**OPINION 6** 

JOINTNESS MANTRA:

CDS CHAUHAN, PATIENCE

**WORLD 9** 

US REJECTS CHINA OBJECTIONS

TO SOUTH CHINA SEA MISSION

**MONEY 10** 

SENSEX, NIFTY SETTLE

AT FRESH LIFETIME HIGHS

www.dailypioneer.com

**Published From** DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.18 Issue 334

# BHUBANESWAR, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4 the pioneer

SENEGAL IN LAST 16 AT WORLD CUP, **BEATS ECUADOR** 

11 SPORT

# Lapid's jibe at Kashmir Files draws fire, Israel says sorry

### Indonesian Min slams Israeli director's 'propaganda' remark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

sraeli filmmaker and head of **⊥**the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) jury Nadav Lapid's remarks against the film "The Kashmir Files" snowballed into a major controversy with Israel Ambassador to New Delhi Naor Gilon on Tuesday denouncing Lapid and apologising to the hosts.

Visiting Indonesian Minister for political, legal and security affairs Mohammed Mahfud also joined the ongoing controversy and backed the film, saying it definitely not "propaganda".
"I saw the film... it is def-

initely not propaganda. The voice of the people in Kashmir needs to be heard... We do not accept what was said..." he said.

Actor Anupam Kher, who played the lead role in the film, termed the criticism of the Kashmir Files "pre-planned" and charged Lapid of being insensitive towards the suffering of Kashmiri Pandits.

Director of the film Vivek Agnihotri too spoke about "truth" in a cryptic media post and said, "It is the most dangerous thing as it can make people lie. Who are these people who always stand against India?...I challenge all intellectuals of the world to prove if any scene, dialogue or event shown in the film is false,

then I will quit film-making." These sharp reactions

came a day after Lapid called the film a "propaganda" and "vulgar movie" at the closing ceremony of the IFFI in Goa. The Kashmir Files revolves around the exodus and killing of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir Valley in 1990s.

The Israeli Ambassador apologised to India in an "open letter" on Twitter. An open letter to #NadavLapid following his criticism of #KashmirFiles. It's not in Hebrew because I wanted our Indian brothers and sisters to be able to understand. It is also relatively long so I'll give you the bottom line first. YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED.

pic.twitter.com/8YpSQGMXÍR — Naor Gilon (@NaorGilon) November 29, 2022

Gilon said Lapid abused the Indian invitation to the judges' panel in the "worst way". "In Indian culture, they say a guest is like God. You have abused in the worst way the Indian invitation to chair the panel of judges at @IFFIGoa as well as the trust, respect, and warm hospitality they have bestowed on you," he

This terse message by the envoy was in response to Lapid saying the jurors at the film festival were "disturbed and

shocked" by The Kashmir Files. 'That ḟelt to us like a propaganda, vulgar movie, inappropriate for an artistic competitive section of such a prestigious film festival," he said.



Israeli filmmaker and IFFI jury chairperson Nadav Lapid, third left, being honoured at the closing ceremony of the International Film Festival of India in Goa on Monday

### BJP terms film dig Holocaust denial; Cong says hate gets called out finally

The Kashmir Files at IFFI,

saying, "Jury members aren't

god. We found the film 'The

Kashmir Files' to be nice and

what happened in Kashmir,

what authority do they (jury

members) have to slam the

movie," news agency ANI quot-

ed Sarma as saying on Tuesday.

"We have seen ourselves

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI** 

The row over the Israeli **▲** director and IFFI international jury chairperson Nadav Lapid controversial comments on the film "Kashmir files" reverberated across India's political landscape on Tuesday.

The BJP compared Lapid's condemnation of the movie to the denial of the Holocaust while the Congress called it as an "embarrassment" saying hate eventually gets called out. BJP leader and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa

promoted it."

BJP's IT cell head Amit Malviya compared Lapid's condemnation of "The Kashmir Files" to the denial of the Holocaust.

"For the longest time, peo-

ple even denied the Holocaust and called Schindler's List a propaganda, just like some are doing to the Kashmir Files. Truth eventually triumphs, no matter what," ĥe said.

His colleague, BJP's Goa spokesperson Savio Rodrigues, said Lapid's statement "is an insult to the horrors faced by Kashmir Hindus (in the

"You can critique a film artistically but to term the truth about the brutality faced by the Kashmiri Pandits pro-paganda is shameful," he

### Gehlot, Pilot put up united face, address presser jointly

#### **After Rahul's assets** remark following **Gehlot 'traitor' barb,** two greet each other at party meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Aday after former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said both Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashók Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot were assets to the party, they presented a united face in public before attending a meeting with senior Congress leaders to review the preparations for Bharat Jodo Yatra which is set to enter the desert State this weekend.

Sources in the meeting said that Gehlot and Pilot exchanged pleasantries in the presence of members of the coordination committee, including AICC general secretary KC Venugopal and Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra.

"This is the Rajasthan Congress," Venugopal said addressing the media jointly with Gehlot and Pilot. Venugopal recalled former party president Rahul Gandhi's remarks in Indore on Monday, when he said both leaders are assets to the party.

"Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot have assured that the Yatra will be the one of the most successful in the country. I am sure that Rajasthan will also be the number 1 State," Venugopal told reporters.

"When Rahul Gandhi has said that our leaders are assets then we are assets... Where is the dispute then," Gehlot said when asked about Rahul's



Congress general secretary KC Venugopal raises his hands with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and party leader Sachin Pilot during the State-level coordination committee meeting on 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' at party headquarters in

Gehlot's remarks were in sharp contrast to his remarks calling Pilot a "traitor". Rahul in an interaction with the media had in Indore on Monday said that both leaders were assets to the party.
"Rahul Gandhi also meant

that every party worker is an asset. This is the beauty of our party that after our top leader says anything, there is no scope (for further argument)," Gehlot added. He also reviewed the preparations for the Bharat Ĵodo Yatra route in the desert State that Rahul will lead into this weekend.

Gehlot stirred a controversy last week in an interview when he said that Pilot is a "gaddar" (traitor) who cannot replace him as he had revolted against the Congress in 2020, and tried to topple the State Government. In response, Pilot said such "mud-slinging" would not help.

Briefing the media, Gehlot also said the main issue before the party is the 2023 Assembly election, and claimed the mood is in the favour of the Congress.

"We will win the Assembly elections. We have introduced several unique schemes and programmes which are benefitting people across the State. get an overwhelming response from people when I go on visits. It means that the Government is going to be repeated," he said.

Targeting the BJP, Gehlot said that the party should bother about itself instead of commenting on the Congress.

On reports of NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery's concern over the revival of the Old Pension Scheme, the CM said the NITI Aayog or the Reserve Bank of India should first tell what concerns they had raised at the time of demon-

He said the old scheme for Government employees was revived in the state for social

### In Jagatsinghpur Court awards death to 2 for minor's rape, murder Case registered against BJP activists

#### ΚΔΗΝΙΙ ΝΔΝΠΔ

JAGATSINGHPUR

T wo accused persons were on Tuesday given the death penalty by the Jagatsinghpur POCSO Court for raping and murdering an eight-year-old girl of Tirtol in the district. The court also imposed upon both a fine of Rs 50,000 each.

Fast Track Court Judge Ajaya Kumar Mohanty, who heads the POCSO Court, awarded the capital punishment to SK Asif and SK Akil, both from Krishnanandapur under Tirtol block while terming their act as "heinous and rarest of the rare".

The court acquitted another two accused due to lack of evidences of the charges

The minor girl had been raped and murdered in the year 2014. The miscreants had lured her giving chocolate when she was returning from school, taken her to a deserted location near the village, raped her and then strangled her to death.

The girl's family had lodged an FIR in the Tirtol

police station. After a probe, cops arrested four persons and charge-sheeted them under Sections 302, 376 and

After examining 27 witnesses and evidences supplied by the prosecution, the court announced its verdict. The court rejected leniency to the accused sought by their lawvers.

# Attack on GST officials—

NIMAI CHARAN SAHU SAMBALPUR

 $T_{
m he\ Padampur\ police\ on}$ Tuesday registered a case against BJP activists for obstructing and attacking officials of State GST while discharging their duties during the raids on business firms of Gobarddhan Agrawal and his family members on Monday.

have not mentioned any name in the FIR, we have registered a mass case. Basing on the CCTV footage, news coverage in electronic media and VDO shootings of the incident, we will book persons in particular later," Padampur PS IIC added. "As it is a sensitive case and names of elected representa-

tives come, we will deal it carefully without fear or favour," Rajendra Sial said.

Meanwhile, Bargarh BJD MLA Debesh Acharya said that when IT raids were going on in Padampur, nobody from the BJD created any disturbance. But when the GST raids were conducted in the houses of businessmen of the same town, BJP people num-

Assembly again stalled over primary teachers' stir

bering hundreds not only created disturbances, they didn't even hesitate to misbehave and attack a lady officer and others of the team," Acharya said.

The IT team from Chhattisgarh has left Padampur without divulging any information to anyone. The GST team has also kept the outcome of its raid secret.

# MIO Conclave to boost State's start-up ecosystem

#### Five-day event begins today

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The "Make in Odisha Conclave 2022" (MIO) to be held at the Janata Maidan here from November 30 to December 4 is, inter alia, expected to bolster innovation and expansion in the State's start-up ecosystem with an aim to maximise investment and opportunities for start-ups in the State.

The thematic session will be conducted by the Start-Up Odisha with the theme 'Startups' Paradigm Shift and The Road Ahead'. CM Naveen Patnaik is expected to grace the event. The session will be conducted under the guidance of MSME Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, Startup Odisha Executive Chairman Dr Omkar Rai and MSME Principal Secretary Saswata Mishra.

Veteran industry leader Padma Bhushan Ajai Chowdhry, Co-Founder, HCL Technologies, who is credited with the revival of electronic



Mishra, Co-Founder and CEO -Letsventure Shanti Mohan, Managing Partner **PONTAO** Prem Parthasarathy, Managing Partner - SEAFUND Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Founder and Managing Partner - UNI-CORN India Anil Joshi and

Co-Founder -Zetwerk Vishal

Chaudhary, Co-Founder

Nestaway Amarendra Sahu,

Co-Founder -Purplle Rahul Dash and Managing Director -Moglix Partha Dash.

The five-day event is poised to attract significant investment into the State, support start-ups and thereby create multiple job opportunities. The conclave will provide a platform that would not only boost the start up ecosystem but also enhance the contribution of various sectors such as agritech, food and beverages, healthcare, manufacturing and non-IT start-ups towards the economic growth of the State. The State's inclusive policies aim to attract investors and

start-ups from across the country and abroad to consider Odisha as their preferred business destination.

As part of the efforts to reach out to international audiences, the Government has also partnered with Germany, Norway and Japan to be part of the MIO 2022 Conclave. The Government will also announce the signing of MOUs with various organisations during the event. Startup Yatra Awards will be given away, while CM Patnaik is also expected to unveil a unique coffee table book featuring fifty special start-ups of Odisha.

#### BHUBANESWAR $T_{ m he\,State\,Assembly\,contin-}$ ued to witness uproar as opposition Congress and BJP on Tuesday stalled the proceed-

ings over the primary teachers' dharna which entered its third day. Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha adjourned the House several times. When the Assembly as-

sembled for the day, the opposition members stormed into the Well of the House raising slogans in support of the teachers' stir. Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati stood up on a chair to know the response of the State Government to the Speaker's Monday ruling on the teachers' strike.

The Speaker appealed to the opposition members to go back to their seats and raise the issue during the Zero Hour, but the latter remained adamant on their demand.

To resolve the deadlock, the Speaker called an all-party meeting. When the House met after the all-party meeting, Congress Legislature Party



Leader Narashingha Mishra and other party MLAs drew the attention of the Speaker to the primary teachers' agitation and criticised the Government for not responding to the demands of the teachers.

In response to the Speaker's directive, Science and Technology Minister Ashok Panda, in the absence of School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash, said the

Government is well-aware of the teachers' problem. While the department's Secretary had talks with the teachers on Monday, the Chief Secretary was holding a discussion with the teachers on Tuesday. The Opposition, however,

continued shouting slogans despite the Minister's reply. Congress MLA Bahinipati said they would not allow the House to run as long as the teachers'

Then, the Speaker ad-

journed the House till 4 pm. Notably, thousands of primary teachers from across the State have been staging their dharna at Mahatma Gandhi Marg since Sunday on their three-point charter of demands — abolition of the contractual system, introduction of seventh pay scale, grade system and old pension system.

# **Another film producer appears before ED**

Alleges Archana used to blackmail

BHUBANESWAR

Ollywood filmmaker Pramod Swain on Tuesday deposed before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the Archana Nag honey-trap and extortion case.

Notably, film producer Akshay Parija had recently appeared before the ED in this

Swain, who had been summoned by the ED for questioning, said to the mediapersons that Archana was blackmailing him. He said that he would share more information after appearing



Earlier, in 2016 Archana used to stay in Swain's house in the Jagamara area in the capital city. Later, Shradhanjali Behera, was also the tenant of

Swain during 2018. In 2017, Archana had registered under relevant sections of the IPC. As per the allegations,

Swain had promised Archana of giving her a role in an Ollywood movie and a job. One day, he spiked and offered a cup of tea,

Later, Swain took obscene photos and used those to blackmail and force her to have 'sexual relation' with him, she alleged in the complaint. As she opposed and objected

to this, Swain sent some goons to vacate the rented house where she was staying. Later, Swain also filed a counter case at the Khandagiri police station, following which the matter was settled amicably

### Free eye checkup camp at Salia Sahi



BHUBANESWAR

 ${f A}$ n eye checkup camp was organised at the Birsa Bhawan of Salia Sahi on Monday with a joint initiative of Odisha Mo-Parivar and LV Prasad Eye (LVPEI), Bhubaneswar. As many as 90 persons of the locality availed the facility, in which mainly cataract, black cataract, glaucoma, vision issues were

Those having ailments like cataract and black cataract

cases were advised of surgery at LVPEI free of cost. Besides, spectacles will be provided free by Odisha Mo-Parivar, said Odisha Mo-Parivar convener Arup Pattnaik.

BMC Mayor Sulochana Das also had her eye checkup in the camp. Odisha Mo-Paribar joint secretary Rudra Samantaray coordinated the camp where as State coordinator Mihir Ray, Corporator Bharati Singh and other members of OMP supervised it.

forcibly take away the seized

documents as well while they

instigated Taramani not to

sign any papers. While

Paikmal police reached the

spot and helped to evict the

premises with additional

force, the seized documents

could not be recovered, the

has gone viral on social media.

The clip shows Tete along with a group of people getting into

a spat with the GST officials

and questioning the raid.

Gobardhan and his wife are

also seen getting into a fight

Meanwhile, police said that

with the tax officials.

A video of the incident too

complaint stated.

#### Semiliguda still coldest at 7.4 deg recorded 10 degree each,

Cold wave conditions continued to grip the State with four places recording temperatures below 10 degree Celsius on Monday night.

The Regional office of the Meteorological India Department (IMD) here said Semiliguda in Koraput continued to be the coldest place at 7.4 degree followed by G Udayagiri with 9, Phulbani and Daringbadi 9.5 each. Nabarangpur and Kirei

Koraput 10.2 and Boudh 10.5. The twin cities of

Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded 16.8 degree and 17 degree, respectively.

According to the IMD, there would be no major change in the prevailing cold trend in the next four to five

The prevailing wind pattern supported the drop in mercury level in the State by 2 to 3 degree Celsius, said IMD Regional Director HR Biswas.

### SHGs to get Rs 5L no-interest loan each

CM announces bonanza

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen announced to provide zerointerest loan of Rs 5 lakh from the current Rs 3 lakh to the SHGs each. The new provision would take effect from April 2022.

Describing the decision as an important one, the CM said it would help hundreds of thousands SHG members to grow as big businessmen as they can establish themselves by building small and medium-scale industries.

Patnaik said that as women are the key players in the State's transformation, his Government has decided to provide Rs 50,000 crore as loans in next five years to the SHGs.

Notably, the Government has organised 70 lakh women through 6 lakh

### **Ahead of Padampur by-poll** BJP leader 'abducted' by BJD MLA

PADAMPUR

 $oldsymbol{A}$  local BJP leader, Dillip Kumar Senapati, was on Monday evening allegedly kidnapped at gunpoint by Lanjigarh BJD MLA Pradip Dishari and some of his aides from Sanadadar Chhak of Gothuguda panchayat under Jharabandha block in the Padampur Assembly constituency of Bargarh

The accused forcibly picked up Dillip and carried him to an unknown place in two

As per an FIR lodged by BJP Mandal unit president Milan Pandey with the Jharabandha police, Dillip aka Pinku was kidnapped at around 7.30 pm. He is the son of Jogeswar Senapati from Jarangaloi village of Sundargarh district. youth incommunicado after the kidnap, Pandey alleged.

"Lanjigarh MLA Dishari and his aides snatched away Dillip's mobile phone and have kept him in an unknown place; and I apprehend threat to his (the latter's) life," Pandey

# Dharmendra in Padampur for 3 days

In Jharbandh, he attacked the Naveen Patnaik Government for its nonperformance. "What has Naveen Patnaik done in the last 22 years," asked Pradhan. One achievement he has made is that he has put Odisha in a debt trap with a Rs 25 000-per capita loan. His other achievement is he has converted Odisha to a State of Dadan labourers," Pradhan

# FIR against MLA Tete for assaulting, abusing GST team

In a shocking turn of events, an FIR has been lodged against Sundargarh BJP MLA Kusum Tete after a GST official filed a police complaint against Tete accusing her of assault, abuse and obstruction of Government duty while a raid was underway at Paikmal in Bargarh district on Monday.

filed by Jharsuguda State Tax Officer (CT and GST Enforcement Unit) Ashish Kumar Dash on Tuesday, stated that Dash along with a team comprising Additional State Tax Officer (CT and GST, Circle-1, Sambalpur) Sushanta Patel and Assistant State Tax Officer (Jharsuguda Circle)

Over 200 cases

BBSR

found in AIIMS,

BHUBANESWAR

**A** workshop on Melioidosis

awareness, diagnostics and

research was jointly organised

by Microbiology Department,

AIIMS Bhubaneswar and the

KMC Manipal as part of the

Pre-Conference Workshop

Now urges

Padampur people

Gopalpur MLA Dr Pradip

Kumar Panigrahi during his

padayatra in different villages

under Narayanpur gram

panchayat here on Sunday

attacked the Naveen Patnaik-

led BJD Government for its

dictatorial functioning and

showing step motherly

attitude towards Ganjam

The three-time MLA from

Gopalpur Dr Panigrahi who

was expelled from the party

on the ground of anti-party

activity and for his alleged

link with tainted forest officer

Abhay Kant Pathak and his

son, apart from his alleged

involvement in job scam two

years back, is currently seen

most active in politics and

meeting people of his

district.

to vote for BIP

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA

BRAHMAPUR

The complaint, which was



accused the film producer of

forcing her to have physical

relations with him by

blackmailing her with obscene

photos, while she was staying

with the Mahila police, on the

She had lodged a complaint

at the latter's house.

Sujata Mohanty reached the house of one Gobardhan Agarwal at Paikmal for a search as authorised by the Joint Commissioner (CT and GST)

medical community in having

presenting acutely with high

fever, pneumonia, visceral

abscesses culminating in life

threatening sepsis to indolent

presentations of persistent

lymphadenitis and thus has

earned a moniker of "great

mimicker", informed Dr

Bijayini Behera, Additional

Professor, Department of

constituency by conducting

regular padayatras to different

villages under Gopalpur

constituency to garner

support of the people for the

Panigrahi was once upon a

time considered the CM's

blue-eyed boy when he asked

him to look after the affairs

of his Assembly constituency

'Hinjilikatu' and in reward of

2024 elections.

manifestations

fever,

Enforcement Range Sambalpur. The team members introduced themselves to Gobardhan's wife Taramani summon after assuring her of the presence of a lady GST officer and a lady constable throughout the raid. While on verbal consent. During the raid, the team

written consent or sign any

authorisation letter, the

officials were allowed to enter

questioned Taramani of Gobardhan's business and seized 22 documents under Annexure-1 seizure list. However, while the search was on, at around 10.45 pm, Gobardhan's son along with a group of people including MLA Tete and her supporters suddenly barged in and started political sloganeering in the raid premises. Gobardhan too suddenly appeared and the crowd heckled the GST team and started abusing them, obstructing the search. Some

based on the GST official's complaint, an FIR has been

# 'Melioidosis has baffled medical community'

The disease, without an accurate diagnosis and treatment, can be fatal in more than half of the cases, said Prof PR Mohapatra, DEAN-Head Pulmonary Medicine.

factors of acquiring the disease

by inhalation routes, he added.

Dr Prakash Sasma Additional Professor, General Surgery Department sharing his experience said that over the last one decade more than two hundred cases of Melioidosis have been found at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar with more than half of the cases from Khordha district.

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan began a three-day campaign for the BJP in the Padampur byelection from Tuesday. He is to address meetings in all three blocks of the constituency.

On Tuesday, he covered Jharbandh block with BJP candidate Pradeep Purohit and local MP Suresh Pujari. Next two days, he will be in Paikmal and Padmapur sarcastically said.

highlighted the significance of ethics and

Mining

Executive

moral values to stay grounded

Director (F&E) Sudhanshu

Sekhar Khora was chief guest

DSBM President MM

at the valedictory session.

to one's roots.

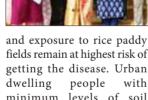
Corporation

Odisha

#### series of 45th Annual Microbiology, AIIMS Conference of Medical Bhubaneswar. Microbiologists Patients with poorly (MICROCON-2022) here. controlled diabetes, hazardous Melioidosis has baffled level of alcohol consumption,

myriad

low-grade



fields remain at highest risk of getting the disease. Urban dwelling people with minimum levels of soil

his work, Nabinbabu had

given him party ticket in

2009 from Gopalpur and also

made him Minister in 2014.

However, after having fallen

from grace, Panigrahi is now

spitting fire against BJD and

CM Patnaik. He recently

appealed to the people

ofPadmapur to cast their votes

in favor of BJP candidate

Pradip Purohit in the

While some political

observers justify his appeal

and defend him for various

reasons including not

establishing a permanent

bench of the Orissa High

Court in South Odisha, a full

fledge green field airport at

Brahmapur, not releasing

special package to Ganjam

district and awful dependence

of Nabinbabu on a few

bureaucrats, some political

pundits consider Panigrahi's

somersault as 'political

opportunism'. They said it

boomerang for

upcoming by election.

exposure like gardening can also get the disease, opined Dr Rashmiranjan Mohanty, Additional Professor General Medicine,

Widespread construction activities and Norwester wind (Kalabaisakhi) are also associated environmental

# MLA Panigrahi sharpens attack on CM | DSBM holds mgmt event 'GENESIS 2K22'

Panigrahi in 2024 elections. "Odisha is the worst State in women's security. The school and college students in CM's home district in Ganjam feel insecure which is suffice to know the quality of governance and law and order in the State," said

Panigrahi. There is a surge in the suicide and ragging incidents in Ganjam district. The claim of the Government that Odisha is having a self sufficient and surplus budget is a sheer hoax and mockery, he alleged.

There is no economic generation from agricultural source and the Government is being run solely on mines revenue, he claimed. He further alleged that, a police officer was openly collecting bribes for allocation of stalls in the recently concluded Bali Yatra in Cuttack which is an example of clean administration of the BJD.



BHUBANESWAR

he DAV School of Business Management here organised 'DSBM GENESIS 2K22-A State Level Management Event' on November 26 where young participants from

different higher secondary schools across Odisha participated in sub-events like Business Quiz, Ad Mad Show, Paper Presentation and Moot Court. The objective was to provide an ideal and

exemplary platform for the

young minds to ignite, ideate and develop analytical skills as well as demonstrate their knowledge & ability.

The inaugural session was attended by Odisha Labour Commissioner Dr Thirumala Naik as chief guest.

Panda, Regional Director, DAV Institutions, Odisha Dr KC Satapathy and Principal, DAV Public School, Unit-8 Ipsita Das also spoke. DSBM Principal Dr DN

Mishra educated the youngsters about three sustainable strategies - adopting the balance score card model, continuous value addition to their career profile and connecting dots to learn and grow to face adverse situations that students face now-a-days.

D.A.V. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT 0674-2560539 E-mail: dsbmbbsr @gmail.com, Web: www.dsbm8.org

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements

### Demanding Rs 300-bribe 16 yrs ago

# Ex-Headmistress awarded RI in S'garh

MALAYA RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

Special Judge, Vigilance, Sundargarh, convicted retired headmistress of Sundargarh district and sentenced her to one year of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on her on Monday.

In default of payment of fine, she would undergo

further rigorous imprisonment of two months for the offence. The Judge also sentenced her to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of six months and pay fine of Rs 3,000 and in default of payment of fine, to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of 1 month. Both the sentences are to run concurrently.

According to sources,

Laxmipriya Mahanta (66), while working as Headmistress of Upper Primary School at K Balang under Bonai sub division in Sundargarh district, had been nabbed redhanded in the case in 2006. Santosini Patra of K Balang village had complained against her for demanding a bribe of Rs 300 to issue school leaving certificate of her son

Manoj Kumar Patra, a class

Odisha Cadre IPS Dr

Satyajit Naik, who was the

Chief Investigation Officer

(CIO) of the National

Investigation Agency (NIA)

in Pulwama blast case, played

a major role for the conviction

of six terrorists of Jaish-e-

The Additional Sessions

Judge Patiala House Court,

New Delhi, on November 28

convicted six terrorists and

sentenced five of them to life

imprisonment, while one to

five years of imprisonment.

Motive yet to be

■ KEONJHAR

A couple was shot dead in

front of their house at Lasadra

village under the Balani police

station Keonjhar district on

Monday night. They were

identified as Laxmidhar Apat

(47) and his wife Manjulata

According to reports,

Laxmidhar ran a grocery shop

in the village. Around four to

five arrived by two

motorcycles and asked him to

give petrol. But due to some

reason Laxmidhar had an

altercation with them

following one of the men took

ascertained

Mohammad (JeM).

As 6 terrorists

convicted

**RAJESH BEHERA** 

KENDRAPADA

VIII student of the K Balang UP School.

Odisha Vigilance will now move the competent authority for stoppage of pension of retired headmistress Mahanta following her conviction. Special Judge, Vigilance, Sundargarh, Rajalaxmi Pattnaik awarded the punishment examining evidences and witnesses.

Dr Naik who worked as the

SP of NIA and had

investigated the Pulwama blast

case as the CIO was immensely

happy with the development.

Presently, he is working as the

DIG (computer) of State

Crime Records Bureau

### Missing MP girl found dead on Puri beach

Kin allege rape, murder; meet SP

The dead body of an 18year-old-girl of Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh, who had gone missing on November 26, was found at the Penthakata beach in Puri town on Tuesday. Though it was suspected that she drowned in the sea, her family members have alleged that she was kidnapped from a hotel, raped and murdered. They met Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh and demanded a high-level probe

Feat by Odia IPS who's CIO in Pulwama blast

Keonjhar: Couple shot dead in front of house

into the incident. Her father alleged that the

body bore cut marks and acid was poured on the girls face by the accused to disfigure it and conceal her identity But he managed to identify his daughter from her jewellery and other articles. Based on victim's family's the allegations, the SP has directed a DSP to investigate the case. As per her family she went missing when she left the hotel room to collect clothes that were drying outside. They had lodged a missing case in this regard at the Sea Beach police station on the day.

at Lethapora in the Pulwama

district of the erstwhile State

of Jammu and Kashmir. The

attack killed 40 Indian Central

Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

personnel as well as the

perpetrator-Adil Ahmad Dar

who was a local Kashmiri youth

from the Pulwama district. The

responsibility for the attack was

claimed by the Pakistan-based

Islamist terrorist group. "I am

happy that the accused were

convicted in one of the

important NIA cases. We did

hard work which finally paid

off with the conviction of the

six terrorists," informed Naik,

investigation in the Pulwama

recounting his

while

#### INBRIEF

#### SBI HANDS OVER RS 30-LAKH INSURANCE CLAIM

Bhubaneswar: Chief General Manager of State Bank of India Chander Shekhar Sharma and Commissioner of Police Saumendra Priyadarshi have handed over a cheque for Rs 30 lakh to Swarnaprava Sahu, the



widow of late Havildar Saroj Pradhan, who died in an accident while discharging his duties. Late Pradhan had availed Police Salary Package Account with the SBI. So, the family members could get the accidental insurance claim of Rs 30 lakh. This is one of the many advantages offered under the Police Salary Package Accounts, the SBI CGM said.

#### |1 DIES, 5 INJURED IN BUS-TRUCK COLLISION IN NAYAGARH

Nayagarh: A person was killed on the spot and at least five others were seriously injured when a passenger bus collided head on with a marble-laden truck at Itamati in Nayagarh district on Tuesday. The deceased



was identified as Amar Chand. The bus was heading from Bhawanipatna to Bhubaneswar. Those who were critically injured were rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital.

#### IFFCO DONATES CATTLE FEED TO K'PADA COW SHELTER

Paradip: The IFFCO Paradeep Unit distributed two tonnes of cattle feed to the Sri Sri Siddha Baldev Jew Cow Welfare Samiti shelter in Kendrapada. As there are over 60 cows in the shelter and it was quite difficult for the Samiti to arrange fodder for



them, they had requested IFFCO Director KJ Patel for assistance.

#### JINDAL PANTHER ODISHA FOOTBALL CLUB'S PRINCIPAL PARTNER

Bhubaneswar: The Jindal



upcoming seasons of the Hero Indian Super League. Announcing the partnership on Tuesday, JSP Chief Marketing Officer Sushil Pradhan said, "Football goes hand in hand with

Banpur:: The Agrawal Samaj's Kuldevi, Goddess welcomed by the Banpur Marawadi Samaj with Arati.



The chariot was taken round Banpur town and to the Nehru Seva Sangh. Sangh secretary Sarojini Dash and treasurer Omprakash Agrawal offered prayers to the goddess along with hundreds of children and Banpur Marwari Samaj members Om Agrawl, advocate Kailash Agrawl, Sunil Agrawl, Gayatri Devi, Saroj Devi, Meera Devi, Simple Agrawal, Jamuna Agrawal, coordinator of the programme engineer Munu Agrawal and Annapurna Agrawal.

#### DISASTER MGMT TRAINING FOR NYKS AT BN NDRF MUNDALI

Athagarh: Thirty volunteers of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan (NYKS) third batch are being trained at 03rd Bn NDRF Mundali from November 28 to December 3. The



participants from Erasama block, Jagatsingpur district, are under training in fields such as their role in flood situations, earthquake and cyclone under the supervision of NDRF Deputy Commandant Dhananjay Kumar.



A team led by IFFCO Public Relations Officer Prasanna Kumar Beuria reached there and provided the materials.

Steel & Power (JSP)'s retail brand Jindal Panther has teamed up with the Odisha Football Club (OFC) as its principal partner for the



speed, strength and flexibility; so, this is a beautiful

#### AGRAWAL SAMAJ KULDEVI FESTIVAL HELD AT BANPUR

Laxmi came in a Rath from Agroha and the deity was

Dalmia Cement launched Project Drushti



#### Signs MoU with LVPEI

PNS BHUBANESWAR he Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd (DCBL) has signed an MoU with the Bhubaneswar-based LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) for Subsequently at ground on Monday, the poject was launched at Jaurumal village in presence of DCBL executive Chetan Shrivastav and LVPEI vicechairman,) Dr Rajeev R

villagers who were suffering from eye diseases. After conducting baseline

survey in Rajgangpur and Kutra blocks adjoining the Lanjiberna mines area, eye patients are being identified in a phased manner and offered free treatment in association. Close to 50,000 people in the area will be benefitted from this initiative free of cost. This will comprise of door-to-door screening and covering each and every family member.

An LVPEI Vision Centre has been set up at Lanjiberna to create awareness on eye care and eradication of blindness in mines and plant peripheral

### Ragging: 3 VSSUT students expelled for 1 yr

#### Four others fined SAMBALPUR

The Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) authorities have taken stringent action in connection with the ragging incident in the hostel of the educational institution on November 23 night.

Three final year students have been expelled from the university and hostel for one year over their involvement in the ragging. The punishment will come into effect from January 1, 2023.

Similarly, four students of second year have been fined Rs 5,000 each as they were present near the spot of the

The VSSUT Vice-Chancellor had earlier directed the university's Anti-Ragging Committee and Disciplinary Committee to probe into the ragging allegation and submit a report. The action against the students has been taken on the

basis of the report. Notably, the ragging victim Anubhav Khamari had lodged a complaint in this regard with the Burla police.

"I had gone to the ground floor of the hostel at night, during which 15-16 senior students intercepted me. They held my collar near the stairs, abused me and thrashed me. I sustained injuries in the attack," said Anubhay, a student of Electronics

Telecommunication

Idol stolen from Jajpur seized at Delhi airport

ABEO, Junior Clerk held taking bribe

**A**n Ashtadhatu idol of a Hindu goddess allegedly stolen from Jajpur district around a year back

was recovered while being smuggled from the New Delhi airport in a cargo flight. The matter came

to light following the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) informed about it to the Jajpur SP.

Sources said that following seizure, the idol was sent to the ASI for examination that revealed that the the stolen

The Vigilance police on

Tuesday caught Amiya Kumar

Das, Assistant Block Education

Officer (ABEO) and Sudhansu

Sekhar Naik, Junior Clerk,

Badchana block in Jajpur

district while accepting a bribe

of Rs 30,000 from a person.

The ABEO and Junior Clerk

had demanded the bribe from

the complainant (Teacher) for

release of his arrear pay and

item is the idol of Maa Kotrakshi, the presiding deity

of Darpangarh village in Jajpur. According to reports, some miscreants had stolen the idol

of Maa Kotrakshi from the Darpangarh on January 11, 2021. Next morning, the villagers had lodged a written complaint about theft with the

failed to nab the thieves. Around seven months after the incident, the villagers placed another idol of their

other pending dues. Following

the trap simultaneous searches

were carried out at the parental

house of Das at village Kudei

Sasan under the Badchana

police station in the district and

his residential flat at Shree

Tower in BJB Nagar,

The residence of Naik at his

village Sukhadeipur under the

Badchana police station in the

district was also searched.

Further investigation was on.

Bhubaneswar.

Badachana police in However, the police had

out a gun and shot him. presiding deity in the temple. Hearing the firing, the rictim's wife and son tried to



(SCRB). The 2019 Pulwama

attack occurred on February

14, 2019, when a convoy of

vehicles carrying Indian

security personnel on the

Jammu Srinagar National

Highway was attacked by a

vehicle-borne suicide bomber

come his rescue.. But the miscreants also shot the women and tried to attack Laxmidhar's son. However, he managed to escape unscathed.

Hearing the gunshots locals rushed to the spot, but the

miscreants managed to flee. Laxmidhar and Manjulata were taken to the Barbil

The reason behind the firing

Hospital, where they were declared dead.

was yet to be ascertained.

investigation into the incident. The incident has sent shockwaves in the area and locals have demanded immediate arrest of the

# 6 MiO meets held, 2,500 investors joined

58% of approved proposals in 2016, 62% in 2018

grounded BHUBANESWAR

As of now, at least 42% of 84 declared proposals of Make-in-Odisha Conclave (MiO) 2016 and 33% of 202 proposals of MIO 2018, have been grounded and 60% of the 58 approved proposals of 2016 and 62% of 108 approved proposals of 2018 also grounded. Replying to a question of

Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja, State Industry Minister Pratap Keshari Deb said in 2016, investment proposals of Rs 2,03,235 crore were received with an employment potential of 1,37,634. 58 proposals were approved with an investment of Rs 2, 29,947 crore which will employment opportunities for 1, 04,762 persons. Similarly, in MiO 2018,

an investment of Rs 4, 23,115 crore with an employment potential of 5, 91,847 was proposed and an investment of Rs 3, 93,597 with employment opportunities of 2, 76,709 was approved, he said. Apart from these, while replying to a question of Congress MLA Suresh Kumar Routray on Investors' Meets worldwide, Deb said the State Government has organised at least six Investors Meets, including five in India (New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and

Hyderabad) and one in Dubai. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik attended all the meets. As many as 2,500 investors

had joined the meets while CM Patnaik had one-to-one interaction with 264 investors, Deb informed. At least, nine road shows were also organised, including eight in India and one in Dubai. While the Chief Minister conducted 112 meetings with investors, the Chief Secretary had conducted 152 meetings, the Minister said.

# Udisha loosens purse strings for Hockey WC in Jan

Rs 1,098.40-cr outlay 16 times higher than Rs Rs 66.98 cr spent in 2018

**PNS** BHUBANESWAR

As against Rs 66.98 crore spent by the Odisha Government to host the Hockey World Cup in 2018, this time it would spend 16 times more, that is, Rs 1,098.40 crore for organising the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in January 2023.

Notably, this time, the Hockey WC would be organised at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela though last time, the tourney was held only in Bhubaneswar's Kalinga stadium. The newly constructed Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium for which the State Government has spent Rs 1,010 crore out of the total outlay of Rs 1,098 crore, is



invested in building of the new stadium at Rourkela, which is at final stage of construction, Rs 84 crore was spent on construction of accommodation buildings, Rs 10.50 crore earmarked for peripheral development work in Rourkela and Rs 13 crore for electrical works in the stadium.

Rs 17.50 crore has been given



the stadium. Out of Rs 66.98 crore it spent in 2018 Hockey stadiums. The Government will WC, Rs 25 crore was deposited also spend Rs 75 crore on venue as presenting partner rights fee to the Hockey India/FIH management, accommodation, transportation and media (International Hockey publicity, said sources. Besides, Federation). Only Rs 18.89 crore Rs 9.15 crore will be spent on was spent on venue and event development of a swimming management. Transportation, pool in Rourkela, Rs 5.39 crore accommodation, publicity and for installing flood light in others accounted for the rest of Kalinga stadium and Rs 8 crore

### 'Fill up vacancies in B'swar college hosp'

Action Committee braces for agitation

BALESWAR

The Government Medical College and Hospital Action Committee, which had spearheaded agitations demanding establishment of a medical college in Baleswar, has again braced up for another round of movement to press a demand mainly for filling up vacancies in all posts including doctors and paramedics.

Members of the committee are mobilising public opinion by organising meetings in different blocks of the district. Ultimately, they would stage one-day dharna in Bhubaneswar and submit a memorandum to the Chief

working president Niranjan Parida.

The demands include posting of specialists in the departments of cardiology, nephrology and neurology in the hospital besides filling of vacant posts. Further, the committee

demands full-scale service by the AIIMS of Balasore. It said that although the satellite unit of AIIMS Bhubaneswar is working in Baleswar, yet specialists from AIIMS Bhubaneswar come to Baleswar only for two days only for OPD service. As a result, patients are not getting proper service and the purpose of AIIMS in Baleswar is defeated. The committee also demands establishment of an Ayush hospital and a college for nursing and pharmacists in Baleswar.

launching Project Drushti. director and unit head, Rajgangpur, Pappuru.

Specs were distributed to the

# **Ulemas' role vital in deradicalisation: Doval**

Religion should be source of peace, not reason for discord, conflict, or violence, says NSA

With cross-border terrorism and ISIS-inspired terrorism posing a threat to peace and security, the Ulemas have a vital role to play in countering radicalisation and extremism by propagating progressive ideas and thought, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval said here on Tuesday.

Underlining these points at dialogue between the Indonesian and Indian delegation of Ulema, Islamic scholars and leaders of other faiths, Doval said the cooperation of the civil society is essential in countering the threat from ISIS-inspired individual terror cells and returnees from theatres like Syria and Afghanistan.

The Indonesian delegation of Ulema is accompanying Mohammad Mahfud MD, coordinating minister for political, legal and security affairs, who is on a visit to India on the



invitation of Doval who had attended the second India-Indonesia Security Dialogue on March 17 in Jakarta.

Emphasising the important role of Ulema in Islamic society, Doval said the aim of the discussion is to bring together Indian and Indonesian Ulema and scholars to promote tolerance, harmony and peaceful co-existence which will bolster the fight against violent extremism, terrorism and rad-

Urging the need to devela common narrative on deradicalisation, Doval said in a democracy there is no place for hate speech, prejudice, propaganda, demonisation, vio-

lence, conflict and misuse of

religion for narrow ends. Drawing attention towards youths who are becoming the primary target" of radicalisation, the NSA said if their energies are nurtured in the right direction, they can become "harbingers of change" and building blocks of progress in any society. He said we also need to counter disinformation and propaganda that can among the followers of different faiths.

Doval said the essence lies in disseminating positive discourse far and wide, and not merely reacting to the agenda set by inimical forces.

While technology is a blessing for humanity, it is also being misused by anti-social elements to spread hatred and for disruptive purposes, he cautioned.

He said the Ulema must also be adept at using technology and utilizing various technological solutions to thwart propaganda and hate.

Doval said Islam had emerged as a rallying point for the disadvantaged and tolerant outlook. Fissures emerged among the caliphs after the death of the Prophet on the question of legitimate heir with each faction attempting to outdo each other by espousing a more radical interpretation of Hadiths, he said."It is here that the Ulema have a pivotal role educating the people on the original tolerant and moderate principles of Islam and countering radicalisation and extremism with progressive ideas and thought," he said.

such as this give us the opportunity to learn from each other and be inspired by the best practices in preserving a peaceful and harmonious society.

"Many a time we have witnessed people who use their religion as a doctrine of absolute truth and readily blame others. We have to go out of this and improve. "Religion, I think should be

a source of peace, not the reason for discord, conflict, or violence. Religion should be a unifying tool, not a divisive instrument," he said. He said world is facing difficult challenges, ranging from poverty, climate change, food insecurity, pandemic, corruption, unemployment, armed conflicts, income inequality, and human rights abuses to name a few.

### Modular terror a new challenge for NIA, security forces in J&K

Mahfud said discussions RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Hybrid or modular terror model has emerged as a new challenge for the security forces in Jammu & Kashmir as the terrorists involved in attacks are not known to each other and tasks are assigned among many unconnected ultras over social media platforms like

Such modular mechanism even adds to the woes of investigative agencies like NIA in cracking terror-related cases.

Recent trends in the Valley suggest terror groups are resorting to operations through modules comprising hybrid terrorists who are difficult to trace in the face of invisibility and involvement of multiple players. Such modules also recruit part time terrorists to execute a certain task the individual then carries on with his normal chores, officials in the security agencies said. Mushrooming of women over ground workers (OGWs) has also emerged as a discernible feature of the latest terror tactic, they said.

The other challenges include use of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for sending weapons, explosives, drugs and fake currency, issuance of online threat and hartal calls by the terror groups via Telegram channels, circulation of fake news and propaganda through Pakistani online portal Kashmir Fight.

The terror groups have also been hitting soft targets like labourers from other States and minorities especially Kashmiri Pandits The Pakistani handlers of the terror modules are using close combat weapons like pistols of Turkiye origin like Canik TP9 have been recovered in searches after encounters, they

In 2022 so far, as many as 29 civilians have been killed in Valley by terrorists including three Kashmiri Pandits, three other Hindus, 15 Muslims besides six outsider Hindus and two Muslims.

However, casualties of the security forces have shown a declining trend from a peak of 86 in 2018 to 77 in 2019, 58 in 2020, 29 in 2021 and 26 so far this year, according to official data. The civilian casualties have also recorded a declining trend from a high of 80 loss of lives in 2018 to 46 in 2019 followed by 37 in 2020, 35 in 2021 and 29 till so far this year.

# NIA raids organised criminal syndicates in 13 locations



The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted a third round of crackdown against organised criminal syndicates and networks besides top gangsters at 13 locations in Punjab, Rajasthan, Chandigarh and Delhi-NCR.

The districts covered in the search operation are Fazilka, Taran Taran, Ludhiana, Sangrur and Mohali districts of

of Haryana, Sikar district of Rajasthan and Outer North District of Delhi/ NCR to dismantle and disrupt the emerging nexus between terrorists, gangsters and drug smugglers/traffickers based in India and abroad in connection with two cases registered in August. 'This 3rd round of raids

and searches is part of the NIA crackdown against organised criminal syndicates and networks, top gangsters, their criminal and business associ-Punjab, Yamuna Nagar district ates based in Punjab, Haryana

and Rajasthan and arms suppliers based in Rajasthan and Delhi," the NIA said in a statement. Searches were conducted at the houses/premises of Kaushal Chaudhary of Gurugram (Haryana), Vishal Maan of Prahalpur (Delhi), Binny Gurjar of Sangroor (Punjab), Ravi Rajgarh of Ludhiana (Punjab) and their associates, it said.

During the searches, incriminating materials, including various types of contraband, have been seized, criminal syndicates and gang-

along with ammunition. Investigations will continue to dismantle such terror net-works as well as their funding and support infrastructure, it further said. Preliminary investigations have revealed that these gangs were carrying out targeted killings and were also raising funds to carry out such criminal activities through smuggling of drugs and

The recent sensational crimes and extortion calls by

SC allows MMRCL plea for felling

sters to businessmen, professionals, including doctors, had created a widespread scare among the people.

These gangs were using cyber-space to publicise these crimes to create terror among the public at large, according to the NIA FIRs.

"Investigations have also revealed that such criminal acts were not isolated local incidents but there was a deep rooted conspiracy amongst terrorists, gangsters and drug smuggling cartels and net-

from both within and outside the country," the agency said in its statement.

Most of these conspiracies were being hatched from inside jails of different States and were being executed by an organized network of operatives based

Many gang leaders and members had fled from India and were operating from foreign countries, including Pakistan, Canada, Malaysia

### 'Moral duty of citizens to ensure welfare of soldiers'



**NEW DELHI** 

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said here that it is the moral duty of every citizen to ensure the welfare of soldiers and their families and that industries and businesses can never flourish in a country where the national security is not strong.

In his address at the Armed Forces Flag Day Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Conclave, he also asserted that the "welfare of soldiers, who ensure our national security, should not be the responsibility of only the government but it should be the duty of all".

Rainath emphasised that industries and businesses can never flourish in a country where national security is not strong. Appreciating the support of big corporate donors in the last few years which has led to a substantial increase in the fund, he exhorted the fraternity to contribute even more for the well-being of soldiers and the nation at large. The event

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

was organised by the department of ex-servicemen welfare, the Ministry of Defence.

The defence minister expressed gratitude to the retired as well as serving armed forces personnel whose valour and sacrifice safeguarded the sovereignty and integrity of the country. He made special mention of a soldier's message enshrined on the Kohima War Memorial in Nagaland, which reads: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

Reiterating the government's commitment towards the welfare of the soldiers, he said a number of initiatives were taken in this direction.

Rajnath urged the private sector to provide employment opportunities to about 60,000 soldiers who retire at a very young age every year, saying that these disciplined ex-servicemen are capable of understanding the most complex technology and using it profi-

The defence minister also launched a new website for the

The portal is an interactive and user-friendly portal developed to promote online contribution

Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. to the fund. He also released the anthem for this year's promotional campaign for the Armed Forces Flag Day.

### We cannot be agnostic about technology: EAM

due weightage to technology for its geopolitical positioning as it will play a crucial role in striking alliances in a multipolar world, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Tuesday while stressing the point that the country cannot remain "agnostic" to developments in this sector.

Making this assertion at the Global Technology Summit, he said India would like to use its G-20 Presidency to reflect the interests and concerns of the global south that have been sidelined over the vears. India will assume presidency on December one.

Elaborating upon the role of technology, Jaishankar said the rise of India was deeply linked with the rise of Indian technology. "We cannot be agnostic about technology. We have to stop thinking that there is something neutral about technology...more and more things are technology driven and we need to understand that there is a very strong political connotation in-built into technology," the minister said. He said the principle of econom-



ic strategic autonomy will hold the key to global rebalancing and big players will constantly strive to be more capable technologically.
"We, especially in India in

the last two years, have woken up to the fact, where does our data reside? Who processes and harvests our data and what do they do with it? That is a very very key question," Jaishnakar said.

He said it was important to look at the quality of partners and the sociology partners that India has in the arena of technological and strategic spheres.

Recounting his interaction with his counterparts in Africa and Latin America, Jaishankar said there has been a lot of interest in the digitally-enabled delivery platforms developed by India in the global south.

# 84 trees at Mumbai's Aarey Colony

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The Supreme Court on I Tuesday permitted the Metro Rail Corporation Ltd to pursue its plea with the relevant authority for felling 84 trees at Mumbai's Aarey Colony for constructing train ramps at its car shed project.

would enable the MMRCL to seek felling of 84 trees from the Tree Authority to start its construction work which has been stalled for quite some time now and, according to Mumbai Metro, the project cost has escalated from Rs 23,000 crore to Rs 37,000 crore.

The apex court observed that it cannot be "oblivious of serious dislocation" which may be caused in projects involving "large public funds". "The MMRCL should be permitted to pursue its application before the tree authority for felling of 84 trees. Let the tree authority take a decision independently," a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha said.

"Undoubtedly issues per-

taining to the environment are important. The State Government which had taken a decision in the first place to accept the technical committee report, later on changed its view while deciding upon realignment," said the court. The top court fixed the batch of petitions, including the suo motu (on its own) one, for final hearing and disposal in the first

The Court took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the MMRCL, that almost 95 per cent work on the project has been completed.

"It would not be possible for the court to stay the deci-

Moreover, it must be This significant order noted that substantial no of trees have already been felled...As already noted earlier 2144 trees were fell in executing work for the car depot. What is now sought is a permission to apply to tree authorities for felling of trees for ramp. Without the ramp, work done would be of no use," the CII said in its order.

The top law officer said the plea of the MMRCL was pending with the Tree Authority which is not proceeding due to the pendency of the petitions here in the Supreme Court.

"The original total cost of the project was Rs 23,000 crore. The MMRCL has already invested Rs 22000 crores. Because of the delay caused by the litigation, the cost has escalated to Rs 37000 crores,"

### SC transfers trial in murder of YSV Reddy to Hyd CBI court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The Supreme Court on trial in the murder case of YS inal justice will be at stake," said Lok Sabha MP and uncle of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy - to a Special CBI Court in Hyderabad.

À Bench of Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna was hearing a plea filed by the daughter of Reddy seeking directions to the CBI to expedite the probe into the murder case and citing delays at trail court in Kadapa.

"It cannot be said that apprehension of the petitioner that there may not be fair trial or that there is larger conspiracy is imaginary. Petitioner has the fundamental right to get justice. This is a fit case to

Mehta said. He then listed out the benefits and the impact of the metro rail project saying the carbon emission, due to less vehicular traffic, would come down. Above 13 lakh passengers may travel through the metro and may lead to ease in traffic situation, fuel consumption and air pollution, he said, adding that every day, nine persons die in train acci-

the State of Andhra Pradesh, as justice need not only be done The Supreme Court on Tuesday transferred the Criminal trial, if biased, criminal trial, criminal t but also seen to be done.

> Reddy was stabbed to death at his residence in Kadapa in March 2019. In 2020, the Andhra Pradesh High Court had transferred the investigation into the murder to the CBI.

#### <u>IN SHORT</u>

CONG RAPS PM OVER AIIMS SERVER HACKING

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday hit out at the Modi Government over the hacking of the AIIMS server and said it raises 'serious questions" about cyber security in the country. AICC general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of a new cyber security policy which he announced two years ago. It is feared that data of around 3-4 crore patients could have been compromised due to breach detected on November 23

#### SENA SYMBOLS DISPUTE 1ST HEARING ON DEC 12

New Delhi: The first hearing of Shiv Sena symbols dispute case will be held on December 12 by Election Commission of India. The EC has also directed both parties to submit any further statements/documents by 5 PM on December 9.

#### MEA TO HOLD LUSOPHONE FEST IN GOA ON DEC 3-6

partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Goa Government will organise the International Lusophone Festival in Goa from December 3-6.

#### SC AXES PIL ON HIKE IN NUMBER OF HC JUDGES

that sought a direction to Centre and all States to double number of judges in subordinate judiciary and High Courts to effectively tackle pendency of cases, saying such "populist" and 'simplistic" measures cannot be

#### New HIV infections in kids down 52% in 2010-21 deaths and 21 per cent of new

HIV infections in 2021. However, the snapshot shows that longer-term trends remain New HIV infections among younger children (0-14 years) dropped by 52 per cent from 2010 to 2021, and new

infections among adolescents (15-19 years) also dropped by 40 per cent. Similarly, coverage of life-long antiretroviral treatment (ART) among pregnant women living with HIV increased from 46 per cent to 81 per cent in a single decade. While the total number of children living with HIV is on the decline, the treatment gap between children and adults

#### **Maternal mortality lowest** in Kerala, highest in MP, UP New Delhi: India has reported Prime Minister Narendra Modi decline in MMR to touch to 56,

Government to ensure quality

a decline in the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), from 130 points in 2014-16 to 97 points in 2018-20. As per the latest publication of SRS MMR bulletin, 2018-20, among States, as expected, Kerala has the lowest MMR at 19 while Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have reported signifi-cantly higher MMR at 195, 173 and 167 respectively.

None of the States have been, so far, able to bring the MMR to asingle digit. "Significant decline in the MMR from 130 in 2014-16 to 97 per lakh live births in 2018-19. The various healthcare initiatives of instance, except Jharkhand

maternal and reproductive care have helped tremendously in bringing down MMR," tweeted Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is defined as the

number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period.

An analysis of the data shows that most of the States under the "Empowered Action Group " (EAG)category has high MMR, much above than the SDG lavel which is 70. For

Madhya Pradesh (173), Chhattisgarh (137), Odisha (119), Rajasthan (113), Uttar Pradesh (167) and Uttarakhand (103) Southern States category

which include Andhra Pradesh Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu has reported an average MMR at 49. Andhra Pradesh has 45 , Telangana (43), Karnataka (69), Kerala (19) and Tamil Nadu (54). Other states like Gujarat have reported MMR at 57, Haryana (110), Maharashtra (33), Punjab (105), West Bengal (103).

Assam continue to have high

MMR at 195 Bihar (118),

#### New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in

New Delhi: The Supreme Court or Tuesday refused to entertain a PIL

global snapshot on children

and HIV/AIDS, which was

 $D^{ue \ to \ Covid-induced \ dis-}_{ruptions, \ around \ 110,000}$ children and adolescents (0-19 years) died from AIDS-related causes during 2021 while another 310,000 were newly infected, bringing the total number of young people living with HIV to 2.7 million, according to the latest UNICEF

released recently. These disruptions put the lives of newborn babies at increased risk. In 2021, more than 75,000 new child infections occurred because pregnant women were not diag-

ment, as per the snapshot. Taking serious note of the gloomy scenario, ahead of

nosed and initiated on treat-

World Aids Day on December 1, UNICEF has warned that progress in HIV prevention and treatment for children, adolescents, and pregnant women has nearly flatlined over the past three years, with many regions still not at pre-Covid service coverage. This stagnation comes on

top of an existing and growing gap in treatment between children and adults. Unless the drivers of inequities are addressed, ending AIDS in children and adolescents will continue to be distant dream, warned

the AIDS response, the stagnation seen in the last three years is unprecedented, putting too many young lives at risk of sickness and death," said Anurita Bains, Unicef associate chief of HIV/AIDS. "Children are falling through the cracks because we are collectively failing to find and test them and get them on life-saving treatment. Every day that goes by without progress, over 300

"Though children have

long lagged behind adults in

their fight against AIDS." Despite accounting for only 7 per cent of overall people living with HIV, children and adolescents comprised 17 per cent of all AIDS-related

children and adolescents lose

positive.

# SC asks States to give details of undertrials to NALSA in 15 days

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Days after the emotional speech of President Droupadi Murmu flagging the plight of poor tribals languishing in jails in petty offences despite bail, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed State Governments across the country to provide details of such prisoners within 15 days to NALSA for formulating a national scheme for their release.

"NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) in collaboration with the Home Ministry will collect the data relating to number and status of pending applications of premature release filed by life convicts," ordered the Bench of

and Abhay S Oka, adding that the entire process to be finished in two months.

The Bench drected the jail authorities to submit the details of such prisoners to the respective State Governments which will forward the documents to the National Legal Service Authority within 15 days. The bench said the jail authorities will have to submit such details as the names of undertrial prisoners, charges against them, date of the bail order, what bail conditions were not met and how much time they have spent in jail after the bail

"At the inception, we flagged the issue of detenues/Undertrial prisoners, who continue to be in custody despite being granted bail but could not fulfill the bail conditions. Each jail authority of the country has to convey to their state government the details which will be forwarded to NALSA for formulation of a national level scheme to

provide assistance to such pris-

oners," it said in its order. Advocate Devansh A Mohta, who is assisting the court as amicus curiae, said the Delhi State Legal Service Authority (DSLSA) has a scheme to assist such undertrial prisoners languishing in jail despite being granted bail. The bench said, "In Delhi, these kinds of cases may be less but could be more where financial means become a challenge.' Judges asked advocate Gaurav

to explore all possibilities for formulating a national scheme and suggest ways for dealing with this situation and execution of the bail orders. The top court was hearing

a plea by a life convict named

Sonadhar, who has been in custody for 18 years and sought premature release. September 15, the top court had said convicts who have completed 10 years of their life sentence and whose appeals would not be heard in the near future by the high courts should be enlarged on bail unless there exist cogent rea-

sons to deny the relief.

The apex court said it needs to keep the objective of decongesting the jails in mind in the case of convicts whose appeals have been pending for

not likely to be heard in the near future by the high courts due to pendency of cases. It had said its endeavour is two-fold --first, convicts having undergone more than 10 years imprisonment, unless there exist cogent reasons to deny them the relief, they should be enlarged on bail. Second, identification of cases where convicts have completed 14 years of custody, in which event, a case can be referred to the government for considering premature release within a fixed time period irrespective of pendency of their appeals.

The top court had said if a detenue has already served 14 years of sentence in a murder case, then there are norms prevalent in each state for

premature release. "However, it appears that legal assistance to do so after expiry of 14 years has not been forthcoming in many cases, including the present one (of petitioner Sonadhar). We do feel that this aspect needs attention and the respondent State and for that matter other States must put their house in order in respect of this aspect," the bench had said and sought the assistance of NALSA.

The President Murmu had, in her maiden Constitution Day address on November 26 at the Supreme Court, highlighted the plight of poor tribals of her home state Odisha besides Jharkhand, saying they remain incarcerated despite getting bail for lack of money to furnish the bail amount or arrange sureties. Departing from her written speech in English, Murmu had spoken in Hindi to urge the judiciary to do something for the poor tribals, noting those accused of

years on end before they are released.

Justice Kaul was among those seated on the dais with Chief Justice DY Chandrachud when the President narrated her experience of meeting several undertrial prisoners as an MLA in her native Odisha and later as the Governor of Iharkhand.

### Didi chides DM in public for ignoring 'blanket order'

Agrawal, appearing for NALSA,

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

In a development that opposition parties promptly dismissed as "scripted and aimed at re-building an image, sullied by multiple exposes on statesponsored corruption," Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday stalled a public programme for good 20 minutes and rebuked the District Magistrate and Block Development Officer in front of thousands of people for failing to comply with government

The order thus being spoken of was on procurement and bringing on the stage 15,000 blankets, shawls and sweaters to be distributed by the Chief Minister among the public.

When she found out that only sweaters had been brought at the venue, a furious Chief Minister rebuked the DM with why the blankets had not been brought on stage.

Banerjee told the DM, "Whenever there are any lapses by the police or any other department everyone blames me ... why will I have to take it every time ... where are the blankets for me to be distrib-

When the DM informed that they had been kept at the BDO office she thundered: "I will take strong action against you." When requested to continue with her speech as there were other programmes too the Chief Minister said "I had come for distributing the blankets ... so there is no point continuing the meeting ... first bring the blankets then I will speak ... till then I am sitting ere and so does the crowd.

The Chief Minister stalled the meeting for a good 20 minutes after which the blankets were rushed to the venue. Banerjee distributed 1,000 blankets from the Tuesday

Hours later Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari called it a "model example of how the Mamata Banerjee Government functions ... the incident itself proves that there is no coordination in the administration ...

the whole bureaucracy is demoralised in the face of government-sponsored corruption ... everyone is thinking of saving one's job ... this demoralisation will further go up if the officers are rebuked in public in this manner." CPI(M) leadership said

that the incident pointed at the poor condition of the State. We wanted to bring industry so that the people can lead a better life but Mamata Banerjee



drove them away ... now she has to distribute blankets as the people don't even have that money," party State committee member Kaustav Chatterjee said adding the Tuesday's "histrionics" was a scripted before to give a lift to the Chief Minister's sagging image.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister on Tuesday announced the formation of a separate Sunderbans district. The district will be carved out of existing two districts of

North and South 24 Parganas. The formation of the new district majorly comprising the

Royal Bengal Tiger zone of the Sundrabans would help the administration to concentrate more on the development of the swampy area crisscrossed by scores of backwater rivers and many more creeks plagued by steady erosion and advancing sea. Several river islands have already disappeared into the sea since 1967 and many are on the verge of extinction.

#### Kerala petition against tech univ V-C's appointment by Guv nixed

serious offences walk out free

but these poor inmates, who

may have gone to jail for slap-

ping someone, have to spend

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■

The Kerala High Court on ■ Tuesday dismissed a petition filed by the Government of Kerala questioning the appointment of Dr Ciza Thomas as the vice-chancellor of the Kerala Technical University by the Chancellor (Governor Arif Mohammed Khan).

"Ciza Thomas is fully qualified going by the University Granst Commission Regulations since it permit experience in both teaching and research. The choice is justified," said Justice Devan Ramachandran while dismissing the petition.

The Governor appointed Ciza Thomas as vice chancellor following the October 21 verdict



declared the appointment of M S Rajasree, the incumbent, as void and null ab initio (from the date she was appointed).

The Jusice pointed out that although the first person found qualified in the list had been offered the vice chancellor's post by the Chancellor following the disqualification of Rajasree, the same was politely refused. That left Ciza Thomas as the only candidate available since others in the list too were involved in various professions.

"The Chancellor's choice

can never be found to be at fault and there is not even a whisper or an assertion sotto voce (in a quiet voice) even by the Government that he has acted with bias or mala fide in having appointed Ciza Thomas," said he Justice.

Tuesday's verdict is vet another set back to the Government of Kerala in the on going tussle with the Governor over appointments of vice-chancellors and faculty members in the State's universities. The Kerala High Court had declared as null and void the appointment of the Vice Chancellor of the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (KUFOS) as well as the selection of the spouse of the Chief Minister's private secretary as associate professor in Kannur

### 'Assam-Meghalaya border talks have become bit complicated after violence'

PTI ■ GUWAHATI/ SHILLONG/

The process for the second round of talks between Assam and Meghalaya for resolving the border dispute has become "slightly complicated", following the killing of six people in the November 22 violence at Mukroh village, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said on Tuesday. Assam and Meghalaya have identified 12 disputed der. These two northeastern states, which started the first round of discussions in July 2021, signed an MoU in March this year to resolve differences

"The situation (for border talks) is slightly complicated and we may not be able to go forward immediately. It could get delayed," Sangma said here.

Sangma's remarks came on a day when Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Tuesday said that he does not approve of police firing on civilians, which should be resorted to only against terrorists and criminals.

The firing by the Assam police and state forest guards at Mukroh in a disputed area of the Assam-Meghalaya border which claimed six lives a week ago will, however, have no impact on the "broader landscape of relations" between the



Negotiations are on between the two northeastern states and any boundary adjustment will happen through the Committee formed for the purpose by them, he said.

Taking the life of civilians is not acceptable ... Police should use its weapons against terrorists and criminals and not against civilians. I do not approve of the firing," he said after presiding over a cabinet meeting. Meanwhile, The NHRC has taken congnisance of the violence in the disputed area on the Assam-Meghalaya border that claimed six lives earlier this month, the rights body said on Tuesday.

It said the incident was an outcome of the long-pending border dispute between the two states and could have been averted had the controversy been settled earlier.

The Commission observed

two states, Sarma told a press that whatever be the dispute such a situation.

'The National Human Rights Commission has taken cognizance of a memorandum by the chief minister of Meghalaya (Conrad K Sangma) that six persons, including one Assam forest official, had died in firing by the Assam Police and Assam Forest Guards at Mukroh village in West Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya on 22nd November, 2022," NHRC said in a statement.

The violence at Mukroh village falling in the disputed Block-I area along the interstate boundary has resulted in clashes in the state's capital Shillong and six districts in the Khasi Jaintia Hills region.

The process for the second hase of talks to resolve differences in the remaining six disputed areas was initiated, and regional committees have also been set up.

#### Massive row erupts as Kharge compares Modi to 'Ravana'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AHEMDABAD/NEW DELHI

n a stark reminder to the 'Maut Ka Saudagar' remarks against Narendra Modi by the then party chief Sonia Gandhi in 2007, a massive row erupted in poll bound Gujarat on Tuesday after the newly elected Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge compared the Prime Minister with 'Ravana' during a Bhupendra Patel lost no time in claiming the remark reflects the opposition party's hatred for

Elections for the 182-member Assembly in the BJP-ruled Gujarat are scheduled to be held in two phases on December 1

Addressing people in Behrampura area under the Congress-held Danilimda seat on Monday night, Kharge said in every election, votes are sought in the name of Modi instead of local candidates or the performance of government.

"Modi asks people to ignore everything and vote (for BJP) by keeping his face in front of the eyes. I wonder on how many occasions we have to see your face? People have to see your face during municipal corporation polls, then in the Assembly polls and also during polls to elect MPs," he said.



"Everywhere you want us to see your face. Why? How many faces do you have? Are you 100understand this," the Congress president said. He further said instead of doing his work as India's PM, Modi canvasses for various elections, be it local bodies or Assembly polls.

"The BJP believes in telling lies only. I recently said Modi is 'badshah' of telling lies, because he keeps on telling lies. What happened to two crore jobs every year? He used to say he will give Rs 15 lakh to each citizen after bringing black money from abroad," Kharge said.

Taking a strong exception to the remarks, CM Patel in a tweet said, "Bereft of any development agenda and support from the people, the Congress is out to abuse Gujarat and Gujaratis." The statement made by Kharge ji against PM Narendra Modiji is a testimony to their hate for Gujaratis. The people of Gujarat will reject them this time too for such behaviour," Patel added.

### Maurya takes dig at reunion of **Akhilesh, Shivpal**

ttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Uttar Pragesii Deputy Cinc. Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Tuesday hit out at the Samajwadi Party over Shivpal Yadav's reunion with his nephew Akhilesh Yadav ahead of the Mainpuri Lok Sabha bypoll, saying the Yadav family knows best how long the unity would last. The BJP leader claimed that people have dynastic politics.

Batting for BJP candidate Raghuraj Singh Shakya, Maurya said people have sympathy for Mulayam Singh Yadav but they would not vote for the Samajwadi Party in the bypoll. The Samajwadi Party has fielded Dimple Yadav, the wife of party chief Akhilesh Yadav, for the December 5 Mainpuri Lok Sabha bypoll, necessitated following the death of Mulayam Singh Yadav.

To a question whether he felt that the Yadav family would remain united after the elections, Maurya said, "It is their matter. But, it's clear that the people of Mainpuri have made up their minds to set aside dynastic politics.'

The uncle-nephew relations had gone sour in 2016 with the sacking of Shivpal, who was then a cabinet minister, by Akhilesh Yadav when he



was the CM. They parted ways in 2017 when Akhilesh became the SP president. Shivpal Party (Lohiya) in 2018.

The duo joined hands before the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. However, the relations went sour again as Shivpal alleged that he was neglected within the party.

Since Shivpal parted ways with the SP, there were rumours that he might be joining the BJP. Though he denied it every time, the allotment of a bungalow for his party by the BJP government fuelled speculations. After Mulayam Singh Yadav's younger daughter-inlaw Aparna Yadav, considered close to the Shivpal Singh Yadav camp, joined BJP, speculations went rife about his closeness to the ruling party. Even after the Mainpuri bypoll was declared, some reports ing popular." suggested that it was Shivpal who ensured a BJP ticket for his one-time close associate

Raghuraj Singh Shakya.

### **Dalit activist** shot dead in **Moradabad**

PNS LUCKNOW

In a sensational incident, a 30-year-old Dalit activist was shot dead allegedly on the instructions of a local history-sheeter who believed that the activist was a threat to his illegal activities in Thakurdwara area of Moradabad district.

SSP (Moradabad) Hemraj Meena, said: "Vishal Valmiki was shot by one Bilal on the Pandit, a history-sheeter, and his aide Golu.

An FIR has been registered on the complaint of the victim's family. Five teams have been tasked with arresting the accused."

Atul Sharma, Bilal and Golu have been booked under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 120b (criminal conspiracy) along with the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act,

Vishal's father Mukesh Valmiki said: "My son had recently joined a right-wing outfit and his popularity was increasing among the youngsters of all communities. Sharma could not accept the fact that a Dalit was becom-

Sanitation workers in the area decided to go on a strike from Tuesday itself in protest against the incident.

#### My workers will provide security to me: Shivpal

PNS LUCKNOW

day after the security of APragatisheel Samaj Party (Lohia) president Shivpal Yadav was downgraded by the Uttar Pradesh government, he said his workers would now provide him security.

Shivpal's security was downgraded on Monday from 'Z' to 'Y' category, days after he mended fences with nephew Akhilesh Yadav.

"This was expected of the BJP. Now, my workers and people will provide me security. Dimple Yadav's victory and BJP candidate's loss in Mainpuri will now be even bigger," Shivpal said.

Earlier, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav had termed the move "objectionable". He had also hit out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for likening his



'football'. In a tweet in Hindi,

Akhilesh said: "It is objectionable to reduce the security cover of Shivpal Singh Yadav. It is also to be noted that a pendulum is a symbol of movement of time and indicates the change of time for everyone. It says that there is nothing stable on which one could be proud of."

#### Kerala Ministers question propriety of Church leaders in spearheading agitation against port out even a single resident under **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN** ■

ministers in the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government have described the agitation spearheaded by the Latin Catholic Archdiocese against the Vizhinjam International Sea Port as antinational and an act of sedition.

V Abdul Rehman, Minister

Harbor, said at Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday that the Kerala Government has all details of the leaders behind the agitation against the Port which is being built by the Adani Group. "We have tackled serious agitations in the past and it is not difficult for us to take care of this anti-Port agitation. This is a move-

ment against national interests," said Rehman while addressing a seminar on Vizhinjam Port. The minister claimed that the Government has not forced

the pretext of land acquisition. "We will see to it that the Port works are completed as per schedule. This is a project of national importance and till now we were restrained in our approach to the agitation against the port. All demands made by the leaders of the agitation have been met but now they want the project to be scrapped altogether," said Abdul Rehman.

Meanwhile heavy posse of policemen have been deployed along coastal Kerala to nip in the bud any violence which is likely to occur in the coming days. Cops who were on leave have been directed to join for duty immediately in the backdrop of the rioting and vandalism at Vizhinjam that saw 40 cops getting injured and public property getting

Education Minister V

Sivankutty, the ideological face of the CPI(M), lashed out against the Church leaders for their role in spreading the agitation. "The police was restrained in their response to attacks carried out by the agitating fishermen. There were instances of the unruly crowd snatching the lathis from the policemen and throwing them into the sea. This is a serious offence and is an anti-national activity," said Sivankutty.

He said there is no chance of the police withdrawing the cases filed against the Archbishop, Auxiliary Bishop and the vicar of Vizhijnam for rioting and breakdown in law and order. "This is the worst kind of agitation and is a threat to the culture of Kerala. The cases were filed only after ascertaining the role of the Church leaders," said Sivankutty while interacting



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

#### -PAPER WITH PASSION-

### **Culture** wars

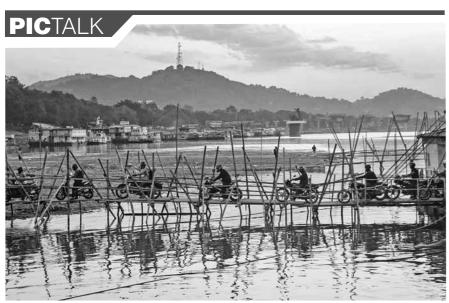
Israel's Ambassador's comment can save bilateral ties but can't make The Kashmir Files look good

srael's Ambassador to India Naor Gilon's comments on the movie *The Kashmir Files* must have come as a soothing balm to the filmmaker, the Government, and Bharatiya Janata Party leaders. The movie is part of the culture wars that the saffron establishment has launched. Written and directed by Vivek Agnihotri, its ostensible objective was to show the horrendous treatment meted out to and the ethnic cleansing of the Kashmiris Pandits; the real purpose, however, was to promote the BJP's agenda. Agnihotri was so busy with the propaganda that he didn't even bother to tell the real story: decades of Islamization of the populace in Kashmir, the process which prepared the ground for separatism, jihad, the atrocities on Pandits, leading to their exodus. Anyone watching the film gets the impression that Muslims were a deplorable role in the late 1980s and 1990s; the ones who were depicted were treacherous, cow-



ardly, and cruel. This was the reason that the movie was widely condemned as tendentious, inflammatory, and misleading. This is also the reason that International Film Festival of India 2022 jury head Nadav Lapid said that The Kashmir Files was like a "propaganda, vulgar movie, inappropriate for an artistic competitive section" of a prestigious film festival. Jury member Sudipto Sen made it clear that Lapid's remark about *The Kashmir Files* "was completely his personal opinion." He went on to claim that jury members didn't mention anything about their likes or dislikes. Also, they "don't indulge in any kind of political comments.

These words may comfort Agnihotri and his fans, but the damage has been done. Envoy Gilon's intervention can certainly ring-fence the bilateral ties getting scalded from the controversy erupting from a bad film. In a tweet in English "because I wanted our Indian brothers and sisters to be able to understand," he exhorted Lapid, saying that "should be ashamed." In Indian culture, a guest is treated like God. You have abused in the worst way the Indian invitation to chair the panel of judges as well as the trust, respect, and warm hospitality they have bestowed on you, the envoy added. Not unexpectedly, the most misleading and ludicrous reaction came from the BJP's IT Cell boss Amit Malviya. "For the longest time, people even denied the Holocaust and called 'Schindler's List' propaganda, just like some are doing to Kashmir Files." There are some people in the West who deny the Holocaust, but they are in a microscopic minority. Besides, it is a crime against art to compare the classy Schindler's List with the crappy The Kashmir Files. At the heart of the issue is the Sangh Parivar's ardent desire to have a school of cinema that projects its ideas and ideals. The problem is that any cinema—or, for that matter, any form of art can flower only if there is freedom of expression. This freedom, among others, the saffronites want to curtail. Hence the calamities like Kashmir Files.



Two-wheeler riders cross on a bamboo bridge constructed over the River Brahmaputra, in Guwahati

# Who are Hindus?

Mohan Bhagwat's definition of a Hindu

may not go down well with many

SS Chief Mohan Bhagwat has reiterated that all people living in India were by definition Hindus. He further added that anybody who agrees to sing Sanskrit verses in praise of Bharat Mata and is committed to the preservation of the culture of the land is a Hindu. Bhagwat said this while addressing RSS workers before concluding his four-day tour of Bihar. While his stand is welcome in that he sees Hindus in a larger context and does not limit his definition of a Hindu to a religious identity but on the other hand it is an unnecessary classification that is neither required nor warranted. True. Arabs gave this name to all people residing across Hindukush Mountain and it meant a geopolitical identity rather than a religious one but that time has long gone and now a Hindu is a religious identity, legally. Moreover, calling everyone Hindu without their consent is not a bright idea. Labeling anyone as per your

convenience is fraught with dangers. Many religious groups would have reservations about being called Hindu. "Hindu" does not denote Indian and that is a fact. There is a difference between 'Hindu' and 'Hindustani', ( of course the word Hindustani is now obsolete). And we are not even talking about 'Hindutva' which has political connotations.

Besides, even many Hindus would have objections to somebody branding them and giving them a certificate of being a Hindu. There must be millions of people who call themselves Hindus but cannot recite a single verse in Sanskrit so it is utterly insolent to test people for their identity on the basis of your own preconceived notions. Though his state-

ment deserves merit when he says that identities have been made possible because of the Hindu ethos of acceptance. India has been an assimilating culture and its mighty diversity is living proof of it. Categorizing it and labeling it kills every nuance of Indian culture which made India that is Bharat what it is today - a bouquet of different identities, religions, languages, and creeds living as neighbours and working shoulder to shoulder to build a country that has seen some worst periods in history but with its resilience came over it. The contention that those whose ancestors happened to be Hindus is debatable. There may be people who had the same ancestors but now they have branched out as different groups and we should respect their divergences, no matter what.

# Jointness Mantra: CDS Chauhan, patience



There is an urgent need to have a Joint Procurement Agency without which synchronized capability building of armed forces is next to impossible

lmost 3 months after his appointment as CDS, Gen Anil Chauhan has maintained silence. He travelled to Def-Expo in Gujrat and along with three service Chiefs to NDA Khadakvasla, the cradle of jointness - symbolically a deft move. Initial briefings and scrutiny of feedback from Services on theatrisation are over. Integrated capability development requires a Joint Procurement Agency which was produced by Defence Planning Staff in 1988. The absence of institutional memory causes time and cost overruns.

CDS has become synonymous with integration and theatrisation, the task given originally to late Gen Rawat. Jointness was to be achieved in 3 years but no timeline was set for Integrated Theatre Commands. Not surprisingly, days after Gen Chauhan's appointment as CDS, Air Force Chief, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, in the run-up to IAF Day on 8 October, admitted that inter-service differences had not been reconciled and a discussion was warranted to find a solution to take theatrisation forward. He reiterated the traditional objections of IAF: the paucity of resources, just 30 fighter squadrons today and best case of 35 to 36 squadrons by 2035; 24X7 AD cover required concentration of resources and separating the two (AD Command and Theatre Command) will affect joint strat-

Gen Rawat, not averse to shooting from the hip, had stirred a hornet's nest by suggesting IAF was an extension of Artillery and essentially a combat support arm. ACM Chaudhari's recent comments included a 'future ready IAF to include space and cyber-space, abridged decisionmaking chain of command and need for a joint strategy' while each service had its own doctrine. As a precautionary, he added:' IAF is not opposed to integrated theatre commands (theatrisation)" He also advocated the need for an equivalent national security strategy. NSS is a vital document on integrating the whole outlining national security of government effort that every objectives, their orientation,

President in the US is mandated to produce once in his term. Biden issued an interim NSS in March 2022 and on 12 October, a final one. The Biden strategy talks of 'strategic competition with China, the US's 'most pressing challenge'. "We will effectively compete with PRC which is the only competitor with both the intent and increase the capability to reshape the international order while constraining a dangerous Russia'.

On India, it says 'as it is,

the world's largest democracy and a Major Defence Partner, the US, and India will work together bilaterally and multilaterally to support our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific". For a long time India used to define its military challenge as: while Pakistan is the immediate threat, China remains the long-term challenge. That was dramatically reversed by China's incursions in Ladakh. The 1986 Goldwater-Nichols DoD Reorganisation Act in the US brought about sweeping changes, especially on integration and jointness; almost simultaneously in the UK, the Heseltine reforms introduced the CDS legislation. India is allergic to the idea of a written document



GEN RAWAT, NOT **AVERSE TO** SHOOTING FROM THE HIP, HAD STIRRED A HORNET'S NEST BY SUGGESTING IAF WAS AN **EXTENSION OF ARTILLERY AND ESSENTIALLY A COMBAT SUPPORT ARM** 

and their pursuit. No White Paper has seen the light of day even though India had a CDS for nearly three years. India is defiantly proud of its strategic autonomy and that it is among the world's leading economies with the third largest military.

India feels that not articulating NSS is a strategy, though there is one. The Raksha Mantri's Operational directive with 8 contingencies to three Service Chiefs is considered good enough. A Joint Services Doctrine 2017 on release was found with many loopholes. The Breaking News is that NSS is being scripted by NSA.

The current debate on theatrisation has turned into prioritising structures, strategies, and capability building. Movement on capabilities has been tardy due to insufficient funding and somewhat retarded by Atmanirbharta in absence of quality R&D and a developed military-industrial complex. The IAF is stuck at 30 squadrons for two decades and an RFP for 114 MRCA stagnates for 5 years. Legislation mandating conceptual and structural transformation through the CDS system instead of amendments to Service Acts must become the path to integration. NSA Ajit Dovai who heads DPC is working on NSS from an integrated review of defence, foreign, and development -in other words, the Strategic and Technology Environment meshed with fiscal allocation.

Gen Chauhan is determined to press on with Eastern Land Command (China); Western Land Command (Pakistan); Air Defence Command; and Maritime Theatre Command. Northern Command dealing with LAC and LOC will be merged later with ELC and WLC. Air Space Command and Cyberspace Command commissioned in 2017 are likely to be operational shortly though there are teething problems with ASC. One other entity will also be operationalized shortly- the Special Operations Division consisting of Battalion Special Forces, Garud, and Marcos squadrons. This will later upgrade to Special Operations Command. Gen Chauhan must invite ACM Chaudhari for talks to smoothen wrinkles in establishing ITCs with as little difference as possible. Political oversight is essential to prevent irreconcilable differences. A periodic review will

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, & founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff; views expressed are personal)

#### LETTERS I (Ob a

#### **CORONA SCARE IN CHINA**

Sir —Even as the frightening Coronavirus appears to have hit China again, the country's hardline Covid-19 lockdown measures are stoking public frustration, with many growing weary of snap lockdowns, lengthy quarantines, and mass testing campaigns. The anti-lockdown protests on a scale unseen for decades in China, appear to be posing a major challenge for President Xi Jinping, just over a month into his third term in power. ("Protests against Covid lockdowns intensify in China", Nov. 28). Political protests opposing the ruling Communist Party and its leadership are rare in China even as the country witnesses sporadic agitations over various other issues.

But this time around the protesters are braving harshest measures the Chinese government takes to crush such protests. Indeed it shows how jittery the people are of Chinese measures to curb the pandemic. The Chinese people suffered immensely during the pandemic, not only from the deadly virus but also at the hand of Chinese government draconian rules which made life miserable for an ordinary Chinese citizen. Nearly three years since the pandemic originated in China, the world's most populous country is still battling hard to stop transmission of the Coronavirus. Is China a curse upon the world to embrace the deadly virus?

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

#### **YOGA GURU APOLOGIZES**

Sir — Yoga Guru Ramdev has expressed his regret and apologized for his reckless comment in poor taste on women. But the controversy shows no sign of abating with public outrage growing. Questions are also being asked why the National Commission of Women and the union minister for women and child welfare, Smriti Irani, usually quick to condemn transgressions when it suits them, have been quiet on Baba Ramdev.

Ramdev was last week addressing a large audience of mostly women at Thane with the wife of deputy chief but also harm his Patanjali products



t will be a proud moment for the Indian Olympic Association PT Usha is set to get IOA chief post then she will be the first woman occupant of

has also been elected as one of the eight Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) by the Athletes Commission of the IOA, making her an Electoral College member. The legendary PT Usha is set to become the first woman president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as she emerged as the lone candidate for the top post for the December 10 elections.

The 58-year-old Usha, a multiple Asian Games gold medallist and a fourth-place finisher in the 1984 Olympics 400m hurdles final, filed her nomination papers for the top job along with her team for the various posts. Usha's school attracts young talents from across the country. Her contribution to Indian sports is immense.

CK Subramaniam I Chennai

minister Devendra Fadnavis sitting by his side on the stage. While he began by complimenting Amruta Fadnavis and women in general for being graceful and looking good in whatever attire they chose to wear, he crossed the line and added that women looked good even without clothes. His audience, among them the very young and the very old, did not seem to be amused. There were soon howls of protest and civil society in Maharashtra and elsewhere who felt the comment was inappropriate, sexist, and obiectionable.

It is indeed unfortunate that a yoga guru who is regarded as epitome of virtue and held in high esteem by the people should have made such a sexist remark. It not only puts him in bad light but also gives a bad name to all the guru's and swami's for no fault of their's as people start doubting their credentials. Yoga guru Ramdev has created an economic empire by teaching yoga and popularising it. The people's trust has helped him make a economic empire which is ahead of many multi national companies. Now if he makes such comments it would not only make people question his credentials

which are mostly bought by the people who have lot of reverence for Ramdev Baba. As they say with power comes responsibility and so the yoga guru must not shoot from the hip and be careful with what he says.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

#### **FOB SLAB FALLS IN CHANDRAPUR**

Sir — The faulty design and poor maintenance of foot-over bridges in Maharashtra saw a number of them collapsing and leading to fatalities and injuring many people. A FOB collapsed at Balharshah Junction railway station in Chandrapur causing casualties.

The station is in Ballarpur town, 150 km from Nagpur. The incident took place at around 5 pm causing many casualties. The FOB connected to platforms 1 and platform 2 at the station in Central Railway's Nagpur division. As usual compensation. A large number of passengers were using FOB to catch a Punebound train when a part of it caved in causing extensive damage.

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

a prediction in writing in front of you all...Note down the prediction that

the AAP is going to form government in Gujarat. After 27 years of misgovernance, the citizens of Gujarat will get relief

from these people (BJP)

Delhi CM — Arvind Kejriwal



We aren't having any conversations about whether I will run for reelection. we're celebrating

**US President** —Joe Biden

It is with any

film...things go wrong, you feel devastated obviously. But you have to live with it and vou move on. It is a tricky busi-

ness and I think Ananya is aware

— Chunky Pandey



The way he (Survakumar Yadav) is playing right now, there was no need to have any conversa-

tion with him out in the middle as he was batting so good. But yes, It's great fun to bat alongside him Indian opener

– Shubman Gill

All people living in India were by definition Hindus and diversity had flourished in the country because of the



cultural ethos of the land — Mohan Bhagwat www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

### **FIRST COLUMN PLASTIC PART OF LIFE BUT CAUTION NEEDED**

Industries have to find viable alternatives to plastic



SAKSHI SETHI

lastic remains one of the best inventions. However, human greed ended up in its excessive production, leaving piles of heaps, which need to be mended now. Plastic's reputation fell as anxiety about waste increased in the 1970s and 1980s. Plastic waste besides contaminating land, water and soil with harmful chemicals is also responsible for the death of thousands of animals on land, water and sea due to ingestion. Just as ivory is demonised, so is plastic pollution

The invention of plastic was initially praised for its ability to create multiple benefits but with time terms like 'cheap' became synonymous with 'replaceable' or 'throwaway', resulting in deterioration of the reputation of plastic.

Plastic pollutes every corner of the earth, causing a direct and deadly effect on wildlife. The larger the plastic items, say plastic bags and straws, can choke and starve marine life, while the smaller fragments can cause liver and gastrointestinal damage in animals which can ultimately affect the human life.

Today, we need supermarkets and grocery stores to stop using plastic bags, especially the ones that are to be disposed of as soon as the packet gets opened. It has become a target for activists looking to ban single use disposable plastics.



Paper on the other hand is easy to shape, while being lightweight but is neither strong, nor does it last for long. It consumes a large amount of wood which is important for the environment. So, scientists started looking for various alternatives, which could be lightweight, strong, durable, inexpensive and something not entirely dependent upon

The word 'plastic' originally meant pliable and easily shaped. In 1862, Alexander Parkes—the man behind the world's first ever manmade plastic, PARKESINE—at the London International Exhibition developed it as a synthetic substitute for shellac for waterproofing. Soon after the success, synthetic polymers, later known as 'plastics' were discovered and developed. Plastic was originally created as a solution to maintain the availability of natural resources on earth. Plastic is a versatile material which has afforded us with many benefits in regard to helping us live a clean, healthy, and efficient lifestyle. It has proven to be useful in many ways for being lighter, besides superior as ic appeal and excellent thermal and electrical insulation properties.

It has a unique ability to combine with other materials like adhesives, paper, aluminium foils, while also being used for food packaging, besides also having a lesser production cost. Moreover, the need for plastic exists in several fields such as health and medicare. Patients with severe neural conditions, or toddlers learning to train their motor skills, or elders with movement problems need a flexible, lightweight and a durable material in their daily life, which can only be fulfilled with plastic.

Recycling plastic means reduced quantum of plastic waste. This in turn reduces pollution and saves a lot of animal species crucial to the food chain. If the problem was created by the industry, it should also give the solution. Plastic industry offered recycling of plastic as a solution. In 1980, the plastic industry started with a drive wherein they encouraged the municipalities to collect and process recyclable materials as part of their waste management system. Also, with technical advancements in waste management for recycling plastic, the scenario started to improve gradually

With intelligent design and thoughtful development, there is a chance to address the greedy mentality of take and make which fuels plastic pollution and implement a circular economy. Despite so much growing mistrust, plastic remains to be a critical part of modern life. (The author is a teacher at a reputed school in Delhi)

# Waste disposal needs all hands on deck



But AAP knows no governance, so municipal bodies have cut garbage hills without Delhi Govt's help

n between 2011 and 2021, Delhi added over 32 lakh people to its population, besides adding about eight lakh households. This is a projected figure for 2021, and official data is still awaited. Delhi has steadily been attracting migrant population, for lack of opportunities in some of the states such as Bihar for the youth.

Indore in Madhya Pradesh, a few years ago, was faced with eyesores of landfill sites, rising like a mountain, as the city garbage gathered, while the population steadily grew on account of the thriving economy of the city and rise of the IT, pharmaceutical sectors following a benign policy regime of the state government. Within a short span of time, the municipal waste in Indore tested the administrative strength of the corporation.

But all changed with the Madhya Pradesh government taking the task to eliminate the garbage mountain eyesore. The municipal corporation was strongly backed by the state government with financial support to acquire men and machines for a turnaround. The state government liberally supported the Indore municipal corporation. The result was elimination of dhalao, segregation of waste at homes, processing of waste took place in several areas, stringent fines were imposed against littering, which included charges of even Rs 1 crore on hotels, hospital and restaurants, disciplined the stakeholders, and the landfill site mountain disappeared to give space for shopping centres and office complexes.

It has been wondered in several quarters why Delhi cannot replicate the Indore model and eliminate the garbage eyesores at Ghazipur, Okhla and Bhalswa. The answer is that Delhi is not blessed with a Madhya Pradesh administration, as the city government in the national capital works at cross purposes with the municipal corporations. The advertisement budget of the Delhi government alone could have helped the municipal corporations to substantially speed up elimination of the landfill sites. But the Delhi government since 2013 after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) came to power with Arvind Kejriwal as Chief Minister has shown rank betrayal of the goverwaste to Energy Plant' has a total worked to financially starve the munic- WITHHELD RS 900 capacity of processing 5,250 ipal corporations. Still, the civic bodies have been steadfast in their commitment to improve the life of the people, and worked within the constrained capacities to cut down legacy garbage dumped at the

Data speaks for themselves that the municipal corporations have been battling against all odds to cut down Garbage Mountains. Legacy waste at the three landfills at Ghazipur, Bhalswa and Okhla stood at 229.1 lakh tonnes in May, 2022



of 1.41 lakh tonnes per month. There are as many as 44 trom-GOVERNMENT TO mel machines which are process-PAY RS 900 ing 9,000 to 10,000 tonnes of waste daily at Bhalswa. They have CRORE AS processed 25 lake tonnes till July, 2022. Besides, 26 trommel ENVIRONMENTAL machines are working at Okhla landfill which processes 7,000 tonnes of waste every day. They have processed 17 lakh tonnes of legacy waste till July, 2022. Also, MANAGEMENT OF 10 trommel machines are working at Ghazipur landfill which process SOLID MUNICIPAL at Gnazipur landilli willen process 4,000 tonnes of waste every day. Soon, 50 additional trommel machines are to be deployed for IN AUGUST 2022, the processing of waste at Ghazipur, Narela and Okhla land-fill sites.

It may also be known that CRORE OF tonnes of waste, which generates 52 MW electricity. The Tehkhand PAYMENTS TO Waste to Energy Plant became operational recently, which brings MCDS the total number of waste to energy plants in the national capital to four. After the inauguration of the Tehkhand plant, the capacity for disposal of garbage per day in Delhi has increased by 2,000 metric tonnes and this plant will also generate up to 25 MW of Green

Additionally, 12,300 MT Bio CNG Plant, three Bio Gas Plants of 200 MT per day capacity and eight Metal Recovery Facilities of 175 MT per day capacity are about to come up at Okhla landfill site. Construction of the 3,000 metric ton waste to energy plant at Narela is to be completed by

The NGT directed the Delhi government to pay Rs 900 crore as environmental compensation for improper management of solid municipal waste in 2022. But, in August 2022, the Delhi government withheld Rs 900 crore of payments to MCDs. This shows that the Delhi government has been apathetic to the needs of people, while serving its own interests costly advertisements.

This shows that the municipal corporations on its own have been at the forefront in finding sustainable solutions to the solid waste generated in the national capital. It is also to be underlined that the strictness of the Indore model could not be deployed in the national capital due to the multiplicity of authority and also because of the Delhi government

working at cross purposes. if all nands were on board, the task of the municipal corporations would have gained the necessary speed and scale to eliminate the garbage mountains at three of the sites. But the Delhi government in the last nine years has worked with the single agenda to shame the national capital by making the civic bodies beg for their rightful share of finances which are sent by the Central government. This has caused delays in acquiring men and machines to

deal with the issue of solid waste management.

Still, the municipal corpora-tions worked through their revenue models by creating tourism spots to beef up their earnings. The Wonder of the World Park is one such example which has been created from the waste and has become one of the key tourist destinations in the national capital. Similar attractions have come in all parts of the country. In contrast, the Delhi government, which has the tourism department, has not created a single asset which can attract the tourists to the national capital.

This calls for the people to weigh the political leadership in the national capital on the basis of the tangible outcomes on promises they make. Fifteen years of the governance models of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the municipal corporations and nine years of the AAP rule in the national capital are study in

It begs attention if even a fraction of the advertisement budget, which the AAP government splurges in states where the Kejriwal-led party contests elections, was spent in improving the civic amenities the national capi tal would have sported a brighter look. Why should the money of the people of Delhi be spent to promote AAP in Goa, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat? Why should that money not be spent in boosting the capacities of the municipal corporations to improve the quality of life of the people in the national capital. Delhi wants accountability, not laments of the work shirkers.



DIRECTED THE DELHI

CRORE AS COMPENSATION FOR IMPROPER WASTE IN 2022. GOVERNMENT

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)

WE WANTED THE SIXTH BOWLER TO COME IN. SO SANJU SAMSON MISSED OUT AND HOODA CAME IN. AND CHAHAR WAS PICKED BECAUSE HE CAN SWING THE BALL REALLY WELL.

port base and his "white

supremacy" concept, Trump

is confident of an easy path to

the White House. The latest

opinion polls indicate Trump

remains the front-runner for

the GOP nomination and

other aspirants being in the

single digits. The polls also

showed that Trump received

55 per cent of Republican reg-

istered voters' support. In

contrast, his potential Republican rival De Santis got

just 25 per cent of the votes.

De Santis won a second four-

year term as governor this

— INDIAN SKIPPER





EVEN IF YOU SEE SANJU SAMSON, I WOULD HAVE PLAYED HOODA AHEAD OF SAMSON BECAUSE HE WAS PART OF THE WORLD CUP SQUAD AND SUDDENLY HE IS NOWHERE. SO IT'S DIFFICULT FOR HOODA AS WELL AS THAKUR.

— FORMER CRICKETER

Biden, Trump contest looms over 2024 Prez poll

#### If neither contests, the chances of a fresh face becoming the next tenant of the White House is possible in 2024

ill a potential Joe Biden versus onald Trump residential race happen in 2024 in the United States? It is the question after the two current and former presidents have thrown themselves in the presidential ring two years in advance.

Democrats and epublicans are already preparing for the 2024 presidential polls. Polls show that though Biden remains unpopular, he still enjoys more support than Trump. According to a recent Emerson College survey, the Democrats have held an edge of four percentage points. However, there are no cheers from the voters for a re-run of the Biden versus Trump match. According to recent polls, nearly 60 per cent of Americans do not want Trump



back in the White House. A Biden-Trump contest would also mean the chances of a woman president fading away.

Trump announced his candidature on November 15 in Florida. Facing several court cases and investigations, the former President is keen to take up the White House challenge to protect against legal challenges. He showed his intention of a rerun right from when Biden defeated him in 2020. "To make America great and glorious again, I am announcing tonight my candidacy for president of the United States," Trump said at his Florida headquarters. His announcement has dashed the hopes of GOP leaders to find a fresh face.

month with a solid political base and war chest behind President Biden celebrated his 80th birthday quietly on November 20. He is buoyant after the unexpected With his sustained sup- Midterm poll results from

held onto the Senate. Not deterred by his age, Biden said, "I have not made that formal decision, but it's my intention - my intention to run again."

There are other hopefuls in both parties. Come 2023, more aspirants might emerge, more might withdraw, and the competition will be tough. Vice President Kamala Harris, aspiring to succeed Biden, is one of them. Biden might repeat his running mate, but Kamala has not revealed her plans.

Biden's Secretary of Transportation, Pete uttigieg, is yet another probable. He has overseen the passage of significant infrastructure investments. He would be

this month, where Democrats if elected. California Governor Gavin Newsom has a massive campaign war chest and the backing of major Democratic donors.

After emerging second to Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Democratic primary and second again to Joe Biden in 2020, Bernie Sanders has yet to rule out running again in 2024 if the field opens up. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts has become a leading political voice on economic and human rights issues. She did well in her 2020 presidential campaign. Some speculate that if Biden race, she might reconsider.

were to withdraw from the Trump's Vice president, Mike Pence, could be a potential challenger to his one-time in the House of epresentatives

loyalty after January 6, 2021, Capitol riots. Trump has clarified that Pence will not join him on the ticket again if he runs a third time.

The other probable face is Nikki Haley-US ambassador to the United Nations under President Trump. Though she called Trump her friend, following the January 6 Capitol riots, she delivered mixed messages on her support for Trump.

Republican Governor Greg Abbott, 64, who won a third term this month, is another aspirant. He has pursued increasingly conservative policies, opposing COVID-19 vaccines and mask mandates during his second term. Representing Wyoming

President Dick Cheney's daughter Liz Cheney is also a potential aspirant. Though it is customary in

America that a potential presidential race begins two years in advance, the final picture emerges only after the primaries and the party conventions. With the election expenses increasing, candidates must sustain the momentum and build a massive war chest.

Biden can set the agenda on significant issues like gun control, the economy, abortion, immigration, and climate change, if he wins. A Trump win would only mean going back to Trumpism. If neither contests, the chances of a fresh face becoming the next tenant of the White the first openly gay President boss Trump. He changed his since 2017, former Vice House is possible in 2024.

(The author is a senior journalist)

# **Torture charges mount post-Kherson occupation**

**AP** ■ KHERSON (UKRAINE)

When a dozen Russian soldiers stormed into Dmytro Bilyi's home in August, the 24-year-old police officer said they gave him a chilling choice: Hand in his pistol or his mother and brother would disappear. Bilyi turned his gun over to the soldiers, who carried machine guns and had their faces concealed. But it didn't matter. They dragged him from his house in Ukraine's southern village of Chornobaivka to a prison in the nearby regional capital of Kherson, where he said he was locked in a cell and tortured for days. his genitals and ears shocked with

"It was like hell all over my body," Bilyi recalled. "It burns so bad it's like the blood is boiling ... I just wanted it to stop," he said.

More than two weeks after Russians retreated from the city, accounts such as his are helping to uncover sites where torture allegedly took place in Kherson, which Kremlin forces occupied for eight

Five such rooms have been found in the city, along with at least four more in the wider Kherson region, where people allege that they were confined, beaten, shocked, interrogated and threatened with death, police said. Human rights experts warn that the accusations made so far are likely only the beginning.

"For months we've received information about torture and other kind of persecution of civilians, said Oleksandra Matviichuk, head of the Center for Civil Liberties, a local rights group. "I am afraid that horrible findings in Kherson still lie

The Associated Press spoke with five people who allege that they were tortured or arbitrarily detained by Russians in Kherson or knew of others who disappeared and endured abuse. Sometimes, they said, the Russians rounded up whoever they saw - priests, soldiers, teachers or doctors — with no specific reason. In other cases, Russians were allegedly tipped off by sympathizers who pro-



vided names of people believed to be

helping the Ukrainian military. Once detained, the people said they were locked in crowded cells, fed meagre portions of watery soup and bread and made to learn the Russian anthem while listening to screams from prisoners being tortured across the hall. Detainees were allegedly forced to give information about rel-

atives or acquaintances with ties to the Ukrainian army, including names and locations disclosed in handwritten

As a police officer with a father in the military, Bilyi remained under the radar for several months of Russia's occupation, until he said someone likely tipped them off. He spent four days in a cell with others,

being pulled out for questioning

Investigators accused him of having a Kalashnikov rifle — not just a pistol — and pressured him to share his father's whereabouts. Then they shocked him for half an hour a day for two days before releasing him, he

Ukrainian national police allege that more than 460 war crimes have been committed by Russian soldiers in recently occupied areas of Kherson. The torture in the city occurred in two police stations, one police-run detention centre, a prison and a private medical facility, where rubber batons, baseball bats and a machine used for applying electrical shocks were found, said Andrii Kovanyi a press officer for the police in Kherson.

When Igor was detained in eptember from the call centre where he worked, he was brought into a room, ordered to remove his shirt and to place his palms on the metal door to increase the flow of electricity and the pain of being shocked with a stun

you ready? Now you're going to scream like a bitch ... You will not get out of here, and we will kill you," said Igor, who spoke on the condition that only his first name be used to protect his identity.

The 22-year-old, accused of providing Ukrainians with Russian military positions, said he was shocked by the gun along his back for 2 1/2 hours and then forced to stay awake in a chair all night.

Pictures on his phone, seen by the AP, show clusters of red circular marks lining the length of his back. He was freed after two days but not before writing a letter providing details about a relative of his uncle's who the Russians wanted information on. Documenting the crimes in Kherson will be challenging because no other city this large has been occupied by Russia for so long, said Brian Castner senior crisis adviser at Amnesty International.

"Evidence must be collected and preserved to maintain that chain of custody, so that when there is inter-

tight and perpetrators can be held to account," he said.

Police in Kherson are investigating and collecting testimony. But more and more people are arriving daily, and the justice system is overwhelmed, local rights experts said.

In March, Dmytro Plotnikov's friend was seized by Russians when he went to Kherson's central square to run errands shortly after the occupation began. Plotnikov knows of three other people who were captured and released by Russians, one of whom still had visible bruises on his body more than a month after being freed, he said.

But since the Russians left Kherson, what concerns him most are the Ukrainians who collaborated with them and remained.

In May, Plotnikov's neighbour posted a photo of his sister and her address on a Russian chat group, he said. His sister is outspokenly pro-Ukrainian, and the neighbour accused her of spreading hate about Russian people, he said.

### Biden, Macron ready to talk | Ukraine's 'Invincibility' centres offer refuge, resilience Ukraine, trade in State visit

French President Emmanuel Macron is headed to Washington for the first state visit of Joe Biden's presidency — a revival of diplomatic pageantry that had been put on hold because of the COVID-19 pan-

The Biden-Macron relationship had a choppy start. Macron briefly recalled France's ambassador to the United States last year after the White House announced a deal to sell nuclear submarines to Australia, undermining a contract for France to sell diesel-powered submarines.

But the relationship has turned around with Macron emerging as one of Biden's most forward-facing European allies in the Western response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This week's visit - it will include Oval Office talks, a glitzy dinner, a news conference and more comes at a critical moment for both leaders.

The leaders have a long agenda for their Thursday meeting at the White House, including Iran's nuclear program, China's increasing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific and growing concerns about security and stability in Africa's Sahel region, according to U.S. And French officials. But front and center during their Oval Office meeting will be Russia's war in Macron work to maintain economic and military support for Kyiv as it tries to repel Russian

In Washington, Republicans are set to take control of the House, where GOP leader Kevin McCarthy says Republicans will not write a "blank check" for Ukraine. Across the Atlantic, Macron's efforts to keep Europe united will be tested by the mounting costs of supporting Ukraine in the nine-month war and as Europe battles rising energy prices that threaten to derail the post-pandemic eco-

nomic recovery. White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby on Monday described Macron as the "dynamic leader" of America's oldest ally while explaining Biden's decision to honor the French president with the first state visit of his presidency.

The U.S. Tradition of honoring foreign heads of state dates back to Ulysses S. Grant, who hosted King David Kalakaua of the Kingdom of Hawaii for a more than 20but the tradition has been on hold since 2019 because of COVID-19 concerns.

"If you look at what's going on in Ukraine, look at what's going on in the Indo Pacific and the tensions with China, France is really at the center of all those things," Kirby said. "And so the president felt that this was exact-

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Electrical work in connection with strengthening of wiring cabling, earthing

Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delh

e-Tender Time Extension Notice

Due to some unavoidable reasons the submission and opening of Part-1 dates of e-tender of the office of Executive Engineer (Gen.), Chilla Power House are

Tender No.13/EE(G)/Chila/2022-23, Supply, Installation, Testing and

Commissioning works of 220volt, 400AH Plante Battery Set and Battery Charger at Chila Power House.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal

http://uktenders.gov.in" Executive Engineer (Gen.), Chilla Power House

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) Mullana-Ambala, Haryana (Established under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956) Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A++')

Last date for submission of bids on website: 06.12.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs

Date for opening of bids on website: 08.12.2022 at 12:00 PM

Name of work and its location: 30-Flect-57-T-2022-23-E3

Approx cost of the works : Rs. 56.26 lacs

Opening of tender: 26.12.2022, 12.00 Hrs

Bid Security: Rs. 1,12,500.00

other associated work in dispensaries/hospitals over Delhi division

Address of the office: Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

Date & time of submission of tender: 26.12.2022, 12.00 Hrs

ly the right and the most appropriate country to start with for

Macron Republican Donald Trump's pick as the first foreign leader to be honored with a state visit during his term. The 2018 state visit included a jaunt by the two leaders to Mount Vernon, the Virginia estate of George Washington, America's founding president.

Macron was scheduled to arrive in Washington on Tuesday evening ahead of a packed day of meetings and Washington on Wednesday - including a visit to NASA headquarters with Vice President Kamala Harris and talks with Biden administration officials on

On Thursday, Macron will have his private meeting with Biden followed by a joint news conference and visits to the State Department and Capitol Hill before Macron and his wife, Brigitte Macron, are feted at the state dinner. Grammy winner Jon Batiste is to provide

appearances in and around

the entertainment.

#### NATO commits to future Ukraine membership

Bucharest: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg reaffirmed the military alliance's commitment to Ukraine on Tuesday, saying that the warorn nation will one day become a member of the world's largest security orga-

CRITICAL DATES AFTER CORRIGENDUM: -

Retired Ukrainian construc-tion worker Borys Markovnikov is on the move again: this time, just a few steps from his

home in the town of Bucha, northwest of Kviv, to seek shelter and warmth at a "Point of Invincibility" — a governmentbuilt help station that serves food, drinks, warmth and ultimately, resilience, in the face of Russia's military onslaught. In recent weeks, Ukraine has rolled out hundreds of such

help stations, christened with a name of defiance as places where residents facing outages of power, heating and water can warm up, charge their phones enjoy snacks and hot drinks, and even be entertained. Markovnikov, 78, has had to

move a few times. He recalled how he was driven from his home in the eastern Donbas region after Russian-backed separatists seized territory there in 2014. Earlier this year, he fled his adopted town of Bucha — now infamous for massacres during a brief occupation by Russian



forces — on foot, across the front line, to Kyiv. Later he was able "My neighbours told me

there was a tent with electricity and a TV, and I came to have a look," said Markovnikov, ogling Monday's soccer World Cup match between Ghana and South Korea, adding he had no power at home. "We still believe. Without belief, you can't sur-

Ukraine's State Emergencies Service said Friday nearly 1,000 such centres have been erected across the country since the programme was first launched on November 18. Its website features a handy online map to show beleaguered citizens where they are located.

As of Friday, over 67,000 people had gotten help in them and more could pour in if, as many experts and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy have warned, more Russian strikes lie ahead. Such centres - often con-

sisting of small, insulated tents no larger than a classroom were rolled out just in time as a

Russian forces deprived many Ukrainians of basics of life at The centres are in essence a

string of massive airstrikes by

stopgap while utility crews scramble to fix cut power lines and put water mains back into operation, so basic services can be restored to homes and busi-Power company DTEK said

controlled outages continued Monday in Kyiv as a necessary step to balance the hobbled power system and avoid other breakdowns, while ensuring electricity to hospitals and heatpumping stations. Only 42 per cent of power was available to household cus-

tomers in the city, and "we do our best to provide light to each customer for 2 to 3 hours twice a day," the company said. Outside the "Point of Invincibility" on an esplanade in front of a sports centre in Bucha,

teens had a snowball fight and a guitarist strummed his instrument outside an inflatable tent. Inside, kids crouched over games of Roblox on mobile away at laptops and elderly women sat quietly to while away the time. A young girl clutched her dog as staffers poured cups of hot tea and sweetened it with honey. The "Points of Invincibility"

phones as young adults tapped

offer a public-service — and free alternative to the many coffee shops and restaurants that have become hubs for internet access and warmth of Ukrainians seeking refuge from the cold and dark in their own "When the electricity went

out, I had to look for a place with a connection," said Bucha resident Mykola Pestikov, 26, crouched over his computer. "These can be cafes that take energy from other places, or I look for a point' — like now."

Yuri Mikhailovskiy, a firefighter who helps run the site, showed a ledger that indicated more than 1,000 people had come through the centre since it was first put up 10 days ago in Bucha, where electricity is spotty or nonexistent in most

### comments as Vatican seeks to mediate

Kformal protest with the Vatican over Pope Francis' latest condemnation of atrocities in Ukraine, in which the pontiff blamed most of the cruelty on Chechens and other minorities in an apparent effort to



In his comments, Francis defended his usual reluctance to call out President Vladimir Putin by name, saying it was clear Ukraine is the "martyred" victim in the war. But he also said that, while it was the Russian state that invaded Ukraine, "Generally, the cruelest are perhaps those who are of Russia but are not of the Russian tradition, such as the Chechens, the Buryats and so on".

The pope's apparent distinction between the mostly Muslim Chechens and Buddhist Buryats on the one hand, and ethnic Russian fighters on the other, irked Moscow.

# Russia protests Pope Uneasy calm grips Ukraine as West prepares winter aid

Δ n uneasy calm hung over Kyiv on Ukrainian capital did what they could to prepare for anticipated Russian missile attacks aiming to take out more energy infrastructure as winter sets in.

To ease that pain, NATO allies were making plans to boost provisions of anything from blankets to generators to ensure the 43 million Ukrainians can maintain their resolve in the 10th month of fighting against Russia's invasion.

Ukraine's first lady implored the West to show the same kind of steadfastness that Ukrainians had shown against Russian President Vladimir Putin's military campaign.

"Ukrainians are very tired of this war, but we have no choice in the matter," said Olena Zelenska, the wife of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in a BBC interview during a visit to Britain

"We do hope that the approaching season of Christmas doesn't make you forget about our tragedy and get used to our suffering," she said.

A two-day meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Bucharest, Romania, was likely to see the 30-nation alliance make fresh pledges of nonlethal support to Ukraine: fuel, generators, medical supplies and winter equip-

ment, on top of new military support.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was to announce substantial US aid for Ukraine's energy grid, US officials said Ukraine's grid has been battered countrywide since early October by targeted Russian strikes, in what Western officials call a Russian campaign to weaponise the coming winter cold. Ukrainians are putting up

defences — both for troops and for civilians. The government has rolled out hundreds of help stations, christened Points of Invincibility, where residents facing outages of power, heat-

ing and water can warm up, charge their phones, enjoy snacks and hot drinks, and even be entertained.

"I had no electricity for two days. Now there's only some electricity, and no gas," said Vanda Bronyslavavina, who took a breather inside one such help center in Kyiv's Obolon neighbourhood.

The 71-year-old lamented the uncertainty about whether Russia will simply resume its strikes after infrastructure gets fixed, in a frustrating cycle of destruction and repair.

It underscored how the war continues to cast a pall over every aspect of life, even if civilian casualties are relatively low at the moment.

#### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TLMD-VI(6), BEMINA, SRINAGAR TeleNo:0194-2492429Fax:0194-2492429. Email: tlcdistpdd@gmail.com

Dated: 10/11/2022

#### **EXTENSION-I** e-NIT No: TLMD-VI/11 of 2022-23

Name of the work: Augmentation of Grid Station Kulgam by way of Replacement 32/33kV, 50MVA Transformer by 132 / 33 kV, 80 MVA Transformer.

Corrigendum title: Extension of bid submission dates for NIT due to poor response. Bids not accompanied with CDR/DD shall not be entertained for techno-commercia

CHITICAL BATES AT TEN COMMICENDOM.		
1.	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission supporting documents in PDF formats).	10-12-2022( 3pm)
2.	OnlineTechno-Commerciale-Bid opening date and	
	time.	12-12-2022 (3pm)
3.	Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids.	Office of the Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, Bemin Srinagar
4.	Cost of Bid document (to be submitted in the form of DD /Online Payment Pledged to Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, JKPTCL Bemina Srinagar.	Rs.8500/-
5.	Cost of EMD( in the form of CDR/DD)	Rs. 1305000/= pledged to Superintending Engineer O&M-II (Transmission),

Bemina Srinagar.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per attached SBD, BOQ and

No: TLMD-VI/2915-17 Dated:-26.11.2022

ther documents uploaded on site.

TLMD-VI, Bemina Sgr.

### Trial starts in Norway for Putin ally's son who flew drone Numerous drone sightings have

The son of a Russian businessman L close to President Vladimir Putin denied any wrongdoing Tuesday at the start of his trial in northern Norway, where he is accused of violating a law that bars Russians from flying drones. Andrey Yakunin who holds both

a Russian and a British passport, was arrested in Hammerfest, in Arctic Norway, on October 17, after he had sailed around the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard and along the coast of Norway. The archipelago sits more than 800 kilometres (500 miles) north of the Norwegian mainland.

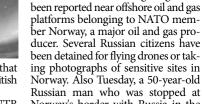
Police seized "drones and electronic devices" when raiding his sailing boat. The 47-year-old Yakunin had been filming with the drone while mountaineering, glacier walking and sailing, according to his lawyer John



Yakunin should be considered a British citizen, rather than Russian.

Norwegian news agency NTB said that Yakunin is charged with flying drones several times on Svalbard, where he was between August 3 and September 6. Yakunin is the son of Russian businessman Vladimir Yakunin, a longtime acquaintance of Putin, who was placed on the US State Department's sanctions list of Russian officials and businessmen following Russia's annexation of Crimea in

Yakunin remains in custody. His trial is expected to run until Friday.



Norway. Also Tuesday, a 50-year-old Russian man who was stopped at Norway's border with Russia in the Arctic north carrying two drones and cameras and other media equipment was sentenced to 120 days in prison, Norwegian media reported. No evidence was found by the

Oslo District Court that the man was engaged in espionage, Norwegian broadcaster TV2 said.

But by flying his drone a total of 47 times from late August until early October he was found guilty by the court of violating drone regulations relating to Russian citizens.

Ph.: 01731-274475-78 | Fax: 274375 Website: www.mmumullana.org | Email: info@mmumullana.org

ADMISSION NOTICE-MDS (2022-23)Applications are invited for admission to Stray Vacancy Round for MDS

course for the session 2022-23 in MM College of Dental Sciences & Research, a constituent Institute of Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana-Ambala out of the list of candidates as per DGHS, Govt. of India. Only the applicants who have filled the choice for the College are eligible to apply. Application Form can be downloaded from University website (www.mmumullana.org). Last date of receiving duly filled up application with processing fees of Rs.2000/- in form of DD in name of Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana is 30-11-2022 upto 4 PM. positively in University office. Physical counselling shall be held on 01.12.2022 at 9:00 A.M. onwards in the University Campu

DIPK-NB-5270/22

# **US rejects China objections** to South China Sea mission

The US Navy on Tuesday dismissed Beijing's protests over a "freedom of navigation operation" conducted near a Chinese-held island in the South China Sea, in the latest incident drawing new attention to one of the world's potential military flashpoints.

In an unusual move, the Navy's 7th Fleet issued a rebuttal to China's objections to Tuesday's mission, calling it "the latest in a long string of (Chinese) actions to misrepresent lawful U.S. Maritime operations and assert its excessive and illegitimate maritime claims" in the South China Sea. China claims the area virtual-

The Navy said that China's sweeping maritime claims pose a serious threat to the freedom of navigation and overflight, free trade and unimpeded commerce, and freedom of economic opportunity for South China Sea littoral nations. "As long as some countries continue to claim and assert limits on rights that exceed their authority under international law, the United States will continue to defend the rights and freedoms of the sea guaranteed to all," it said.

The Navy said its guided

"asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands, consistent with international law." China called the action

illegal and said it mobilized naval and air asserts to issue warnings and drive off the

cruiser

Chancelorsville on Tuesday

ship.
"The U.S. Military's actions have seriously violated China's sovereignty and security, which is further ironclad evidence of its pursuit of navigational hegemony and militarisation of the South China Sea," spokesperson for the Southern Theater Command, Air Force Col. Tian

Junli, was quoted as saying.
"China has indisputable sovereignty over the South China Sea islands and their

adjacent waters," Tian said.

The long-seething South China Sea territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have long been regarded as a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry in the region.

While the U.S. Lays no claims to the strategic waterway, where an estimated USD 5 trillion in global trade transits each year, it has said that freedom of navigation and overflight is in America's national interest. The sea is also home to rich fishing stocks and a potential wealth of energy and mineral resources.

In March, U.S. Indo-Pacific commander Adm. John C. Aquilino told The Associated Press that China has fully militarised at least three of sever-

al islands it built in the disputed waters with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment. He described it as an increasingly aggressive move that

Then in July, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on China to comply with a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's vast claims on historical grounds in the South China Sea.

threatens all nations operating

On a visit to the area earlier this month, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris reaffirmed Washington's commitment to defend the Philippines under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty. She also announced an additional aid of USD 7.5 million to Philippine maritime law enforcement agencies.

Nepal elections: Half dozen PM aspirants emerge in Nepali Cong

A bout half a dozen leaders of the Nepali Congress, which has emerged as the single largest party in Nepal's parliamentary polls, have expressed their desire to become the country's next prime minister, amidst growing pressure on the party to transfer the leadership to the younger generation.

Even as the leaders of the ruling five-party alliance intensified efforts to form a new government, it will take a few more days before the final results of the House of Representatives and seven provincial assembly elections held on November 20 are announced.

Half a dozen leaders within the Nepali Congress (NC), which has so far won 53 seats under the direct voting system, have expressed their aspirations to become the next prime minister, My Republica newspaper

So far results of 158 seats have been declared. The ruling alliance led by the NC is moving towards a clear majority, allowing them to form a new government. The counting of votes is almost complete, with the results of six seats yet to be announced

A party needs at least 138 seats to form a majority government in the 275-member House of Representatives.

The five-party ruling concluded that the electoral



alliance, which includes the NC, CPN-Maoist Centre, CPN-Unified Socialist, Loktantrik Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Janamorcha has a combined strength of 85 seats in the HoR under direct election, followed by the Opposition CPN-UML alliance with 57 seats.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, who is also the NC's president, discussed the issue of the government formation with Maoist Center Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" and Unified Socialist Chairman Madhav Kumar Nepal.

Following discussions with Prachanda and Nepal, Deuba agreed to continue the current alliance and move forward for the economic development and prosperity of the country by including other parties in the process.

Sources claim that the top leaders of the three parties coordination was partially successful in the recently held elections. They also claimed that the leaders are unanimous that after the results of the election, they will discuss the formation of the government at the centre and provincial level as well as other issues and move forward by forging an

With the continuation of the current coalition, it is estimated that there is a strong possibility that 76-year-old Deuba can become the Prime Minister again and that he will be elected as the leader of the NC par-

liamentary party.

However, NC's Ram
Chandra Paudel (78), Prakash Man Singh (66), Shashank Koirala (64), and 46-year-old General Secretary Gagan Kumar Thapa are likely to challenge Deuba's bid to become the Prime Minister for the sixth

Census: Christians minority in England



**AP** ■ LONDON

 ${
m F}^{
m ewer}$  than half the people in England and Wales consider themselves Christian, according to the most recent census the first time the country's official religion has been followed by a minority of the population.

Britain has become less religious — and less white — in the decade since the last census, figures from the 2021 census released Tuesday by the Office for National Statistics revealed.

Some 46.2% of the population of England and Wales described themselves as Christian on the day of the 2021 census, down from 59.3% a decade earlier. The Muslim population grew from 4.9% to 6.5% of the population, while 1.7% identified as Hindu, up from

More than 1 in 3 people — 37% — said they had no religion, up from 25% in 2011.

The other parts of the UK. Scotland and Northern Ireland, report their census results sep-

# OP prepares blitz of probes

**AP** ■ WASHINGTON

House Republicans are promising aggressive oversight of the Biden administration once they assume the majority next year, with a particular focus on the business dealings of presidential son Hunter Biden, illegal immigration at the US-Mexico border and the originations of COVID-19.

Republicans won't have enough votes to advance key legislative priorities if there is no Democratic buy-in, but their oversight of government agencies could put Democrats on the defensive and dampen support for the Biden administration going into the 2024 presidential elections.

Some of the lawmakers expected to lead those investigations once House Republicans select their new committee

JUDICIARY'S BIG ROLE

expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. Jordan helped form and then lead the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus and voted on Jan. 6, 2021, to object to counting Pennsylvania's electoral vote.

President Donald Trump

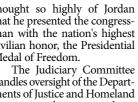
thought so highly of Jordan that he presented the congressman with the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

handles oversight of the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and issues such as crime, immigration and protection of civil liberties.

mittee would be the place where any effort would begin to administration, as some Republicans have been proposing for Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

administration in recent months make clear the committee will investigate the FBI's execution of a search warrant at Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence. He has ing look at the Biden administration's immigration policies and the origins of COVID-19.

investigated just so you have the truth," Jordan told conservative activists last summer at a conference. "Plus that will frame up



It's typically one of the most partisan committees on Capitol Hill, yet Jordan's combative style stands out even there. The comimpeach a member of the Biden

Jordan's inquiries to the

"All those things need to be the 2024 race when I hope and



I think President Trump is going to run again and we need to make sure that he wins.' **OVERSIGHT'S LONG LIST** 

Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., is expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee and has made clear that investigating President Joe Biden's son Hunter will be one of his top priorities. The tion of Hunter Biden's business dealings is to "determine whether these activities compromise U.S. National security and President Biden's ability to lead with impartiality.'

Comer has also been laying the groundwork for investigating the situation on the U.S-

Mexico border. He sent a letter to Mayorkas seeking an array of documents and communications pertaining to the administration's border policy. "We cannot endure another year of

the Biden Administration's failed border policies," the letter said. But that's just a slice the committee's focus.

"We're going to investigate between 40 and 50 different things," Comer said Sunday on NBC's "Meet The Press." "We have the capacity. We'll have 25 members on the committee, and we're going to have a staff close to 70. So we have the ability to investigate a lot of things.'

The federal government's spending in response to COVID-19 will also be scruti-

"We believe that there have been hundreds of billions, if not trillions of dollars wasted over the past three years, so that spans two administrations, in the name of COVID. We want to have hearings

on that. We want to try to determine what happened with the fraudulent unemployment insurance funds, the fraudulent money that's being spent for state and local governments in the COVID stimulus money," Comer said. AFGHANISTAN IN FOCUS

Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, is expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee,

which will be investigating the U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan. McCaul reiterated a request in mid-October for various documents and directed the State Department to preserve all records related to the chaotic withdrawal, which included the loss of 13 U.S. Service members killed during a suicide bombing 'The way it was done was

such a disaster and such a disgrace to our veterans that served in Afghanistan. They deserve answers to the many questions we have," McCaul said on ABC's "This Week." He added: "Why wasn't there a plan to evacuate? How did it go so wrong?"
SPOTLIGHT ON ENERGY

AND TAXES

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., is expected to serve as the next chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has the broadest jurisdiction of any Congress, from health care to environmental protection to national energy policy. Republicans on the committee have already spent months investigating the origins of COVID-19 and are expected to continue that work in the next Congress.

bombs, and soldiers responded

Later on Tuesday, a Palestinian driver rammed his

car into an Israeli pedestrian

near a West Bank settlement

north of Jerusalem in what the

army said was a deliberate

attack. Security camera footage

showed the vehicle turning

around and slowing in front of

the woman, before accelerating

and running her over. She was

thrown into the air as the dri-

with live fire

### Religious extremists desecrate Ahmadi graves in Pakistan

**PTI** ■ LAHORE

S everal graves belonging to the minority Ahmadi community have been desecrated allegedly by religious extremists in Pakistan's Punjab province, an official said on Tuesday, the second such incident against them in over three

Jamaat Ahmadiya Pakistan official Amir Mahmood told PTI that the tombstones of the graves were desecrated at Prem Kot graveyard in Hafizabad district, some 100 kilometres from Lahore. He said that those who damaged the graves also wrote "Ahmadi dog" on them, which is very distressing for the families.

"The Ahmadis living in Pakistan are not at peace even after their demise. The Ahmadis are not safe in their graves," he said. Mahmood demanded the

arrest of those involved in the desecration of graves of the minority community. In the past also, such inci-

dents have taken place in other Ahmadi graveyards in Punjab but not a single culprit was arrested or put on trial. On August 24, 16 graves of the Ahmadi community in Pakistan's Punjab province were allegedly desecrated by religious extremists for using Islamic symbols on gravestones at a cemetery in Chak 203 RB Manawala, Faisalabad district, some 150 kilometres from Lahore.

Ahmadis, are vulnerable in Pakistan and they are often targeted by religious extremists.

Minorities, especially

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that we are selling our property J-28, South Extn.-I, New Delhi-110049 to Sarvashri Prakash

residence of J-15 and B-19. South Extn.-I New Delhi-110049. Whereas in a chain of documents we have lost one ocument i.e. GPA by Shri Kuldip Singh in favour of Mrs. Shiv Kumari Singh aving No.24-0318920. If anyone found he document, kindly handover the same to Mohan Lal Varma, J-28, South Extn.-I New Delhi-110049 within 15 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the H.No. F-4, Sector-56, Noida, has been allotted in the name of Dharambir S/o has been allotted in the name of Dharambir S/c Late Sh. Dina Nath R/o A-140, Sector-19, Noida, G.B. Nagar (IJ-P), had sold the said property on the basis of GPA to the following persons:-A GPA was executed in favour of Smt. Suman Dhaka W/o Sh. Satya Prakash Dhaka R/o B-171, Sector-19, Noida G.B. Nagar (IJ-P), on 27.02.1992 at Sub Registrar Office Noida Book No-IV, Volume no. 1610/1617 on pages 35/453 to 458 at Document No. 1049. That the agreement to sell was not registered. The said property is going to be transferred in favour of Smt. Pushpa Sahay W/o Sh. Krishna Ballabh Sahay & Anand Sahay S/o Sh. Krishna Ballabh Sahay R/o N-123, Sector-12. Noida G.B.Nagar (IJ-P), Now, If any one has/have any objection he/she may submit his/hir, objection in the Residential Department of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the along-with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the

publication of this notice. Smt. Suman Dhaka

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Mursleen is the owner of Property of area measuring 170 Sq., Yds, out of Khasra No. 765, Situated in the area of Village Pavi Sadakpur, Loni, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P., vide GPA Will and ATS dated 10.06.2008. All persons are hereb informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its Sale /Mortgage /litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing or the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, IInd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum

Ref. i) Tender Notice No. 63/2022-2023 dated, 19,11,2022 ii) Tender No. 03220999A Due or

13.12.2022. (S.No.2)

iii) Tender No. 03220006 Due or

26.12.2022. (S.No.10) In reference to above mentioned tender

slip no. 1 has been incorporated in the tenders. All other terms & condition

emain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website www.irens.gov.in 3175/2022 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE **Punjab State Power Corporation Limited** 



(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 96461-17607)

Tender Enquiry No. 29/AHP-134(N)/MM-II/O&M
SE/MM-II/O&M/GHTP, Lehtra Mohabbat-151111 invites e-tender for the work of Operation & Maintenance and General Cleanliness of PLC based complete Ash Handling Plant of 2x210 MW Units (Stage-I) and 2x250MW Stage-II along with operation & routine maintenance of 1 No. 100 MT Electronic pitless weighbridge and issuing of Excise Gate Pass cum invoices to each dry fly ash loading trucks and work

of Decantation of LDO/HSD/HPS/HFO wagons / BTPN wagons/ Tankers and genera House Keeping and maintenance of Decantation system & storage tank area at GHTF For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.i om 30-11-2022 from 11:00 AM onwards

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any will be uploaded online a https://eproc.punjab.gov.in 76155/12/1158/2021/17731 GHTP-67/22



#### ADMISSION NOTICE-MD/MS (2022-23)

Applications are invited for admission to Stray Vacancy Round (NRI/MQ) for MD/MS course for the session 2022-23 in MM Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, a constituent Institute of Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana-Ambala out of the list of candidates as per DGHS, Govt. of India. Only the applicants who have filled the choice for the College are eligible to apply Application Form can be downloaded from University website (www.mmumullana.org).

Last date of receiving duly filled up application with processing fees of Rs.2000/- in form of DD in name of Maharishi Markandeshwar HS.2000/- In form of DD in name of maintainin maintainestime.

(Deemed to be University), Mullana is 30-11-2022 upto 4 RM. positively in University office. Physical counselling shall be held for vacant NRI seats on 01.12.2022 at 9:00 A.M. and for Management seats on 01.12.2022 from 11:00 A.M. in the University Campus.

REGISTRAR

Ph.: 01731-274475-78 | Fax: 274375 Website: www.mmumullana.org | Email: info@mmumullana.org

## China lockdown stir pauses as police flood city streets

With police out in force, there was no word of additional protests against strict government anti-pandemic measures Tuesday in Beijing, as temperatures fell well below freezing. Shanghai, Nanjing and other cities where online calls to gather had been issued were also reportedly quiet.

Rallies against China's unusually strict anti-virus measures spread to several cities over the weekend in the biggest show of opposition to the ruling Communist Party in decades. Authorities eased some regulations, apparently to try to quell public anger, but the government showed no sign of backing down on its larger coronavirus strategy, and analysts expect authorities to quickly silence the dissent.

In Hong Kong on Monday, about 50 students from mainland China sang at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and

some lit candles in a show of support for those in mainland cities who demonstrated against restrictions that have confined millions to their homes.

Hiding their faces to avoid official retaliation, the students chanted, "No PCR tests but freedom!" and "Oppose dictatorship, don't be slaves!" The gathering and a simi-

lar one elsewhere in Hong Kong were the biggest protests there in more than a year under rules imposed to crush a pro-democracy movement in the territory, which is Chinese but has a separate legal system from the mainland.

"I've wanted to speak up for a long time, but I did not get the chance to," said James Cai, a 29-year-old from Shanghai who attended a Hong Kong protest and held up a piece of white paper, a symbol of defiance against the ruling party's pervasive censorship. "If people in the mainland can't tolerate it anymore, then I cannot

#### 4 Palestinians killed by Israeli fire in occupied West Bank came under attack from suspects throwing rocks and fire-

Palestinian man on Tuesday Arammed his car into an Israeli soldier, seriously injuring her, before he was shot dead by Israeli police in the occupied West Bank. He was the fourth Palestinian killed in a series of violent incidents throughout

It was the latest bloodshed

in a mounting surge of Israeli-

Palestinian violence in the wake

of a Jerusalem bombing last

week that killed two Israelis. The

There is "no timeline" for

restoring internet access to

Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region, a senior government

internet service will be carried

alongside the resumption of its

phone and electricity services,

though no date has been set for

those goals, Ethiopia's Minister

for Innovation and Technology

UN's annual Internet Gover-

nance Forum being held this

He was speaking at the

The restoration of Tigray's

official said Tuesday.

Belete Molla said.

the city of Hebron, where fighting erupted between Israeli forces and residents. The Israeli army said clash-

es erupted after two army vehicles got stuck due to mechanical issues. It said soldiers opened fire after Palestinians hurled rocks and explosives. It said Palestinian gunmen also opened fire. The Palestinian Health Ministry said Mufid Khalil, 44, was killed and at least eight other people were wounded by

In a separate incident, two violence began overnight near brothers were killed by Israeli

to blackout in Tigray region

week in Ethiopian capital Addis

Ethiopia is designing a package

that is not only about internet

resumption but the resumption

of everything, because this is

what we need as a people, as a

government," Belete said of the

government of

Ababa. "The



near the village of Kafr Ein, west of Ramallah in the northern West Bank early Tuesday. The Palestinian news agency Wafa identified them as Jawad and Dhafr Rimawi, 22 and 21. The Israeli military said

troops operating in the village

'There is no timeline."

out has not yet been lifted.

Houston lifts boil-water

Houston officials lifted an order Tuesday that had called for more than 2 million people in the nation's fourthlargest city to boil their tap water before drinking or using it. The boil order had been in effect since Sunday, when a power outage at a purification plant caused

sure of businesses and schools, including the Houston Independent School District, which cancelled classes Monday and Tuesday.

Ethiopia offers no date for end than 2 million **AP** ■ HOUSTON

ver sped away.

South Africa earlier this month commits the government to restoring Tigray's basic services, but the communications black-

order affecting more

5 million people, has been mostly without internet, telecommunications and banking since war broke out between federal government troops and forces led by the Tigray People's Liberation Front in November essure to drop.

The order led to the clo-A ceasefire deal signed between the warring sides in

internet shutdown in Tigray. Tigray, home to more than

# Sensex, Nifty settle at fresh lifetime highs

### Maintain winning momentum for 6th day

The Sensex and Nifty ended at fresh lifetime peaks on Tuesday amid a largely firm trend in other Asian markets and continuous foreign fund inflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex gained 177.04 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at 62,681.84, its fresh record closing high. During the day, it jumped 382.6 points or 0.61 per cent to its lifetime intra-day peak of 62,887.40.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 55.30 points or 0.30 per cent to end at 18,618.05, its fresh record closing high.

"While the winning streak continued and key benchmarks scaled new highs, investors traded with caution in a slightly volatile market. There are worries about growing protests in China over the imposition of strict lockdowns, which markets fear could hurt the already slowing global economy.
"If the situation doesn't



improve, this could impact the market. But since India is in a slightly better position compared to other major economies, investors are willing to bet big on us," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. Among the Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever, Sun Pharma, Nestle, Dr Reddy's, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Titan and HCL Technologies were the major

IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finsery, Maruti, Power Grid and Larsen & Toubro were among the major laggards.

Brokers. In the broader market,

the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.39 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.29 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, FMCG jumped 1.73 per cent, metal (0.57 per cent), consumer durables (0.58 per cent) and healthcare (0.54 per cent) and healthcare (0.54 per cent).

Consumer discretionary, energy, industrials, telecommunication, auto, bankex and services were among the laggard. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher, while Tokyo settled lower.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly lower in the afternoon trade. Wall Street had ended in the negative territory on Monday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 2.45 per cent higher at USD 85.23 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought shares worth Rs 935.88 crore on Monday, as per exchange data.

# India to see significant economic activity over next 10 yrs: Nilekani

India will witness "significant economic activity" over the next decade on the back of open network for digital commerce (ONDC), record aggregating system and government measures like GST, FAStag and e-way bills, Infosys Technologies co-founder and chairman Nandan Nilekani said on Tuesday.

He made the remarks while speaking at the 7th edition of the Global Technology Summit organised by Carnegie

...There are three big things coming today, which will over the next decade have more of an impact (on India). I believe in the next 10 years India is going to see significant economic activity which is broad based, inclusive and democratised," he said.

The first is, ONDC second is account aggregator framework and the transformation happening in the logistics sector due to government initiatives like GST, Fastag and the e-way bill, Nilekani said.

Nilekani said he expects the ONDC -- an initiative of the government to promote an

open platform for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services through electronic networks -- to begin soon.

ONDC will allow the commerce business to be disintegrated for millions of small suppliers to sell on the network, for millions of small retailers to participate as small sellers on the platform to really turbocharge hyper-local commerce making their businesses more inclusive.

Secondly, account aggregator network which again fundamentally is an idea that data should ultimately be used by people who generate the data and therefore individuals, small businesses can use the data to get access to multiple services like credit and so forth. This record aggregating system is also a business for Índia's data empowerment architecture. It has a unique installation called consent manager.

'A consent manager on your behalf gets your data from different providers and provides it further for different benefits. For example, a small business can use his consent manager get his GST details, get bank statement from the bank, get tax status from the income tax system Nilekani also said that and give it in a secure manner to lender who can then take a decision to give credit. All this have Aadhaar IDs (identity). is fundamentally going to "India has led the world in democratise lending and other

Chairman explained. He said, there is transformation happening in the logistics sector due to government initiatives like GST, FAStag and e-way bill. All these have simplified the movement of goods and vehicles on the highways. The government has many plans to build multi-modal parks, all this will help reduce logistics cost.

financial services,"

Further, a variety of startup innovators, local delivery and intercity delivery are going to change that moment and delivery of goods, he said.

from about 600 million in 2014, today 1.3 billion Indians

creating digital public goods where everyone in the country can be in the digital economy...With Aadhaar...I was the founding chairman of Unique Identification Authority of India which did this project. By the time I stepped down in 2014, 600 million Indians had digital ID, and subsequently under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and his government today 1.3 billion Indians have digital IDs."

It is an online ID that can be used anywhere across India. It authenticates a person through biometrics and OTPs,

Rupee falls 3

paise to close

US dollar

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

at 81.71 against

### FinMin to meet heads of banks on Dec 5 to promote cross-border trade in rupee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has ■ called a meeting of CEOs of banks, including top six private sector lenders, on December 5 to discuss ways to promote cross-border trade in the rupee instead of the US dollar.

Besides, sources said the meeting to be attended by other stakeholders, including senior officials of external affairs and commerce ministries, will review the progress made on this front so far.

Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi will be chairing the meeting and is also likely to see attendance from representatives of the Reserve Bank of India and Indian Banks' Association (IBA), sources said. Following detailed guide-

lines from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on cross-border trade transactions in domestic currency in July, about nine special vostro accounts have



been opened with two Indian banks to facilitate overseas trade in the rupee.

Sberbank and VTB Bank the largest and second-largest banks of Russia, respectively -- are the first foreign lenders to receive the approval after the RBI announced the guidelines.

RBI as per the guidelines decided to put in place an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/imports in INR. Another Russian bank

Gazprom, which does not have its bank in India, has also opened this account with Kolkata-based UCO Bank.

The move to open the spe-

cial vostro account clears the deck for settlement of payments in the rupee for trade between India and Russia, enabling cross-border trade in the Indian currency, which the RBI is keen to promote. The RBI has allowed the

"Indian markets opened

on positive note following pos-

itive overall Asian markets..

During the afternoon session

the markets continued their

positive trend with heavy buy-

ing in FMCG and consumer

mistic as data showed that for-

eign portfolio investors have

infused funds worth Rs 32,344

crore in the Indian stock mar-

kets so far in the month of

November and became net

buyers again," said Narendra

Solanki - Head Fundamental

Research- Investment Services,

Anand Rathi Shares & Stock

"Sentiments remained opti-

durables stocks.

special vostro accounts to invest the surplus balance in Indian government securities to help popularise the new arrangement.

UCO Bank already has a vostro account-based facility in Iran. Gazprombank, or GPB, is a privately-owned Russian lender and the third-largest bank in the country by assets.

"Indian importers undertaking imports through this mechanism shall make payment in INR, which shall be credited into the special vostro account of the correspondent bank of the partner country against the invoices for the supply of goods or services from the overseas seller/supplier,' RBI had said earlier.

#### RBI to launch pilot of retail digital rupee on Dec 1

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said it will launch the first pilot for retail digital rupee (e?-R) on December 1, 2022, in which four banks including SBI and ICICI Bank will initially participate.

On November 1, the RBI had launched the first pilot in the digital rupee - wholesale segment. Announcing the opera-

tionalisation of Central Bank Digital Currency - Retail (e?-R) Pilot, the RBI said the pilot would cover select locations in closed user group (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants.

"The e-R would be in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender. It would be issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued," it

It would be distributed through banks and users will be able to transact with e?-R



through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks and phones/devices.

Transactions can be both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M).

The RBI further said the e?-R would offer features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality. "As in the case of cash, it

will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks," the central bank The pilot would initially

cover four cities -- Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar.

#### **Most rated Indian firms** can withstand weaker rupee, says Moody's

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

 $M^{\mathrm{ost\ rated\ companies\ in}}_{\mathrm{India\ can\ with stand\ a}}$ weaker rupee, although external factors like rising interest rates in developed economies and higher energy prices would increase currency volatility, Moody's Investors Service said on Tuesday. In a commentary on non-

financial companies in India, Moody's said on November 25, the Indian rupee touched 81.67 versus the US dollar, after depreciating almost 10 per cent since the beginning of the vear.

A steady rise in interest rates in developed economies combined with higher energy prices has resulted in a widening current account deficit, pressuring the rupee. "Although these external factors increase currency volatility, most rated companies in India have buffers to withstand the rupee's depreciation," Moody's said.

The weakening rupee is credit negative for Indian companies that generate revenue in the domestic currency but depend on US dollar debt to fund their operations. A weaker rupee will also hurt companies with dollar-denominated costs but rupeebased revenues.

"However, we expect the negative credit implications for rated companies to be limited or temporary," it said.

Most rated companies

have protections to limit the effect of currency fluctua-

These include natural hedges, some US dollar revenue and financial hedges, or a combination of these factors, which help limit the adverse effects on cash flow and leverage, even under a more severe deprecation sce-

The rupee slipped 3 paise to L close at 81.71 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as rising crude oil

prices in the international market weighed on forex market sentiment. However, a firm trend in domestic equities and a weak

American currency overseas capped the losses in the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 81.58 but later slipped into the negative terri-

During the session, it touched an intra-day high of 81.57 and a low of 81.74 against

the greenback. The local unit finally set-

tled at 81.71, registering a decline of 3 paise over its previous close of 81.68.

### States borrowing cost falls 7 bps to 7.61% as bond supplies dry up on Central payouts

 $T^{
m he}$  weighted average yield on states' market borrowings declined by 7 basis points to 7.61 per cent at Tuesday's auction on lower issuance as a number of states stayed away from the market.

States have been given two installments of the central tax devolution on November 10 and an installment of Rs 17,000 crore of the Rs 35,300 crore pending GST compensation on November 24, reducing the borrowing requirement of the

The issuances fell also because the states were using the Reserve Bank's liquidity



windows -- the ways and means advances (WMA) and the overdraft facility (OD) -which increased to 155 days and 57 days, respectively in September from 127 and 28 days, respectively in August.

At the latest auction of state government securities, only nine states went to the market raising Rs 12,700 crore,

this week, according to an analysis by Icra Ratings. However, cumulatively, the overall issuance is down only 2 per cent on-year.

Overall, November saw Rs 57,200 crore of state bond issuance only, which is 42 per cent lower than the Rs 98,200 crore indicated for this month in the auction calendar. In absolute terms, the gap between the actual and indicated issuance of Rs 41,000 crore in November is the largest monthly gap in FY23 so far, the agency's chief economist Aditi Nayar said in a note.

Accordingly, the weighted which is 56.4 per cent lower average cut-off/yield declined

per cent on Tuesday from 7.68 per cent in the last auction; the weighted average tenor also declined to 14 years from 17

years last week. In fact, the yields have been falling across the debt market as is visible from the benchmark 10-year G-sec (government securities) yield, which inched down by 1 bps to 7.28 per cent. But the weighted average cut-off of 10-year state debt fell more sharply - to the tune of 8 bps -- to 7.61 per cent this week. Accordingly, the spread between the 10-year state bonds and G-sec yield narrowed sharply to 33 bps from 41 bps last week.

### **CEA** projects 9% jump in peak power demand to 235GW in April 2023

PTI ■ KOLKATA

entral Electricity Authority (CEA) on Tuesday said peak power demand may shoot up by nine per cent to 235 GW in April 2023 and called for proper planning to avoid recurrence of energy crisis. In April this year, the peak power demand was around 215GW.

The country had witnessed unprecedented coal demand from the power sector during the summer this year after COVID curbs were eased.

"If we are not careful, a similar crisis may come next year. As per our estimate, demand in April 2023 will be higher. The same (demand) this year was around 215 GW,

which might go up to 230-235 GW," CEA chairperson Ghanshyam Prasad said at the 13th Energy Conclave 2022 organised by CII here.

Noting that the thermal power capacity of the country will go up till the transition period, he said the energy security for the country is the primary concern though India is committed to renewable

'Although, there are talks of phasing down thermal power capacity, this, by 2030, is likely to go up to 248 GW in the best-case scenario. It could go up to 256 GW if there is low support from hydro and renewable energy," Prasad said on the sidelines of the event.



India currently has close to 210 GW of thermal power capacity.

Despite the fact that the total coal-fired power capacity will rise, its share in the total energy mix will reduce to 50 per cent from 75 per cent now, and in terms of installed capacity, it will shrink to 30-35 per cent, he said.

Prasad stated that plans are afoot for plants with a total 30 GW capacity to be installed at coal mine pitheads amid logistics and cost concerns.

'CEA and the Power ministry together are working on a plan for 500 GW of renewable energy and 536 GW of transmission capacity for evacuation," he added.

# ONGC gas price to be capped at \$6.5 for 5 years, no change in Reliance-bp price

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agovernment-appointed gas price review panel, led by Kirit Parikh, is recommending a floor and ceiling price for natural gas produced from legacy fields of stateowned firms for five years to help moderate CNG and piped cooking gas rates.

State producers Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) will be paid a minimum or floor price of USD 4 per million British thermal unit and a cap or ceiling price of USD 6.5 as against the current rate of USD 8.57, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The report, which calls for

not tinkering with the existing pricing formula for difficult fields such as KG-D6 of Reliance Industries and bp plc, is under finalisation and may lower the ceiling price for ONGC gas marginally. The floor and ceiling price

will be applicable for five years although the initial thought was to keep it for three years, they said adding the ceiling price will have an annual escalation clause. The escalation being sug-

gested is USD 0.5 per mmBtu annually with no change pricing for first two years or a USD 0.25 per mmBtu annual escalation for five years. The escalation will be

adjusted to the foreign exchange rate, they said. The panel, which was the cost has long been recov-

tasked with suggesting a "fair price to the end-consumer'

while ensuring a "market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime for India's longterm vision for ensuring a gas-based economy", has favoured two different pricing regimes, sources said. For the legacy or old fields of ONGC and OIL -- where

uses rates in gas-surplus nations such as the US, Canada and Russia -- the committee is recommending a floor or minimum base price and cap or ceiling rates. prices do not fall below the

cost of production, as they did

last year, or do not spike to

ered and which are currently governed by a formula that This would ensure that Gas from legacy fields is

sold to city gas distributors who had to raise rates of CNG and piped cooking gas by over 70 per cent after prices went up from USD 2.90 per million British thermal unit till March to USD 6.10 in April and further to USD 8.57 last month, reflecting a surge in global rates. This rise in rates, which narrowed the gap between CNG and polluting diesel, had prompted the review.

Sources said the city gas will get top priority in the allocation of the gas from legacy fields, called APM gas. The sector will be in the 'no-cut' category, meaning supplies to other consumers will be cut first in case of a decline in pro-

### 'Govt needs to set up separate Ministry for pharma sector'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government needs to set L up a separate ministry for the pharma sector to encourage domestic producers and decrease Chinese imports, opined CEOs while participating in a discussion on the challenges being faced by the

In a CEO Roundtable at the 15th edition of CPHI & PMEC India held on Tuesday, the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of companies, including those from RPG Life Science and Fermenta Biotech, also discussed ways to shift the focus of the domestic industry

from volume to value. The leaders also pointed out the need to reduce dependency on China by using techOrganisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of

India (OPPI) Director General Vivek Sehgal said that the industry needs to collaborate and co-work and unite for collective voice on IPR related

The leaders also discussed having a single industry organ-

ances of the pharma industry before the government. Speaking at the inaugural session of the 15th edition of CPHI & PMEC India, Pharmexcil Director General

isation to put across the griev-

Ravi Uday Bhaskar said the Indian pharmaceutical exports have recorded an impressive growth of around 5 per cent in the current financial year (April-Oct 2022). "Despite having global challenges, we have exported over USD 25 billion in the biggest market, which means

about 30 per cent of our

exports are going to the US," he

added. Currently, the Indian pharma market is valued at around USD 50 billion, out of which almost USD 25 billion

constitutes the export market.

# SENEGAL ADVANCES TO LAST Netherlands beats 16, DEFEATS ECUADOR 2-1

Senegal can now put the disappointment of 2018 to rest.

Kalidou Koulibaly led his team into the last 16 of the World Cup on Tuesday by volleying home the winning goal in a 2-1 victory over Ecuador, four years after the African champions were eliminated from the group stage because of the amount of yellow cards they

The Senegal captain's rightfooted shot flashed past Ecuador goalkeeper Hernan Galindez in the 70th minute. Koulibaly sprinted toward the corner flag and slid on his knees to celebrate.

The result erased lingering memories from four years ago, when Senegal could only draw its last group game in Russia and missed the knockout stage because it had collected more vellow cards than Japan, which advanced instead.

In another must-win match in Qatar, Senegal took the lead after a first-half penalty from Ismaila Sarr. Moises Caicedo then scored for Ecuador to



make it 1-1 in the 67th. Ecuador would have advanced from Group A with a draw and Senegal would have been elim-

The Netherlands beat Qatar 2-0 in the other match to win the group. Senegal finished second while Ecuador and Oatar were

Senegal last advanced from the group stage at the 2002 World Cup, when the team reached the quarterfinals in its tournament debut and its only

other appearance at the event. Sarr was knocked over by a clumsy challenge from Ecuador defender Piero Hincapie for the penalty just before halftime. He side footed his shot into the bottom right corner in the 44th minute and almost the entire Senegal bench and coaching staff ran to celebrate with him near the corner flag. Senegal now has a chance to match, or even better, its scintillating run to the quarterfinals in 2002, when current coach Aliou Cisse was the captain and the team matched Africa's best performance at a World Cup.

The game against Ecuador at Khalifa International Stadium fell on the second anniversary of the death of Papa Bouba Diop, the popular player who scored the goal in Senegal's 1-0 victory over defending champion France in the opening game of

the 2002 World Cup.

To mark it, Koulibaly had
the number 19 written on his captain's armband — Diop's Tuesday. shirt number when he played for

# host Qatar 2-0



AP AL KHOR, QATAR

**¬**he Netherlands finished off the worst showing by any World Cup host nation by beating Qatar 2-0 on

The Dutch advanced to the round of 16 while the Qataris,

who were already eliminated, became the first host to lose all three of its group matches at soccer's biggest event.

Cody Gakpo put the Netherlands ahead midway through the first half with his third goal in as many matches and Frenkie de Jong doubled the

advantage five minutes into the second half.

The Netherlands is a threetime runner-up at the World Cup, and also finished third in 2014, while Qatar was making its tournament debut.

The Dutch failed to qualify

for the 2018 World Cup.

### Messi, Argentina play Poland for survival at World Cup

**AP** ■ DOHA

ionel Messi has already come Lionel Messi nas ancad, ...
to Argentina's rescue at the World Cup. He might just have to do it all over again. Another emotionally

charged evening awaits Messi and the soccer-mad south American nation that worships him when Argentina meets Poland on Wednesday for a match with so much on the line. For Messi, who is playing in

likely his last World Cup. For Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, who might also be too old when soccer's biggest tournament rolls up next in

And for the World Cup as a whole. Because who, really, doesn't want to see Messi - one of the game's greatest ever players — in the late stages of a tournament that is heating up so

tations at play for the Group C finale: A win for the Argentines and they are sure to advance, likely as the group winners. A draw, and they can either finish



in second place behind Poland or be squeezed out by either Saudi Arabia or Mexico, who are playing in a match taking place concurrently.

A loss? Well, that just doesn't bear thinking about for anyone associated with Argentina. The team wouldn't just be elimmight never be seen in the Albiceleste's sky blue-and-white jersey again.

for Argentina fans to take. It's after turning his ankle late on. Denmark in its decisive final

why tears were shed on the field, among the technical staff and among the fanbase after Messi scored the crucial second-half goal to set Argentina on its way to a 2-0 win over Mexico on

That victory meant Argentina bounced back from its shocking 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia in its opening match and now has a fighting chance to avoiding a first group-stage exit since 2002.

"Now another World Cup has begun," said Messi, who will hope to score for the third straight match at this World Cup and has netted 13 goals for Argentina in 2022 — already a career-high haul in a single calendar year.

Concerns about Messi's health have dogged the seventime world player of the year at the World Cup, starting from when he trained alone for two game. He played the full 90 minutes against Saudi Arabia and also in the Mexico game, which That scenario is too much he finished in some discomfort



### Australia plays Denmark for last 16 spot

Ccenes of wild celebrations Sfeaturing flares and fire are not the norm in Australia after World Cup matches.

Yet that was exactly what happened in Melbourne's Fed Square after the Socceroos beat Tunisia on Saturday for just their third win in 18 World Cup Now, Australia is after

something even bigger: reaching event - something it has achieved only once, in 2006.

Australia faces European Championship semifinalist

group game Wednesday, with the winner likely advancing.

"It's been an amazing reaction from our result. And so there should be," said Australia striker Mitchell Duke, who scored with a header in the 1-0 win against Tunisia.
"But we haven't achieved

anything yet.

"It was amazing to get that result and get that third win in a World Cup for Australia. But we're not happy and satisfied

"We want more and we do believe that we can get out of the group and we can get a result against Denmark and that's our main objective now."

### Ronaldo denied goal, **Portugal beats Uruguay 2-0**



AP LUSAIL (QATAR)

Cristiano Ronaldo thought he scored but the goal was eventually credited to Bruno Fernandes in Portugal's 2-0 win over Uruguay on Monday, a result that secured the team a place in the last 16 of the World

Fernandes curled in a cross from the left that barely went over the head of Ronaldo and bounced into the far corner of give Portugal a 1-0 lead.

Ronaldo wheeled away in celebration, believing he had scored his ninth World Cup goal and second of this year's tournament. After repeated close-up replays, it was awarded to Fernandes, who added a second goal from the penalty spot in Jose Maria Gimenez.

It was a second straight victory for Portugal, which became the third team to reach the last the net in the 54th minute to 16 after France and Brazil.

Uruguay has one point from two matches and needs to beat Ghana on Friday to stand a chance of advancing.

The match was briefly interrupted just before the goal by a protestor carrying a rainbow flag and wearing a blue Superman Tshirt that said "SAVE "RESPECT FOR IRANIAN WOMAN" on the back.

Security officials chased the person down and the flag was dropped on the field.

### Without Neymar, Brazil edges Switzerland 1-0

 $B^{
m razil}$  overcame the absence of Neymar to beat Switzerland 1-0 and advance to the round of the 16 of the World Cup on Monday.

Casemiro scored in the

83rd minute with a shot from inside the area to put Brazil in the last 16 with a match to spare in Group G.

Brazil forward Neymar stayed at the team's hotel treating a right ankle injury sustained in the opener in Qatar. Team doctors have not yet given a timetable on his return or said if he will return at all. The win gave Brazil six points from two matches, leaving Switzerland with three. Serbia and Cameroon, which drew 3-3 earlier Monday, have point

Switzerland, which had no attempts on target, needs a win in the last match against Serbia to guarantee its spot in the next stage. A draw may be enough depending on the match between Brazil and Cameroon.

The result extended Brazil's unbeaten run in the group stage to 17 matches, with 14 wins and three draws. It has lost only one of its last 29 group games, with the last defeat coming against Norway in 1998 in France.

Switzerland had lost only two of its last 13 group matches at the World Cup.

It was an even match early on, with both teams trying to control the game but not creating many significant chances. Without its injured playmaker, Brazil struggled to get near Switzerland's area until Casemiro scored with a nice one-timer into the far corner,



using the outside of his right foot in a shot that deflected slightly off defender Manuel

Brazil coach Tite replaced Neymar with midfielder Fred, freeing up Lucas Paquetá to

play closer to the attack. Éder

#### Neymar to miss Brazil's last group game at World Cup

▼eymar will miss Brazil's last group game at the World Cup because of his right ankle injury, the team doctor said

Rodrigo Lasmar said the Brazil forward will not recover in time to face Cameroon in the Group G game on Friday.

Neymar missed Monday's game against Switzerland, when Brazil won 1-0 to secure its spot in the round of 16. A draw against Cameroon will be enough to give Brazil first place

in the group. Lasmar did not give a timetable on Neymar's return, and did not say if the player would return at all. Brazil's coaching staff, though, reiterated Tuesday that the Paris Saint-

Germain forward was expect ed to play again at the tournament in Qatar.

Neymar, who damaged ligaments in his ankle during Brazil's opening match against Serbia, was the only player who didn't go to Stadium 974 to watch the match against Switzerland. He stayed at the team hotel for physiotherapy treatment.

Lasmar said Neymar also had a fever on Monday, which "was under control" and would not affect his ankle treatment.

Lasmar said right back Danilo, who also is nursing an ankle injury, and left back Alex Sandro, who had to leave Monday's match with a muscle injury, also won't play against

defender at Real Madrid, came in for Danilo in the right back position, instead of veteran Dani Alves. With Paquetá not being able to create much for Brazil, Tite began the second half with Rodrygo in the team. Richarlison, who scored both of Brazil's goals in the opener, was not as effective and was substituted in the second half.

Vinícius Júnior thought he had given Brazil the lead with a shot from inside the area after a pass by Casemiro in the 64th, but video review determined there was offside in the buildup. Few had noticed it until the VAR call was announced at Stadium 974. Both teams won their opening matches, with Brazil defeating Serbia 2-0 and Switzerland beating Cameroon 1-0. Brazil and Switzerland also met in the group stage in 2018, drawing 1-

#### SHAQIRI'S MARK

Xherdan Shaqiri made a national record 11th World Cup appearance. He had been level with Valon Behrami and Stephan Lichtsteiner.

Shaqiri, who had a hat trick against Honduras at the 2014 tournament in Brazil, also matched Behrami's record of appearing at four World

Cups.
Shaqiri and Granit Xhaka were both trying to become the first Swiss player to score in three World Cups. **LIGHTS OUT** The lights dimmed for a few seconds before halftime at Stadium 974, prompting a brief stoppage in play. Brazil was

about to take a corner when it

suddenly started turning dark

at the temporary stadium.

### MEXICO FACES EARLY WORLD CUP EXIT AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA

 $M_{
m suddenly}^{
m exico}$  is going to have to suddenly find goals — and perhaps even several of them — to extend its knockoutround streak at the World Cup.

Mexico has reached the round of 16 at the last seven World Cups, tied for the longest current streak with Brazil. But in Qatar, El Tri sits at the bottom of Group C ahead of a must-win match against Saudi Arabia on Wednesday night at Lusail

The last time Mexico played at soccer's biggest tournament and didn't advance out of its group was in 1978.



But it's not quite as simple as winning: El Tri must also get help. They'll need Poland to beat Lionel Messi and Argentina at the exact same time Wednesday night some at Stadium 974.

That's the easiest way forward for Mexico - beyond that, it gets complicated. If Mexico does its job and wins but Argentina, one of the tournament's favorites, also wins, then

The problem is, Mexico has no goals yet in Qatar.

In fact, El Tri hasn't scored for 384 straight minutes at the World Cup, dating back to their second group stage match at the 2018 tournament in Russia

"In the next game we have no more chances," forward Henry Martin said. "We have to score the goals that we can, and not what happens in the other

The drought was extended Saturday night with a 2-0 loss to Messi and Argentina. And neither team scored in the Mexico's opener against Poland.

### Swiss loss sets up enticing rematch with Serbia at World Cup

witzerland's loss made its upcoming World Cup rematch all the more enticing, and with a lot more on the line.

Ever since the match schedule was made in April, the Group G game between Switzerland and Serbia has been one to keep an eye on. Not just because of the talented players on both teams, but because of the political tensions they brought on the field when they met at the last World Cup.

Four years ago in Russia, Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka celebrated his goal against Serbia by making a double-headed eagle with his hands — thumbs representing the heads of the two eagles, fingers fanned to look like feathers. The figure is considered to be an Albanian nationalist



Xherdan Shaqiri added another goal in the final minute of the game, and did the same thing with his hands as the Swiss won 2-1 in the second of the three group match-

Xhaka and Shaqiri both have ethnic Albanian heritage and family ties to Kosovo.

They were teenagers growing up in Switzerland when Kosovo declared independence from Serbia, something the Serbs still don't recognize 14 years later.

Both players were fined by FIFA during the tournament, and the government of Albania opened a bank account for people to contribute toward paying the 10,000 Swiss

franc (\$10,500) penalties. On Friday, only one of the two teams will be able to advance to the round of 16 in Qatar. Brazil, which beat the Swiss 1-0 on Monday and defeated Serbia 2-0 last Thursday, has already assured itself of a spot

in the knockout round. The Swiss likely need only a draw at Stadium 974, and Shaqiri should be available to play after sitting out the match against Brazil with a muscle injury.

# THE SUN & PLAY: DESPERATE INDIA HOPE FOR FULL GAME IN FINAL ODI

Prustrated by the fickle weather, a desperate Indian team would pray for a rain-free final ODI against New Zealand in its bid to finish on an even keel in a series that neither had context nor any major take-

There is forecast of scattered showers in Christchurch and nothing can be more irritating than playing a series where the Gen-Next of Indian cricket hardly got any game time to show their prowess.

Out of five white-ball games that also includes three-match T20I series, two matches (one T20I and one ODI) didn't yield any result and one game (T20I) was curtailed significantly and ended in a tie due to Duckworth-Lewis method.

With the series in line, Shikhar Dhawan and his men would aim to put up an impactful performance at the picturesque Hagley Oval ground, which has traditionally helped the seam bowlers and has an average score in the 230 range in

the past few years.

The Indian batting in first Powerplay (first 10 overs) has been much talked about and even though skipper Dhawan has been a prolific ODI opener

stands that to secure his place for the next World Cup, his approach needs a sea change.

His young opening partner Shubman Gill, however, has shown more intent in shot selection with scores of 50 and 45 not out in the two games. So has Indian cricket's cur-

rent blue-eyed boy Suryakumar Yadav, whose three sixes in a short 12.5 overs of play at the Seddon Park, did send the Indian supporters into raptures.

But the bigger challenge for Indian batting line-up will be to put up an above par score against New Zealand on a ground where swing bowlers have ruled the roost in the past few ODI games.

And for that, not just the openers or Surya but the likes of Rishabh Pant also needs to step up and be counted.

Rishabh's ODI record is pretty impressive but currently, the runs have dried up since the tour of England (primarily in 20 over cricket) and he is one player, who needs to fire in order to ensure that Indian middle-order looks competitive against a quality Black Caps attack.

Rishabh's presence and lack of bowling options among the specialist batters also effectively mean that Sanju Samson has



to once again sit out, like the last game where Deepak Hooda, because of his all-round skills, was preferred over the immensely popular cricketer from Kerala. wash-out, it will be interesting if interim head coach VVS Laxman decides to shuffle with the playing XI, especially the

bowling attack where Kuldeep Yadav is yet to get an opportunity. But to leave out either Yuzvendra Chahal or Washington Sundar will be doing them a dis-

 ${
m B}^{
m CCI}$  ethics officer Vineet Saran has served a conflict of

interest notice to board president

asked Binny to file a written res-

ponse by December 20 against

the conflict of interest allegations

Gupta, has alleged that Binny is

conflicted as his daughter-in-law

works for Star Sports which has

home season media rights for

that a complaint has been

"You are hereby informed

levelled against him.

Indian cricket.

PTI has learnt that Saran has

The complainant, Sanjeev

BCCI serves conflict of

interest notice to its president

Shardul Thakur looked pedestrian in the opening ODI in Auckland and, in all likelihood, Arshdeep Singh, Deepak Chahar and the fiery Umran Malik will continue to lead the pace attack.

For the New Zealand pacers Matt Henry, Tim Southee and Lockie Ferguson, there couldn't be a better venue to exploit the frailties in India's batting to the fullest. Similarly, the Indian bowling attack would get a conducive bowling track to ask some probing questions to the likes of Tom Latham and Kane Williamson, who have proved to be the thorn in flesh during the

India: Shikhar Dhawan (captain), Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Deepak Hooda, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Deepak Chahar, Arshdeep Singh, Shardul Thakur and Umran Malik. New Zealand: Kane Williamson (captain), Finn Allen, Devin Conway, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Tim Southee, Matt Henry, Adam Milne, Jimmy Neesham, Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson.

received under Rule 39(2)(b) of

the Rules and Regulations of

BCCI by the Ethics Officer,

BCCI for breach of Rule 38 (1)

(i) and Rule 38(2) of the said

rules, constituting an instance of

"conflict of interest" on your part.

your Written Response to the

accompanying complaint on or before 20/12/2022. The said

response should be supported by

a duly executed affidavit," wrote

Saran in the notice dated

November 21. World Cup win-

ner Binny had become the 36th

BCCI president in October,

replacing former India captain

Sourav Ganguly.

'You are directed to file

### Umran's speed helps me to deceive batters with lesser pace: Arshdeep

PTI CHRISTCHURCH

Their bowling styles are like chalk and cheese but Arshdeep Singh finds Umran Malik's frightening pace beneficial as the batters are always struggling to adjust due to the marked difference in their respective speed.

The Jammu pace sensation is one of the fastest bowlers in world cricket alongside South African Anrich Nortje, Englishman Mark Wood to name a few, who regularly hit 150 clicks.

Arshdeep is more of a swing bowler, who normally when in rhythm, hits around early 130 kmph mark.

Both the IPL performers made their ODI debut against New Zealand in the opening game in Auckland and the Punjab man wants the partner-

ship to continue forever.

"It is always good to bowl alongside Umran and he is also fun-loving so the dressing room atmosphere remains nice,' Arshdeep said ahead of the third and final ODI against New Zealand, here on Wednesday.

"As far as bowling is concerned, I get a lot of benefit from Umran's bowling as batters need to adjust heavily from 155 kmph to 135 kmph. And they get deceived by pace and we enjoy bowling with each other. I expect we are able to continue this partnership for longest time," he said.

Having made a name in T20Is, Arshdeep doesn't want to change too much while playing the 50-over format.

"My way of bowling is attack at the start and defensive at the end in T20Is. Not very different in ODIs for me and wherever I get a chance, I will try to do well.' Fans have a right to criticise

has already seen the ugly side of fandom when he was mercilessly trolled on social media after India's loss to Pakistan in an Asia Cup game in Dubai. A drunk fan had also abused him while he was getting into the team bus.

But showing maturity beyond years, the 23-year-old said that he has learnt to take everything in his stride.

If you do well, you get love and praise and when you don't, the fans have the right to criticise us. They also love the game and the team. You will get love and brickbats both along the way but key is to accept both with equal humility," Arshdeep said. Recently in Australia, he got

a lot of support and there were quite a number of devoted Arshdeep fans, who would have his photographs printed on their

"It feels great to see (people wearing T-shirt with his photo) and pen lyrics dedicated to him but focus is always on the game, good or bad, one needs to conluct one's self well," he said. For him staying in the

moment is the most important

thing.
"When you play the game, you want to enjoy rather than think that I want to be the main bowler of the side. You want to stay in the moment rather than think where I will be one year down the line. If you stay in present, it helps you as a player," said Arshdeep, who has 33 wickets in

About the rain-affected series, he said that some things are beyond anyone's control.

'Weather is not in our control and even during breaks one needs to be mentally prepared. We need to follow the process and there should be no let up in preparation," he concluded.

### **Unbeaten West Indies upbeat** before 2-test Australian series

The West Indies have had lit-tle success in the shortest form of cricket lately but veteran Jason Holder says that won't diminish the test team's ambitions for the two-match series against Australia beginning Wednesday.

The Caribbean side lost in the preliminary stage of the Twenty20 World Cup in late October in Australia, beaten by both Ireland and Scotland. Those losses meant the team which won the T20 World Cup in 2012 and 2016 didn't qualify for the main tournament.

Coach Phil Simmons has quit and the two tests in Australia — the second a daynight match beginning Dec. 8 in Adelaide — will be his last in

Holder says the test team is going in the opposite direction — unbeaten this year with series desh and England.

"If you look at the nucleus of this test team it's been together for the last five or six years, which is really important," Holder told Australian Associa ted Press from Perth, Western Australia, site of the first test. "In comparison to the other (West Indies) sides, there is probably a little bit more chopping and changing.
"Our focus right now is test

cricket. We put the Twenty20 World Cup behind us and we are just try to focus on that."

Five players are in the test squad that played on the T20 team, including fast bowler Alzarri Joseph. As a 19-year-old, Joseph impressed Australian players during a 2016 net session in the Caribbean. Joseph will be



making his first test appearance in Australia — the Caribbean side hasn't play for the Frank Worrell Trophy for seven years Down Under.

"We saw him just bowling thunderbolts," Australia opener David Warner said of the 2016 net session. "On those wickets. . . It was a bit daunting. We just didn't know where he'd come

Indies two months later and has since taken 62 wickets in 22 tests. "He was young back then.

It's good to see him evolve from then," Warner told AAP. "He's a fantastic bowler, he's got a good record. I faced him in the IPL when he first came in and took (six wickets) against us.

"That's what West Indies cricket needs, they need guys Joseph debuted for the West speeds . . . Back to what they

were in the '80s and '90s." Both the new stadium in Perth and the Adelaide Oval are

expected to favor fast bowlers. Holder confirmed that Tagenarine Chanderpaul, son of West Indies legend Shivnarine, would debut for the visitors.

Meanwhile, Warner said he will reassess his future at the end of the test summer in Australia, with the opener likely to be the first of the current team to retire from red-ball cricket.

Warner indicated earlier this month he could retire from test cricket within a year and play on until the 2024 T20 World Cup. The 50-over World Cup is also scheduled for next

year in India.
"They're the whispers,"
Warner said when asked if this might be his last test season in Australia. "I did make some comments but these legs are still fresh. I'm still scoring runs. I'll have to assess again at the end

in Pakistan after 17 years

### There are no cowards in Australian team: Cummins hits back at Langer

**PTI** ■ PERTH

¬est captain Pat Cummins on ■ Tuesday strongly hit back at former coach Justin Langer, saying there are "no cowards" in the Australian team and added that his unsavoury comments won't distract them ahead of their Test series against West Indies.

Last week, Langer had lasted out at the "cowards" in the national team, saying he "hated"

that some players were going behind his back and leaking details from inside the dressing

'There's no cowards in an Australian cricket team, not ever," Cummins told reporters on Tuesday ahead of their opening Test here.

"I'd probably never disclose private conversations. I think it's disappointing sometimes the focus gets drawn to off-field issues but it hasn't really affected our team.

Langer had stepped down as chief coach in February after he was not offered a long-term contract extension by Cricket

The 52-year-old had faced complaints about his "rigid" coaching style from senior players such as Aaron Finch, Pat Cummins and former Test captain Tim Paine.

However, Langer later retracted from his comments. saying "they're like my little The lone survivor of England's last test tour of Pakistan 17 years ago is feeling blessed to be

James Anderson has worked hard on his fitness for the last five-six years to still be spearheading England's bowling attack at the age of 40, and prolong a test career that started in 2003 against Zimbabwe at Lord's. "I'm very fortunate that I'm naturally quite fit," he said on Tuesday.

"I feel very fortunate that I'm still here, very fortunate to be able to be back in Pakistan after so long?

The fast bowler didn't play in any of the three tests on that 2005 tour that Pakistan won 2-0, but he'll be front and center in the attack without long-time partner Stuart Broad when the latest three-match series starts on Thursday.

"We've ȟad an amazing welcome," Anderson said.

"All the guys are really excited to be back here, even the guys that weren't here 17 years ago understand how big a tour this is in terms of world cricket, not just the two teams that are



Anderson excited to be back

Anderson has 667 wickets from a staggering 175 test matches, but if subcontinent pitches play to stereotype then they will challenge the aggressive plans of England captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum. "The challenge is trying to find something in unresponsive pitches," Anderson

From 28.11.2022 at 11.00 hours to 14.12.2022

ing Pakistan after the 2009 attack on the Sri Lanka team bus and Pakistan hosted England in test series twice in the United Arab Emirates. England is now trying to figure out how the pitch will behave.

Anderson admits he has little idea after two practice sessions at Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi, venue for the first test. In Rawalpindi over the last three years. Pakistan has beaten Bangladesh and South Africa while drawing tests against Sri Lanka and most recently Australia. "I'm not a great pitch reader," Anderson said.

One thing we have noticed is that there's been a bit of dew around in the morning when we got here for practice . . . Might be a little bit of moisture in the wicket early on. Well, I'll be hop-

Name of the work

2. Class of Contractor

3. Time for Completion

**Detail Projects** 

OIPR: 25097/11/0039/2223

5. Other Details

O-1340

#### **Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice** OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KORAPUT (R&B) DIVISION, KORAPUT Bid Identification No. S.E [R&B) KPT-11/2022-23

**Building works** 

. Total No. of works

Rs. 18.08 lakhs to 48.42 lakhs. 03 (Three) Months Period of completion

Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal

upto 17.00 hours 6. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal 14.12.2022 upto 17.00 hours

15.12.2022 at 12.00 hours Date of opening of Tender Superintending Engineer, Koraput (R&B) Division

Further details can be seen from the e-procuren ent portal https://tendersorissa.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer OIPR: 34096/11/0010/2223 Koraput (R&B) Division

Letter No.-4837 Date :- 23.11.2022

e mail - serw\_ctc@yaho e mail - <u>serw\_ctc@vahoo.com</u>

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK** 

#### e-Procurement NOTICE

on-line for

No. Tender Online RWC - 31/22

: Building Work

: A Class contractor

As specified in the Column-5 of the Annexure

As per Annexure attached

Date & Time of openin Availability of Tend clarification

Australia thrashed India 7-0 in Chief Will be Tender Onlin 20.12.2022 21.12.2022 a Construction Engineer, Rura Works Circle, P.M. urther details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in Sd/-Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Cuttack

### FOCUS ON DEFENCE AS INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM FACES FORMIDABLE AUSTRALIA IN 3RD TEST

**PTI** ■ ADELAIDE

The Indian men's hockey L team will look to address its defensive woes when it takes on world's number one side Australia in the third Test here on Wednesday, hoping to bounce back from back-to-back defeats in the five-match series here on Wednesday.

A series of defensive lapses saw world number five India go down in the first two Tests despite taking early lead and this will be area which the team will need to improve in the third match. India conceded a lastminute goal to lose the opening Test 4-5. In the second game, they were leading through skip-per Harmanpreet Singh's thirdminute goal but were blown away in the final quarter to go down 4-7.

This series is crucial for both the teams as it's a part of preparations for the World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in Odisha, starting January 13.



"We have gone through the est of gaps, hence we must errors we have made in the first structure our defence better,' two matches. Australia is so Harmanpreet said. quick in converting from the set plays even if they find the slight-

Both matches were fiercely fought with India and Australia

They have utilized speed to their advantage and have scored a total of 20 goals in just two matches. The two matches also

saw many penalty corners being traded between both teams. "When it is high-scoring matches and both teams are

going full steam in their attack, one too many penalty corners are created," Harmanpreet said. "While we have managed to

create penalty corners and also

score from it, we have given away quite a few PCs as well which need to be curtailed in the upcoming matches.' The series is the first meeting between the two teams after

the CWG final in Birmingham. Talking about the takeaways from the two games, Harmanpreet said, "Good interception and counter attacks continue to be our plus point. We have also been on par with Australia in terms of speed and fitness.