which killed as many as 59 people, allowed teaching. Riots that followed left 1,044 dead, 223 missing and 2,500 wounded. The Concerned Citizens Tribunal Report put the toll at 1,926. Mass violence included the Naroda Patiya massacre and the Gulbarg Society massacre, in which Ehsan Jafri, a former member of the Lok Sabha, was killed along with others.

Though the events of 2002 were officially classified as a communal riot, many scholars described it as a pogrom, with some commentators referring to them as state-sponsored terrorism or ethnic cleansing. The Home Minister's statement is worryingly close to what scholars have called the events of 2002. BJP won the 2002 Gujarat assembly election handsomely riding on the "communal riots," and twenty years later, it aims at repeating the feat in the 2022 Gujarat assembly election, painting the riots as an act to establish peace. Strangely, peace through pogrom is a new paradigm.

**Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode**

Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea seeking to double the number of judges in the high courts and trial courts, as more judges do not mean more disposal of the cases rather than having a requirement of good judges.

The court bench said that doubling the number of judges is not the solution to the pendency cases. Petitioner submitted that nearly 5 crore cases are pending in courts, which means nearly 20 crore people are affected, and this is close to the population of the US but the Supreme Court was not convinced by his arguments. The court remarked that it may impose costs on such PILs for taking up the judicial time which was meant to hear genuine matters. With this, the Supreme Court is not in favor of increasing the number of judges but quality judges.

**Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai**

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

## SOUNDBITE

Diamond businessmen and jewellers in Surat city in Gujarat should be conferred Bharat Ratna for their contribution to the country's economy.



**Delhi CM**  
— Arvind Kejriwal



**US Secretary of State**  
— Antony Blinken

The people on this team have done some of the best work of their entire careers, and my deepest hope is that my actions don't penalize my team.



**Actor**  
— Will Smith



**English skipper**  
— Ben Stokes

The Congress in the state is united and determined to ensure that it will be an outstanding success. And indeed it will be!



**Congress leader**  
— Jairam Ramesh



FIRST COLUMN

GENDER STEREOTYPES MUST BE QUESTIONED

This is how incidents like Shraddha murder can be checked



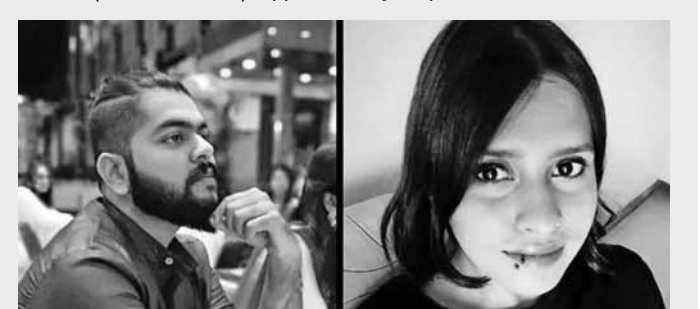
RUCHI SAINI

Live-in relationships are a wrong practice. These are leading to crime. These 'educated' girls are paying for this. It should be completely banned—these were the thoughts of a Minister of State about the murder of 27-year-old Shraddha Walker.

Shraddha was allegedly strangled by her live-in partner Aftab Poonawala after a heated argument in their Delhi flat, who then chopped her body and kept it in the refrigerator. According to the Minister of Panchayati Raj, the murder is a part of “a well-planned conspiracy taking place in the country to target Hindu girls through love jihad. Lakhs of Shraddhas become victims.”

A ghastly case of violence against women has yet again been appropriated by right-wing and patriarchal apologists to further their parochial views around women, religion, and modernity. The aim is to send a clear message to the modern, independent, and educated Indian woman: “Transgress the codes of Hindu society, and risk becoming a victim of gender crime.” These codes include the importance of the heterosexual institution of marriage, and the prohibition of inter-religious marriage as a safeguard for women from violence.

Unsurprisingly, none of these claims stand their ground when verified. According to the latest round of the National Family Health Survey in India (NFHS 2019-21), approximately 30 per cent of married Indian



women faced domestic and sexual violence, and no significant difference was observed in violence reported by Hindu and non-Hindu married women. Additionally, out of the respondents who reported experiencing physical abuse, the vast majority belonged to poor and uneducated backgrounds. Clearly, being married or less educated does not protect women from violent crimes in India, and neither does the perpetrators' religious affiliation.

Instead of asking what could Shraddha have done to prevent her murder, we need to ask what is it that empowered Aftab to gruesomely murder a woman who left her family for him. Also, what is it that disempowered Shraddha, despite her independence and education, to suffer the abuse inflicted by Aftab before her murder?

Answers may rectify existing gendered and sexist social structures that facilitate such abuse. It is not the female victim's lifestyle choices, but rather the norms, beliefs, and motivations of the male perpetrator that are the source of gender violence. Society is quick to assign blame to victims – on clothes, marital status, or religious affiliation. For those wondering why Shraddha did not lean on personal and professional networks to escape the abusive relationship, I suggest that they take a cursory look at the Islamophobia, victim-blaming, and slut-shaming unleashed on social and print media post her murder.

In my current research study with female students at a public university in India, many shared how the personal and professional support systems available to victim-survivors of gender violence are plagued with rampant sexism, misogyny, and prejudice.

Rage should not exclusively be for fatal victims of gender violence, or those with visible marks of physical assaults, but also for the wife who endures verbal abuse from her husband to keep the family together, the daughter-in-law who endures economic deprivation because of social conditioning, and the trans friend disowned by their family because of the prioritization of social mores over the child's happiness.

What aspects of a heteronormative and patriarchal society help sustain these horrific acts? The extent of our complicity in sustaining psychological or verbal violence in our families, workplaces, or interpersonal relationships be also questioned. That can help build a truly egalitarian nation to allow a safe space for women and gender minorities to thrive, prosper, and contribute to national success.

*(The author is a research scholar at the University of Maryland, College Park)*

# G20 can create value chains led by farmers

Initiatives by government and civil society have seen emergence of collectives of small and marginal farmers

Since time immemorial, foodgrains have been crossing continents for centuries. From the silk and spice routes to the current operations run by various alliances and agencies, humanity has witnessed acceleration of the commodity trading and intensifying as a constituent derivative of globalisation.

Throughout 2023, G20, which consists of countries accounting for 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population, will discuss a range of plans, which will reflect ambition and engagement of the member countries. The spectrum to create the global value chains encompasses some that are actively regulating a very diverse collection of interests of market forces and of a few individuals. The spectrum also includes a span of expected outcomes, with some looking for a detailed strategy for involvement of farmers collectively.

With the active participation and interwoven participation of state and non-state actors, new horizons have emerged. Therefore, this year might be remembered as a year of new-alliances to create a democratic and India-led global value chain. There is an opportunity to link Indian agriculture to the world to enhance export opportunities and address global food and nutritional security in the Indian way.

Agriculture at this juncture can provide huge support to the diplomatic community. It will not only help to localize the efforts undertaken to achieve the SDG targets but also benefit to democratize the value chains.

Moreover, the upcoming G20 meeting may open a new chapter on food diplomacy. For example, Kala Namak Rice of Uttar Pradesh, Chikori of Etah and Kasganj of Uttar Pradesh, Allahabadi Surkh Guava, Malihabadi Dasher of Uttar Pradesh, and Malbhog Banana of Hajipur are a few items awaiting the attention of Indian diplomats.

Initiatives undertaken by various government departments and civil society institutions have seen an emergence of collectives of small and marginal farmers with robust financial transactions. The Government of India's consistent and concerted endeavors to usher into reforms for boosting agricultural exports have created a background of this diplomatic exercise.

Further, the execution of agriculture export policy with subsequent waves of change in the cooperative sector after the formation of the Ministry of Cooperation and credit support have created a phenomenal change in the trade capacity of these collectives. For example, there is a ready-made six clusters in Maharashtra through collectives for grapes, mango, pomegranate, banana, oranges and onion.

The active participation and active involvement of jumbo states like Uttar Pradesh with their own export policy in consonance with national policies has created a boon for this sector. Much awaited Warehousing and Logistic Policy 2018 and UP Food Processing Policy 2017 has not



LINKING FARMERS' COLLECTIVES TO THE OVERSEAS MARKET IS RELEVANT AS AGRO VALUE CHAINS ARE BUYER-DRIVEN. WE HAVE AN ARMY OF FPOS/COOPERATIVES WHICH ARE ORGANISED, COORDINATED, AND CAN REACH THE GLOBAL CONSUMER MARKET

*(The author is member, Pradhan Mantri-MSP Committee)*



only created a robust supply chain but also has given ample opportunity to enable the FPOs with overseas markets.

In India, agriculture and horticulture production is around 600 million tonnes per year. Industrialists can also venture into agriculture as this will benefit farmers and will increase their earnings. Not only aromatic Spices but also Indian shrimps, basmati and non-basmati rice, grapes, bananas, pomegranate, vegetables, including potatoes, processed/value-added products, cashew, plant parts/medicinal herbs in value added form, including herbal medicines, food based nutraceuticals, aromatics, spices (cumin, turmeric, pepper), ethnic and organic food are a few potential winning sectors key to securing nutrition and food security to the global population.

The value chain here covers the entire network of actors involved in input supply, production, processing, marketing, and consumption, whilst operating inside an institutional environment that facilitates or hinders its performance. In this neo-system of agricultural value chain, farmers' collectives will participate at all the three main levels.

Firstly, as they deal directly with the products by producing, processing, or trading. Next through the Startups/FPO/Cooperatives they act also as supporters and deal indirectly with the product, but their services add value to it in their way of innovation and subsequent supply chain. Lastly, where they need support for this festival of G20 diplomats to network with global contacts and long-standing relationships with international groups.

This yearlong diplomatic festival through G20 is going to bring

new agribusiness value chain actors contains services of pre-farm production, like fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, tools and agricultural machinery; on-farm production, such as primary food processing and products, plus by-products; and post-farm production, related to secondary food processing, packaging and preservation.

To make the global agro value chains democratic, the international linkages have to do with the interdependencies of national and international markets, in which the agroindustry functions. The GVC has the specific condition that the market outlets negotiate with the foreign market, the latter comprising global wholesalers and retailers to reach out to international consumers. The retail sector of the Indian cooperative and support given through virtual platforms a new chapter can be written.

Laws, regulations, policies, international trade agreements, social norms, and public goods, all contribute to the agribusiness' milieu. Consequently, our diplomats will negotiate every bit of this with their counterparts of the global north. There is an environment that comprises economic, political, cultural, and demographic factors that shape the development goals and strategies of India at this juncture by democratizing the value chain.

In accordance with the policies, there are also institutional linkages. These relationships, among the different types of organizations that operate and interact with the agroindustry production chain, tend to affect the dynamics of the production chain, the access to international markets.

The farmers' collectives would be the ones which ultimately gain

more benefit from these negotiations, instead of the fragmented farmers. Linking farmers' collectives to the overseas market is also relevant as agro value chains are buyer-driven. We have an army of FPOs/cooperatives which are organised, coordinated, and can control the activities that reach the global consumer market through their core competencies of local products which have huge demand.

Therefore, in the context of a GVC, with support of G-20 negotiations our collectives may become the ones who define the “rules of the game” and appropriate the largest shares of the gains derived from agricultural production with collaborative effort of state and civil society.

Economic activity of these collectives is gaining a lot of public interest; for that the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Farmers-led GVC will serve as a means for linking local producers from developing countries to international markets. However, it is relevant to discuss the opportunities and challenges that come across this engagement, to analyze if it is beneficial for small farmers, lead firms or even public institutions. Many countries are intending to embrace a wide and diverse range of stakeholders in their design.

It is early to determine how widespread this will be. It is also not yet clear how inclusive this process will turn out to be. The participation of the relevant civil society actors may normally be vital to enable the farmers' collective voices to be fully expressed and heard. This takes thought and planning of this momentous period to rejig the phrase “the Wonder that was the farming system of India.”

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

ALL OF US WERE DISTURBED AND SHOCKED BY THE MOVIE 'THE KASHMIR FILES'. IT FELT TO US LIKE A PROPAGANDA AND VULGAR MOVIE. — ISRAELI FILMMAKER NADAV LAPID




HE HAS NO RIGHT TO CALL IT 'VULGAR PROPAGANDA', (HE) HAS TO BE A VULGAR OR MENTALLY SICK PERSON. HE'S A MEMBER OF THE 'TOOLKIT GANG.' — ACTOR ANUPAM KHER



# Ensuring a clean world is best business investment

It is high time that we move forward in a planned and systematic manner initiating futuristic investments



KAMAL NARAYAN OMER

Every year December 2 is observed as the National Pollution Control Day to honour those who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy on this day in 1984. It was one of the biggest industrial pollution disasters in history. The leakage of the poisonous methyl isocyanate from an insecticide plant of the Union Carbide Corporation created havoc in the residential neighbourhood and the impact of that disaster is still witnessed in the flora and fauna of the area.

According to many estimates more than 400 tons of the industrial waste is still present on the site, not surprisingly the pollution in soil and water is even blamed

today for birth defects in the region. The aim of commemorating the day is to remind people of the significance of a healthy and safe environment and the imperative role that it plays in our wellbeing.

It is not a secret that the world is facing an existential crisis which has been further fuelled by the pandemic, making us realise the fragility of human life. History is witness to the innumerable ways in which man has directly as well as indirectly influenced his environment while being influenced by it with far reaching implications for both. Human population has been rather late in realizing the significance of a clean and pollution free environment but then it's better late

than never.

The last decade has witnessed impending changes to the ecosystem and resulted in an array of unwanted alterations that are a serious threat to mankind. It has not only disturbed the environment and the fundamental aspects essential for the existence of human life namely air, water, food and shelter but also lead to global warming as well as habitat loss. The pressing concerns if not addressed immediately can play havoc with the planet, which is our only resort to life and wellbeing.

Lately, there has been a growing focus on living sustainably in harmony with nature while also ensuring that we collectively work towards a greener and

healthier planet. With Indian metros topping the chart of the most polluted cities in the world, the government has been trying to actively get involved in the discourse surrounding environment and pollution. From ban on single use plastic and firecrackers to river cleanliness projects, initiating reforms for a healthier environment has been on the government's agenda. However, for a long-term and sustainable impact it should be noted that at the policy implementation level environmental concerns should receive precedence over financial gains.

It is high time that we move forward in a planned and systematic manner initiating futuristic investments which can address both the

concerns with a more resource effective approach and help break the vicious circle of environment degradation and economic development.

With concepts like Vocal for Local, Go Green and Swatch Bharat catching the fancy of all, it is the time to include all stakeholders in this change for a better world. Governments and policy makers can initiate advocacy changes to achieve a sustainable world. Business organizations should encourage positive actions centred on ethical environmental practices.

The onset of the pandemic has made all of us realize that “Leave no One Behind” as proclaimed in the SDG's is the much-needed approach.

The knowledge of constitutional provisions regarding environment protection should be encouraged to bring greater public participation, environmental awareness and education and to sensitize people to work towards preserving ecology and environment.

Reusing disposable items instead of discarding them immediately, carrying a cloth bag on a shopping spree, opting for handmade porcelain and clay dishes in place of microwavable plastic utensils and using public transport or car-pooling are some small but significant steps that can prove beneficial in future, if followed as a mass change. Remember any policy regulation by the government can prove to be sustainable only

through people's participation and willingness, which in turn can be achieved through awareness creation.

The adverse health impact of pollution is an immediate public health concern in the country from different kinds of cancer to asthma, from infertility to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), a multitude of diseases are linked to pollution. The post-Covid 19 recovery plans cannot be successful if we fail to include actions to mitigate the process of environmental hazards. Instead of opting for short-term, kneejerk solutions, it is imperative that we ensure long-term sustainable solutions to the ever-growing problem of pollution for a better future for all.



# Ukraine welcomes arms offers, no word on Patriot missiles

AP ■ BUCHAREST

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken condemned Russia's weeks-long assault on Ukraine's power grid, saying as NATO scrambled on Wednesday to scrape up replacement electrical gear that Russia had turned its war machine to strikes aiming to "turn off the heat...so that civilians suffer."

Blinken spoke at a NATO foreign ministers meeting in Bucharest, Romania devoted in part to coordinating aid to keep the lights — and furnaces — on in Ukraine, where Russian strikes have damaged an estimated third of that country's electrical infrastructure.

"Because President (Vladimir) Putin is failing to defeat Ukraine militarily, he is now prosecuting war against civilians," Blinken said.

"And he's doing that by trying to destroy Ukraine's energy infrastructure, to turn off the light, to turn off the heat, to turn off the water so that civilians suffer. "What is very clear to me ... is that support remains strong, resolute, determined" on the behalf of NATO foreign ministers to continue supporting Ukraine as Russia's invasion moves toward a February anniversary, Blinken said.

NATO estimates that Russian strikes have damaged one-third of Ukraine's electrical



infrastructure. It says the missiles appear to be particularly targeting vulnerable transmission networks, leaving Ukrainians dealing with darkness and cold.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has underscored that his country's biggest needs now are electrical gear and more advanced air-defense systems than it has gotten from the US and other allies so far, to deal with the Russian missile strikes.

"In a nutshell, Patriots and (electricity) transformers is what Ukraine needs the most," Kuleba declared on Tuesday.

Heading into a one-on-one session with Blinken on the sidelines of the NATO gathering, Kuleba said that Ukraine at the session had received "a number

of commitments, new commitments, from various NATO members with regard to providing Ukraine with more defensive weapons and energy equipment."

But Kuleba declined to answer questions about whether that included promises of badly wanted Patriot missile batteries, from the US or any other ally.

Ukraine is seeking US-made Patriot missile batteries or other more advanced air defense systems than it has gotten so far from the United States and other allies to block Russian air strikes. Kuleba did not respond to repeated questions from a reporter ahead of a meeting with Blinken about whether he had gotten any commitments on

Patriots.

The provision of Patriot surface-to-air missiles to Ukraine would mark a major advance in the kinds of air defense systems the West is sending to help the war-torn country defend itself from Russian aerial attack.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg confirmed that deliveries of such sophisticated surface to air missiles systems are under consideration among some allies. The military organization does not possess any weapons, only its member countries do.

A senior US defense official who briefed Pentagon reporters on Tuesday, on condition of anonymity, said that the United

States is open to providing Patriots. While Ukraine has asked for the system for months, the US and its allies have been hesitant to provide it to avoid further provoking Russia.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Tuesday that his country's offer to send Patriots to Poland remains on the table, despite Warsaw's suggestion that they should go to Ukraine instead.

Ukraine does not have personnel trained to use Patriots — a complicated air defense system of which there are three main types, with varying ranges and altitudes. Germany has lent them to Slovakia and Turkey but sent its own technicians to operate the missiles.

# China to have 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035: Pentagon report

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

China is expanding its nuclear arsenal and is likely to have a stockpile of about 1,500 warheads by 2035, up from the current estimated number of 400, the Pentagon has said, with Beijing focusing on accelerating its nuclear capabilities as it seeks to challenge America's global dominance.

In its annual report to Congress on China's ambitious military build-up, the Pentagon said on Tuesday that over the next decade, Beijing aims to modernise, diversify, and expand its nuclear forces.

China's current nuclear modernisation exercise has exceeded the previous modernisation attempts in both scale and complexity, it said.

China is investing in and expanding the number of its land, sea, and air-based nuclear delivery platforms and constructing the infrastructure necessary to support this major expansion of its nuclear forces, the report said.

China is also supporting this expansion by increasing its capacity to produce and separate plutonium by constructing fast breeder reactors and reprocessing facilities. In 2021, Beijing probably accelerated its nuclear expansion, it said.



The Pentagon said it estimates that China's operational nuclear warheads stockpile has surpassed 400.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) plans to "basically complete modernisation" of its national defence and armed forces by 2035, said the report.

If China continues the pace of its nuclear expansion, it will likely field a stockpile of about 1,500 warheads by its 2035 timeline," it said.

The Chinese strategy is a determined pursuit to amass and expand its national power to transform, at least, aspects of the international system to make it more favourable to its political system and its national interests as they define them, said a senior defence official.

"They aim to expand their national power through both domestic and foreign policy initiatives. So, the global security initiative that President Xi Jinping laid out at ... is one of these in which the PRC seeks to

kind of paint itself as a provider of global public goods," the official said.

There have been more coercive and aggressive actions in the Indo-Pacific region, including some of which the US would highlight as being dangerous, the official noted. "So PLA vessels and aircraft have exhibited an increase in unsafe and unprofessional behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region, including for the aircraft aerobatics, discharging chaff and other activities that could make it dangerous for nearby aircraft to maneuver safely," the official noted.

Reacting to the Pentagon report, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that in recent years, the US has been hyping up various versions of the "China threat" narrative simply to find pretext for expanding its nuclear arsenal and perpetuating military predominance. The world knows well that this is a go-to tactic of the US."

# EU seeks specialised court to investigate Russia war crimes

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union proposed Wednesday to set up a U.N.-backed specialised court to investigate possible war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine, and to use frozen Russian assets to rebuild the war-torn country.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a video message that the EU will work with international

partners to get "the broadest international support possible" for the tribunal, while continuing to support the work of the International Criminal Court.

Since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, his military forces have been accused of abuses ranging from killings in the Kyiv suburb of Bucha to deadly attacks on civilian facilities, including the March 16 bombing of a theatre

in Mariupol that an Associated Press investigation established likely killed close to 600 people.

Investigations of military crimes committed during the war in Ukraine are underway around Europe, and the Hague-based International Criminal Court has already launched investigations.

Ukrainian first lady Olena Zelenska on Tuesday also urged that Ukraine's invaders be held account as she addressed law-



makers in London.

"Victory is not the only thing we need. We need justice," she said, comparing Russian war crimes to the atrocities committed by Nazi Germany in World War II.

She called on Britain to lead efforts to set up a criminal tribunal to prosecute senior Russians over the invasion, similar to the postwar Nuremberg trials of leading Nazis.

Von der Leyen on Wednesday added that the 27-nation bloc wants to make Russia pay for the destruction it

caused in neighbouring Ukraine by using Russian assets frozen under sanctions.

She estimated the damage to Ukraine at 600 billion euros.

"Russia and its oligarchs have to compensate Ukraine for the damage and cover the costs for rebuilding the country," von der Leyen said. "We have the means to make Russia pay."

Von der Leyen said 300 billion euros of the Russian central bank reserves has been immobilised, and that 19 billion euros of Russian oligarchs' money has been frozen.

"In the short term, we could create with our partners a structure to manage these funds and invest them," she said.

"We would then use the proceeds for Ukraine, and once the sanctions are lifted, these funds should be used so that Russia pays full compensation for the damages caused to Ukraine."

The EU said the lifting of the restrictions on Russian assets could be linked to conclusion of a peace deal between Ukraine and Russia that would settle the question of damages reparation.



# Turkey: More steps needed for nod to Nordic States' NATO bid

AP ■ BUCHAREST

Sweden and Finland have made some progress in meeting Ankara's security concerns but still need to undertake "concrete steps" to win Turkey's approval for their NATO membership bids, the Turkish foreign minister said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg underlined that "it is time to welcome them as full fledged members of the alliance."

The military alliance is eager to add the two Nordic nations to its ranks.

Sweden and Finland abandoned their longstanding policies of military nonalignment and applied for membership in the alliance after Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February, amid concerns that Russia might target them next.

Turkey, which has accused the Nordic countries of ignoring threats to Turkey from Kurdish militants and other groups that it considers as terrorists, has not endorsed their accession.

The parliaments of Turkey and Hungary have yet to ratify

their applications. The 28 other NATO states have already done so.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu met with his Swedish and Finnish counterparts in the sidelines of a NATO meeting in Bucharest on Tuesday.

"These two countries have taken some steps to fulfill their obligations. We do not ignore the steps that were taken," Cavusoglu told Turkish journalists on Wednesday. "However, there is no concrete development yet on some issues such as the extradition (of suspects wanted by Turkey) and the freezing of terrorist assets."

"We reminded (them) that in the end, it's the Turkish people and the Turkish parliament that needs to be convinced," he said.

The minister of Sweden and Finland sounded more upbeat.

Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billström told Sweden broadcaster SVT that "progress was being made" regarding NATO membership, and that he would soon travel to Turkey.

# Russia says nuclear talks with US delayed amid differences

AP ■ MOSCOW

Moscow has postponed a round of nuclear arms control talks with the United States set for this week because of stark differences in approach and tensions over Ukraine, a senior Russian diplomat said Tuesday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said the decision to put off the talks that were scheduled to start Tuesday in Cairo was made at the political level. The postponement marked another low point in badly strained U.S.-Russian relations and raised concerns about the future of the last remaining nuclear arms control pact between the two powers.

"We faced a situation when our U.S. Colleagues not just

demonstrated their reluctance to listen to our signals and reckon with our priorities, but also acted in the opposite way," Ryabkov told reporters in Moscow.

Ryabkov claimed the U.S. Wanted to focus solely on resuming inspections under the New START treaty and stone-

walled Moscow's request to also discuss specifics related to the weapons count under the strategic arms reduction pact.

This week's meeting of the Bilateral Consultative Commission established under the treaty would have been the first in more than a year. The timing of the talks was intended to show that Russia and the U.S. Remain committed to arms control and keeping lines of communication open despite soaring tensions over Ukraine.



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M/s Bamboo Hotel And Global Centre Delhi Private Limited, is pleased to inform that the "Upscale and Mid Market Hotel with Large Conferencing Facility" (Formerly a Hotel Complex & Convention Centre) at Asset-13, Hospitality district, DIAL, IGI Airport, Delhi had been accorded with Environmental Clearance vide SEIAA-D/C-408/ EC-363/2022 dated 22.09.2022 from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)-Delhi. The copies of the clearance letters are available with the Ministry of Environment & Forest&CC and can also be seen on their website <http://environmentclearance.nic.in>  
**M/s Bamboo Hotel and Global Centre Delhi Private Limited**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that my client, **SMT. KUDRAT JAHAN, W/o LATE ABDUL RASHID, R/o H.NO.84/133, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088** has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from lease hold to free hold vide File No.F.16 (1568) 75/ LAB\*in DDA.The original documents i.e. Possession letter of the above said plot has been lost. An NCR/LR NO.10265 32/2022 dated 28.11.2022 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. 8368196003 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Residential) or Director (Land), DDA, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that I, **Sheela Bisht W/o Sh. K.S. Bisht/R/o DDA Janta Flat No. P-5/A 6 Ground Floor, Pocket-P, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095** has applied for conversion of DDA Janta Flat No. P-5/A6, Ground Floor, Pocket-P Dilshad Garden, Delhi -110095 from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original documents i.e Demand-cum-Allotment Letter of the above flat has been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch in vide S.O. No.430/2014 LR No.381673/2022 dated 08.05.2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write /contact with above named person at above address/ phone No. 9911158194 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director (H)-1, D Block, 3 rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, JNA, New Delhi.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**(E-Auction Notice)**  
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (<https://ireps.gov.in>) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/locations:  

E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Lots
Parking-24-2022	15.12.2022 at 12:00 Hrs	Sampla(SPZ) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Entry, Kurukshetra(KKDE) 1 <sup>st</sup> Entry, Meerut City (MTC), Narela(NUR) & Ghaziabad (City Side) = Total 5 Sites
Parking-25-2022	16.12.2022 at 12:00 Hrs	Ghaziabad(GZB) Bhoor Side, Sampla(SPZ) 1 <sup>st</sup> Entry, New Delhi (NDLS)AGS (For one year), Kurukshetra(KKDE) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Entry & Sahabad Markanda(SHDM) = Total 5 Sites
Parking-26-2022	19.12.2022 at 12:00 Hrs.	Sahibabad(SBB), Karnal(KUN), Kurukshetra(KKDE) Site-1, Subzi Mandi & Delhi Cantt (DEC) = Total 5 Sites
Parking-27-2022	21.12.2022 at 12:00 Hrs.	Naya Ghaziabad(GZN), Tapri (TPZ), Mansa(MSZ), Kurukshetra(KKDE) Site-2 & Panipat (PNP) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Entry = Total 5 Sites
Parking-28-2022	23.12.2022 at 12:00 Hrs.	Khatauli (KAT), Ganaur(GNU), Panipat (PNP) 1 <sup>st</sup> Entry, Karnal (KUN), Nangloi (NNO) & Adarsh Nagar(ANDI) = Total 6 Sites
Parking-29-2022	26.12.2022 at 12:00 Hrs.	Modinagar(MDNR), Pataudi Road(PTRD), Sarojini Nagar (SOJ) PRS, Madipur (PRS) & Baraut (BTU) =Total 5 Sites

**Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen**  
<https://ireps.gov.in>

**All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:**

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee
- Current Account in Bank
- Integration of Bank Account with IREPS Account
- Lien Marking of Funds
- Updation of Turnover Details
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

**Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query**

**Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055**  
Email:pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084

**No. : 23AC/393/E-Auction/2022**  
**Dated : 29.11.2022**  
3188/2022

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, SECTOR-6, NOIDA, G.B. NAGAR (U.P.)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh-Tender Work:			
S.No.	Jobs. No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1.	47/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET/22-23	Barbed wore Fencing Work (P/F Large Warming Boards at Different Location in Doob Area of Work Circle -10) Noida	50.27
2.	49/DGM/SM(WC-10)/ET/22-23	D/o & M/o village (Kayalap of Primary School Village Kondli & Junior High School Village-Momnatha), Noida	69.64
3.	50/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET 22-23	M/o & D/o Village (Renovation / Operation Kayakalp of Primary School & Junior High School in Village-Kambakhs Pur, Primary School Gulawali & Dairy Paidito Ki) Noida	31.27
4	51/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET 22-23	D/o Sector 156 (C/o Service Road in Between Sector-155 & 156 Balance Service Road), Noida	60.86
5	52/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET 22-23	D/o & M/o Village Kayakalp of Primary & Junior High School Village-Jhatta) Noida	47.84
6	53/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET 22-23	D/o & M/o Village Kayakalp of Primary & Junior High School Village-Baduli) Noida	58.86
7	55/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET 22-23	D/o Sector -149 & 150 (C/o Drain & Road for 5% abadi Plot of Village-Kondli), Noida	88.87
8	38/DGM/SM (WC-3)/ET 22-23	M/o & Building (M/o Primary School and Senior Secondary School in village Sadarpur under Operation Kayakalp), Noida	48.53

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 14.12.2022 up to 5.00 PM. Pre- qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 15.12.2022 at 11.00 AM.

B) Re-Tender Work			
S.No.	Jobs. No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
9	27/GM/SM(WC-10)/ET/2022-23	P/F Signage Board for internal Gali in Village-Jhatta, Bauli, Kondli, Samastipur, Momnathal and Nalagarh), Noida	62.45
10.	34/PGM/SM (WC-10)/ET/2022-23	D/o & M/o Noida-Gr. Noida Expressway (Repair and Painting of Jhatta & Mohiyapur Underpass of Noida-Greater Noida Expressway) Noida	38.12

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 07.12.2022 up to 5.00 PM. Pre- qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 08.12.2022 at 11.00 AM.

**Dy. General Manager, Noida**

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**



# SUICIDE BLAST TARGETING POLICE TRUCK KILLS 4, INJURES 20 IN PAK

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/KARACHI

A suicide bomber from the banned Pakistani Taliban blew himself up near a patrolling police truck carrying security personnel to protect polio workers in the restive Balochistan province on Wednesday, killing at least four people and injuring 26 others, including 23 policemen.

The attacker targeted the paramilitary Constabulary truck in Quetta's Baleli area, which was going to provide security to polio workers at the ongoing drive. Quetta Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Ghulam Azfar Mahesar confirmed the attack and said that a total of three vehicles were hit in the blast.

"Looking at the crime scene and given that the truck toppled, it is estimated that 25 kilograms of explosives were used," he said.

The death toll from the targeted suicide attack in Quetta rose further as another child died during treatment, Geo News reported. The attack killed a cop and a child on the spot, and reportedly left 26 including 23 cops wounded, it said.

The death toll climbed to 4 after a woman and her child injured in the bombing suc-



cumbed to their injuries later in the day, the report quoted the hospital administration as saying. Earlier, the hospital administration had said that most of the injured are out of danger.

The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) group claimed responsibility for the attack which came just two days after the group announced to call off its ceasefire.

It said the attack was in retaliation for the killing of Abdul Wali also known as Omar Khalid Khurassni killed in Afghanistan in August.

Mahesar said that the explosion was a suicide attack as they have found the remains of a suicide bomber near the crime

scene.

Preliminary police investigations showed that a rickshaw hit the police truck. Authorities have declared an emergency in the hospitals of Quetta to treat the victims.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the incident and directed the authorities to initiate an investigation into the attack.

According to the state-run Radio Pakistan, the premier expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of life.

He also said that polio workers across the country were fulfilling their responsibilities without caring for their lives. "Eliminating polio virus

from the country is amongst the top priorities of the government and we will not rest until polio is completely eradicated," he said, asserting that "evil elements" would always fail to harm the anti-polio campaign in the country.

President Dr Arif Alvi also condemned the attack and prayed for the forgiveness of the deceased and the recovery of the injured. He said that children were Pakistan's most valuable asset and the government was determined to protect them from diseases such as polio.

"The State will not allow anti-social elements to interfere in the mission of complete eradication of polio," he said.



## Taliban: 10 killed in bombing of Afghan religious school

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

A Taliban official says at least 10 students were killed Wednesday when a bomb blast hit a religious school in northern Afghanistan.

Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Nafi Takor says several others were wounded in the blast at the madrassa in Aybak, capital of the northern Samangan province.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the

Afghan affiliate of the Islamic State group has been waging a campaign of violence that escalated since the Taliban took power in August 2021.

IS has carried out bombings targeting in particular Afghanistan's Shiite Muslim minority but has also targeted Sunni mosques and madrassas, especially ones connected to the Taliban. The Taliban and the Islamic State group both adhere to a hard-line ideology but are bitter rivals.

## Former President Jiang Zemin, who guided China's rise, dies

AP ■ BEIJING

Former President Jiang Zemin, who led China out of isolation after the army crushed the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests in 1989 and supported economic reforms that led to a decade of explosive growth, died Wednesday. He was 96.

Jiang died of leukemia and multiple organ failure in Shanghai, where he was a former mayor and Communist Party secretary, state TV and the official Xinhua News Agency reported. A surprise choice to lead a divided Communist Party after the 1989 turmoil, Jiang saw China through history-making changes including a revival of market-oriented reforms, the return of Hong Kong from British rule in 1997 and Beijing's entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001.

Even as China opened to the outside, Jiang's government stamped out dissent. It jailed human rights, labor and pro-democracy activists and banned the Falun Gong spiritual movement, which the ruling party saw as a threat to its monopoly on power.

Jiang gave up his last official title in 2004 but remained a force behind the scenes in the wran-



gling that led to the rise of current President Xi Jinping, who took power in 2012. Xi has tightened political control, crushed China's little remaining dissent and reasserted the dominance of state industry.

Rumors that Jiang might be in declining health spread after he missed a ruling party congress in October at which Xi, China's most powerful figure since at least the 1980s, broke with tradition and awarded himself a third five-year term as leader.

Jiang was on the verge of retirement as Shanghai party leader in 1989 when he was drafted by then-paramount leader Deng Xiaoping to pull together the party and nation. He succeeded Zhao Ziyang, who was dismissed by Deng due to his sympathy for the student-led Tiananmen Square protesters and was held under house arrest until his 2005 death.



## Landmark same-sex marriage Bill wins Senate passage

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Senate passed bipartisan legislation Tuesday to protect same-sex marriages, an extraordinary sign of shifting national politics on the issue and a measure of relief for the hundreds of thousands of same-sex couples who have married since the Supreme Court's 2015 decision that legalized gay marriage nationwide.

The bill, which would ensure that same-sex and interracial marriages are enshrined in federal law, was approved 61-36 on Tuesday, including support from 12 Republicans. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the legislation was "a long time coming" and part of America's "difficult but inexorable march towards greater equality."

Democrats are moving quickly, while the party still holds the majority in both chambers of Congress. The legislation now moves to the House for a final vote.

President Joe Biden praised the bipartisan vote and said he will sign the bill "promptly and proudly" if it is passed by the House. He said it will ensure that LGBTQ youth "will grow up knowing that they, too, can lead full, happy lives and build families of their own."

The bill has gained steady momentum since the Supreme Court's June decision that overturned the federal right to an abortion, a ruling that included a concurring opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas that suggested same-sex marriage could also come under threat. Bipartisan Senate negotiations got a kick-start this summer when 47 Republicans unexpectedly voted for a House bill and gave supporters new optimism.

## Australia steps up calls for US to drop WikiLeaks charges

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he recently told US President Joe Biden's administration to bring WikiLeaks founder and Australian citizen Julian Assange's prosecution to a close.

Albanese's comments Wednesday to Parliament appear to be an escalation of Australia's diplomatic pressure on the United States to drop spying charges against the 51-year-old who is resisting extradition from Britain.

"I have raised this personally with representatives of the United States government. My position is clear and has been made clear to the US administration: That it is time that this matter be brought to a close," Albanese told Parliament.

"This is an Australian citizen," Albanese added. "I don't have sympathy for Mr Assange's actions on a whole range of matters, but...You have to reach a point whereby what is the point of...Continuing this legal action which could be caught up now for many years into the future?"

Albanese did not say whether he discussed Assange directly with Biden when the



pair held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines a Cambodian summit two weeks ago. But Albanese said he had advocated for Assange "recently in meetings". Albanese compared Assange's treatment to that of former US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, who the prime minister said was "now able to participate freely in US society."

US prosecutors allege Assange helped Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk. Then-US President Barack Obama commuted Manning's 35-year sentence to seven years, which allowed her release in 2017.

International news outlets that cooperated with WikiLeaks to publish confidential US State

Department cables in 2010 — The New York Times, The Guardian, Le Monde, El Pais and DER SPIEGEL — published an open letter this week calling for Assange's prosecution to be dropped.

Albanese spoke in response to independent lawmaker Monique Ryan's question if the Australian government would intervene to bring Assange home.

Albanese's government has been circumspect about Assange's prosecution since it was elected in May. Ministers' criticisms have been restrained to phrases such as the case had "dragged on for too long."

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to inform to the public at large that **Mrs. Meera Devi** who is owner of the Residential Property Portion admeasuring 30 sq.yds. (15'x18') out of 60 sq. yds. Part of Plot no.51, Mustaki no. 31, Kila no. 71(2-13) & 8(8-0), situated at Mauja Sehampur, Tehsil and District Faridabad, Haryana; having purchased the same from Mr. Mukesh Verma vide Sale Deed dated 03.09.2015, vide Document No.9559, registered with the office of Sub-Registrar-Faridabad, registered on 03.09.2015 and same to be finance & mortgage by **Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited**. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /right /title /interest / creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

**Lucern Legal LLP**  
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh. Subhas, Phase, Delhi-110034 or co-located at 9067071729818226836 (Vt).  
Contact# 011-40046316

## Oath Keepers' Rhodes guilty of Jan 6 seditious conspiracy

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes was convicted Tuesday of seditious conspiracy for a violent plot to overturn President Joe Biden's election, handing the Justice Department a major victory in its massive prosecution of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection.

A Washington, D.C., jury found Rhodes guilty of sedition after three days of deliberations in the nearly two-month-long trial that showcased the far-right extremist group's efforts to keep Republican Donald Trump in the White House at all costs. Rhodes was acquitted of two other conspiracy charges.

The verdict marks a signif-



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

DL7SW7891,	DL7SAQ6286,	DL7S25407,
DL5SR6120,	HR5109428,	DL6SV1396,
DL4SAD0625,	DL13SA0306,	DI22322,
DL7SA77210,	GJ6CH7539,	DL5SE4247,
DL5SV9334,	DL3SAQ8357,	DL5SW2112,
DBK4791,	HY0907,	DL7SAR4528,
DL5SV4702,	UP15F5373,	DL6SV5423,
BR101979,	DL7SN6629,	DL7SA5472,
DL7SAU6037,	DL6SS7289,	DL3ST3668,
DL5SV4516,	DL5SS2425,	DL7SX4010,
CH5NO43626,	DL7SAM3716,	DL8SAD9277,
DL7AF1095,	DL5SF8867,	DL6SE7166,
DL5SR9637,	DL5SP7776,	DL6SL4641,
NOREG68,	DL8SJ2598,	DL6SS9229,
DL5SG6931,	DL7SAM4320,	DL6E8217,
DL4SK0202,	DL7SW1245,	PB3SD9319,
DL7SAE1812,	DL7SAD8221,	DL6SV9228,
DL10CF0472,	UP15V4237,	DL6SV5774,
DL7SA6805,	DL5SV6783,	DL7AD7607,
DL6SU8066,	DL6SV5835,	DL7SAQ4023,
DL3SAA2680,	DL5SR5565,	DL7SU1656,
UP11E4537,	DL5SV2762,	DL7SAQ3851,
DL5SS8444,	DL8SO0630,	DL7SAN8343,
DL5SS0594,	GJ1BM6607,	DL5SW5473,
DL1SL0536,	MH20R8735,	DL7SG2154,
DL7SA6680,	DL7SAG2568,	DL3SA25319,
CH5NO-02L21,	DL7SAG2395,	DL4SP3984,
C23182,	DL7SV5799,	DL7SAY0146,
DL5SR3448,	DL5SK6427,	DL6SJ0995,
DL7SAN9241,	DL5SP6222,	DL7SAD9894,
DL4SBJ0828,	DL3SW3476,	DL7SAD9082,
DL5ST6996,	DL7SAE7933,	DL8SAA1722,
DL3S0572,	DL5SV6090,	DL7SAR9668,
DL7SA3976,	DI93009,	DL7SAK5520,
DBW6949,	DL7SAD264,	DL4SAB1539,
DL5SR6204,	DL7ST0581,	HR3SA1028,
DL5SW3423,	DL7SL1572,	DL4SB4226,
UP8154732,	DL1S4732,	DL4SB4231,
DL5SR6197,	DL5SR7484,	DL4SAF1282,
DL5ST2520,	DL8SA5626,	DL3SU3936,
DL4SAH5133,	DL7SAR6748,	RJ14SE8468,
GJ6EG2731,	DL7SA0523,	DL4SBA0475,
DL4SX1920,	DL8SK1720,	DL4SV2325,
DL3S21329,	DL8ST7289,	DL4SW5650,
DL7SAD8849,	DL5SV7388,	DL4SAP1994,
DL4SBA0792,	DL5SX2607,	DL4SZ7663,
CH5NO-178282,	DL5SU0481,	DL4SZ5809,
UP14AD3440,	DL1CL3949,	DL7SW1629,
DL6SB0577,	DL7SW1629,	DL7SW1629,
DL6B463,	DL7SW0901,	DL7Z1443,
DL5SS1237,	DI04189,	DL3SAK0870,
DL5SS9106,	DL7SF6823,	UP07AA2968,
DL5ST1666,	DL7SO2090,	DL7SAY5125,
DL5SM7993,	DL7S2389,	UHT1521,
DL6SR8130,	DL7SX6874,	DL4SX3301,
CH03X7779,	DL7SR9418,	DL7SE7258,
DL4SA3266,	DL7SG0239,	DL3SAK9365,
PB11K3893,	DL7SAB3468,	DL3SAZ5235,
PB11F2787,	NOREG71,	DL7SAD6347,
DL8SAC4281,	DL4CS6388,	DL7SE9655,
DL7SAD0781,	DL6SD7390,	DL5SP0586,
DL5SM9281,	HR3SA7674,	DL7SAR4774,
UP13H4738,	NOREG72,	DL7SAD4769,
DL7SAK0569,	DL7ST9642,	DL4SAM1021,
HR26AJ6228,	UP85C2444,	DL8SAC1782,
DL7SV7630,	DL7SS6438,	DL6SV0848,
DL7S28994,	DL8SAC1606,	DL4SAB1959,
DDP4300,	DL7SAD7264,	DL7SBA1734,
DL7SW9415,	DL7SAK1496,	DL4SP4327,
DL7SAQ4281,	DL7SAJ9148,	DL7SAB4575,
DL7SAQ0984,	DL4SA3394,	DL7SAR8356,
DL9SS3002,	DL7SAB7890,	AP28AG3703,
DL3SAT9965,	DL7SAU8280,	HR23F0070,
UP14AE7308,	DL7SAY4640,	HR70C6552,
NOREG69,	DL6SX7380,	DL4CAG9549,
CH5-NO-1052565,	ENGNO0DH-8KH28997,	DL4CAG9028,
DL6SL3433,	DL9SP2436,	DL8CNA5917,
DL3SO1468,	DL7S24087,	HR26BV1945,
DL2SG5240,	DL8SAJ0308,	DL7CH1154,
DL7SAD1123,	DIU9698,	DL4CAE6115,

## Egyptians call on British Museum to return Rosetta stone

AP ■ CAIRO

The debate over who owns ancient artifacts has been an increasing challenge to museums across Europe and America, and the spotlight has fallen on the most visited piece in the British Museum: The Rosetta stone.

The inscriptions on the dark grey granite slab became the seminal breakthrough in deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics after it was taken from Egypt by forces of the British



empire in 1801.

Now, as Britain's largest museum marks the 200-year anniversary of the decipher-

ment of hieroglyphics, thousands of Egyptians are demanding the stone's return.

"The British Museum's holding of the stone is a symbol of Western cultural violence against Egypt," said Monica Hanna, dean at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, and organizer of one of two petitions calling for the stone's return.

The acquisition of the Rosetta Stone was tied up in the imperial battles between Britain and France.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No.: 65/2022-2023 Dated: 30.11.2022  
**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system**  
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	07221176	SOLE BAR SIZE- 2400 MM	1264 NOS	26.12.2022
02	07221069	ALUMINIUM AXLE BOX FRONT COVER	3125 NOS	26.12.2022
03	12221005	SINGLE CORE ELASTOMERIC CABLE SIZE 240 MM, 1500 VOLTS	3800 MTR	26.12.2022
04	77225155	MANUFACTURING & SUPPLY OF COMBINATION FISH PLATES	300 SET	26.12.2022
05	09222583A	22 - 22 MM DIA LOCK BOLT (DIA CODE-E) WITH COLLAR	194727 NOS	27.12.2022
06	19221842	FINGER CONTACT FOR REVERSER WITH FLEXIBLE SHUNT	756 NOS	28.12.2022
07	14221206	METAL CUTTING GAS	75088 KGS	02.01.2023
08	07220099	IRS TYPE DOOR LOCK	15880 NOS	06.02.2023

**Note:-** 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

**Serving Customers with a Smile**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**INVITATION OF TENDER THROUGH E-TENDERING (E PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS)**  
1. NIT No GSU/DLI/04/22-23 Dated : 28.11.2022  
2. Name of work with its location Linking of P-way track including installation and dismantling of turnouts in running as well as non running track ordinary track, insertion of glued joints, making of sand humps, supplying, leading and stacking of Pway ballast including putting into track, leading of all Pway material including rails and ordinary/turnout PSC concrete sleepers with short and long lead, construction and extension of platforms including vacuum dewatered flooring, road work and pathway with precast interlocking pavers blocks, Elwork in cutting and filling including of CSL at OS Stations naming MOY, SHDM, DHZM, NLKR and BHD in DUK Section of Delhi Division.

3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 65743761.03
4. Earnest Money	Rs. 476700
5. Completion period of work	8 Months
6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 20.12.2022 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. on 20.12.2022.
7. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender from can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No.- CPM/GSU/Engg./NIT/04/2022-23 (NIT-04) Dated:- 28.11.2022  
Dy CPM/Eng/GSU N.Rly, New Delhi  
3170/22 For & on behalf of President of India  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**UJVN Limited**  
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone: 0135-278309, Fax: 0135-2783508  
CIN No. U40101UR200150GC025866  
Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

**R.O. No.: 875 e-TENDER NOTICE Date: 30.11.2022**  
Office of the (Executive Engineer (E&M), Joshiyara Barrage, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :  
Tender No.NCB/17/EE(E&M)/MB-II/Barrage/2022-23  
Name of work/supply/services etc.: Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Trussrack panels & one no. Hydraulically Operated Movable Trash Rack Cleaning Machine (TRCM) to safely handle rake capacity of 2.0 Tonne as well as log grappler capacity of 2.0 Tonne including dismantling of existing Trash rack panels & TRCM at Joshiyara Barrage, Uttarakashi, Uttarakhand, India  
Estimated cost -RS. 13,06,93,867/- including Taxes  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 03.12.2022 16:00 hrs  
Last date for submission of bids on website: 16.01.2023 16:00 hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>  
**Executive Engineer**

**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR UNIVERSITY**  
KUMARHATTI-SOLAN (HP), 173-229  
(Established under HP Govt. Act No.22 of 2010 and approved U/S 22 of the UGC Act, 1956)

**ADMISSION NOTICE-MD/MS (2022-23)**  
Applications are invited for admission to the Stray Vacancy Round counselling (NRI and MQ Seats) for MD/MS course for the session 2022-23 in MM Medical College & Hospital, Kumarhatti, Solan a constituent Institute of Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Solan. Application Form is available on the University website ([www.mmusolan.org](http://www.mmusolan.org)). Last date of receiving duly filled up application form along with DD of Rs. 2000 in the name of MMCH&H, Kumarhatti-Solan (HP) is 01.12.2022 upto 4:00 PM positively in the Principal office of the Medical College. Physical counselling shall be held for vacant NRI seats on 02.12.2022 from 9:00 AM and for Management quota seats from 10:00 AM onwards in the Principal Office.  
**REGISTRAR**  
Ph. : 01792-268224, Fax: 268221  
Website: [www.mmusolan.org](http://www.mmusolan.org) | Email : [info@mmusolan.org](mailto:info@mmusolan.org)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1	Name of Work with its location	PART A" Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 Kv OHE modification work in connection with "DFCCIL connectivity with IR Khataulali Station of Delhi Division" PART B "Provision of RCC Box under track at Km. 201+2 between PM- BWSN for widening of existing culvert on DLI-RE section
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 9667819.47/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 193400.00-
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	16.12.2022
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	30.12.2022 (15.00 hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	deposit
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

E-Tender No.: 26-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Date: 30.11.2022 3191/2022  
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**UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED**  
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
No. USCL/175 Tender ID: 2022\_UAD\_235319\_1  
Date:- 30.11.2022

Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites Interested parties for "Emergency Entry Exit Block & Koti Teeth Development at Mahakal Temple, Ujjain Second Call". Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in).

Earnest Money Deposit	2,72,900/-
Cost of Document	8000/-
Pre Bid Meeting Date	09.12.2022
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	14.12.2022 up to 17:00 hrs.
For more details, please visit <a href="https://www.mptenders.gov.in">https://www.mptenders.gov.in</a> . Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.	
For, Ujjain Smart City Limited	



# Kirit Parikh panel submits gas report

Suggests pricing freedom beginning Jan 2026

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A government-appointed gas Aprice review panel, led by Kirit Parikh on Wednesday submitted its report to the government, recommending a floor and ceiling price for legacy fields and complete pricing freedom starting January 1, 2026.

A fixed band of pricing for gas from legacy fields, which makes up for two-thirds of all natural gas produced in the country, would ensure a predictable pricing regime for producers and at the same time moderate prices of CNG and piped cooking gas which has shot up by 70 per cent since last year on the back of a surge in input cost.

The panel has suggested linking the price of gas produced by state-owned firms from fields given to them on a nomination basis to imported crude oil prices rather than benchmarking them to gas rates in international markets, Parikh said, adding the rates thus arrived would be subject to a floor and ceiling.

State producers Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) will be paid a price linked to imported oil but it will have a minimum or floor price of USD 4 per million British thermal unit and a cap or ceiling price of USD 6.5.

This compares to the current rate of USD 8.57 derived from a formula linked to the price prevailing in gas-surplus nations.

The ceiling rate for this gas



from legacy or old fields, called APM gas, will be increased by USD 0.5 per mmBtu annually, he said. "From January 1, 2027, we have suggested market-determined pricing of APM gas."

The panel was in favour of not tinkering with the existing pricing formula for fields in difficult geology such as KG-D6 of Reliance Industries and bp plc.

Currently, fields in deepsea or in high-temperature, high-pressure zones are governed by a different formula that includes an element of imported LNG cost but the same is also subject to a ceiling. The ceiling for these fields currently is USD 12.46.

"Such producers have marketing and pricing freedom which is constrained by an upper bound fixed by the government. We have suggested continuing with the cap for three years and giving total pricing freedom from January 1, 2026, by removing the cap," he said.

The panel also suggested including natural gas in the one-nation-one-tax regime of GST by subsuming excise duty charged by the central government and varying rates of VAT

levied by state governments.

"We recognise that states have concerns and we are starting a process to build consensus for including gas in the goods and services tax (GST) regime," he said.

To address state concern of loss of revenue, the panel was in favour of setting up a mechanism similar to the compensation cess regime that made good for any revenue loss that states incurred by way of giving their right to levy VAT and other taxes on goods and services in first five years of implementation of GST regime from July 1, 2017.

Also, the panel was in favour of moderation in rates of excise duty.

The committee was tasked with suggesting a "fair price to the end-consumer" while ensuring a "market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime for India's long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy".

"Our mandate was to suggest a regime that would help raise domestic production to help meet the goal of 15 per cent of energy coming from gas by 2030. And at the same time, provide fair price to consumers," he said.

# Sensex hits 63k mark; Nifty ends at fresh lifetime high

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex settled above the 63,000-level for the first time on Wednesday, extending its winning momentum to seventh day amid a largely positive trend in global markets and continuous foreign fund inflows. The 30-share barometer rallied 417.81 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at 63,099.65, its fresh record closing high. During the day, the benchmark jumped 621.17 points or 0.99 per cent to 63,303.01, its lifetime intra-day peak. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 140.30 points or 0.75 per cent to end at 18,758.35, its fresh record closing high.

Among the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Tata Steel and Titan were major



gainers. IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, HCL Technologies and ITC were among the laggards.

"Domestic market continued its quest for gains, boosted by FII inflows. However, markets will be sensitive to the Fed Chair's remarks later in the day, as investors are expecting a moderation in the pace of rate hikes. An in-line comment will help to sustain the rally while loosening COVID-19 restrictions in China is providing relief to global markets,"

said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.06 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.61 per cent.

All sectoral indices ended in the green, with utilities rallying 2.52 per cent, power jumped 2.35 per cent, metal (1.96 per cent), auto (1.74 per cent), commodities (1.62 per cent), realty (1.54 per cent), telecommunication (1.44 per cent) and consumer discretionary (1.25 per cent).

# Mcap of BSE-listed firms at all-time high of ₹288.50 lakh crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached an all-time high of Rs 288.50 lakh crore on Wednesday amid an ongoing rally in equities, as the benchmark Sensex settled above 63,000-level for the first time ever.

The 30-share BSE barometer climbed 417.81 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at 63,099.65, its fresh record closing high. During the day, the

benchmark jumped 621.17 points or 0.99 per cent to 63,303.01, its lifetime intra-day peak.

Extending its winning momentum to seventh day, the Sensex has rallied 1,954.81 points or 3.19 per cent during this time.

Investors wealth also climbed Rs 7,59,642.89 crore in seven days, taking the market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms to Rs 2,88,50,896.03 crore.

# Go First inducts 55th A320 neo; to receive engines from P&W soon

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

No-frills airline Go First on Wednesday announced inducting the 55th A320 neo aircraft and also expects to increase the number of flights as it will soon receive serviceable engines from P&W.

Now, the carrier has 60 aircraft, out of which 55 are A320 neos and 5 are A320 ceos.

However, at least 25 planes are on the ground, mainly due to the non-availability of Pratt & Whitney (P&W) engines that power its A320 fleet.

In a release on Wednesday, the airline said it has inducted the 55th A320 neo aircraft.

It has placed firm orders for delivery of 144 Airbus A320 neo aircraft as part of expansion plans.

"Go First has also received confirmation from Pratt and Whitney of delivery of ser-



viceable engines soon and the same will be immediately put into service within December 2022 and will certainly help to cater the growing demand for domestic travel.

"With the induction of many serviceable engines, Go First expects to increase the frequency and number of flights to provide improved connectivity to its passengers and to regain its market share," the release said.

Go First Chairman Varun Berry said he was optimistic on the improvement in the performance of the company with P&W providing engines.

# IEX seeks shareholders' nod to buy back shares worth ₹98 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) will seek shareholders' approval through postal ballot to buyback shares worth up to Rs 98 crore.

The board of directors in its meeting on November 25 has approved the cash offer for buyback of equity shares of face value of Rs 1 each at a maximum price of Rs 200 per share for an aggregate amount up to Rs 98 crore.

The IEX has listed a special resolution -- approval for the buyback of equity shares in the postal ballot notice, showed a

BSE filing.

The e-voting will commence on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 09:00 AM (IST) and will end on Friday, December 30, 2022 at 05:00 PM (IST).

The postal ballot notice is being sent electronically to the members whose names appear in the register of members/list of beneficial owners as on the cut-off date being Friday, November 25, 2022 on their registered e-mail address, it stated.

The notice explained that the board of directors of the company, at its meeting held on November 25, 2022, had



approved a special resolution to buyback fully paid-up equity shares of face value of Rs 1 per share from the members of the company (except promoters, promoter group and persons in control) at a price not exceeding Rs 200 per equity share for an amount of up to Rs 98 crore via open market.

<div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Piramal</div></div></div><div>Capital &amp; Housing Finance</div></div></div> <div><div>Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Website:www.piramalfinance.com Branch Address : Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground &amp; 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) – 400 602.</div></div>		
DEMAND NOTICE		
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of <b>Piramal Capital &amp; Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) [Formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL)]</b> under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act and with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, called upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.		
Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property_Address
(LC No.: 1900000016 of Raj Nagar Branch) Jayanti Prasad Sharma (Borrower) Rahul Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 3397381 /-( <span>₹</span> Thirty Three lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty One Only) NPA (01-08-2022)	Flat No. 605, 6th Floor Tower- T3, The Aranya Sector-119 Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301
(LC No.: 24900000139 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Sachin Verma (Borrower) Poonam Verma (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 3295830 /-( <span>₹</span> Thirty Two lakh Ninety Five Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Only) NPA (04-07-2019)	Flat No: 701, Saventh Floor Tower-Jupiter Alien Court, Plot No: Gh C/3/1, Sec- C-3 Tronica City Loni Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201011
(LC No.: 19500041191 of Delhi - Cp Branch) Ashis Kumar Ghosal (Borrower) Sagarika Ghosal (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 3261259 /-( <span>₹</span> Thirty Two lakh Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Fifty Nine Only) NPA (12-11-2021)	Flat No.106, First Floor Tower-A,Oxirich New Delhi Extension Gh-7A,Koyal Endlove Yojana Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201011
(LC No.: 19800041204 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Ayush Mitchell (Borrower) Suman Mitchell (Co Borrower 1) Ashm Mitchell (Co Borrower 2)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 3231325 /-( <span>₹</span> Thirty Two lakh Thirty One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Five Only) NPA (04-07-2017)	Flat No.604 Sixth Floor Tower Venus The Alien Court Plot No G H/1 Sector C3 Tronica City Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201005
(LC No.: 20000041966 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Sunil Kumar Bansa (Borrower) Sudha Devi (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 3207187 /-( <span>₹</span> Thirty Two lakh Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Seven Only) NPA (03-11-2018)	A-1502, Block-A 15Th Floor Elegant Vile, Plot No.Gh-06B, Tech Zone-4 Greater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201308
(LC No.: 13300000052 of Cannaghat Place Branch) Pooja Setia (Borrower) Rakesh Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 3162154 /-( <span>₹</span> Thirty One lakh Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Fifty Four Only) NPA (04-12-2019)	Flat No.203, Fh-17, Second Floor Gtm Forest & Hills, Gram Mohkhampur Kurah, Dehradun Dehradun Dehradun Uttaranchal - 248001
(LC No.: 2000042953 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Bindeshwar Prasad (Borrower) Vijay Laxmi (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 3138811 /-( <span>₹</span> Thirty One lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Eleven Only) NPA (04-01-2020)	Flat No-908, 9Th Floor, Tower-Jupiter, The Alien Court, Plot No-Gh-3/1, Sector-C3, Tronica City, Ghaziabad, Up Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201010
(LC No.: 20000041715 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Hina Shukla (Borrower) Gambhir Singh (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 3128153 /-( <span>₹</span> Thirty lakh Sixty One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Three Only) NPA (03-11-2018)	Flat No-2201, 22Nd Floor,Elegant Vile Plot No. Gh-06B, Techzone-4 Greater Noida West Greater Noida Ghaziabad Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201308
(LC No.: 27900000450 of Greater Noida Branch) Ram Narayan Singh (Borrower) Kavita Singh (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 3023122 /-( <span>₹</span> Thirty lakh Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty Two Only) NPA (03-11-2018)	Flat No-Unit No-A-1801,Type-1,Tower Block-A, 18Th Floor,Elegant Vile Noida Extension Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201306
(LC No.: 24900000248 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Brij Kishore (Borrower) Raj Bala (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2961098 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Nine lakh Sixty One Thousand Ninety Eight Only) NPA (04-12-2019)	Flat No- 604, 6Th Floor, Tower- Jupiter Alien Court, Plot No- Gh/1 Tronica City, Sector- C3 Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201010
(LC No.: 19800041236 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Deepika Das (Borrower) Sanjay Toppa (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2946742 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Nine lakh Forty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Two Only) NPA (05-04-2018)	Flat No 302 Third Floor Tower Jupiter The Alien Court Plot No Gh/1 Sector C3 Tronica City Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201011
(LC No.: 19800041328 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Syed Arshad Jamal (Borrower) Jaibun Nisha (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2863467 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Nine lakh Forty Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Two Only) NPA (04-12-2019)	Flat No 2008, 20Th Floor Tower- G, Sector- 1 Mangalya Ophira, Plot No 16 F Greater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301
(LC No.: 20000041712 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Naveen Chandan (Borrower) Pooja Bawari (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2939652 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Nine lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two Only) NPA (08-08-2019)	Elegant Vile, Plot No- G H-06 B Tech Zone-4, Greater Noida (West) Gautam Budh Nagar, U. P Greater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301
(LC No.: 07100001179 of Rewari Branch) Bijender Singh (Borrower) Rita Singh (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2914275 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Nine lakh Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five Only) NPA (04-12-2019)	Apartment No- 108, 1St Floor Tower- B, Grandeur, Vp Spaces Sector- 56, Bhiwadi, Bhiwadi Alwar Bhiwadi Alwar Rajasthan - 301019
(LC No.: 20000041871 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Bhishu Sahu (Borrower) Sandhya Sahu (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2911346 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Nine lakh Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Forty Six Only) NPA (03-11-2019)	Flat No- 61203, 12Th Floor Mangalya Ophira Plot No-16F, Sec-1 Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301
(LC No.: 2740000038 of Bhiwadi Branch) Ashutosh Kumar (Borrower) Dineshwar Prasad Sinha (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2863467 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Eight lakh Sixty Three Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Seven Only) NPA (30-09-2020)	Unit No- 3701, Ground Floor, Block -'C', Rlf "The Park" Sector- 54, Bhiwadi Bhiwadi Alwar Rajasthan - 301019
(LC No.: 20000041820 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Jaidoo Sharma (Borrower) Aparna Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2846625 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Eight lakh Forty Six Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Only) NPA (04-10-2019)	No 802 8Th Floor Tower No Tower G , Mangalya Ophira Plot No 16F, Sec 1 Greater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201308
(LC No.: 20000042039 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Daya Shankar Mishra (Borrower) Ranadevi Dayashankar Mishra (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2826127 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Eight lakh Twenty Six Thousand One Hundred Seventy Seven Only) NPA (03-02-2019)	Unit No- G-2102 21St Floor Tower- G Mangalya Ophira Plot No- Gh- 16 F , Sector- 1 Greater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301
(LC No.: 27400000607 of Bhiwadi Branch) Ajit Kumar (Borrower) Priyanka Kumari (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2808517 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Eight lakh Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventeen Only) NPA (30-09-2020)	Unit No. 3603, 5f, Block-C, Rlf-The Park, Sec-54 Bhiwadi Alwar Bhiwadi Alwar Rajasthan - 301019
(LC No.: 20000041901 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Nikhil Kain (Borrower) Sarla Kain (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2787989 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Seven lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Nine Only) NPA (03-11-2018)	Flat No-1006,Elegant Vile Plot No-Gh-06B-Tech Zone-4 Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201308
(LC No.: 13000000480 of Gurgaon Branch) Dinesh Singh Negi (Borrower) Radha Bisht (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2581495 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Five lakh Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Five Only) NPA (03-02-2018)	Flat No 3 Greater Noida Floor Tower C Plot No Gh 3 A Sector 16 C Bulland Elevates Greater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201308
(LC No.: 19800041808 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Deepak Dabral (Borrower) Sandeep Dabral (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2813399 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Five lakh Eighty One Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	3Rd Flr(Back Side Lhs Without Rooftop)Flat No-402, Kh No-86 (0-12)Extended Lal Dora,Sec-23,Village Pochanpur Tehsil Dwarika,New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110075
(LC No.: 27400000606 of Bhiwadi Branch) Ajit Kumar (Borrower) Priyanka Kumari (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2443915 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Four lakh Forty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fifteen Only) NPA (30-09-2020)	Unit No. 3602, Ff, Block - C Rlf-The Park, Sec-54 Bhiwadi Alwar Bhiwadi Alwar Rajasthan - 301019
(LC No.: 25600000178 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Panaj Arora (Borrower) Anil Arora (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2362538 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Three lakh Sixty Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty One Only) NPA (04-08-2019)	Flat No- C4-2004 Prateek Grand City Situated At 4/Bs-01 & 4/Bs-05, Siddharth Vihar Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201010
(LC No.: 19600043133 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Nitin Gautam (Borrower) Manisha Raj (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2318281 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Three lakh Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Eighty One Only) NPA (10-07-2022)	Plot 11 2Nd Floor Rear Lhs Kh No 89/16 17 24 25 90/4/1 4/2 5/1 5/2 & 6 Rect No 90 Dayal Sar Road Hastal Uttam Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No.: 25600000026 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Vikas (Borrower) Sonia Bhamri (Co Borrower 1)	04-11-2022 / <span>₹</span> 2262712 /-( <span>₹</span> Twenty Two lakh Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Twelve Only) NPA (30-09-2021)	Flat No 1704B Block F 16Th Floor Gaur Atulyam Plot No G H 01 A Sec Omicron 1 Gautam Budh Nagar Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201308

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

# Govt envisions doubling MSME sector's contribution to India's economy: Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government envisages doubling the contribution of India's micro, small and medium enterprises sector to the economy by realising its full potential, Union Minister Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma said on Wednesday.

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector contributes one-third to India's gross domestic product (GDP).

The Minister of State for MSME said the Ministry is working towards this objective by resolving bottlenecks.

"Our vision is to double the contribution of MSME sector to India's economy by realising



its full potential. We will resolve internal bottlenecks towards this objective," Verma said while addressing the Global MSME Summit here.

The Global MSME Summit is being organised by CII in partnership with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to promote the visibility of Indian MSMEs and encourage international market linkages.

# NMDC hikes lump ore, fines prices by ₹300 per tonne

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned NMDC on Wednesday hiked the prices of iron ore lumps and fines by Rs 300 per tonne with immediate effect.

The announcement from the country's largest iron ore miner has come days after the government removed duty on the exports of the mineral.

The price for a tonne of lump ore or high-grade iron ore having Fe (iron) content 65.53 per cent and above has been fixed at Rs 4,100. While the rate of fines or inferior



grade ore with 64 per cent and less Fe content has been increased to Rs 2,910 per tonne, NMDC said in a BSE filing.

The prices are effective Nov 30, 2022, and exclude royalty, district mineral fund (DMF), National Mineral Exploration Trust (DMET), cess, forest permit fee, and other taxes, the company said.

# 9th session of 'Inspiring Next Gen Talent'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ninth session of the "Inspiring Next Gen Talent" has been conducted by the Parampara Family Business Institute (PFB) in collaboration with the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF) aiming to benefit participants with the knowledge and wisdom the engagement of the next generation in robust family governance and the importance of storytelling which includes researching the history of their family and business allowing the next generation to feel that they are playing their part in the history of Family Business.

"Today's family business leaders and the next-gen family members must engage in

regular conversations on family's contributions, legacy, identity, values, and vision. The seniors need to be relentless, creative, and patient to effectively communicate with the next-gen for building awareness, infusing pride, and exciting and inspiring them to be responsible owners. The next-gen need to feel the urge and deep sense of responsibility to be the torch bearers of tomorrow," deliberated Sougata Ray, while addressing the event.

Prasad Kumar concluded that the Intergenerational co-creation of a desirable future is of strategic importance in a family business. Trusting relationships and meaningful communication across generations are strategic ingredients of the family business.







# NEW ZEALAND WIN ODI SERIES AGAINST INDIA

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

A sloppy India lost the three-match ODI series against New Zealand 0-1 after rain washed out the third and final game here on Wednesday.

Chasing 220, New Zealand were cruising at 104/1 in 18 overs, 50 runs ahead of the Duckworth-Lewis par score, when rain interrupted the game yet again in the white-ball series.

Kane Williamson and Co, needing just 116 runs from as many as 32 overs, though had to be content with a 'no result' as the game was two overs short to be technically called complete.

Having won the first ODI in Auckland by seven wickets, New Zealand thus sealed the series 1-0.

The second match in Hamilton, too, was abandoned after two stoppages.

Overall, only two matches in the six-ball white-ball series produced result, exposing the poor planning on part of the concerned authorities. The series was organised less than a week after the T20 World Cup in neighbouring Australia.

As for India, the series exposed their flawed selection policy.

It all began with an inspiring bowling show by the Kiwi pacers with comeback man Adam Milne (3/57) and Daryl Mitchell (7-0-25-3) bundling out India for 219 in 47.3 overs after Kane Williamson won a good toss at an overcast Hagley Oval.

The likes of Rishabh Pant (10 off 16 balls), Suryakumar Yadav (6; 10b) and Deepak Hooda (12; 25b) were the biggest failures as they lacked application and failed to bid time after Milne rocked the top-order.

Seeking to save the series, India found themselves in a spot of bother, losing half of the side in 25.3 overs.

But thanks to the efforts by Washington Sundar (51 off 64 balls; 5x4s, 1x6) and Shreyas Iyer (49; 59b) India managed to get past the 200-run mark.

Milne, who sat out the second ODI, took the opening duo of Shubman Gill (13; 22b) and Shikhar Dhawan (28; 45b) after Matt Henry stifled them with a tidy bowling display (10-2-29-0), before Mitchell and Tim Southee (8.3-1-36-2) wrapped up the issue.

Dhawan and his men were further disappointed by an inexperienced bowling attack as they struggled to get a breakthrough.

Finn Allen (57 from 54 balls; 8x4, 1x6) smashed his fourth ODI fifty and his 97-run opening partnership with Devon Conway (38) set the tone.

After a sedate start — 28 for no loss in 7 overs — they switched gears with Conway smashing Chahar for four boundaries in an over, before Allen took the attack to rookie pacer Umran Malik.

Dhawan struggled with his limited bowling options as the Kiwis shone in their own conditions.



The Indian batters showed a lack of application as Milne and Mitchell led New Zealand's fine bowling show.

The spin bowling all-

rounder, who showed his mettle with the bat with a 37 not out from 16 balls in India's 306 for 7 in the first ODI, anchored the show with his maiden ODI fifty

after Iyer failed to convert a promising start.

Among the designated batters, only Iyer looked in control and played some delectable shots before being dismissed by a well-judged forward-running catch by Devon Conway off Lockie Ferguson's bowling.

Iyer hit eight fluent boundaries during his 59-ball knock but fell one run short of fifty as India looked in deep trouble, losing half of their side for 121 runs.

Williamson stood out with his captaincy and cleverly rotated his bowlers. Asked to bat under overcast conditions, India had a slow and cautious start.

Gill, who looked fluent in the first two ODIs, curbed his stroke-making instinct and was five off 18 balls, while his senior partner Dhawan looked to attack.

Dhawan stepped out to Southee with disdain in the third over but the bowler bounced back with a maiden in his next over. Henry, on the other end, was at his tidy best.

The Indian openers began to break free towards the end of powerplay.

Gill began scoring with successive fours off Milne, but soon lost his patience and chipped one to the square leg for a soft dismissal.

Desperate to step up the

run-rate, Dhawan played on to become Milne's second victim.

Having taken T20 cricket by storm, Suryakumar failed to spend time in the middle and became Milne's third scalp.

Hooda, who retained his spot despite criticism surrounding Sanju Samson's axe in the second ODI, failed to impress

yet again and got out for 12.

After Iyer failed to convert his start, India were in desperate need of a partnership with Sundar and Hooda in the middle.

But Hooda never looked in control and fell to a rising Southee delivery down the leg side.



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**Shoolini University signs MOUs with universities in Taiwan**

**SOLAN:** Leading private university of the country, Shoolini University has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with various universities in Taiwan for exchange of students and faculty. MOUs were signed on behalf of Shoolini University in Taiwan by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Atul Khosla. The first one was signed with Cheng Shui University, while the second one was signed with I-Shou University.

The MOUs provide for student exchange at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels and faculty exchange programmes, including PhD thesis evaluation, joint publications, summer and winter internships. These would also include establishment of an international college on the Shoolini campus and scholarships for higher education will be offered to Shoolini students at Taiwan universities. Both institutions agreed to offer residential facilities and fellowships as initial support to eligible students.



**Inauguration of new office of PNB MCC and RAM**

Newly constructed office of Punjab National Bank at MCC & RAM Phase-2 Mohali Inaugurated by Zonal Manager Mr. Sumant Mahanti, Divisional Chief Mrs. Rita Juneja done in the presence of On this occasion, MCC chief Mr. Suraj Dutta, sub-divisional chief Mr. Mr. Sanjiv Kaundal, Mr. Sumant Kumar (Head of RAM), Mr. Vijay Nagpal (Chief Manager) Mr. Harsh Arora (Chief Manager), Shri Kulwinder Singh Tura (Chief Manager), Branch Manager and Distinguished customers were also present. Zonal Manager Mr. Sumant Mahanti established communication with the branch in-charges and customers present there. While doing this said in his address that Punjab National Bank has been serving the customers for a glorious 127 years. Is serving and is committed to provide better service to the customers in future also. MCC And RAM is always ready to provide loan facilities to the customers as per their requirement. Customers can grow their business by availing loan facilities.

Sh D.K Kathpalia retired as Asstt General Manager, SBI after putting 40 year service. Sh Kathpalia joined SBI as Probationary Officer and served as Regional Manager and AGM (Public Relations & Community Services Banking) of the Chandigarh Circle of the Bank.



**SBI Climbers adventure team scales Mt Churdhar.**

A team led by Mr Navdeep Sood, Assistant General Manager at local head office of SBI had scaled the Churdhar Peak situated at 12000 feet in just 16 hours. Peak is in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh. After five hours road journey from Chandigarh, one reaches a small village called Nohradhar, base camp for the Churdhar peak. From base camp, the rest of journey is done on foot climbing the mountains in the Shivalik hills of Himalayas.

**Publicity Extension Department, Circle Office, Chandigarh**

Today an awareness program about cyber fraud was organized by all the public sector banks of Chandigarh city at the community center located in Dhanas. The program was coordinated by LDM Chandigarh Hari Singh Gumra of Punjab National Bank. The program was attended by Shri Lalit Kumar, Manager as a representative of Indian Reserve. More than 300 people including various customers of public sector banks as well as students of class 9th and 10th participated in the event organized.

## A lot of positives came from this ODI series: Shastri

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

India may have lost the rain-marred ODI series in New Zealand but former coach Ravi Shastri feels the visitors can still take a lot of positives from the three outings in Shubman Gill's batting and Umran Malik's bowling.

"I think a lot of positives came from this one-day series. Shreyas Iyer getting runs in a couple of matches, willing to stay there and willing to go through the tough period. Suryakumar of course has the potential, has the talent, and he will deliver," Shastri said during Prime Video's post-match coverage.

Opening up on the young Indian players in the current squad, he added, "Washington Sundar, I thought was very good. And even Umran Malik, I like the way he bowled.



There's potential there. If he can persevere, it will be very good.

"All around, there was very positive Shubman Gill at the start of the innings. These conditions are tough, you don't get these conditions often, and you don't travel to New Zealand that often.

"So I think for young cricketers to come here and get this kind of exposure is excellent. The weather and the ground dimensions need to be taken into account."



## Labuschagne hits 154 as Oz take control

AP ■ PERTH

Marnus Labuschagne cracked a masterful unbeaten 154 while Usman Khawaja and Steve Smith hit 50s as a dominant Australia took control of the opening Test against the West Indies at Perth Stadium on Wednesday.

The hosts reached an ominous 293-2 at stumps on day one following captain Pat Cummins' decision to bat in hot and dry conditions.

The total was built off the back of a 142-run stand between Labuschagne and Khawaja, who came together after David Warner was out for five, then an unbeaten 142 with Smith.

A focused Labuschagne, who survived chances on 75 and 137, brought up his eighth century in his 29th Test and with the in-form Smith unbeaten on 59 the omens are not good for the visitors, who have failed to win a Test in Australia for 25 years.

"When you finish the day at around 300 for 2, you feel good. It was nice to build partnerships throughout the day," said

Labuschagne.

"Scoring a Test hundred any time is amazing, so to be able to do it in the first Test of the summer can hopefully set you up for this game, and also the summer.

"It was all about the process, build your whole game around it and don't worry about anything else," he added.

The West Indies bowled with plenty of discipline in front of just 10,929 spectators, but the chances were few and far between.

After getting the early wicket of Warner for five, they had to toil for hours in the heat to bag another, with Khawaja compiling 65 before edging Kyle Mayers to wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva just before lunch.

"We bowled well in spurts, but we didn't get the breaks," said West Indies coach Phil Simmons.

"We'll look to get a couple of wickets early tomorrow and try and peg them back that way. Even if they get 450 we're still in it because I think the wicket looks like it can get better."



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**APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR  
ADMISSION AGAINST VACANT SEATS  
FOR FOLLOWING PROGRAMS (2022-23)**

<b>MBA</b>	<b>Duration: 2 Years full time</b>
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**Eligibility:** Passed Bachelor Degree of minimum 3 years duration from any recognized Indian University; or its equivalent, recognized by A.I.U., securing minimum marks as prescribed by AICTE in the qualifying Examination.

**Applications are invited as per the following schedule:**


- Last date for submitting the Application Form is **6th December, 2022.**
- Date of publication of Merit List is **8th December, 2022.**
- Last date for Admission to the candidate offered seat as per the Merit List is **12th December, 2022.**

For registration, submit a Demand Draft (DD) of Rs. 25000/- in favor of "Galgotias Institute of Management & Technology" payable at Delhi/Noida/Greater Noida.

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- For successful candidates, Rs. 25000/- will be adjusted in their academic fee and for unsuccessful candidates, Rs. 1000/- will be deducted as registration fee and balance of Rs. 24000/- will be refunded.

**Note:** Pre-Registration for direct admission in Management / against Vacant seats on '<https://aktu.ac.in>' is mandatory.

For registration at campus, please contact  
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FOR FOLLOWING PROGRAMS (2022-23)**

<b>B. Pharm.</b>	<b>Duration: 4 Years</b>
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**Eligibility:** Passed 10+2 examination or its equivalent with Physics and Chemistry as compulsory subjects along with one of the Mathematics/Biology subjects.

**Eligibility for Lateral Entry in B. Pharm. 2nd Year:** Passed 2/3 years Diploma in Pharmacy from an Institution located in U.P. with minimum 45% marks (40% for SC/ST) OR whose parents are domicile of U.P. are eligible for admission to second year of B. Pharm.

<b>D. Pharm.</b>	<b>Duration: 2 Years</b>
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**Eligibility:** Passed 10+2 examinations (science stream) with Physics, Chemistry and Biology or Mathematics or equivalent approved by the Pharmacy Council of India

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**APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR  
ADMISSION AGAINST VACANT SEATS  
FOR FOLLOWING PROGRAMS (2022-23)**

<b>B.TECH.</b>	<b>Duration: 4 Years</b>
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- Computer Science and Engineering \*
- Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science)
- Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence)
- Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science
- Computer Science and Design
- Information Technology\*
- Electronics & Communication Engineering\*
- Mechanical Engineering\*
- Civil Engineering\*
- Electrical Engineering\*
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering\*

**Eligibility:** Passed 10+2 examination with Physics and Mathematics as compulsory subjects along with one of the Chemistry/Bio-Technology/Biology/Technical Vocational subject, securing minimum marks as prescribed by AICTE.

**Eligibility for Lateral Entry in B. Tech. 2nd Year:** Passed Minimum Three years / Two years (Lateral Entry) engineering diploma in the above branches recognized by Board of Technical Education/B.Sc. degree and passed 10+2 standard with mathematics as one of the subjects from any recognized university, securing minimum marks as prescribed by AICTE.

<b>MBA</b>	<b>Duration: 2 Years</b>
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**Eligibility:** Passed Bachelor Degree of minimum 3 years duration from any recognized Indian University; or its equivalent, recognized by A.I.U., securing minimum marks as prescribed by AICTE in the qualifying Examination.

<b>MCA</b>	<b>Duration: 2 Years</b>
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**Eligibility:** Passed BCA/ B.Sc. (Computer Science)/ B.Sc. (IT) or graduation degree (e.g.: B.Sc. / B.Com. / B.A. / B. Voc. / etc.) with Mathematics at 10+2 level or at Graduation level, securing minimum marks as prescribed by AICTE in the qualifying Examination.

**Applications are invited as per the following schedule:**

- Last date for submitting the Application Form is **6th December, 2022.**
- Date of publication of Merit List is **8th December, 2022.**
- Last date for Admission to the candidate offered seat as per the Merit List is **12th December, 2022.**

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