

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

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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 ■
NEW DELHI

Israeli 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 definitely 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 filmmaking."

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. Here's why: pic.twitter.com/8YpSQGMXIR — 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 @IFFIIndia as well as the trust, respect, and warm hospitality they have bestowed on you," he added.

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 felt 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

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

Sarma slammed criticism of The Kashmir Files at IFFI, saying, "Jury members aren't god. We found the film 'The Kashmir Files' to be nice and promoted it"

"We have seen ourselves what happened in Kashmir, what authority do they (jury members) have to slam the movie," news agency ANI quoted Sarma as saying on Tuesday.

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, people 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," he 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 past)".

"You can critique a film artistically but to term the truth about the brutality faced by the Kashmiri Pandits propaganda is shameful," he added.

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

A day after former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said both Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok 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 observation.



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 Jaipur on Tuesday

PTI

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 Jodo 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. I 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 both- er 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- etisation.

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

Feted director Lapid's run-in not one-off case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

He headed the international jury at IFFI, has been to India earlier and is a much awarded filmmaker. But it was not until his blunt criticism of "The Kashmir Files" that Israeli director Nadav Lapid hit the headlines, and had people scouring the net to find out more about him.

The Tel Aviv born and Paris-based filmmaker's comments describing the movie as vulgar and a propaganda during the closing ceremony of the 53rd International Film Festival of India in Goa on Monday propelled him straight into a raging row.

Lapid, who said he was disturbed and shocked at "The Kashmir Files" being chosen for the Indian Panorama sec-

tion, is clearly a man used to speaking his mind — and doesn't matter if he ruffles a few feathers in the bargain. Doesn't matter either if India's Minister and its top stars might be in the audience.

The 47-year-old director of "Policeman" and "The Kindergarten Teacher", chosen to head the international jury at IFFI 2022, had just a few days ago aired his views on the Indian national anthem being played at the opening ceremony of the festival.

"I completely admire the fierce patriotism, but that was an overwhelming experience for an artist at an international event," the writer-director told *The Peacock*, the flagship publication of the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), one of

the organisers of the event along with Information and Broadcasting ministry and National Film Development Corporation.

In the interview, published during the November 20-28 festival, he also said he is not participating as an ambassador of Israel but an artist willing to experience different cultures.

"If I wanted to represent Israel, I would have gotten into diplomacy," said the director often viewed as anti-establishment in his country.

Unusual for a man in showbiz, Lapid mostly stays away from social media platforms and shuns the media glare.

Based in France, Lapid is the son of writer Haim Lapid and film editor Era Lapid.

Pandav Nagar murder: Hunt on for weapon

Son seen walking with man's body parts in bag; Anjan was killed for lewd behaviour to stepdaughter, daughter-in-law

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police is yet to recover the weapons used by a woman and her son for killing and chopping the body of her husband into 10 pieces in Pandav Nagar area.

Sources in the Delhi Police said the weapons of murder are yet to be recovered and further investigation is underway. The duo is currently in the police custody. Sources said a team of Delhi Police is likely to visit Bihar to record the statements of Anjan's family and his children. The case bears eerie similarities with the murder of 26-year-old Shradha Walkar by Aftab in the national Capital.

The police have accessed CCTV footage that shows



Deepak walking with a bag in his hand late at night.

The police said this is one of his trips to throw away the body pieces. His mother Poonam is seen following him. Another clip shows them during the day, apparently to identify spots to dispose of the pieces. The trigger for the grisly crime was the fact that Anjan had alleged ill intentions towards her stepdaughter and Deepak's wife as well, and he

was also sending Poonam's earnings to his other wife and eight children in Bihar. Poonam worked as a domestic help in the area.

In April, Poonam hatched a conspiracy to eliminate Anjan with the help of her son Deepak, said the police, adding that the duo on May 30 served alcohol laced with sleeping pills to him.

The mother-son stabbed Anjan with a dagger and a knife over the neck, chest and abdomen, the police said, adding that after the murder, the body was kept in a room.

The blood got drained from the body by the next morning and they then started cutting it into 10 pieces and kept them in the fridge.

Adani wins bid to redevelop largest slum Dharavi

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Adani Group has emerged as the highest bidder for the redevelopment of Dharavi, one of the world's largest slum.

The Adani group's bid of ₹5,069 crore for the 259-hectare Dharavi Redevelopment Project was much higher than second-placed DLF's quote of ₹2,025 crore, said chief executive officer of the project SVR Srinivas.

"We will now be sending the details to the Government, which will consider and give final approval," Srinivas told PTI, adding that the Eknath Shinde Government will approve it in a couple of weeks.

The bid is for the entire

₹20,000-crore project, and the total timeline for the project is seven years to rehabilitate the 6.5 lakh slum dwellers who are spread over a 2.5 sqkm area right now, he said. The project, which will help the winning bidder to book high revenues by selling lakhs of square feet of residential and commercial space in central Mumbai, has been in limbo for many years now because of its complexities.

Eight bidders, including entities from South Korea and the UAE, had attended a pre-bid meeting held in October and three of them actually bid for the project. Naman Group, a city-based developer, was the third whose bid did not qualify.

Vistara to merge into AI; Singapore Airlines to buy 25.1% stake

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Tata group on Tuesday announced the merger of Vistara with Air India under a deal wherein Singapore Airlines will also acquire a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India, marking a major consolidation in India's fast-growing aviation space.

The deal, which will make Air India the country's largest international carrier and second-largest domestic carrier, is expected to be completed by March 2024, subject to regulatory approvals.

Currently, Tata Group owns a 51 per cent stake in Vistara and the rest is with

Singapore Airlines (SIA). Singapore Airlines (SIA) said it would be investing ₹2,058.5 crore in Air India as part of the merger transaction.

Vistara and Air India are the country's second and third largest domestic carriers, respectively. Together, their market share stood at 18.3 per cent in October.

Tata Group has not provided any details about the merged entity such as those pertaining to branding, uniforms and frequent flyer programmes, although it seems likely that Vistara as a brand name might not exist in the long run.

World Cup turns Qatar into melting pot of world affairs

AP ■ LONDON

Soccer — or football, to most of the global billions watching the World Cup this month — is not human society itself, with all its thorny issues. But at times, the game is a reflection of the entire planet — of nations, their disputes, their aspirations and those of a multitude of minority communities.

In early November, just weeks before the most heavily scrutinized World Cup in the tournament's history kicked off in Qatar, top FIFA officials sent a letter urging teams to "let football take centre stage."

FIFA president Gianni Infantino followed this up on the eve of the opening match with a one-hour diatribe against all who had criticised the host nation's human rights

record, the conditions that led to thousands of migrant workers dying building the nation's glittering new stadiums and its stance on LGBTQ issues.

Fans from around the world have a different idea of what that "centre stage" should show. Many, but not all, Iranians attending matches in Qatar have wanted to express their support for protesters at home. And they've wanted the team to do the same.

Other political issues have been erupting fast and furious on a near-daily basis. And outside the World Cup bubble, the world itself has kept turning in some of its most fractious events, both unsurprising and surprising: Russia's war in Ukraine, mass shootings in the United States and the sudden eruption of protests in China.

Of the sporting spirit, George Orwell wrote: "I am always amazed when I hear people saying that sport creates goodwill between the nations, and that if only the common peoples of the world could meet one another at football or cricket, they would have no inclination to meet on the battlefield."

His point stands. Russia was banned from this World Cup after hosting the previous one in 2018, mirroring the isolation the country and its leaders face for the Ukraine invasion. Ukraine itself fell at the last hurdle for qualification, with fans at home likely more concerned about bombardment and survival amid electricity and water shortages than watching matches in Qatar.

Decades of enmity between

the United States and Iran have been seeping into the buildup before the two nations play a critical World Cup match Tuesday that could see one of the countries progress to the knockout stages. The U.S. Soccer Federation briefly displayed Iran's national flag on social media without the emblem of the Islamic Republic, saying the move supported protesters inside Iran. The Tehran government reacted by accusing America of removing the name of God from its national flag.

The century-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including Israel's occupation of lands Palestinians want for a future state, has also featured in Qatar, though neither national team is competing.

The Palestinian flag and pro-Palestinian fans have been

prominent, while Israeli media and fans have been less welcome in an Arab nation that has not normalized relations with Israel.

As Morocco completed a famous victory over the highly-ranked stars of Belgium Sunday, unrest broke out in Belgian cities and also in the Netherlands, where the immigrant North African community has long been marginalized.

"Those are not fans; they are rioters. Moroccan fans are there to celebrate," the mayor of Brussels said.

LGBTQ rights have been at the fore in Qatar as well, with the country under the microscope for its human rights record and laws criminalising homosexuality.

Germany's players covered their mouths for the team

photo before their opening match to protest against FIFA following the governing body's clampdown on the "One Love" armband. Sporting rainbow colors, a symbol of LGBTQ rights, has been a key contentious issue. Some European officials have brought those colors to the stands.

Qatari soccer fans responded to Germany's protest by holding pictures of former Germany playmaker Mesut Özil while covering their mouths. This referenced Özil, a German-born descendant of Turkish immigrants, quitting the national team after becoming a target of racist abuse and a scapegoat for Germany's early World Cup exit in 2018.

"I am German when we win, but I am an immigrant when we lose," Özil said at the time.

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ram Roop S/o Sh. Jai Narayan R/o H No. 78, Raipur Khurd, Chandigarh declare that my son Sandeep his wife Kavita are out of my control. I, disown them from my movable immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I, Jamali Singh S/o Hari Chand, House 3320/1, Sector 45-B, Chandigarh inform that my daughter Jaspreet Kaur out of my control. I disown her from my moveable / immovable property. Anybody deal with her at their own Risk.

I, Savitri Devi W/o Late Sh. Doger Chand R/o H.No- 81/1284, Baldev Nagar Ambala City inform that my son Rajesh Kumar, his wife Toshi & his Son Manoj Kumar are out of my Control. So I disown all of them from our movable/immovable Properties, if anybody deals with them will do so his/her at their own risk.

We Rambachan S/o Late Jhinku Yadav & Saleta Devi W/o Rambachan R/o H.No- 145 Shakti Colony Near Govt School, Jandi, Ambala City inform that our Son Rani Kesari, His wife Shashi Prebha Yadav are out of their Control. So we disown both of them from our movable/immovable Properties, if anybody deals with them will do so his/her at their own risk.

I, Roshini Rani Sharma wife of Prithvi Raj Sharma, R/o House No.437, Sector 46-A, Chandigarh declare that my son namey Ritu Raj Sharma & his wife Harpreet Kaur Cheema D/o Sh. Balbir Singh Cheema are not in my control. I hereby disown and dis-inherit them from all my movable and immovable properties with immediate effect. Any one dealing with them will be responsible on his/ her own.

I, Prithvi Raj Sharma Son of Late Sh Lehari Ram Sharma, resident at House No.437, Sector 46-A, Chandigarh declare that my son namey Ritu Raj Sharma & his wife Harpreet Kaur Cheema D/o Sh. Balbir Singh Cheema are not in my control. I hereby disown and dis-inherit them from all my movable and immovable properties with immediate effect. Any one dealing with them will be responsible on his/ her own.

I, Palo W/o Late Sukhjinder Singh R/o VPO,Photriwal, Distt.Jalandhar declare that my son Vijay Kumar Ugr Mangi is out of our control and falls into bad habits. I disinherit him from my movable and immovable properties. I and other family members shall not be held responsible for any kind of act, deed & dealings related to him.

I, Meena Kumari W/o Late Sh. Ramesh Chander R/o H.No. 4924, Kachcha Chamaria Road, Plywood Factory, Rajeev Nagar Rohtak declare that my elder son Umesh and his wife Gauri are out of my control. So I disown them from my all moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk. I or my family are not responsible for any type of their legal or illegal acts.

I, Suman Devi,w/o Late Dev Kumar, resident of Vishal Nagar, Sonpet States that my Son's name and date of birth from Lakshy and DOB 14-02-2005 (Existing name and DOB of son as per Naval records) to LAKSHAY &DOB 14-02-2006 (proposed/accepted new name and DOB of son) be Corrected, vide Affidavit dated 28-11-2022.

We Vijay Laxmi W/o B.R Arora & BR Arora S/o Kanshi Ram R/o 558/ 8 Panchkula, declare that our son Jatn Arora and his wife Rupinder Kaur their children Aarav, Ariya and our daughter Anupma Bhatia her children Ashna, Abhishek R/o 1017/9 Panchkula, all are out of our control. So we disown them from our moveable- immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I, Aman S/O Sanjeev Kumar R/O Vill. Bindroli Tehsil & Distt Sonipat Declared In My 10th Marksheet My Father Name Written As Sanjeev Kumar Dahiya & Mother Name Written As Manju Late. Where As My Fateh's Correct Name Is Sanjeev Kuamr & Mother's Correct Name Is Manju.

I, Reshma W/o Late Sh. Satish Kumar R/o Vill. Chajla Majra tehsil Naraingadh distt. Ambala that my son Raman is out of my control so I disown him from all my moveable immovable properties. In future anybody dealing with him at their own risk , I and my family members will not be responsible.

I, Kamaljit Singh S/o Surmukh Singh R/o Vill.P.O.Badi Jhalliam,Teh Chamkaur Sahib Distt.Rohtak (Pb) declare that my son Gurkirat Singh is out of my control.S o I disown him from my all moveable & immovable properties. If anybody deals with him shall do their own risk in future.

I, Anjali (Existing Name) D/o No. 691911A, Ex WO Omber, resident of H.No. 1882A/10, Ramgopal Colony, Rohtak (Haryana) have changed my name from Anjali (Existing Name) to Anjali Dhankar (New Name) for all work purpose, concerned note please make it correct in my father's Indian Air Force Records/ Discharge Certificate. Vide Affidavit dated 29 Nov 2022 before Ist Class Magistrate, Rohtak.

I, Joginder Singh GILL S/O Baldev Singh R/O H.No.-1810 Ward No.-02 St.No.-01B Guru Ram Dass Nagar Moga District Moga Punjab Declare That I In Few Of My Documents My Name Is Written As Joginder Singh GILL And In Other Documents My Name Is Written As Joginder Singh Saddhar. So These Both Name Refer To Me And Am One And The Same Person Of These Both Names.

I, Mukhraj Kaur W/o Late: Swarn Singh R/o Vill. Unchi Bassi Teh-Dasuya (Hoshiarpur) declare that my husband's correct name is Swarn Singh instead of Sawarn Singh.

I, Daljit Singh S/o Harbans Singh R/o Village Bagrian Tehsil & District Tarn Taran declare that in my Indian Passport No. R0202961 my father's name is Helly Ram and his wife Pranka are out of my control. So I disown them from all my moveable / immovable properties. Anybody dealing with her at our own risk. I or my family are not responsible for any type of their legal & illegal acts.

We, Padam Kumar S/o Late. Sh. Phool Chand and Manju W/o Sh. Padam Kumar R/o H. No. 1257, Gali No. 4, Ward No. 23 Kishanpura, Panipat Present address Gali No 16 Mukhija Colony Panipat declare that my son Helly Ram and his wife Pranka are out of my control. So I disown them from all my moveable / immovable properties. Anybody dealing with her at our own risk. I or my family are not responsible for any type of their legal & illegal acts.

I, Pooch Chand and Manju W/o Sh. Padam Kumar R/o H. No. 1257, Gali No. 4, Ward No. 23 Kishanpura, Panipat Present address Gali No 16 Mukhija Colony Panipat declare that my son Helly Ram and his wife Pranka are out of my control. So I disown them from all my moveable / immovable properties. Anybody dealing with her at our own risk. I or my family are not responsible for any type of their legal & illegal acts.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vipul Garg S/o Kailash Chand Gupta R/o H No.D-21, Intech Housing Complex, Sector 39-A, Chandigarh have changed my name from Vipul Garg to Vipul Gupta.

I, Nipoon Garg S/o Kailash Chand Gupta R/o H.No. 1063, Sector 39-A, Chandigarh have changed my name from Nipoon Garg to Nipun Gupta.

I, Deepansh Kochhar S/o Sh. Homesh Kochhar R/o House No.601-A, Golden Sand Apartments, Dhakauli, Zirakpur, Distt. SAS Nagar Mohali, (Punjab), have changed my name from Deepansh to Deepansh Kochhar.

I, Tanisha D/o Ravinder Singh R/o Village Mandalia Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Tanisha to Tanisha Badhan. Concerned Note.

I, Susheela Devi w/o Ram Singh r/o village & PO kurchota Tehsil Jakholi Rudraprayag UK have changed my name from Sapna Devi to Susheela Devi, concerns note.

I, Lavisha D/o Amit Goyal R/o #1744, Sector-4, Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name from Lavisha to Lavisha Goyal.

I, Saurav S/o Prem Nath Sharma R/o 3146/2, Sector 44-B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Saurav to Saurav Sharma.

I, Ashu D/o Om Parkash R/o 123, Krishna Nagar, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Ashu to Ashu Chopra.

I, Sonia Bansal W/o Sh. Pavitr Aggarwal R/o #297, Sector 20A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Sonia Aggarwal.

I hitherto known as Sukhdev S/o Satpal, Residing at VPO-Sandial Kalan, Distt. Sonipat (Haryana), Pin Code- 131001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vicky.

I, Mahatab Ali s/o Lyakat Ali r/o Village Loomb, Distt. Baghatp (U.P.) present R/o Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sector-5, Devidasspura (Kurukshetra) have changed my name to Mahatab Chowdhary s/o Lyakat Chowdhary after converting religions from Muslim to Hinduism.

I, Usha Devi w/o Sukhbir Singh r/o Ahmadpur, P.O. Tigr, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Usha Devi to Usha Rani. Concerned note.

I, Shila Nain W/o No. JC- 381936Y Ex. Nb. Sub. Jaipal Singh R/o H.No. 48, Saket Colony, Azad Nagar Hisar declares that I have changed my name from Shila Nain to Shila for future.

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Attar Singh R/o Barona, Distt.Sonipat have changed my name from Rakesh kumar to Rakesh.

I, Sapna Rani W/o Devkant Rana r/o VPO Barwala, Distt.Panchkula (Haryana) inform that my some document my father name is Subhash Chand and another document my father name is Subhash Chander. Subhash Chand and Subhash Chander both the name are one and same person.

I, Ram Nareesh s/o Chamel Singh, r/o VPO Manjura, Tehsil & District Kamal have changed my name from Ram Nareesh to Ravi Kumar.

I, Veena W/o Ashok Kumar, House No. 41, 1st Floor, Sector 21-A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Beena.

I, Munja Khatun W/o Shameem R/o #78, Bapudham Colony, Phase-1, Sector 26, Chandigarh have changed my name to Munja.

I, Ramesh Chand s/o Shri Ranbir Singh, R/o Arjun Nagar, Distt. 2 Tehsil & District Kathiwal, Haryana, declare that Ramesh Chand and Ramesh Chander are the name of one and same person. In future I shall be known by both names. All concerned note.

I, Sagar Lal s/o Mohan Lal r/o village kiwana Tehsil Samalkha distict Panipat Already my name is Sagar, But I have changed my name Sagar to Sagar Lal in future called me Sagar Lal. All concerned note please.

I, Rajesh Chaudhary S/o Mam Chand R/o House no 4, V.p.o Rampura, Kata Bagh, Meerut Road, Kamal declare that I have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Chaudhary for all future purpose.

I, Shalini W/o Amit Jain R/o House No. 1463, Phase 5, Sector 59, Mohali, Punjab have changed my name from Shalini to Shalini Jain.

I, Suman Rani W/o Vinod Kumar Goyal R/o H.No. 513-1, Model Town, Puniyati Chowk, Model Town, Panipat declare that after my marriage I have changed my name from Suman Rani to Suman Goel, for all future purpose.

I, Gunpat S/o Deep Chand Sharma R/o H.No-1116, Bishan Swaroop Colony, Panipat declare that I have changed my name from Gunpat to Gunpat Rai Sharma, for all future purpose.

I, Kamaljeet Singh S/o Amrik Singh R/o Moonak Tehsil Moonak, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab have changed my name from Kamaljeet Singh to Kamaljeet Singh Walia all concerned to be noted.

I, Munish Mal S/o Ramesh Lal R/o H.No- 145 Ram Nagar Ambala City have changed my Minor Daughter's Name from Hazel to Hazel Mal.

I, Beero D/o Sampat R/o 212/31 , Shorgir basti, Thanesar Distt Kurukshetra have changed my name from Beero Devi to Hardeep Kaur.

I, Kulbir S/o Dalip Singh R/O Vpo, Ikas Distt. Jind I have Changed My Name Kulbir Singh

I, Vikramjit Singh S/o Jaswinder Singh R/o Village Dharour, PO Sahnewal, Ludhiana have changd my name to Vikramjit Singh Grewal.

I, Ajay Pal alias Ajay Kumar S/o Jagdish Rai R/o Street No. 1, New Model Town, Sahnewal, District Ludhiana have changed my name to Ajay Pal.

I, Navjot Kaur w/o Mannohan Singh R/o Street No. 7, Guru Kirpa Colony, Abohar, Distt Fazilka (Punjab) have changed my name from Navjot Kaur to Navjot Kaur Bar.

I, Parveen Rani W/o No. JC769911N Sub M.Tech, B Vehicle, Anil Kumar is legally wedded R/o 32, Defence Colony, Sec C, Near Sidhu Farm, Boh Road, Ambala Cantt.Have Changed my DOB from 13.08.1978 To 03.02.1973.

I, Arjun Ayushman S/O Rattan Singh R/O H.No.E1/542, Hargobind Pura, Wadali Road, Chheharta, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Arjun Ayushman To Rashpal Singh.

I, Rajat Bhandari S/O Shri Krishan Bhandari R/O 15 Brahman Nagar Lawrence Road Amritsar have Changed The Name Of My Minor Son From Ruhaan To Ruhaan Bhandari

I, Atama Singh S/O Jagir Singh R/O 23, Hansawala Tam Taran Have Changed My Name From Atama Singh To Alma Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Gurinder Singh Kahlon S/O Of Narinder Singh Residing At E9/510, Gali No.2, New Modern Colony, Ghunpur Road, Chheharta, Amritsar-143105 Punjab Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Son's Shiraz Kahlon Age 15 Years And She Shall Hereafter Be Known As Shiraz Singh Kahlon.

I, Swaran Singh S/O Gopal Singh R/O Vill.Nathu Chak Tehsil Pattl Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name To Sarwan Singh

I, Sarvan Singh S/O Gopal Singh R/O Vill.Nathu Chak Tehsil Pattl Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name To Sarwan Singh

I, Bhavna Dhiman D/o Satish Kumar R/o 82, Khuda Khurd, Tehsil Ambala Cantt. Have Changed my Name from Bhavna To Bhavna Dhiman.

I, Shikher Jain S/o Vijay Kumar Jain R/o 58A Gobind Nagar, Atta Chakki, Ambala Cantt.Have Changed my Name from Shikher To Shikher Jain.

I, No. JC 291744A Rank Nb/Sub (OPR) Vinod Kumar S/o Bharat Singh R/o Nagla, Daleep, Bewar, Gerameen, Mainpuri, Bewar, UP. Have Changed my Daughter Name from Priyansee Yadav To Priyanshi Yadav & Changed 2nd Daughter Name from Nancey Yadav To Naincy Yadav.

I, Janardhan S/o Brahmdendra Gandhi R/o 1965/7 U.E. Kamal declared that I have changed my name from Janardhan to Janardhan Gandhi.

I, Guraerish Singh S/o Sh. Gurpal Singh R/o #673-A, Behind Power Station, Village Sikanderpur, Distt. Sirsa. That I have changed my name from Guraerish Singh to Guraerish.

I, Lukhbir Singh S/o Narinder Singh R/o Village Tarsikda, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Lukhbir Singh to Lakhbir Singh.

I, Vikramjit Singh S/o Harwant Singh R/o Village Jabbowal, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Vikramjit Singh to Singh is my surname and Vikramjit is my given name.

I, Tarlochan Singh Judge S/o Joginder Singh R/o Village Khair Dinke, PO Bohru, Tehsil & Distt. TarnTaran, Punjab have changed my name from Tarlochan Singh Judge to Tarlochan Singh.

I, Navneet Kaur Judge W/o Tarlochan Singh R/o Village Khair Dinke, PO Bohru, Tehsil & Distt. TarnTaran, Punjab have changed my name from Navneet Kaur Judge to Navneet Kaur.

I, Prem Kumar Bansal S/o Sh. Moti Ram R/o H.No. 41, R.S.D. Colony, Sirsa have changed my name to Prem Bansal. Concerned note.

I, Pirtpal Kaur Aulakh W/O Harpreet Singh R/O Vill Neshta Po Attari Teh & Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Pirtpal Kaur Aulakh To Pirtpal Kaur After Marriage

I, Sukhjit Kaur Alias Surjit Kaur W/O Gumam Singh R/O Vill Tapiala Bhullar Chogawan Teh Ajnala Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sukhjit Kaur Alias Surjit Kaur To Sukhjeet Kaur

I, Shreya Rajesh Shah W/O Bangar M Parateek R/O Vpo Ghanie Ke David Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name From Shreya Rajesh Shah To Shreya Parateek After Marriage

I, Hitherto Known As Paramjit Kaur Wife Of Major Singh Residing At Dhingra Colony, Ram Tirath Road, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Rita Rani. I Have Changed My Name Only Not My Religion.

I, Hitherto Known As Lakhbeer Singh Waraich Son Of Kartar Singh Residing At Vpo Adiwali Tehsil Ajnala, Amritsar-143101 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Lakhbir Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Satkartar S/O Kuldp Singh, Residing At Vill. Dingrian, Po Dingrian, Distt. Jalandhar-144102, Punjab, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Satkartar Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Ajaib Singh Sandhu Son Of Kartar Singh Residing At W.No.12, Adarsah Nagar Zira Tehsil Zira District Ferozepur-142047 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ajaib Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Vijay Kumar Son Of Puran Singh Residing At H.No.30, Raghu Nath Pura, Majitha Road, Amritsar, Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Vijay Dhillra.

I, Hitherto Known As Pooja Wife Of Anil Kumar Mahajan Residing At 594, Gali No.5b, Gurudwara Wali Gali, Karampura, Navi Abadi, Rattan Singh Chowk, F.G.C Road, Amritsar Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Pooja Mahajan.

I, Hitherto Known As Anil Kumar Son Of Vijay Kumar Mahajan Residing At 594, Gali No.5b, Gurudwara Wali Gali, Karampura, Navi Abadi, Rattan Singh Chowk, F.G.C Road, Amritsar Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Anil Kumar Mahajan

I, Hitherto Known As Shashi Bala Wife Of Pawan Poddar Residing At 494, GaliNo.2, Dayanand Nagar, Lawrence Road, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Shashi Poddar.

I, Hitherto Known As Ranbir Kaur Alias Ranvir Kaur Wife Of Amir Singh Residing At H.No.8, Gali Billa Gernal Store, Near Raju Palace, New Ranjitpura, Chheharta, Amritsar-143105 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ranbir Kaur.

I, Hitherto Known As Shashi Bala Wife Of Pawan Poddar Residing At 494, GaliNo.2, Dayanand Nagar, Lawrence Road, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Shashi Poddar.

I, Hitherto Known As Sukhjinder Kaur Wife Of Swarn Singh Residing At Patli Distt. Ferozepur 142052 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kuldeep Kaur.

I, Komal Chawla W/o Deepak Choudha R/o H.No.NM-178, Karar Khan Mohalla, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab have changed my name to Komal Choudha, after marriage. (Surname as Choudha).

I, Kiran D/o Sunil Kumar R/o VPO. Khanaura, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name from Kiran to Kiran Kumari (Surname as Kumari).

I, Hitherto Known As Shashi Bala Wife Of Pawan Poddar Residing At 494, GaliNo.2, Dayanand Nagar, Lawrence Road, Amritsar-143001 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Shashi Poddar.

I, Hitherto Known As Sukhjinder Kaur Wife Of Swarn Singh Residing At Patli Distt. Ferozepur 142052 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kuldeep Kaur.

I, Sukhjit Kaur W/o Avtar Singh R/o Vill.Khanke Fatehgarh, Po.Mustafapur, Distt.Jalandhar-144801, Punjab have changed name of my minor daughter from Gumaz Kaur to Kaur Gumaz (Surname as Kaur)

I, Ramesh Kumar S/o Dutt Prashad Gupta R/o H.No. 38, Jai Hind Street, Mehli Gate, Phagwara, Distt.Kapurthala Have Changed My Name To Ramesh Kumar Gupta.

I, Rewa W/o Ramesh Kumar Gupta R/o H.No.38, Jai Hind Street, Mehli Gate, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala Have Changed My Name To Rewa Gupta.

I, Ginder S/o Gian Chand R/o VPO. Malla Sodhian, Teh.Banga, Distt.SBS Nagar Have Changed My Name From Ginder To Ram Ginder. (Surname as Ram)

I, Jatin S/o Ramesh Chander R/o H.No.48, Ram Sharnam Colony, Basti Danishmandia, Jalandhar have changed my name from Jatin to Jatin Loach (Surname as Loach)

I, Kashmir w/o Birbal r/o Vill. Takhar, Po. Sargundi, Jalandhar have changed my name from Kashmir to Kashmir Qureshi.

I, Sandeep Singh S/o Tarsem Singh R/o VPO. Shankar, Patli Takhar, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Sandeep Singh to Sandeep Singh Takhar.

I, Baljit Kaur W/o Sandeep Singh Takhar R/o VPO. Shankar, Patli Takhar, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Baljit Kaur to Baljit Kaur Takhar.

I, Ramandeep Kaur W/o Vikramjeet Singh Chhina R/o 183, Shastri Nagar, Lawrence Road, Amritsar - I, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name to Ramandeep Kaur Chhina.

I Rani W/O Shamshad R/O Village Azzipur Sub Tehsil Banur Distt S.A.S Nagar Declared In My Passport No. 66146 Date 18.02.93 My Husband Name Is Wrongly Recorded As Shamshad Ali. Whereas His Correct Name Is Shamshad. Please Correct It.

I Jagdish Singh S/O Mangal Singh R/O Village Baras Tehsil & Distt Fatehgarh Sahib Have Changed My Name From Jagdish Singh To Jagdish Singh Othli.

I Sunandini D/O Kamal Kumar R/O H.No.24, Devi Mandir Gali, Tehsil Jagadhri Distt Yamuna Nagar Have Changed My Name To Sunandini Kumar.

I, Manjeet Singh S/O Karnail Singh R/O Bishanpura, Po Gajewas Tehsil Samana Patiala Have Changed My Name To Manjeet Singh Sidhu

I, Neeraj S/O Vijay Kumar R/O Gaushala District, Near Kotli Road, Sri Muktsar Sahib have Changed my name to Neeraj Gandhi.

I, Pragya Tiksha W/O Prashant Singh R/O Flat No. 1104, Tower A, Affinity Greens, Airport Road Opposite D-Mart, Zirakpur, Distt SAS Nagar Mohali, have changed my name to Pragya Prashant Tiksha.

I, Lakhwinder Singh S/O Teja Singh R/O Village Basma Sub Tehsil Banur Distt Sas Nagar Mohali Have Changed My Name To Ranbir Singh.

I, Rajshree spouse of No.JC- 462051K Nb/Sub Mohite Pravin Prakash resident of Village Jamb Khurd Post- Jamb Khurd Tehsil Koregaon District Satara State Maharashtra Pin-415501 have changed my name from Rajshree to Rajshree Pravin Mohite vide affidavit No. IN-PB 4683471755638U dated 28 Nov 2022 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Rajshree spouse of No.JC- 462051K Nb/Sub Mohite Pravin Prakash resident of Village Jamb Khurd Post- Jamb Khurd Tehsil Koregaon District Satara State Maharashtra Pin-415501 have changed my name from Rajshree to Rajshree Pravin Mohite vide affidavit No. IN-PB 4683471755638U dated 28 Nov 2022 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Gauthmi spouse of No.JC- 283561P Sub Savara Santha Rao resident of Village Kotla Velama Peta Po Tulugu Tehsil Gara District Srikakulam (AP) in my husband service record my name wrongly recorded as Gauthmi instead of Savara Gauthmi Vide affidavit No. IN-PB 46639349668342U dated 28 Nov 2022 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Kushwaha Ramanuj Father of No.15621843L Havn. Kushwaha Vijay resident of Village Kamnawati Po Krishna Nagar Tehsil & District Ahmedabad (Gujarat) in my Son service record my name wrongly recorded as Kushwaha Ramanuj instead of Ramanuj Kushwaha Vide affidavit No. IN-PB 466383840082436U dated 28 Nov 2022 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Ruppali spouse of No.2810040H Hav Shinde Ganesh Trambark resident of Village Gangadhari, Post-Nandgaon Tehsil Nandgaon District Nasik State Maharashtra Pin-423106 have changed my name from Ruppali to Ruppali Ganesh Shinde Vide affidavit No. IN-PB 466837096031858U dated 28 Nov 2022 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Kushwaha Ramanuj Father of No.15621843L Havn. Kushwaha Vijay resident of Village Kamnawati Po Krishna Nagar Tehsil & District Ahmedabad (Gujarat) in my Son service record my name wrongly recorded as Kushwaha Ramanuj instead of Ramanuj Kushwaha Vide affidavit No. IN-PB 466383840082436U dated 28 Nov 2022 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Gaurjeet Singh S/O Gurmeet Singh R/O Dhulkot Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name to Gurjeet Singh Panane.

I, Gurmjeet Kaur W/o Paramjit Singh R/o Vpo. Dhotian Distt. Tarn Taran. After Marriage I have changed my name as Gurjit Kaur.

I, Sarabjit Singh S/o Mohan Singh R/O VPO Kang, Teh & Distt Tarn Taran, Punjab Changed My Given Name To Sarbjit Singh Concerned Note.

I, Vishal Kumar S/o Dilbagh Ram R/O Vill. Thandian Tehsil Banga Distt Sbs Nagar Have Changed My Name From Vishal Kumar To Kumar Vishal.

I, Ashok Kumar S/O Parkash Ram R/O Vill. Thandian Tehsil Banga Distt Sbs Nagar Have Changed My Name From Ashok Kumar To Ashok.

I, Pushpa Rani W/O Hari Ram R/O Vpo Garcha Tehsil Nawansahr Distt Sbs Nagar Have Changed My Name From Pushpa Rani To Rani Pushpa.

I, Rajwinder Singh S/o Tarsem Lal R/o Vill: Kalsian (Ludhiana) changed my name to Rajwinder Singh Mahey.

I, Lakhwinder Singh S/o Gurdav Singh R/o Vill: Baddowal (Ludhiana) changed my name to Lakhwinder Singh Grewal.

I, Jaspal Kaur W/o Gurmeet Singh Jhinger R/o Patli Veer Singh, Bhadaur, Distt. Barnala have changed my name to Jaspal Kaur Jhinger.

I, Jaswant Kaur Dhalwal W/o Gulzar Singh Dhalwal R/o Bhaini Darera (Ludhiana) changed my name to Jaswant Kaur.

I, Gaganpreet Kaur Rall D/o Sukhwinder Singh R/o Gobind Estate Muktsar Road Kotkapura (Faridkot) changed my name to Gaganpreet Kaur.

I, Kulbir Kaur W/o Kulwant Singh R/o Vill. Sirsari (Faridkot) changed my name to Kulvir Kaur.

I, Ranvir Singh S/o Ravinder Singh Hunjan, R/O Mohalla Guru Nanakpura, Raikot, Distt Ludhiana, Have Changed My Name To Ranvir Singh Hunjan.

I, Charanjit Kaur W/o Bikramjit Singh R/o VPO Sheron Tehsil & District Tam Taran I have changed my Name Charanjit Kaur To Charnjit Kaur.

I, Kulbir Singh S/o Surjeet Singh R/o Vill. Patli Karam (Sri Muktsar Sahib) changed my name to Kulbeer Singh.

I, Manjit Kaur W/o Kulbeer Singh R/o Vill: Patli Karam (Sri Muktsar Sahib) changed my name to Manjit Kaur.

I, Thirupathi G S/O Govinda Samy R/O Chinaguddur P.O. Samndamalai Tamil Nadu At Present Amritsar Army Cantt. Amritsar Punjab India Changed My Son's Name Deva Shakhthi To Deva Shakhthi.T.

I, Thirupathi G S/O Govinda Samy R/O Chinaguddur P.O. Samndamalai Tamil Nadu At Present Amritsar Army Cantt. Amritsar Punjab India Changed My Wife's Name R. Priya To Priya Thirupathi.

I, Smt Saroj Kumari D/O JC- 57263, Late NB SUB Jagdish Singh R/O Vpo. Bhawanipur Tehsil Garhshankar District

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates International Gita Festival in Kurukshetra

PNS ■ KURUKSHETRA

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday inaugurated the International Gita Festival -2022 organized on the banks of Brahma Sarovar here, stressing on imbibing the teachings of 'Bhagavad Gita', saying it is a book whose messages spread hope in despair and also give solutions to all doubts of practical life.

The President arrived on a two-day visit to Haryana to attend various programmes earlier in the day and then offered prayers amidst chanting of mantras at Brahma Sarovar and also offered flowers on the holy religious scripture Gita as she performed the 'yagna' near Lord Shri Krishna's huge chariot idol located at Purushottampura Bagh.

She was accompanied by Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. The President launched a Nirogi Haryana scheme, an e-ticketing system in Haryana Transport and virtually laid the foundation stone of a medical college in Sirsa district to be built at an estimated cost of Rs 950 crore. She also participated in the International Gita Seminar.

Addressing the gathering, President Murmu said that she was happy to be here and lauded the state government for organising the International Gita Festival and for the launch of the Nirogi Haryana scheme, e-ticketing system and upcoming medical college at Sirsa. She was also informed that the Gita festival was being organ-



ised at the international level since 2016. She said she considers it a blessing of Lord Krishna that she got an opportunity to begin her first visit to Haryana as the President from this 'Dharma-kshetra'. The President said 'Bhagavad Gita' is an international book in a real sense and it has been translated into many languages. "Like Yoga is India's gift to the entire world, in the same way, Yoga-Shastra Gita is also the spiritual gift of Mother India to the entire humanity. The Gita is a life code for the whole of humanity, a spiritual beacon," she said.

The President said Gita which comprises 700 'Shaloks' has the essence of all Vedas. "Gita is the important 'granth' of 'Vedanta'. Gita is such a book in which solutions to all the doubts of practical life and spir-

itality are easily found," she said. Maintaining balance in all situations is the most useful message of Gita, she added.

The President said, "Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is a 'granth' of encouragement in adverse circumstances and spreads hope in despair. This is a 'granth' for life-building." She stressed that it is most important to imbibe the messages of the Gita. Leaders like Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi, who gave direction to our freedom struggle, took guidance from Bhagavad Gita in every sphere of life, she said.

The President further said Mahatma Gandhi used to call 'Shrimad Bhagavad Gita' as 'Gita Mata'. Gandhi had said, "The mother who gave birth to me is gone, but I have learned to go to 'Gita Mata' in times of crisis," Murmu added. The President said that Swami



Vivekananda used to say that Gita gives a message of shedding cowardice and adopting bravery.

Brave jawans, hardworking farmers and daughters of Haryana made the state and the whole country proud in their respective fields by imbibing the teachings of the Gita, Murmu said. She will be meeting sisters and daughters of Haryana who contributed immensely in their respective fields.

Earlier, the President visited the state-level progressive Haryana exhibition at the International Gita Festival. In the progressive Haryana state-level exhibition, the President saw the artwork of evidence of Gita teachings and got a glimpse of the stories of valour and contribution of Haryana's heroes in the freedom struggle displayed through pho-

tographs.

President attends 18th convocation of NIT Kurukshetra

The President graced the 18th Convocation of National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra as the chief guest and also inaugurated the blockchain technology-based degree solutions developed by the institute and other collaborators for awarding degrees through digital medium and conferred degrees to the students of the year 2020 and 2021 batch through the same medium.

She said that she feels special and happy while attending any programme related to education because before starting her public life, she had worked as a teacher in a school. She said that the NIT University is celebrating its diamond jubilee

and has received special recognition nationally and internationally.

"More than 40,000 former students of this university had contributed to nation-building and had played an important role in raising the prestige of the country globally," she said, adding that from Singapore to Silicon Valley and from civil society to civil services; the students of this university have made their place in all the fields.

She said that out of 5,800 students of NIT, more than 1,100 are girls and out of 2,800 students graduating today, more than 500 are girls. "This is also a proud moment. Today daughters are setting records in every field. More and more girls should come forward in the field of science, mathematics, technology and engineering," she said.

CM should own responsibility for failing to maintain law and order: SAD

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal on Tuesday said that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann should own responsibility for failing in his duty to maintain law and order and ensuring that no one was allowed to disturb communal harmony in the State. Instead of instilling confidence in Punjab by taking appropriate steps, the Chief Minister had fled the State to campaign for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Gujarat along with his Cabinet," he said. Asserting that Punjabis had given a massive mandate to AAP to bring about positive change and not use the State's resources to

expand AAP's influence across the country and paralyze governance in Punjab, Sukhbir said: "Never in the history of the State had such a situation arose when an elected government has forsaken its people and allowed the State to slip into anarchy."

"No one is feeling safe in Punjab today. Targeted killings are an everyday event with an Akali worker gunned down near Batala today. Earlier, we have witnessed the gruesome murder of youth icon Sidhu Moosewala, RPG attack on the Punjab Police Intelligence headquarter, Hindu-Sikh clashes, and even sensational escape of gangster Deepak Tindu from the police custody," he pointed.

Hry CM likely to meet MBBS students protesting against bond policy

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar is likely to meet MBBS students protesting against the state government's bond policy, on Wednesday. The development comes days after a meeting between the agitating students and officials from the Haryana government remained inconclusive. The meeting with the chief minister will be held at 1.30 pm in Chandigarh on Wednesday, said Anuj Dhania, an MBBS student protesting against the policy. He said a circular regarding the proposed meeting had already been issued by the director of Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak. MBBS students at PGIMS-Rohtak and some other medical colleges in Haryana have been holding protests for the past three weeks against the policy. Resident doctors of PGIMS-Rohtak have also extended support to the agitating students. Outpatient department services at private hospitals in the state were suspended on Monday as doctors affiliated to the Indian Medical Association boycotted work.

Section 144 to be imposed around all HTET examination centres in Hry

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To ensure fair and cheating-free conduct of the Haryana Teacher Eligibility Test (HTET), Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal on Tuesday directed the Deputy Commissioners to impose Section-144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) around all centres in the respective districts to prevent gathering and curb cheating in the test. Presiding over a virtual meeting on HTET 2022 with Deputy Commissioners of the state, Kaushal said that for the convenience of visually impaired candidates, additional 50 minutes at the rate of 20 minutes per hour will be given to them during the examination. Their O.M.R. sheet will also be sent in a separate envelope by the Centre Superintendent. Separate sitting arrangements should be ensured for such examinees, he directed. The Chief Secretary was apprised in the meeting that a total of 305,717 candidates will appear in HTET to be conducted by the Board of School Education Haryana on December 3 and 4. In this, 1,046 examination centres have

been set. Kaushal directed the officers that the trunk of the sealed question paper of the examination will be collected from all district treasury offices and will be sent directly to the examination centres under the custody of two policemen through a joint team under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner or the administrative officer authorized by him. He further directed that adequate police arrangements should be made three hours before the commencement of the examination to prevent external interference at the examination centres and photostat shops around the examination centres will remain closed during the examination. Ensuring smooth conduct of the examination, media entry should be prohibited inside the examination centres, he added.

Kaushal further directed the officers concerned to ensure entry of candidates 2 hours and 10 minutes before the commencement of the examination so that they can freely go through the metal detector frisking, biometric attendance and other mandatory formalities at the examination centre well.

New education policy to be fully implemented in Hry by 2025: CM

PNS ■ KURUKSHETRA

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said that the state government is committed to providing such education to the future generation, which will make them employable, cultured and inculcate moral qualities in them.

"To make this a reality, a new education policy has come up in the country, which will be fully implemented in Haryana by the year 2025," he added. Addressing the students at NIT Kurukshetra, in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu and Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Khattar said skill is the first requirement to take the country forward in any field. "To fulfill this need, many such institutes like NIT, Kurukshetra, which provide education of latest technology, have been established in Haryana," he said.

Apart from these, high quality institutes are there in Haryana to provide world class vocational and employable education in every field like arts, commerce, science, management, law, medicine, veterinary medicine, fine arts, fashion and designing, film and television, information technology, among others. The Chief Minister said that IIM at Sunaria, Rohtak, National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology at Kurukshetra, North India's first National Institute of Design at Umri in Kurukshetra and NIFT at Panchkula have been set up. Similarly, similar institutions have been established in other districts as well. Extension campuses of IIT Delhi are also being set up at

Sonepat and Jhajjar. Khattar said that the daughters of the state are achieving great heights in every field with their talent; therefore, 25 percent seats have been reserved for girls in all technical institutions. "No tuition fee is charged from the girl students studying in government polytechnic institutions. Free passport assistance scheme has been started for the students in colleges and polytechnics. Learner driving licenses are also being made in the colleges and free training of four to six months is being provided to the students in partnership with the industries," he added.

Taking another concrete step towards skill development, Shri Vishwakarma Skill University was established at Dudhola, Palwal district. "This University is one of its kind; which will provide skill education from certificate to doctorate level.

Through this, training is being imparted as per the requirement of the industries," said the Chief Minister. He said that we have received continuous cooperation from institutions like NIT, Kurukshetra in the development and dissemination of new technology. The Chief Minister congratulated the management for organising the convocation ceremony of this institute and wished a bright future to all the youth receiving degrees today and those studying in the institute.

In the convocation ceremony, the Governor and the Chief Minister felicitated the gold medalist students of 2017 and 2016 batch with certificates and medals, respectively. On the occasion.

BRIEFS

Punjab Speaker emphasizes making assembly committees more effective

Chandigarh: Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldar Singh Sandhwan on Tuesday emphasized on the need for greater transparency and accountability to ensure proper utilization of people's money besides stressing on making the Legislative Assembly Committees more effective and active for the same. Sandhwan, addressing the representatives of Vidhan Sabha's various committees and senior officers in connection with the audit week at the office of AG Punjab, said that the role of Legislative Assembly Committees and CAG is very important to ensure proper utilization of government expenditure. Emphasizing on the need for various departments to discuss audit paras within the stipulated time, he directed to ensure the presence of heads of the departments or administrative secretaries for the discussion of such matters so that audit matters can be settled without any delay.

Punjab VB nabs ASI taking Rs 5000 bribe to submit charge sheet in court

Chandigarh: Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) on Tuesday nabbed an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Kulwinder Singh red-handed for accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000. A spokesperson said that the accused ASI, posted at police division no. 6, Ludhiana, has been arrested on the complaint of Ludhiana resident Gurpreet Singh who alleged that the police official was demanding Rs 5,000 in lieu of submitting the charge sheet in the court pertaining to a dowry case registered against his niece.

Sandhwan presents a Rs 5L cheque to weightlifter Harjinder Kaur for higher training

Chandigarh: Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldar Singh Sandhwan on Tuesday presented a cheque of Rs five lakhs to weightlifter Harjinder Kaur, who won a bronze medal in the 71 kg category during the Commonwealth Games, for attaining higher training. "Punjab Government is determined to promote sports in the State and will continue to help the sports persons in all circumstances," said Sandhwan.

AAP govt fails to rise to the occasion on railway station renaming, says Bajwa

Chandigarh: Leader of the opposition (LoP) in Partap Singh Bajwa on Tuesday criticized Bhagwant Mann government for its failure to rise to the occasion following the demand made by Haryana to rename the Chandigarh railway station. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has written a letter to union railway minister Ashwani Vaishnav & sought his intervention to rename the Chandigarh railway station as Chandigarh-Panchkula railway station. Bajwa said he was disappointed to note Mann government has still not reacted or responded to the development.

Majithia seeks registration of a case against Anmol Gagan for promoting gun culture

Chandigarh: Demanding registration of an FIR against Punjab Cabinet Minister Anmol Gagan Mann "for promoting gun culture", senior SAD leader and former Minister Bikram Singh Majithia on Tuesday said that there could not be a different law for a Minister and the common man. "Even though Punjab Police chief Gaurav Yadav had given a 72-hour deadline to remove all pictures promoting gun culture from social media accounts, Anmol Gagan Mann had failed to heed this warning and she should be proceeded against immediately. This is important keeping in mind the need to send out a clear signal that the law cannot be different for a 'khas aadmi'," said Majithia.

Govt committed to resolving all issues in power sector: Haryana Minister

Gurugram: Haryana Power Minister Ranjit Singh on Tuesday assured industrialists that the state government will try its best to resolve all issues related to electricity supply so that economic development does not suffer. He was speaking at Haryana Real Estate Summit 2022 and Buyer-Seller Interface organised by the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO).

Haryana RTS issues show cause notice to 3 officers of Welfare of SS and BC Department

Chandigarh: Haryana Right to Service Commission issued a show cause notice of Rs 500,000 to three officers of Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes Department (WSCBC), Amita Goel, Chief Accounts Officer, Bishan, Statistical Officer and Om Prakash, Deputy Superintendent, in delaying the delivery of notified services of 'Mukhya Mantri Samajik Samrasta Antarjatiya Vivah Shagun Yojana' in 1500 cases. This is a notified scheme of the WSCBC Department and provides financial assistance of Rs 250,000 to a couple when a non-Scheduled Caste girl/boy marries a Scheduled Caste girl/boy. The amount is deposited in the joint account of the couple for 3 years of the lock-in period.

Villagers in Punjab can now set up Bio Gas plant for free under MGNREGA

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The villagers in Punjab can now set up a biogas plant at their homes for free under the MGNREGA scheme. For, the Punjab Government has decided to provide employment to the maximum number of people under the MGNREGA scheme by the Rural Development and Panchayat Department besides individual benefits to the villagers. As part of the same, the villagers can also get a free biogas plant constructed in their homes.

Regarding this unique initiative, the state Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Janjua on Tuesday held a meeting with the Finance Commissioner (Rural Development and Panchayat) K Siva Prasad and explored the possibility of daily wages for MGNREGA beneficiaries for the

construction of biogas plants under this scheme.

Besides, funds will also be provided for the construction of a biogas plant.

Under this scheme, a biogas plant of one cubic meter will be built at a total cost of Rs 38,500, including daily wages to the job holders.

Along with this, the beneficiary will be able to use the biogas for cooking.

The Chief Secretary said that biogas is a clean, pollution-free, and cheap fuel. It is a source of renewable energy generated from animal dung, crop waste, vegetable peels, surplus or spoiled vegetables and any kind of excrement which is provided free of cost to the MGNREGA beneficiaries.

"Biogas will be available for cooking which is also non-polluting, and along

with it, the waste from the biogas plant can also be used as fertilizer for agriculture, which has more properties than manure. Biogas technology uses commonly used fuels like wood, kerosene and LPG. Saves gas expenses, besides its use also gets rid of environmental damage caused by harmful gases produced from wood, kerosene," added the Chief Secretary.

The Chief Secretary also mentioned that for every needy family whose job card has been created under the MGNREGA scheme, the construction of a biogas plant will be provided free of charge by the Rural Development Department.

A campaign will also be launched by the Department to generate awareness in this regard among the people so that the maximum number of rural families can construct biogas plants in their homes.

Pb Govt to organize 'NRI Punjabiyan Nal Milni' to redress grievances

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To deal promptly with the issues and grievances of the Punjabi Diaspora, the Punjab Government is organizing 'NRI Punjabiyan Nal Milni' to listen to and redress their complaints. The programs, five in the series, will be held at Jalandhar, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Ludhiana, Moga, and Amritsar on December 16, 19, 23, 26, and 30 respectively.

"The issues and complaints of NRI Punjabis will be resolved promptly as well as on the spot during these meetings," said the state NRI Commission, NRI Sabha, Punjab NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal after a review meeting with NRI Affairs Department on Tuesday.

Dhaliwal said that the

issues of NRIs, belonging to Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, SBS Nagar, and Kapurthala will be listened and resolved during a meeting on December 16 at Jalandhar. Similarly, the program to be held at SAS Nagar on December 19 during which matters of Punjabi Diaspora belonging to SAS Nagar, Rupnagar, Fatehgarh Sahib, and Patiala districts will be resolved on the spot.

The Cabinet Minister further said that during the program at Ludhiana on December 23, issues of NRIs of Ludhiana, Sangrur, Barnala and Malerkotla to be resolved; while during a program at Moga and Amritsar on December 26 and 30, issues related to Moga, Ferozepur, Faridkot, Mukatsar, Fazilka, Bathinda, Mansa and Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Pathankot and Tarn

Taran districts will be covered.

"The basic facilities at the 15 NRI police stations will be improved, and Rs two lakh will be given to every NRI Police Station and a total of Rs 30 lakh will be released soon," said the Minister.

The Minister said that PCS level officers will be deputed as nodal officers, who will resolve the issues and complaints of the concerned with the support of the District Administration. "The State Government is committed to address the issues of Punjabi Diaspora living across the globe," he said.

The concerned Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) will be coordinated after any case came in light and immediately gave instructions to the concerned department in this

regard, he said.

Dhaliwal added that the issue will be taken up with the Union Government to extend rights to NRI Punjabis to buy agricultural land in Punjab.

Raising the question of why a migrant Punjabi cannot buy land, when he can sell the same in Punjab,

the Minister said that 50 percent of cases of NRIs are related to marriage disputes, while 20 percent are related to property.

"Punjab Government is encouraging NRIs to invest in the State to boost its economy and the Government is outrightly in favour of extending the right to them. This is the right as well as the moral responsibility of every person to contribute for the progress of his native state and country," he added.

Punjab Govt clarifies: No restriction on issuance of new arm licenses

No restriction on carrying licensed weapons for self-defense

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Amidst the prevailing confusion over the Punjab Police's crackdown on the gun culture, the State Government on Tuesday clarified that no restriction has been imposed neither on the issuance of arms licenses nor on carrying them for self-defense.

"There is not any restriction on the issuance of new arms licenses and carrying them for the purpose of self-defense in the State," clarified the state Inspector General of Police (IGP), Headquarters, Sukhchain Singh Gill. Clearing the air over the confusion created about the drive against the glorification of arms, IGP Gill said that a person can carry his

or her licensed weapon, but should not glorify or display it in a way to threaten someone.

He said that, similarly, new arms licenses are being issued on a merit basis considering threat perception after proper verification.

Notably, the drive against the glorification of weapons had been launched on the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to curb the trend.

Under this drive, verification of licensed weapons is being carried out, besides verifying the addresses of licensees. The people were given 72 hours window period to remove their pictures with firearms from social media platforms to stop this glorification of the weapons.

Apart from this, strict action is being taken against hate crimes, said the IGP, adding that all Commissioners of Police and the Senior Superintendents of Police have been asked to adopt zero tolerance against hate mongers, who deliberately try to destroy the social fabric of society.

301 drug smugglers held within a week

Amid the ongoing decisive war against drugs, Punjab Police have arrested 301 drug smugglers or suppliers after registering 231 first information reports (FIRs), including 23 commercial, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act across the state in

the past week. Gill, addressing his weekly press conference on Tuesday, said that the Police have also recovered 4.18 kg heroin, 6.46 kg opium, 37 kg ganja, 10 quintals of poppy husk, and 71,000 tablets, capsules, injections or vials of pharma opioids besides recovering Rs 7.45 lakhs drug money from their possession.

Total 459 POs, absconders in NDPS cases arrested till date

IGP Gill said that with 15 more Proclaimed Offenders (POs) or absconders in the NDPS cases arrested in the past week, the total number of arrests reached 459 since the special drive to arrest POs or absconders was started on July 5, 2022.

Ulemas’ role vital in deradicalisation: Doval

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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 a 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 radicalisation.

Urging the need to develop a common narrative on

deradicalisation, Doval said in a democracy there is no place for hate speech, prejudice, propaganda, demonisation, violence, 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

"impede peaceful co-existence" 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 to play.

They have a leading role in educating the people on the original tolerant and moderate principles of Islam and countering radicalisation and extremism with progressive ideas and thought," he said.

Mahfud said discussions 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

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 Telegram.

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 cer-

tain 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

Ankara for terrorism as many close combat weapons like pistols of Turkiye origin like Canik TP9 have been recovered in searches after encounters, they said.

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chandigarh and Delhi-NCR.

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

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 associates 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 Prahallpur (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,

along with ammunition. Investigations will continue to dismantle such terror networks 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 weapons.

The recent sensational crimes and extortion calls by criminal syndicates and gang-

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-

works, which were operating 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 abroad.

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

‘Moral duty of citizens to ensure welfare of soldiers’



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ 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".

Rajnath 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

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 proficiently.

The defence minister also launched a new website for the

Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. The portal is an interactive and user-friendly portal developed to promote online contribution

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

New Delhi: India has to give due weightage to technology for its geopolitical positioning as it will play a crucial role in striking alliances in a multi-polar 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 years. 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," Jaishankar 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.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday permitted the Mumbai 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.

This significant order would enable the MMRCCL 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 MMRCCL 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 week of February next year.

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

"It would not be possible for the court to stay the decision,

"Moreover, it must be 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 CJI said in its order.

The top law officer said the plea of the MMRCCL 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 MMRCCL has already invested Rs 22,000 crores. Because of the delay caused by the litigation, the cost has escalated to Rs 37,000 crores,"

Maternal mortality lowest in Kerala, highest in MP, UP

New Delhi: India has reported 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 significantly higher MMR at 195, 173 and 167 respectively.

None of the States have been, so far, able to bring the MMR to a single 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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government to ensure quality 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 level which is 70. For instance, except Jharkhand

which has reported significant decline in MMR to touch to 56, Assam continue to have high MMR at 195 Bihar (118), 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).

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday transferred the trial in the murder case of YS Vivekananda Reddy - former Lok Sabha MP and uncle of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy - to a Special CBI Court in Hyderabad.

A 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 trial 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 accidents in Mumbai.

transfer to a State other than the State of Andhra Pradesh, as justice need not only be done but also seen to be done. Criminal trial, if biased, criminal justice will be at stake," said the apex court.

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.

IN SHORT

CONG RAPS PM OVER AIMS SERVER HACKING
New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday hit out at the Modi Government over the hacking of the AIMS 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
New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 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
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a PIL 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 solution.

New HIV infections in kids down 52% in 2010-21

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Due to Covid-induced disruptions, 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 global snapshot on children and HIV/AIDS, which was 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-

nosed and initiated on treatment, as per the snapshot.

Taking serious note of the gloomy scenario, ahead of 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 a distant dream, warned UNICEF.

"Though children have long lagged behind adults in 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 children and adolescents lose 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

deaths and 21 per cent of new HIV infections in 2021. However, the snapshot shows that longer-term trends remain positive.

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 continues to grow.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The Bench directed 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 order.

"At the inception, we flagged the issue of detainees/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 prisoners," 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 Agrawal, appearing for NALSA,

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. On 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 reasons 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

years against conviction and are 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 detainee has already served 14 years of sentence in a murder case, then there are norms prevalent in each state for

examination of such cases 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 serious offences walk out free but these poor inmates, who may have gone to jail for slapping someone, have to spend

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 Jharkhand.

Didi chides DM in public for ignoring 'blanket order'

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 state-sponsored 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 orders.

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

the microphone on, asking 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 distributed?"

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 here 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 rally.

Hours later Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu 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 Sundarbans 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.

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

PTI ■ GUWAHATI/ SHILLONG/ SILCHAR

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 areas along the interstate border. These two northeastern states, which started the first round of discussions in July 2021, signed an MoU in March this year to resolve differences in six areas.

"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



two states, Sarma told a press conference here.

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 cognisance 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

that whatever be the dispute police has to use restraint in 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 phase 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 ■ AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI

In 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 rally. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel lost no time in claiming the remark reflects the opposition party's hatred for Gujaratis.

Elections for the 182-member Assembly in the BJP-ruled Gujarat are scheduled to be held in two phases on December 1 and 5.

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 100-headed like Ravan? I don't understand 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 Modi 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

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief 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 made up their minds to end dynastic politics.

Battling 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 formed Pragatisheel Samajwadi 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-in-law 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 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 instructions of Atul Sharma 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, 1989.

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 becoming popular."

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

A day after the security of Pragatisheel 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



uncle to a 'pendulum' and a '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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Two 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 anti-national and an act of sedition.

V Abdul Rehman, Minister for 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 movement against national interests," said Rehman while addressing a seminar on Vizhinjam Port.

The minister claimed that the Government has not forced

out even a single resident under 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 destroyed.

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 Vizhinjam 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 with media.



A labourer holds rice grain as he spreads it to dry, at a field on the outskirts of Jammu on Tuesday.

(PTI)



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Culture wars

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

Israel'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, cowardly, 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*.

PICTALK



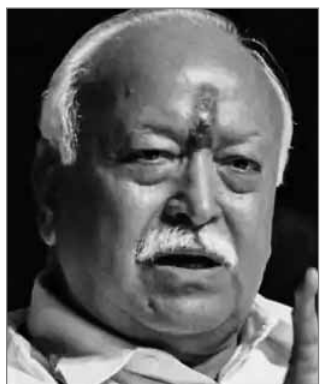
Two-wheeler riders cross on a bamboo bridge constructed over the River Brahmaputra, in Guwahati

PTI

Who are Hindus?

Mohan Bhagwat's definition of a Hindu may not go down well with many

RSS 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 statement 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



ASHOK K MEHTA

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

Almost 3 months after his appointment as CDS, Gen Anil Chauhan has maintained silence. He travelled to Def-Expo in Gujarat 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 strategy.

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 decision-making 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 of government effort that every



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 outlining national security objectives, their orientation,



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 Doval who heads DPC is working on NSS from an integrated review of defence, for-

eign, 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 be useful.

(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 TO THE EDITOR

CORONA SCARE IN CHINA

Sir — Even as the frightening Coronavirus appears to have hit China again, the country's headline 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

PT USHA RIGHT CHOICE



It 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

the top job. Usha, a top sprinter in her heyday, 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 medalist 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 | 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 objectionable.

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 an 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 but also harm his Patanjali products

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 Pune-bound train when a part of it caved in causing extensive damage.

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

I am going to make

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).

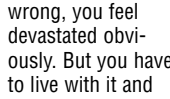


Delhi CM — Arvind Kejriwal



US President — Joe Biden

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



ssActor — Chunky Pandey



The way he (Suryakumar Yadav) is playing right now, there was no need to have any conversation 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.



RSS Chief — Mohan Bhagwat

FIRST COLUMN

PLASTIC PART OF LIFE BUT CAUTION NEEDED

Industries have to find viable alternatives to plastic



SAKSHI SETHI

Plastic 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 now harming wildlife.

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 natural resources.

The word 'plastic' originally meant pliable and easily shaped. In 1862, Alexander Parkes—the man behind the world's first ever man-made 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 aesthetic 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



SUMET BHASIN

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


In 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 land-fill 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 governance norms. The Delhi government has worked to financially starve the municipal 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 landfill sites.

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



THE NGT DIRECTED THE DELHI GOVERNMENT TO PAY RS 900 CRORE AS ENVIRONMENTAL COMPENSATION FOR IMPROPER MANAGEMENT OF SOLID MUNICIPAL WASTE IN 2022. IN AUGUST 2022, DELHI GOVERNMENT WITHHELD RS 900 CRORE OF PAYMENTS TO MCDs

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)



and has come down to 203 lakh tonnes in September, 2022. It implies that around 26.1 lakh tonnes have been disposed of in four months, at the rate of 6.52 lakh tonnes per month. The total legacy waste at the three sites of Ghazipur, Bhalswa and Okhla stood at 280 lakh tonnes in mid-2019. The processing of waste brought this down to 229.1 lakh tonnes in May 2022, which means that 50.9 lakh tonnes were disposed of in three years, at the rate of 1.41 lakh tonnes per month.

There are as many as 44 trommel machines which are processing 9,000 to 10,000 tonnes of waste daily at Bhalswa. They have processed 25 lakh tonnes till July, 2022. Besides, 26 trommel 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, 10 trommel machines are working at Ghazipur landfill which process 4,000 tonnes of waste every day. Soon, 50 additional trommel machines are to be deployed for the processing of waste at Ghazipur, Narela and Okhla landfill sites.

It may also be known that 'Waste to Energy Plant' has a total capacity of processing 5,250 tonnes of waste, which generates 52 MW electricity. The Tehkhand Waste to Energy Plant became operational recently, which brings 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 Energy.

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 August 2025.

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 by 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 hands 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 corporations 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 contrast.


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 capital 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.

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

Will 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



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

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 re-run 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.

With his sustained sup-

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 registered 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 month with a solid political base and war chest behind him.

President Biden celebrated his 80th birthday quietly on November 20. He is buoyant after the unexpected Midterm poll results from


this month, where Democrats 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 uttieg, is yet another probable. He has overseen the passage of significant infrastructure investments. He would be the first openly gay President

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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. — INDIAN SKIPPER SHIKHAR DHAWAN





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 ASHISH NEHRA

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 electricity.

"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

months.

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 ahead."

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 notes.

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 and electric shocks.

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 said.

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 September 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 gun, he said.

The Russian soldier said, "Are 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-

national justice, the evidence is lock-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, trade in State visit

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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 pandemic.

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 Ukraine, as both Biden and Macron work to maintain economic and military support for Kyiv as it tries to repel Russian forces.

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 economic 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 20-course White House dinner, but 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-

ly the right and the most appropriate country to start with for state visits."

Macron was also 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 appearances in and around Washington on Wednesday - including a visit to NASA headquarters with Vice President Kamala Harris and talks with Biden administration officials on nuclear energy.

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 the entertainment.

Ukraine's 'Invincibility' centres offer refuge, resilience

AP ■ BUCHA (UKRAINE)

Retired Ukrainian construction worker Borys Markovnikov is on the move again: this time, just a few steps from his home in the town of Bucha, northwest of Kyiv, to seek shelter and warmth at a "Point of Invincibility" — a government-built 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 to return home, but home is not always an easy place to live.

"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 survive."

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

Russia protests Pope comments as Vatican seeks to mediate

AP ■ ROME

Russia has lodged a formal 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 spare ethnic Russian troops from criticism.

The Kremlin's ambassador to the Holy See, Alexander Avdeev, told the RIA Novosti agency that he met Monday with a Vatican official to express his "indignation" about Francis' comments, which were contained in an interview with the Jesuit magazine America that was published Monday.

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.

Uneasy calm grips Ukraine as West prepares winter aid

AP ■ KYIV

An uneasy calm hung over Kyiv on Tuesday as residents of the 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 sup-



port to Ukraine: fuel, generators, medical supplies and winter equipment, 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.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-57-T-2022-23-E3
Electrical work in connection with strengthening of wiring cabling, earthing with other associated work in dispensaries/hospitals over Delhi division.
Approx cost of the works : Rs. 56.26 lacs
Address of the office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security : Rs. 1,12,500.00
Date & time of submission of tender : 26.12.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender : 26.12.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board : www.irggs.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
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RO No.: 869 **e-Tender Time Extension Notice** Date: 29-11-2022
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 hereby extended as is given below:
Tender No.13/EE(G)/Chilla/2022-23. Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning works of 220volt, 400AH Plante Battery Set and Battery Charger at Chilla Power House.
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
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer (Gen.), Chilla Power House
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

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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.mmmullana.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 P.M.** positively in University office. Physical counselling shall be held on **01.12.2022 at 9:00 A.M.** onwards in the University Campus.
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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 war-torn nation will one day become a member of the world's largest security organization.

AP

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TLMD-VI(6),BEMINA, SRINAGAR
TeleNo:0194-2492429Fax:0194-2492429.
Email: tlcdistpdd@gmail.com
EXTENSION-I
e-NIT No: TLMD-VI/11 of 2022-23
Dated: 10/11/2022
Name of the work: Augmentation of Grid Station Kulgam by way of Replacement of 132/33KV, 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-commercial evaluation.
CRITICAL DATES AFTER CORRIGENDUM: -

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, Bemina, 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 other documents uploaded on site.
No: TLMD-VI/2915-17
Dated:-26.11.2022
-Sd/-
Executive Engineer
TLMD-VI,Bemina Sgr.
DIPK-NB-5270/22

Trial starts in Norway for Putin ally's son who flew drone

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

The son of a Russian businessman 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



Christian Elden, who has said that 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 2014.

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

Numerous drone sightings have been reported near offshore oil and gas platforms belonging to NATO member Norway, a major oil and gas producer. Several Russian citizens have been detained for flying drones or taking photographs of sensitive sites in 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.

US rejects China objections to South China Sea mission

AP ■ BEIJING

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 virtually in its entirety.

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



missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville on Tuesday "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 assets to issue warnings and drive off the 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 threatens all nations operating nearby.

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.

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

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

About 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 reported.

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



alliance, which includes the NC, CPN-Maoist Centre, CPN-Unified Socialist, Loktantrik Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Janamorchha 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 concluded that the electoral

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 agreement.

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 parliamentary 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 time.

Census: Christians minority in England



AP ■ LONDON

Fewer 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 1.5%.

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 separately.

GOP 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 origins 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 chairs:

JUDICIARY'S BIG ROLE

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, is 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.

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

It's typically one of the most partisan committees on Capitol Hill, yet Jordan's combative style stands out even there. The committee would be the place where any effort would begin to impeach a member of the Biden administration, as some Republicans have been proposing for Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Jordan's inquiries to the 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 also advocated for a wide-ranging look at the Biden administration's immigration policies and the origins of COVID-19.

"All those things need to be investigated just so you have the truth," Jordan told conservative activists last summer at a conference. "Plus that will frame up 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 Republicans say their investigation 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-

nised.

"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 PPP loan funds, some of this 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 attack.

"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 authorizing committee in 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.

4 Palestinians killed by Israeli fire in occupied West Bank

AP ■ JERUSALEM

A Palestinian man on Tuesday rammed 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 the day.

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 violence began overnight near

the city of Hebron, where fighting erupted between Israeli forces and residents.

The Israeli army said clashes 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 Israeli fire.

In a separate incident, two brothers were killed by Israeli



fire during clashes with troops 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 Dhafir Rimawi, 22 and 21.

The Israeli military said troops operating in the village



China lockdown stir pauses as police flood city streets

AP ■ HONG KONG

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 similar 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 as well."

Ethiopia offers no date for end to blackout in Tigray region

AP ■ NAIROBI

There is "no timeline" for restoring internet access to Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region, a senior government official said Tuesday.

The restoration of Tigray's 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 Belete Molla said.

He was speaking at the UN's annual Internet Governance Forum being held this



week in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

"The government of 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

internet shutdown in Tigray. "There is no timeline."

Tigray, home to more than 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 2020.

A ceasefire deal signed between the warring sides in South Africa earlier this month commits the government to restoring Tigray's basic services, but the communications blackout has not yet been lifted.

Houston lifts boil-water order affecting more than 2 million

AP ■ HOUSTON

Houston officials lifted an order Tuesday that had called for more than 2 million people in the nation's fourth-largest 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 pressure to drop.

The order led to the closure of businesses and schools, including the Houston Independent School District, which cancelled classes Monday and Tuesday.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that we are selling our property J-28, South Extn.-I, New Delhi-110049 to Saravathi Prakash Chander Chopra and Harish Mallik, residence of J-15 and B-19, South Extn.-I, New Delhi-110049. Whereas in a chain of documents we have lost one document i.e. GPA by Shri Kuldip Singh in favour of Mrs. Shiv Kumari Singh having No.24-0318920. If anyone found the 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, No.14, has been allotted in the name of Dhanram S/o Late Sh. Dina Nath R/o A-140, Sector-19, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.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 (U.P.), on 27.02.1992 at Suo 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 Balabhai Sahay & Anand Sahay S/o Sh. Krishna Balabhai Sahay R/o N-123, Sector-12, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P.). Now, if any one has/have any objection he/she may submit his/her objection in the Residential Department of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the publication of this notice. **Smt. Suman Dhaka**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum
Ref. i) Tender Notice No. 63/2022-2023 dated. 19.11.2022
ii) Tender No. 03220999A Due on 13.12.2022. (S.No.2)
iii) Tender No. 03220006 Due on 26.12.2022. (S.No.10)
In reference to above mentioned tenders the new condition according to correction slip no. 1 has been incorporated in the tenders. All other terms & conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website **www.ireps.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-I/O&M Dated: 26-11-2022
SE/MM-I/O&M/GHTP, Lehra Mohabat-151111 invites e-tender for the work of Operation & Maintenance and General Cleanliness of PLC based complete Ash Handling Plant of 2x210 MW Units (Slage-I) and 2x250MW Slage-II along with operation & routine maintenance of 1 No. 100 MT Electronic pliss weightbridge 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 general House Keeping and maintenance of Decantation system & storage tank area at GHTP Lehra Mohabat.
For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 30-11-2022 from 11:00 AM onwards
Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any will be uploaded online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
76155/12/1158/2021/17731 GHTP-67/22

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

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.mmmullana.org).
Last date of receiving fully 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 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.mmmullana.org | Email: info@mmmullana.org

Sensex, Nifty settle at fresh lifetime highs

Maintain winning momentum for 6th day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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 winners.

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

"Indian markets opened on positive note following positive overall Asian markets... During the afternoon session the markets continued their positive trend with heavy buying in FMCG and consumer durables stocks.

"Sentiments remained optimistic as data showed that foreign portfolio investors have infused funds worth Rs 32,344 crore in the Indian stock markets so far in the month of November and became net buyers again," said Narendra Solanki - Head Fundamental Research- Investment Services, Anand Rathii Shares & Stock

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).

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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 India.

"...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 India'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 sta-



tus from the income tax system and give it in a secure manner to lender who can then take a decision to give credit. All this is fundamentally going to democratise lending and other financial services," the 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 multimodal parks, all this will help reduce logistics cost.

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

Nilekani also said that from about 600 million in 2014, today 1.3 billion Indians have Aadhaar IDs (identity).

"India has led the world in 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, he said.

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 guidelines 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 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 operationalisation 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 said.

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 stored on mobile 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 said.

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

Most rated companies in India can withstand 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 year.

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 with-

stand 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 rupee-based 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 fluctuations.

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 depreciation scenario.

Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 81.71 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee slipped 3 paise to 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 territory.

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 settled 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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The 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 states.

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, which is 56.4 per cent lower

than the indicated amount for this week, according to an analysis by Icm 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 average cut-off/yield declined

by 7 basis points (bps) to 7.61 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

Central 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 sources.

"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

A government-appointed gas price review panel, led by Kirit Parikh, is recommending a floor and ceiling price for natural gas produced from legacy fields of state-owned 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 suggested 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



tasked with suggesting a "fair price to the end-consumer" while ensuring a "market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime for India's long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy", has favoured two different pricing regimes, sources said.

For the legacy or old fields of ONGC and OIL -- where the cost has long been recov-

ered and which are currently governed by a formula that 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.

This would ensure that prices do not fall below the cost of production, as they did last year, or do not spike to

record levels as currently.

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 production.

‘Govt needs to set up separate Ministry for pharma sector’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government needs to set 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 sector.

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 technology.



Organisation 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 issues.

The leaders also discussed having a single industry organ-

isation to put across the grievances of the pharma industry before the government.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the 15th edition of CPHI & PMEC India, Pharmexcil Director General 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.

Netherlands beats host Qatar 2-0

The Dutch failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

Security officials chased the person down and the flag was dropped on the field.

Khaka and Shaqiri both have ethnic Albanian heritage and family ties to Kosovo.

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

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Frustrated 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-aways.

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 over the years, even he understands 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 current



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.

Since the last match was a 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 disservice.

Shardul Thakur looked pedestrian in the opening ODI in Auckland and, in all likelihood, Arshdeep Singh, Deepak Chahal 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 last game.

TEAMS

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 Chahal, 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.

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 partnership 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 Arshdeep in his short career 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.

UNBEATEN WEST INDIES UPBEAT BEFORE 2-TEST AUSTRALIAN SERIES

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The West Indies have had little 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 day-night match beginning Dec. 8 in Adelaide — will be his last in charge.

Holder says the test team is going in the opposite direction — unbeaten this year with series wins at home against Bangladesh 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 Associated 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 from."

Joseph debuted for the West 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 coming in bowling at high 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 whisperers," 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 of the season and speak to the family."

Public Notice

Whereas M/S Braham Vatika Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. is in process of setting up residential plotted colony over an area measuring 4.03437 acres in the revenue estate of Village Umri, Sector 32, Kurukshetra, Haryana, after registration of area measuring 7.50356 acres from existing licence No.35 of 2018 Dt. 08-06-2018 & 4.03437 acres on the basis of additional LOI issued vide Memo No.LC-3670-B JE (SB) 2022/32376 dated 26-10-2022 issued by the Director General, Town and Country Planning Haryana, Chandigarh.

And whereas several individuals have made booking/entered into purchase agreements for allotment of plots/property in the said colony (hereinafter referred to as allottees).

And whereas the O/O Director General, Town and Country Planning (Haryana), Chandigarh, while granting LOI vide Memo No.LC-3670-BJE (SB) 2022/32376 dated 26-10-2022 for setting up the residential plotted colony, has required seeking of any objections/suggestions from the allottees/General Public for the addition of area and about taking approach from existing licence No.35 of 2018 dated 08-06-2018 that their rights are not being infringed.

Accordingly, vide this Public notice, objections/suggestions are hereby invited from any of the allottees/General Public in the said colony.The approach for additional licenced land is being taken from licenced area of licence no.35 of 2018 dated 08-06-2018. The in-principle layout plan is available for perusal on our website www.brahamvatika.com and at our site office Village Umri, Sector 32, Kurukshetra, Haryana.

Objections, if any, may be filed in the O/O District Town Planner, 2nd Floor, Mini Secretariat, Kurukshetra, Haryana may be filed in our Corporate Office within 10 days of this notice, failing which it shall be assured that there are no objections to the proposed revision of the layout plan.

M/S Braham Vatika Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. Village Umri, Sector 32, Kurukshetra, Haryana

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before Sh. Sumeet Sihag, HCS, Asstt. Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh.

Subject:- Transfer of Lease Hold Rights in respect of Commercial Booth No 252, Sector 19-C, Chandigarh (RBL-800) to the extent of 18.07% share on the basis of Registered Will of Late Smt. Mohinder Kaur.

It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office Smt. Mohinder Kaur is the owner/lessee of Commercial Booth No 252, Sector 19-C, Chandigarh to the extent of 18.07% Share.

It has been informed by Naninder Singh that Smt. Mohinder Kaur expired on 20.06.2022 and he have also intimated the following legal heirs of the deceased owner/lessee:-

- (1) Tarlochan Singh-Son (Deceased),
- (2) Harsimrat Kaur-Granddaughter (3) Gurmeet Kaur- Daughter (Deceased),
- (4) Pavnreet Kaur- Granddaughter, (5) Jashan Preet Singh- Grandson, (6) Naninder Singh-Son, (7) Bhupinder Kaur-Daughter, (8) Harmehak Singh-Grandson, (9) Mohan Singh-Husband (Deceased), (10) Harpal Singh-Son (Deceased), (11) Parnreet Kaur-Granddaughter, (12) Nirmeet Kaur-Daughter in Law, (13) Amarjeet Kaur-Daughter in Law, (14) Amarjit Kaur-Daughter, (15) Rupinder Kaur-Daughter (16) Davinder Singh-Son, (17) Gurjit Singh-Son in law, (18) Japjot Singh-Grandson

Now, Naninder Singh have applied for the transfer of Lease Rights in respect of Commercial Booth No 252, Sector 19-C, Chandigarh to the extent of 18.07% Share held by Late Smt. Mohinder Kaur in his favour on the basis of Registered Will dated 06/09/2021. If anybody has any information about any other legal heir(s) of the deceased other than mentioned above, the same may be intimated to the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh, immediately.

If anybody has any objection upon the mutation of the said share in the said property, in favour of the above named applicant, he/ she/ they may furnish the same in writing (supported with affidavit duly attested by Magistrate/ Notary) in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly in the name of above said beneficiary and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage.

Sumeet Sihag, HCS, Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising the powers of Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Manoj Kumar Sharma/ Laxmi Kaushik- LBBWD00005544822-H No 160, Vill Thihara, Teh Bawal, Rewari, Haryana Hissar- 125023	House No. Tulip-303 (LIG), 3rd Floor, Tower L1/ Tulip, Jan Aawas Vatika, Khasra No 738/929, Rev Village Rabarka, Tehsil Tijara, Bhiwadi, Alwar, Rajasthan- 301018	November 14, 2022 Rs.5,04,760/-	08-08-2022

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : November 30, 2022
Place : Hissar

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

BRANCH OFFICE :MALERKOTLA

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

APPENDIX -IV [Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to the borrowers and guarantors on dates mentioned against them claiming upon to repay the amount(s) mentioned in the respective demand notices within 60 days of the date of said notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ mortgagors / guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said rule on the date mentioned below.

The Borrowers/ mortgagors / guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for the amount here in below and interest, incidental expenses, costs etc thereon.

(The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets).

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Details of Charged / Mortgaged Property/ies	Date and Amount of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Borrower: M/S Iqbal Cycle Store, Lal Bazar, Near Municipal Corporation Malerkotla, Distt Malerkotla 148023. Proprietor : Mr. Mohd Tariq S/o Mohd Iqbal, Mohalla Khatika, Malerkotla, Distt Malerkotla -148023. Guarantor : Mr. Mohd Ismail S/o Mohammad Iqbal Mohalla Khatikan Wala, Opposite Masjid, Malerkotla, Distt. Malerkotla-148023.	EM of Commercial Building measuring 27.5/9 Sq. Yards situated at Lal Bazar, Malerkotla, Distt. Malerkotla. Old Property No B-12/434 and New Property No. B-2/0432/17 in the name of Mr. Mohd. Ismail registered in the office of Sub-registrar vide Transfer Deed No.568 dated 30.07.2015 and bounded as under: East : MC Office, West : Road Side, North : Shop No 22 MC, South : Shop of MC.	20.09.2022 Rs 10,87,341/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousands Three Hundred Forty One Only) as on 23.11.2022 Plus interest and other expenses thereon.	24.11.2022
Date : 29.11.2022	Place : Malerkotla	Authorised Officer	

PUBLIC NOTICE

NO. HBH/EM/PKL/2022/4020 DATE 29/11/2022 Sub :- Transfer of H.No. 226FF, Housing Board Colony, Sec-3-4-4A, Pinjore Tehsil Kalka, Distt. Panchkula, Haryana in the name(s) of Sh. Bhoo Singh S/o Sh. Sheo Lal R/o H.No. 102, Sector-20A, Chandigarh, on the basis of general transfer. Sh. Suresh Kumar S/o Sh. Dhanpat R/o V.P.O Kaunt. Distt- Bhiwani, Haryana is living intestate property.

It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned with the property No H. No. 226FF, Housing Board Colony, Sec-3-4-4A, Pinjore Tehsil Kalka, Distt. Panchkula, Haryana which stands in the name of Sh. Suresh Kumar S/o Sh. Dhanpat R/o V.P.O. Kaunt, Distt- Bhiwani, Haryana as per record of this office.

It has been reported by the applicant (s) that Sh. Suresh Kumar S/o Sh. Dhanpat R/o V.P.O. Kaunt, Distt- Bhiwani, Haryana was the owner of this property applied for General Transfer on 22.11.2022 for the said property in his/her name on the basis of documents of General Transfer Policy in the name of Sh. Bhoo Singh S/o Sh. Sheo Lal R/o H.No.102, Sector-20-A, Chandigarh. If anybody have any objection for the General transfer of the said property in favour of Sh. Bhoo Singh S/o Sh. Sheo Lal R/o H.No. 102, Sector- 20-A, Chandigarh, they may furnish their objection in writing in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which this property shall be transferred accordingly and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained in letter on. Estate Manager, Housing Board, Haryana, Panchkula

Haryana, Panchkula

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Harpreet Singh/ Parvinder Kaur/ LBAMT00005178095/ LBAMT00005178097/ LBAMT00005310297	Plot Private No.109, Comprised In Khasra No.56/18 Min Khewat No.886 Village Nanagli, Hadbast No.283 Abadi Muskan Avenue Near Baba Deep Singh Colony Amritsar Punjab/ November 24, 2022	June 23, 2022 Rs. 45,93,197/-	Amritsar

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

Date : November 30, 2022
Place: Amritsar

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUNJAB & SIND BANK

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

BRANCH OFFICE : NIHAL SINGH WALA, DISTT. MOGA

[RULE 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas The Undersigned being "Authorized Officer" of Punjab & Sind Bank, Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in Exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Issued a demand notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 calling upon the following borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in notice within 60 days of the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described here below in Exercise of the power conferred on him/ her under section 13(4) of said ACT read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) in particular & the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab & Sind Bank, Branch Nihal Singh Wala, for an amount mentioned here in below, besides interest and other charges/expenses against calling amount.

The borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset(s).

Name of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Outstanding Amount
Borrower : (A) Smt. Santosh Rani W/o Tarsem Lal (B) Sh. Tarsem Lal S/o Walaiti Ram (C) Sh. Krishna Kumar S/o Tarsem Lal (D) Smt. Kaifi W/o Krishna Kumar Resident of Near HDFC Bank ,Old Grain Market, Nihal Singh Wala, Tehsil Nihal Singh Wala, Distt. Moga	Land and Residential House measuring 15M 3S in Land measuring 2 marla being 2/347 share of 17 K 7M, bearing khasra no. 128/120/(8-0), 129/116/(8-0), 25/1/(1-7), khewat no. 489/1, Land measuring 12 Marla 6 sarai being 38/5631 share of 93 Kantal 17 marla, bearing khasra no. 128/19/2/(2-0), 21/(8-0), 22/(8-0), 23/(8-0), 129/25/2/1/(5-13), 25/2/2/(1-0), 136/5/(8-0), 6/(8-0), 15/(4-7), 137/11/1/(7-7), 2/1 (0-15), 2/2/(6-12), 9/(8-0), 10/(8-0), 11/(6-16), 12/11/(3-7), khewat no. 489/2, Land measuring 6 sarai being 6/1323 share of 7 kanal 7 marla, bearing khasra no. 137/3/1/(7-7) khewat no. 489/3 as per jamabandi year 2005-06, Situated at Green city Colony, Village Ranshih Kalan, Tehsil Chander Singh Wala, Distt Moga as per Title deed no. 62 dated 12.04.2012 registered in favour of Smt. Santosh Rani W/o Shri Tarsem Lal at Sub-register office Nihal Singh Wala. Bounded as:- East: Kiran Bala 85°0', West: Road 85°0', North: Road 48°6', South: Dharam Dass 48°6'.	03.09.2022	24.11.2022	Rs. 47,72,788.23 (Rupees Forty Seven Lakcs Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Eight) and Paisa Twenty Three Only + interest w.e.f 01-11-2022 and future interest and other expenses thereon.
Date: 29.11.2022	Place: Nihal Singh Wala	Authorised Officer		