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OF DIGITAL RUPEE TODAY

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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AUSTRALIA BEAT  
IRELAND BY 42  
RUNS IN T20 WC  
12 SPORT

# 9 arrested over Gujarat cable bridge collapse; death toll 134



Rescue workers search for survivors in the Machchhu River in Gujarat's Morbi district on Monday.

PTI

PTI ■ MORBI

Police on Monday arrested nine people, including four from the Oreva Group that was managing the Morbi suspension bridge, and filed a case against firms tasked with maintenance and operation of the British-era structure which collapsed, killing 134 people on Sunday.

Those killed in the tragedy also included 12 members of the family of Lok Sabha mem-

ber from Rajkot Mohan Kundariya. Kundariya said the 12 were close relatives of his older brother and hailed from villages in the State's Tankara taluk.

Video footage emerged of the moments before Sunday evening's deadly collapse, showing the bridge snapping in a few seconds, taking down scores of visitors seen walking on the swaying structure which reopened five days ago after extensive repair but sans a fit-

ness certificate.

"Nine people have been arrested in the Morbi bridge collapse case. They include two managers and two ticket booking clerks of the Oreva Group that was managing the bridge," Rajkot Range Inspector-General Ashok Yadav said, informing media of the criminal investigation into the tragedy that has shocked the country. The death toll in the bridge collapse has mounted to 134, he said. A day after

the bridge crammed with visitors came crashing down, sending people tumbling into the river below, rescue operations continued as authorities looked for survivors.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Minister of State for Home Harsh Yadav said, informing media of the criminal investigation into the tragedy that has shocked the country. The death toll in the bridge collapse has mounted to 134, he said. A day after

## World leaders condole tragedy in Morbi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Several world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Monday expressed shock and condole the death of people in the cable suspension bridge collapse in Morbi, Gujarat.

In an official statement, Putin conveyed his condolences over the tragic incident to his Indian counterpart President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Dear Ms President, dear Mr Prime Minister, please accept my heartfelt condo-

lences over the tragic bridge collapse in the State of Gujarat," the message by the Russian President read.

Putin also conveyed his sympathy and support to the families and friends of the victims, and "wished all those injured a speedy recovery," Russian State-owned news agency TASS reported on Monday.

"An awful tragedy happened yesterday in Morbi! Profound condolences to the relatives of those many perished, to Prime Minister Modi and all the people of India and Gujarat! Speedy recovery to the injured," Russian Ambassador to New Delhi, Denis Alipov said.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Opp seeks judicial or 'reliable' inquiry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Monday demanded a "judicial" or a "reliable" probe into the Morbi bridge collapse incident even as it asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi if the accident was an "act of fraud or an act of God" alluding to his remarks against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the Vivekananda Road fly-over collapse in 2016.

"Why were so many people allowed? There should be an inquiry headed by a retired Supreme Court or High Court judge," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who paid homage to those killed in the tragedy, said adding the bereaved families and those affected should be provided all assistance and given compensation by the Government.

"Our (Congress) leaders have reached there. Ashok Gehlot (Rajasthan Chief Minister) is also reaching. We will try to help out as much as possible. We don't want to indulge in any politics over it or blame anyone at this point of time," he said.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Two-finger test must stop: SC to Centre, States

'Person doing test on rape victim will be held guilty of misconduct'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Any individual conducting the two-finger test on a rape victim will be held guilty of misconduct, the Supreme Court warned on Monday and directed the Centre and States to ensure that the regressive and invasive practice is not conducted.

The Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli said a decade-old decision of the top court had held the invasive "two-finger test" as a violation of a woman's dignity and privacy. The 'two-finger test' is conducted on victims of sexual assault and rape to determine whether they are habituated to sexual intercourse.

The apex court overturned a decision of the Jharkhand High Court acquitting a rape and murder convict Shailendra Kumar Rai alias Pandav Rai and upheld a decision of a trial court holding him guilty and awarding him life sentence.

The Bench noted that while examining the victim, the medical board of the Sadar Hospital at Deoghar in Jharkhand conducted the two-



finger test to determine whether she was habituated to sexual intercourse.

"This court has time and again deprecated the use of this regressive and invasive test in cases alleging rape and sexual assault. This so-called test has no scientific basis and neither proves nor disproves allegations of rape. It instead re-victimises and re-traumatises women who may have been sexually assaulted, and is an affront to their dignity. The two-finger test or per vaginum test must not be conducted," it noted.

"It is unfortunate that the practice is prevalent even today... The procedure which tests vaginal laxity is an affront on women's dignity. It cannot be said that a sexually active woman cannot be raped," the Bench said and issued a slew of directions to the Centre and State Government authorities and asked the DGPs and Health Secretaries of the States to ensure that the "two-finger test" is not conducted.

*Continued on Page 2*

## CAPSULE

### KASHMIRI PANDITS APPLY FOR 'MIGRANT' TAG

**Jammu:** A group of 13 Kashmiri Pandit families on Monday jointly submitted their application in the office of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), Jammu for registering them as 'Migrants'. The move is set to impact a series of measures taken up by the Union Government to ensure early return of Kashmiri Pandits to their homes in Kashmir Valley. **P5**

### COPS SEARCH HOUSES OF 'THE WIRE' EDITORS

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police on Monday searched the houses of The Wire's Founding Editor Siddharth Varadarajan and Deputy Editor MK Venu in connection with a now retracted story related to BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya, officials said. A senior police officer said electronic devices belonging to the two senior editors of the news portal will be examined. No arrests have been made yet in the case. **P3**

### SEBI BANS CHOKSI FROM MARKET FOR 10 YRS

**New Delhi:** Sebi on Monday barred fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi from the securities markets for 10 years and imposed a fine of ₹5 crore on him for indulging in fraudulent trading in the shares of Gitanjali Gems. He has been told to pay the penalty within 45 days. Choksi, who was CMD and part promoter of Gitanjali Gems, is the uncle of fugitive businessman Nirav Modi. **P10**

# Enemies trying to break India's unity, says Modi

'Oppn wants to unite country, but cannot give Patel's photo in ads on his birth anniv'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday attacked the Congress and its 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' saying the Opposition party wants to unite the country, but cannot give Sardar Patel's photo in advertisements on his birth anniversary. "The people of Gujarat will not tolerate this



insult," he said addressing a rally at Banaskantha in Gujarat where he is on a three-day visit. He also addressed another rally in Kevadia to observe Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary and launched many developmental projects. Modi said that enemies were

trying to break India's unity and the country should stand firm against any such attempts.

October 31, the birth anniversary of Patel, the first Home Minister of the country, is observed as the 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' or National Unity Day. Kevadia hosts the statue

of Patel which is the tallest of all statues in the world.

Modi also remembered those who died in Sunday's Morbi after a century-old suspension bridge over Machchu River snapped on Sunday evening. Modi turned emotional while speaking about the tragedy.

"I am in Ekta Nagar but my mind is with the victims of Morbi. Rarely in my life have I experienced such pain. On one hand, there is a pain-riddled heart and on the other hand, there is the path to duty," he said.

All alertness is being observed even in the hospital where the injured are under treatment.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Centre ends project row with ₹500 cr EMC for Maha Cluster to woo ₹2K cr investment for State

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

amidst vehement protests by the Opposition about Maharashtra losing mega projects like Vedanta-Foxconn and Tata-Airbus to Gujarat, the Centre on Monday approved the setting up of a ₹500

crore greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) at Ranjangaon in Maharashtra, even as Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said that the Centre was planning to set up a textile park in the State.

Announcing the setting up of an EMC in Rajangaon in Pune district, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said in New Delhi that the

EMC was targeted to attract an investment of over ₹2,000 crore, with a potential to generate thousands of jobs in coming years in the State.

Interacting with the media at Electronics Niketan, Chandrasekhar said, "To make Maharashtra into an electronics hub, we have approved an EMC project in Ranjangaon in Pune district. The total investment of the Government will be about ₹500 crore." *Contd on Page 2*

## ITBP gives special medals to its 4-legged soldiers



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Yak 'Bahubali' (Hoof No: C-151) and pony 'Madhu' (Hoof No: E-1254), part of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Animal Transport Wing, have bagged special service medals for delivering tonnes of rations, equipment and ammunition to forward posts along the Indo-China Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Sikkim and Ladakh sectors respectively.

While 10-year-old Madhu has carried a total of 59,821 kg of load during her seven years of service in the Ladakh sector, Bahubali (9.6 years) has walked for 2,348 kms and carried



7,818 kg during the same service period, ITBP officials said.

The medals are given annually to those members of the Animal Transport Wing who rendered exceptional services and undertook some of the most arduous journeys on the hills to reach remote border posts of the ITBP, they said.

According to official data, the Animal Transport Wing — comprising ponies, mules and yaks — carried a total of 30,45,019 kg load as its members walked over 3,43,593 km in 2022 alone. The animals carry clothing, dry rations, fuel, ammunition, packaged food and other items to border posts. *Continued on Page 2*

Fillip to hotels, eateries as Delhi L-G sets up panel to ease licensing

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena has set up a high-powered committee, headed by Principal Secretary (Home), to ease the licensing processes and requirements for restaurants and hotels.

The L-G directed the committee to submit its report and recommendations within 15 days. The committee will comprise representatives from the Income-Tax Department, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services, and New Delhi Municipal Council. The move came days after the L-G's recent decision to allow 314 establishments in the national Capital to operate round-the-clock. Their applications were pending since 2016.

According to Raj Niwas, the committee will ease and facilitate the licensing requirements of restaurants, eating houses and hotels. Besides providing an overall fillip to the hospitality sector, this would also pave the way for late night dining, alfresco eateries and dining in open air and terraces. *Detailed report on Page 3*

# Kohli denounces invasion of his privacy

King Kohli slams fan who shot video of his hotel room in Australia

PTI ■ PERTH

A flabbergasted former Indian skipper Virat Kohli on Monday denounced the "absolute invasion" of his privacy by a fan, who shot a video of his hotel room and put that in public domain.

In the video, titled 'King Kohli's Hotel Room', a man is seen walking around the room

showing Kohli's personal belongings such as health supplements, collection of shoes, his opened suitcase that contained India jerseys, caps and a pair of glasses on his table. It appears that more than one person, possibly members of hotel staff, were inside the room when the video was shot.

Kohli re-shared the video, that went viral on social media, on his Instagram account along with a message, saying he is not okay with such kind of "fanaticism".

Hours after India's defeat to South Africa in the Super 12 stage of the ICC World T20 2022, Kohli shared an angry post about the invasion of his



privacy at the Indian team hotel. Taking to Instagram, Kohli revealed that his privacy was invaded at a hotel room in Australia by an unknown person.

"I understand that fans get

very happy and excited seeing their favourite players and get excited to meet them and I've always appreciated that. But this video here is appalling and it's made me feel very paranoid about my privacy," Kohli wrote.

"If I cannot have privacy in my own hotel room, then where can I really expect any personal space at all? I'm NOT okay with this kind of fanaticism and absolute invasion of privacy. Please respect people's privacy and not treat them as a commodity for entertainment," the former Indian skipper added.

Later the hotel said that the person had been removed from the group.

Taking cognisance of Kohli's post, Australian opener David Warner questioned the security standards of the luxurious hotel in the wake of the incident. "This is ridiculous, totally unacceptable. Was this @crownperth?" Warner said. Kohli's wife Anushka Sharma has also reacted to the viral post on the photo and video-sharing platform.

"Have experienced a few incidents where some fans have shown no compassion or grace in the past but this really is the worst thing. An absolute disgrace and violation of a human being and anyone who sees this and thinks celebrity *ho toh* deal *karna padega* should know

that you are also part of the problem. Exercising some self control helps everyone. Also, if this is happening in your bedroom then where is the line?" Anushka wrote.

Australian opener David Warner too expressed anger at the incident.

"This is ridiculous, totally unacceptable. Was this @crownperth?" Warner commented on Kohli's post.

Virat and Anushka had requested the media to abstain from publishing the pictures of their daughter, Vamika, in January this year after the images of the infant were shown by the broadcaster during India's tour of South Africa.

## Lula to reclaim Brazil's presidency after beating incumbent Bolsonaro

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazilians delivered a very tight victory to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in a bitter presidential election, giving the Leftist former President another shot at power in a rejection of incumbent Jair Bolsonaro's far-Right politics.

Da Silva received 50.9 per cent of the vote and Bolsonaro 49.1 per cent, according to the country's election authority. Yet the morning after the results came in — and congratulations had poured in from world leaders, including from India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi — Bolsonaro



still had yet to publicly concede or react in any way, even as truckers blockaded some roads across the country in protest.

Bolsonaro's campaign had made repeated and unproven claims of possible electoral manipulation before the vote, raising fears that, if he lost, he would not accept defeat.



NCR PULSE

**BJP COUNCILLORS GOBBLED UP ₹35,000 CR: AAP**  
**New Delhi:** The AAP claimed on Monday that just like in 2017, the BJP has decided not to field its incumbent councilors in the upcoming MCD polls due to their alleged involvement in corruption. Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) MCD polls in-charge Durgesh Pathak accused the BJP councilors of 'gobbling up' Rs 35,000 crore.

**36-YR-OLD MAN HELD FOR DUPING PERSON OF ₹17 LAKH**  
**New Delhi:** The police have arrested a 36-year-old man for allegedly duping a person of Rs 17 lakh on the pretext of investing in cryptocurrency, officials said on Monday. The accused has been identified as Sarik Naseem, a resident of Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh, they said.

One terrorist neutralised close to LoC in Kupwara

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR**

Alert troops of the Indian Army Monday neutralised one terrorist close to the line of control in North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

According to a Defence spokesman, "a joint operation was launched in the general area of Jumagund, Kupwara by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir police on the basis of specific intelligence inputs". "Around 10.25 a.m the alert troops noticed sus-

9 held in Gujarat bridge collapse...

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Sanghavi told reporters the State Government has formed a committee to conduct a probe into the bridge collapse. Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and attempt to commit culpable homicide against agencies given the task of maintenance and operation of the bridge. In the FIR lodged at the Morbi 'B' division police station on Sunday night, police have shown "agencies responsible for maintenance and management of the hanging bridge" as the main accused.

The FIR, lodged by 'B' division Inspector Prakash Dekivadia, stated that the bridge over the Machchhu river was not in use for nearly eight months as the local administration had roped in a "private agency" for its maintenance. After completion of the maintenance, the agency opened the bridge for the public on October 26, the FIR said. As per the FIR, the incident took place because of the "calous approach" of the agency people. The FIR further stated that persons concerned or agencies did not pay attention to the quality of maintenance as well as repair work of the bridge. The bridge was opened

**Public Notice**

This is to inform general public that Mr. Naresh Kumar and Mrs. Sita Pal have acquired the Entire Freehold Plot bearing No. E-21, area measuring 119 sq. yds, Part of Khaska No. 6612, situated at Village Basai Darapur, Delhi State Delhi, colony known as Sudersan Park Extn., New Delhi-110015 vide Sale deed dated 05.07.2018, Doc no. 7760 and Now, Mr. Naresh Kumar and Mrs. Sita Pal are merging the above said property with IndusInd Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhwani/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 906670172/98162226636 (M).

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, Sanjeev Saxena S/o Shri Surendra Mohan Saxena R/o B12A/305, Supertech Eco village 2, Greater Noida West Gautam Budh Nagar, hereby declare that I have changed my name Sanjeev Kumar Saxena to Sanjeev Saxena for all records. Hence forth Sanjeev Kumar Saxena and Sanjeev Saxena are same persons.**

**PD (90185) C**

**I Heera Devi W/O Belochan Singh Rawat R/O flat number D-1124, Galaxy North Avenue, Gaur City-1, Greater Noida West, Sector 4, have changed my name Heera Rawat to Heera Devi and my correct date of birth is - 22.01.1968, for all future purposes.**

**PD(90184)A**

People on parole held rallies: Khattar on Ram Rahim row

**PTI ■ CHANDIGARH**

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who had a few days ago denied any role in the parole granted to Dera Sirsa chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, on Monday said it was for the law to decide what all liberties one can exercise while on parole.

His statement comes in the backdrop of Ram Rahim, convicted for serious offences, holding religious discourses online from his Barnawa ashram in Uttar Pradesh after getting parole last week.

These discourses have been attended by scores of his followers, including many BJP leaders from Haryana.

"I am saying it is for the law to see...People on parole have even held political rallies," Khattar said when a reporter asked him for a comment on the matter.

The veiled reference about holding rallies while on parole is being seen as a dig at former chief minister Om Prakash Chautala, who had in the last assembly polls did so. "Did anyone object then?" Khattar sought to know.

When asked why the state government had been main-



taining silence over the matter, the chief minister said, "I don't need to say anything as the law will take its own course."

Khattar said the jail manual makes a clear mention of what can and what cannot be allowed to a person on parole and that the agencies concerned are asked for an opinion before giving the special relief to an inmate. "The government does not have anything to say," he added.

He (Ram Rahim) has been convicted of serious charges and is undergoing prison sentence. If he has been granted parole, it must have happened in accordance with the jail manual. The prison officials would have briefed him on what he can or cannot do," Khattar said.

Enemies trying to break...

**From Page 1**

Priority is being given to ensure that people face minimum problems, he pointed out, adding that NDRF teams have been deployed in rescue operations other than teams from the Army and Air Force while assistance is also being provided to hospitals that are treating the injured.

In a veiled attack on the Congress, Modi said that they were pained by India's unity "when ever they ruled over us. They are pained by our rise, trying to break the country on lines of caste, language, and race. Those trying to break our unity may not be just our open enemies, but can be someone from inside also."

"Campaigns are run to make one Indian language an enemy of another Indian language. History is presented in a way that people don't get connected with each other but go away from each other instead," he said.

Referring to the alleged sidelining of Patel by the Congress, Modi said, "Congress gave advertisements in dailies, you want to unite country, but cannot give Sardar Patel's photo in ads on his birth anniversary, people of Gujarat will not tolerate this insult."

In another comment on the Congress leadership, he said, "Rajasthan CM wrote to me opposing the 'Sujalam Sufalam' water canal scheme but I told him the project will go ahead as it will benefit people of north Gujarat."

Commemorating the efforts of Patel in unifying and acceding to India the self-ruled princely States after India got independence from British rule, he said, "This occasion reminds us

what would've happened had there not been a leadership like Sardar Patel with India during Independence. What would've happened had over 550 princely States not become united. What would've happened had they not shown their dedication to Maa Bharti."

He also lauded the erstwhile royal families who agreed to accede their States to India and said that a museum will be built in Ekta Nagar "dedicated to sacrifices of erstwhile royal families."

"The (erstwhile) royal families, who ruled for centuries, dedicated their rights to a new system for the country's unity. This contribution was ignored for decades after Independence. A museum will be built in Ekta Nagar, dedicated to sacrifices of erstwhile royal families," he said.

Modi said for India, its unity has never been a necessity, but has been its uniqueness.

"This unity of our country has been eyesore for our enemies. Not just today, but from thousands of years and even during the period of our slavery, all foreign attackers did whatever they wanted to do to break this unity," he said.

"The poison that was spread in that long period, the country is facing problems due to it today also. We saw the country's partition and enemies taking benefit of it," Modi said.

Those forces are still prevalent, they want to make people of the country fight in the name of caste, region, language, he said, adding that history is also presented in such a way that people cannot stand with each other.

"We have to answer them as the son of this country, we have to remain one," Modi said.

World leaders condole tragedy in...

**From Page 1**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia in a statement conveyed sincere condolences to India.

In a similar message by the US, its embassy said here, "US Mission in India is deeply saddened by the news of collapse of a suspension bridge in Morbi, Gujarat. Our condolences go out to the victims and families of this terrible tragedy."

Prime Minister Deuba in a tweet expressed grief over the loss of "precious lives", saying he is "deeply saddened" by the tragic incident of bridge collapse.

"We extend heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of India on the loss of precious lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families," his post on the micro-blogging site read.

British High Commissioner to India, Alex Ellis, also took to the social media site to condole the loss of lives. "Terrible, shocking news from #Gujarat," he wrote along with a BBC report on the collapse incident.

Singapore's High Commissioner to India, Simon Wong said, "Deeply saddened by the loss of many lives due to the collapse of the cable bridge in Morbi, Gujarat. Our thoughts and deepest condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and the injured.

Our hearts are with the people of Gujarat."

President Wickremesinghe said in a message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he is "shocked and saddened" by the tragic bridge collapse incident, according to a press release issued by the President's Office.

"The Government and people of Sri Lanka join me in extending deepest condolences to you, the Government and people of India especially the families of the citizens who lost their lives. May the injured have a speedy recovery and wish every success in the rescue and recovery operations underway," the President said.

Centre ends project row with ₹500 cr EMC for...

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The announcement by Chandrashekar about the setting up of an EMC at Ranjangaon came on the heels of a controversy over Maharashtra losing big ticket projects like Rs 1.54 lakh crore semiconductor manufacturing plant and Rs Rs 22,000-crore Tata-Airbus transport aircraft project to Gujarat.

Maharashtra's former minister Aaidtya Thackeray and senior NCP MP Supriya Sule had slammed the Eknath shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government for letting go the projects to Gujarat. Supriya had demanded the resignation of Shinde over the issue.

On his part, Fadnavis said that the Centre and the state government were working on setting up a textile park in Maharashtra. Charging that the Opposition was trying to create false narrative, Fadnavis and chief minister Eknath Shinde claimed that -Foxconn and Tata-Airbus projects had gone out of Maharashtra when the previous MVA government was in office. Shunde said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shad had assured assured him that some big projects were being planned for Maharashtra.

"As the then Leader of Opposition, I tried my best that these two projects remain in Maharashtra but the companies had already made up their mind to go out because of the response and the (investment) climate," Fadnavis said.

Earlier, at a media interaction in the nation capital, Chandrashekar said that con-

Kejriwal kingpin in liquor scam: BJP

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The BJP on Monday launched a fresh attack on the AAP over the now scrapped excise policy saying that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is a kingpin in the liquor scam.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday accused Kejriwal of being the 'kingpin in (the) liquor (policy) scam' in the national Capital — in connection with which deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia was last month raided and questioned by the CBI.

Thakur slammed the AAP — in power in Delhi and Punjab and hopeful of a good showing in next month's Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh elections — as 'corrupt'.

He also referred to ex-

Delhi minister Satyendar Jain - in jail over a money laundering case and waiting on a bail plea outcome - to underline his point."Like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand (and) Goa, we will repeat our government in Himachal and Gujarat. AAP should look at Punjab... Corruption is at its peak... Delhi health minister is in jail due to corruption. Arvind Kejriwal is kingpin in liquor scam," Thakur said

Leader of Opposition, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri alleged that this has been proved again that the new excise policy of Delhi was made only to rob Delhi's treasury. "Due to this policy, Delhi suffered a loss of thousands of crores. Will Kejriwal tell who will be held responsible for this loss and who will compensate for it?," Bidhuri asked.

HC asks Delhi Metro to disclose modalities of payment to DAMEPL

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Delhi Metro to inform it about the modalities of payment with respect to the outstanding amount due to Reliance Infrastructure's Delhi Airport Metro Express Private Limited (DAMEPL) under the terms of the May 2017 arbitral award.

Justice V Kameswar Rao of Delhi High Court made the observation during the hearing, after Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Delhi Metro informed the court that a meeting between the Centre, the Delhi government and other stakeholders is

fixed for November 10 to discuss the matter and some proposals are expected to come out of it.

Singh further told the court that Attorney General R Venkataramani was held up in a separate engagement and the matter be deferred to November 18. The court, said that "the Judgment Debtor (DMRC) is expected to inform the court about the modalities of the payment". The high



Two-finger test must stop: SC to...

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It directed that a copy of this judgment shall be shared with the Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and he shall transmit copies of this judgment to the Principal Secretary (Department of Public Health) of each State.

The top court further directed the Centre and the Health Secretaries of the States to take steps to remove the study materials on two-finger tests from the curriculum of Government and private medical colleges.

ITBP gives special medals to its 4-legged...

**From Page 1**

These posts are located at high altitudes from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh ranging from a height of 8,000-16,000 ft.

The medals were given to the two winners at their respective border posts on the occasion of the ITBP Raising Day that was celebrated on October 24. While ponies can be brought up to the plains, yaks are usually deployed at posts located at a height of 15,000 feet or above as they cannot sustain themselves below this height, officials said.

"These medals are a testimony to our darling ponies, mules and yaks who have served the Force by keeping the AOM (axis of maintenance) alive at border outposts by ensuring that our troops are well supplied in high altitude deployments. These loving and loyal animals are our life-line. The veterinary cadre ensures the welfare of our four legged heroes by ensuring 24x7 therapeutics along with the good care provided by the AT (Animal Transport) personnel," Deputy Inspector General (Veterinary) Sudhakar

Natarajan told The Pioneer.

The ITBP had instituted the "Animal Transport" and a "K9" (canine) medal in 2016 to honour the services of its four-legged soldiers who help the troops to maintain the logistics and supply lines at high-altitude border posts along the LAC.

The ITBP, having an operational strength of about 98,000 personnel, secures the 3,488 km long LAC apart from rendering a variety of other duties in the internal security domain besides also protecting Indian missions abroad.

Opp seeks judicial or...

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"Blame can be established only when the report of the probe is out," he added.

CPI MP Binoy Viswam said that the bridge collapse incident points to the "gross negligence" of the BJP Government. "Cable bridge collapse in Gujarat points to the gross negligence of the BJP Government. Its repair was said to be done five days back. From where did the contractors get this courage? The compensation needs to be increased. A reliable enquiry should take place to unveil political involvement," Viswam tweeted.

TMC leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, senior Congress and Shiv Sena leaders Digvijay Singh and Priyanka Chaturvedi, however, targeted the PM reminding him of his remarks after the Kolkata flyover collapse.

"PM Modi taunts Mamata Banerjee over Kolkata flyover collapse. Let there be a few drops of tears, Modiji, over the death of 132 persons in newly-renovated bridge collapse in Gujarat yesterday," Roy tweeted.



# Panel to facilitate easing hotels, eateries' licensing

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday constituted a high power committee to ease and facilitate the licensing requirements of restaurants, eating houses and hotels. Sources at Raj Niwas said that the Principal Secretary (Home) will head the committee, which has been asked to submit its report within 15 days.

The move came days after the Lieutenant Governor recent decision to allow 314 establishments in the national Capital to operate round-the-clock. Their applications were pending since 2016. These establishments included online food and medicines delivery services, logistics, transport and travel services from Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPOs) and Business process outsourcing (BPOs).

The other members of the committee included from senior representatives of the department of Information Technology, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), and Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). The committee will inter alia focus on reducing the number of licenses, tweaking and deleting archaic regulations rooted in subordinate legislation, minimum documentation, fixed timelines for grant of licenses, complete online processes embedded in a single window portal and promotion of self regulation.

As per the statement released by the Raj Niwas, this



move will provide an overall fill-up to the Hospitality Sector, and pave the way for late night dining, Alfresco Eateries and dining in open air and terraces.

Giving details about the factors on which the committee will focus, the statement stated that its main focus will be reducing the number of licenses, tweaking and deleting archaic regulations rooted in subordinate legislation, minimum documentation, fixed timelines for grant of licenses, complete online processes embedded in a Single Window portal and promotion of self regulation etc.

“The committee will be able to co-opt members and will take comprehensive input from stakeholder Hotel and Restaurant Associations, etc,” it said.

“The L-G held many meetings over the last month with officials of Delhi Police, Local Bodies and Environment

Department amongst others, to ensure that an enabling regimen is put into place for the Hotel/Restaurant/Hospitality Industry. Saxena stressed upon rationalizing licensing requirements, easing prohibitive regulations and processes, ensuring faceless and online interface between regulators and entrepreneurs to mitigate harassment and corruption and ensuring security through proper law and order,” it said.

Saxena noted that Delhi's Hospitality Sector has yet not achieved its full potential due to the current procedure of opening a hospitality establishment in the national capital is outdated and often led to complaints of harassment and corruption as well.

The process includes registration/licensing and inspecting processes of Delhi Police, civic bodies such as MCD and NDMC, Fire Department and the DPCC, it read.

# ‘Red light on, gaadi off’ file again at LG desk AAP Govt submits file for LG's nod with proof of drives taken to check pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid controversy, the Delhi Government has resubmitted a file regarding the “Red Light On, Gaadi Off” campaign to curb vehicle pollution to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena for his approval. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said the Delhi government has resubmitted the file to Lieutenant Governor with evidence that such drives have reduced vehicular pollution in cities in India, the US and the UK.

Addressing a press conference, Rai said the Lt Governor had put a hold on the campaign and returned the file on October 29 (Friday) questioning the effectiveness of such measures. “We have answered all queries raised by the LG and resubmitted the file for his approval. Delhi is heading towards an emergency situation. We request the LG to give permission (to launch the campaign) as soon as possible,” Rai said.

The minister said a study by the Central Road Research Institute in 2019 showed that keeping the engine on at traffic signals can increase pollution levels by over nine per cent. Another study by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at the Bhikaji Cama Place traffic intersection showed that over 62 per cent people started switching off their vehicles after a similar campaign.

“We had considered these studies before launching the campaign in 2020,” Rai said. HDFC bank ran such drives at



126 traffic intersections in 40 cities across India on June 5, 2022, he said. “We also found that similar campaigns were conducted in London, the UK, and North Carolina, the US,” the minister said, adding that the government has sent all evidence to the Lt Governor. Citing data from PCRA, Rai had earlier said if people switch off engines at traffic signals, pollution can be cut down by 15-20 per cent.

According to government estimates, the transport sector accounts for 28 per cent of the PM2.5 emissions in Delhi. Vehicular contribution also makes up 80 per cent of nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide in Delhi's air.

On Saturday, Saxena had returned the file to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asking him to reconsider the campaign. He questioned the effectiveness of such an “ad-hoc” measure as the national capital reels under high air pollution. Sources at Raj Niwas said that Kejriwal sat on the file for 10 days from 11.10.2022 to 21.10.2022, before sending it to LG. According to sources, Raj

Niwas has received several calls from CMO and minister to clear the file immediately.

The Raj Niwas sources further pointed out that the proposed date of commencement of the project was October 31, 2022, and not 28th October, 2022, as being wrongly told by environment minister Gopal Rai.

On the stubble burning, the minister also said Punjab would have seen a large reduction in stubble burning if the Centre supported the state government's plan to provide cash incentive to farmers for not burning crop residue.

The minister also said that the incidents of stubble burning are increasing. “Along with unfavourable meteorological conditions, it can make the air quality situation worse.”

“The Punjab government is doing all it can to reduce stubble burning, but the state would have seen a large reduction in farm fires had the Centre supported the state government's mega plan to provide cash incentive to farmers for not burning crop residue,” he said in response to a question.

# Govt to discontinue free yoga classes from today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Monday said that free yoga classes provided to Delhiites will be discontinued from November 1 in what could trigger a fresh confrontation between the AAP government and the Lieutenant Governor. Sources in the Arvind Kejriwal government claimed on Monday that Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has not approved the extension of the scheme after October 31. The board of governors of the Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU), which runs the programme, had given its nod to the continuation of the scheme at its meeting held last week.

Sources at the LG's office, however, said they have not received any file on the continuation of the programme beyond October 31. The Board of Governor evaluated the merits of the programme and approved its extension under the DPSRU Act. The recommendation for its extension was to be placed for ratification before the university's general council, chaired by the LG, sources added.

All the board members were present at the meeting. According to the sources, among the agenda items, the one for “Consideration of the Continuation of ‘Dilli Ki Yogshala’ as Outreach Programme of the University” was taken up during the meeting.

not given permission yet. We will keep you informed upon further information,” said a tweet from the official Twitter page of Dilli Ki Yogshala.

Tagging the closure of the programme, Sisodia alleged in a tweet in Hindi: “The board of the university wants that the yogshala should continue for the people of Delhi, the government has also given the budget but still, an order has been issued to close the ‘Yogshala of Delhi’ by intimidating officers. For now, 590 yoga classes in Delhi's parks will be closed from tomorrow (October 31).”

Sources said that under pressure from Lt Governor, officers have issued orders to suspend the program despite DPSRU's Board of Governors approval to extend the programme beyond October 31. The Board of Governor evaluated the merits of the programme and approved its extension under the DPSRU Act. The recommendation for its extension was to be placed for ratification before the university's general council, chaired by the LG, sources added.

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# MCD gives nod for kitchens, dining at guest houses

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has granted permission to set up a kitchen and dining facility for in lodging and boarding guest houses. It is expected that around 1200 guest houses in the city will be benefitted from this move.

“It was the long pending demand of the guest house owners which has been taken into consideration and on the basis of the MCD has given its nod for the same,” he said.

According to MCD officials, the customers who will be staying in the guest houses do not have to go anywhere for the food, as they will be able to get good quality cooked food in the guest house itself.

“The civic body will check the kitchens set up by these establishments to ensure that the cleanliness and quality of the food are maintained,” he said.

The holders of the establishments do not have to pay any additional charges to the MCD for setting up the cooking facilities in the guest houses as the civic body is allowing them to run it as an additional service with the current license,” the official said.

Giving details about the capacity of the kitchens, he said that the capacity of the dining facility will be according to the guest rooms in the establishments. They will not take any contracts for the wedding, birthday parties, etc, they will only be able to cook food for the guest staying on the premises.

For availing the license for running a boarding establishment in the city, “The owners of the guest houses will be able to get the Health trade license on fulfillment of requisite terms and conditions from the Public Health department of the civic body,” he said.

“All other permission related to sanction of building plan and fire NOC should also be in order for granting of the health trade license. This facility was available in erstwhile SDMC; now the policy has been made uniform across all the zones of the MCD,” the official said.

“The Corporation will provide licenses to guest houses for catering to the needs of in-house guests. The number of seats in the dining hall should be equal to the number of beds permitted in the guest house and PNG connection will be mandatory for running the kitchen,” he said.

# City air ‘very poor’, to worsen as temp dips

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The air quality index (AQI) of the national Capital on Monday stood at 392 in the ‘very poor’ category.

“The AQI is expected to worsen in the coming days as the meteorological conditions are not favourable due to the low pressure winds and minimum temperature dipping in the city,” said the weatherman.

Low wind speed allowed pollutants to accumulate in the air and the situation might deteriorate to “severe” on Tuesday morning, said Mahesh Palawat, vice president (meteorology and climate change), Skymet Weather.

He said humidity may increase and the wind speed may reduce further from November 4 under the influence of a strong Western Disturbance leading to another episode of smog.

According to SAFAR, a forecasting agency under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, the share of farm fires in Delhi PM2.5 pollution stood at 22 per cent on Monday. It was 26 per cent on Sunday, the highest this year so far, and 21 per cent on Saturday.

Palawat said the transport-level wind direction and speed is favourable for transport of smoke from stubble burning.



According to an analysis by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), people in the capital breathe the worst air between November 1 and November 15 -- the period when stubble burning peaks.

The city records an average PM2.5 concentration of 285 micrograms per cubic metre from November 1 to November 15. PM 2.5 level from 61 to 120 is considered “moderate to poor”, 121 to 250 is “very poor”, 251 to 350 is “severe” and more than 350 is “severe plus”, as per analysis.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) reported 2,131 farm fires in Punjab on Monday - the highest so far this season, 1,761 on Sunday, 1,898 on Saturday, 2,067 on Friday and 1,111 on

Thursday. It logged 70 and 20 cases of stubble burning in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, respectively, on Monday.

However, the adjoining states of the Capital, also recorded the AQI under the ‘very poor category’, with Noida (374), Ghaziabad (353), Faridabad (363), and Greater Noida (352), according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) bulletin at 4 pm.

Out of the 35 stations of the Capital, 19 stations recorded the AQI in the ‘Severe’ category including Alipur, Anand Vihar, Ashok Vihar and Bawana while 16 stations recorded the AQI in the ‘Very poor’ category are Aya Nagar, CRRI Mathura Road, Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range and IGI Airport.

# LG launches two community halls on Sardar Patel's birth anniversary

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On the Occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Jayanti, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday inaugurated two community halls and named it after Sardar Patel as a tribute, in the national Capital. Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has constructed both these community halls at a cost of Rs.11.30 crore. BJP MLA Vijendra Gupta was also present on the occasion.

According to a senior DDA official, people will be able to use these community halls for their social, cultural, marriage, and religious ceremonies at affordable rates.

While informing about the facilities that have been provided in both the community halls, he said that these halls are equipped with party hall, library, gymnasium, lifts, senior citizen room, children play area, parking facilities.

He said that around 50000 people living in the area will be able to avail the benefit of the community halls constructed at Rohini Sector 18 and Sector 19.

“The authority is also developing a socio culture centre in Sector 10, Rohini on public-private partnership (PPP) model. This centre, spread over 11 acres, is likely to be completed in next three years,” he added.



Speaking on the occasion, the L-G said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given an opportunity to Delhi to host G20 summit where representatives of various countries will be coming to the national capital. “We should show the world that Delhi is not only capital of the country but is also an excellent host, committed to its guests,” he said.

He announced that these

Community Halls will be named after Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, while paying tribute to India's first home minister on his birth anniversary.

Saxena said that community halls are important for the society, especially the not so well off sections, for their social functions as these people can't afford big hotels, farm houses and urged people to make use of the various facilities and applauded the efforts of DDA in developing infrastructure of the city.

# Chhath puja ends with prayers to rising Sun

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The two-day Chhath Puja celebrations concluded on Monday with devotees offering prayers to the rising Sun at several ghats in the national Capital. The women, holding a 36-hour-long fast, performed the rituals in knee-deep waters and gave “arghya” of cow milk and water to the rising Sun.

Thousands of devotees thronged ghats and makeshift ponds in Delhi to worship the Sun God on the final day of the festival.

After two years of Covid-induced restrictions, Chhath Puja saw a lot of enthusiasm among the devotees, more so among people from Purvanchal where the festival takes its root.

Chhath puja is celebrated



on the sixth day after Diwali and is also known as Surya Sashti as it is dedicated to the Sun God. It is one of the most popular festivals in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

The Delhi government made 1,100 ghats for Chhath Puja across the city this year and a budget of Rs 25 crore was earmarked for the preparations for the festival.

# Over 40% domestic consumers didn't opt for power subsidy till Oct: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

More than 40 per cent of the Rs.6.98 lakh domestic consumers did not opt for power subsidy provided by the Delhi government till the last date of application on October 31. While more than 34 lakh domestic consumers applied for power subsidy, those who could not opt for it will have another chance to do so in the billing cycle of next month, they said.

A total of 22,81,900 (40 per cent) domestic consumers were yet to apply for the subsidy. The Delhi government has made changes in its free electricity scheme deciding to provide subsidy to only those domestic consumers who apply for it.

Till Monday afternoon, 34.16 lakh applicants opted for the subsidy and the number may slightly increase by the

end of the day, officials said. “It means that many consumers have willingly given up subsidy. Chances are also that some consumers could not apply for the subsidy due to various reasons,” a Delhi government officer said.

The data will be studied and reasons for more than 22 lakh people not applying for subsidy will be found out to see if genuine consumers failed to get covered by the subsidy scheme, said the officer. The subsidy applicants included 15,54,646 consumers of BRPL discom, 8,49,756 BYPL consumers, over 10 lakh TPDDL consumers and 10,920 NDMC consumers, officials said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had launched the process for subsidy application on September 14, issuing a mobile number for power consumers to fill up forms. He had

said any consumer that could not apply for the subsidy for the month of October after the last date of October 31, would be able to apply for it in the billing cycle of next month. The subsidy application can be submitted through online and offline modes.

The average number of power subsidy beneficiaries in Delhi is around 47 lakh. The number varies from month to month depending on the consumption pattern of individual consumers. Out of 47 lakh electricity consumers who availed the subsidy before the new system came in place, nearly 30 lakh were those who got zero bills and 16-17 lakh who received 50 per cent subsidy, officials said.

At present, consumers with monthly consumption of less than 200 units do not have to pay any charges and those

# Police search houses of Wire's founding editors

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday searched the houses of The Wire's founding editor Siddharth Varadarajan and deputy editor M K Venu in connection with a now retracted story related to BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya. A senior police officer said electronic devices belonging to the two senior editors of the news portal will be examined. No arrests have been made yet in the case, the officer said. Police on Saturday filed an FIR under sections 420 (cheating), 468 (forgery with purpose of cheating), 469 (forgery for harming reputation), 471 (using a forged document as genuine), 500 (defamation) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on a complaint by BJP IT's cell chief Amit Malviya. The four senior jour-

nalists named in the FIR are Siddharth Varadarajan, MK Venu, Sidharth Bhatia and Jahnnavi Sen. Malviya had on Friday said he would pursue criminal and civil proceedings against the portal over stories, since retracted, that insinuated that the BJP leader enjoyed the privilege on Meta platforms of having any post taken down which he believed was against the BJP's interests.

The Wire has also filed a police complaint against its former consultant Devesh Kumar in connection with the story. Meanwhile, Siddharth's brother Tunku Varadarajan tweeted, “The @DelhiPolice Crime Branch just searched the house of my brother @svaradarajan & seized his phone & laptop. Why seize these when his publication has acknowledged/retracted a mistake?”



# Guj bridge collapse: 300 jawans deployed in rescue operation

## Teams of Indian Navy, Coast Guard also deployed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

More than 300 Army personnel are involved in the search and rescue operation at the accident site in Morbi, Gujarat, where a cable suspension bridge collapsed on Sunday. Teams of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard are also deployed there. Giving details of the army effort, sources said here on Monday that multiple Army Columns (total nine columns) including Engineer Task Force and Medical detachments mobilised from Dhrangdhara, Jamnagar and Bhuj. They started moving at 2040 hours on Sunday and the first column reached the incident site at 2130 hours. One column has about 100 soldiers. The teams are equipped with Engineer Stores and are assisting NDRF, SDRF, Indian Navy, Coast Guard in rescue efforts in addition to helping civil administration and police in crowd management and security, sources said.

Immediately after arrival, Army columns first started crowd control and dispersal including route clearance from the accident site to the civil hospital. The columns immediately got into the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and state fire services boats and assisted in search operations.

Four medical columns assisted in treatment of survivors in three hospitals including the civil hospital, Krishna hospital and Ayush hospital, they said. The Indian Army is fully committed in assisting the civil administration and all other agencies for humanitarian operations to prevent loss of lives, treatment of survivors and further retrieval of the remaining bodies as part of search operations, they said.



Armed Forces personnel carry the dead body of a victim, recovered during a rescue operation after an old suspension bridge over the Machhu river collapsed, in Morbi district in Gujarat, on Monday

# CMs of Haryana, Bihar, Punjab, UP, TN condole loss of lives

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Ministers of Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu joined the nation on Monday in reaching out to the victims of the cable suspension bridge collapse in Morbi, Gujarat on Sunday.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said, "I am saddened by the unfortunate incident that happened on Morbi bridge. Many people lost their lives. My condolences to affected families on behalf of the people of Haryana. Haryana will stand

with them for any kind of cooperation and assistance."

In a similar message, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, "It is a sad incident. Many people have died. It was an old bridge which was repaired recently. Government should look into it."

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin too conveyed his condolences to the kin of the victims.

Stalin said he was deeply pained by the loss of so many innocent lives in the Morbi bridge collapse. "My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. While I wish for the speedy recovery of those who

have sustained injuries, the remaining people trapped must be rescued safely at the earliest," the Chief Minister said on his Twitter handle.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath too expressed grief over the deaths and said, "Very sad news of a bridge collapsing has been received from Morbi in Gujarat. Praying to Shri Ram to help all the affected."

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann tweeted, "Sad news is coming from Morbi, Gujarat... Major accident has occurred and because of which there is news of many people falling in the river."

# HC seeks Centre's stand on Swamy plea over security

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

**Form No. 3**  
**[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)**  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**  
**CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)**  
1st Floor SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)  
**Case No.: OA/573/2021**  
**Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993**  
**Exh. No.: 11479**  
**ICICI BANK LIMITED**  
**VS.**  
**SH. PARWEEN KUMAR SINGH TO, M/S. V N BUILD TECH PVT. LTD.**  
20, 21, 22, 2ND FLOOR, SILVER SQUARE MALL, C 18 BHAGWAN DASS ROAD C SCHEME, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

**SUMMONS**  
WHEREAS, OA/573/2021 was issued before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 22.07.2022. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs.4859901/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:

- (i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- (ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
- (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
- (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application or the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 03/11/2022 at 10:30 A.M., failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date 03/08/2022.

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue Summons

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Deepak Kumar S/o Mr. Satyapal Singh, is the owner of Residential Free Hold Plot bearing No. 85, area measuring 35 Sq. Yds. i.e., 29.26 Sq. Mtrs, out of Khata No. 3085M, Situated at Mansarovar Park, Village Shabhar, Baranaha, Pargana - Dausa, Tehsil & District Ghazabad, U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 23.09.2022 regd. Vide Dog No. 6251 and the same is to be financed & mortgaged with my client, M/s. Vistar Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. Original Sale Deed dt. 17.04.2009, regd. vide doc. No. 1454, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and complaint has been registered on 31.10.2022 vide MCR LdF no. 534712 with Delhi Police.

Any person/s found in possession of aforesaid original sale deed, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

Rajesh Tiwari (Advocate)  
Ch. 530, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001  
Mob.: +91-8076198328

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is publically notified that the Plot No. B-57, Sector-151, Noida, U. P. has been allotted in the name of Smt. Gyanwati W/o Late Shri Morraj & Mahesh Chand & Pradeep Tyagi & Suresh Kumar Tyagi & Kapil Tyagi all S/o Late Shri Morraj all R/o Village Bhangal Begumpur, Noida Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh, has sold the said plot, on the basis of GPA to the following persons:- A GPA was executed in favour of Vaibhav Soni S/o Shri Dharmendra Verma R/o F396, Sector-alpha-2, Greater Noida Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh which is duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Sector-1, Gautam Budh Nagar. Vide Book No. IV Volume No. 1766 on pages 93 to 108 Document 1288 dated 03.10.2022 at Agreement to Sell was not registered. So with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of the above plot goes in favour of Dharmendra Verma S/o Shri Nanak Chand Verma R/o I-309, Delta-2, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh Pradesh if any one/above partners has/have any objection he/she may submit his/her, objection in the Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication this notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that Kamlesh Bhasin, Kawal Bhasin and Sanjeev Bhasin are the legal owners and in possession of Property Bearing No. 55E, Industrial area, New Township, Faridabad, Haryana, (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Sale Deed Dated 25.11.2010 (w/law mortgage, said Badi Nath Bhasin, Kawal Bhasin and Sanjeev Bhasin were the Joint Owners of the said property and said Badi Nath Bhasin Died on 02.05.2021 leaving Behind Kamlesh Bhasin, Kawal Bhasin and Sanjeev Bhasin as the only Legal Heirs as per confirmation letter dated 01.07.2021 issued by Tehsildar, accordingly said property devolved upon Kamlesh Bhasin, Kawal Bhasin and Sanjeev Bhasin as aforesaid and now said Kamlesh Bhasin, Kawal Bhasin and Sanjeev Bhasin have agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients, IDFC FIRST BANK LTD, Pusa Road, Rajendra Place Branch, New Delhi.

All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/ registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise, however, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 07 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim of claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vistal Diwan (Advocate)  
For Diwan and Company LLP  
Advocates and Solicitors  
House No 2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi - 19  
Mobile No. 9818399999

from the government bungalow.

If there is no place to set up adequate infrastructure such as a guard room, six security personnel would be placed on a rotation basis at Swamy's private house, the lawyer said. Justice Yashwant Varma, however, questioned the Centre over the absence of infrastructure facilities at the private residence as well as when the arrangements would be put in place and how it would "rotate six guards".

The lawyer said that he

would put Centre's stand in relation to court's queries on an affidavit. He stated that "it is better that I put everything on the affidavit."

Because for us to provide such guard rooms to each and every private individual... The court, however, said, "He is not every private individual, he is an individual to whom you have granted Z category."

The lawyer assured the court that all adequate arrangements would be done according to applicable protocol.

# SC to hear pleas challenging CAA on Dec 6

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday appointed two lawyers as nodal counsel in the batch of cases challenging the validity of the Citizenship Amendment Act.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India UU Lalit comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi then posted the case for further hearing before an appropriate bench on December 6.

"List the CAA matters before the appropriate court on December 6, 2022," the Court directed. Advocates Pallavi Pratap, advocate for petitioner Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and advocate Kanu Agrawal (Central Government counsel) were nominated as nodal counsel to prepare compilation of all relevant documents.

"Having noted that there are various pleas projecting multiple views, resolution of entire controversy can be achieved if two or three matters are taken as lead matters and convenience compilations of all counsels are prepared well in advance.

# TMC has scant regard for judiciary, no respect for judges, says Law Min Rijiju

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday lashed out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her remarks that democratic powers are being seized by a 'section of people', saying her Trinamool Congress has established 'Rule by TMC law' replacing the 'Rule of Law'.

Urging the judiciary and leaders in different fields to "save democracy", the chief minister said at a programme in Kolkata on Sunday that if

this trend continues, then a day will come when a presidential form of government will be brought in the country.

Without naming the BJP, she implied that the ruling party was behind the move. She made these remarks in the presence of Chief Justice of India, Justice Uday Umesh Lalit. Taking to Twitter post midnight, Rijiju said, "Mamata didi is telling the truth about West Bengal because TMC party has scant regard for the judiciary and no respect for the judges."

# Had Patel been India's first PM, many problems would not have occurred: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Amit Shah on Monday said there is a public opinion that if Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had been made India's first prime minister, the country would not have faced many problems.

He was addressing students and teachers of the Sardar Patel Vidyalaya in Delhi on the 147th birth anniversary of Patel, India's first home minister. The school is run by the Gujarat Education Society.

The Home Minister said students and children should read up on him to know about his vision for a united India with deep roots for democracy. He said basic education



Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge paying tributes to Sardar Patel at Central Hall of Parliament on Monday

should be imparted in the local language, and urged students to keep their native languages and dialects alive. "Sardar Patel was not only a man of imagination but he worked very hard to implement his vision... He was a 'karmayogi'," Shah said.

"A man who is remembered long after his death can only be called great, that was Sardar... There is a public opinion in the country that if Sardar was made the first prime minister of India, the country would not have faced many problems it is facing today," he said, recalling Patel's role in bringing together and merging more than 500 princely states to the union of India after Independence.

# Cong pays tributes to Indira, Patel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday paid tributes to former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary and to India's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said he is carrying her (Indira Gandhi's) love and values in his heart and will not allow the India for which she sacrificed her life to fall apart.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Sonia Gandhi and other senior party leaders offered floral tributes to Indira Gandhi at her Shakti Sthal memorial here.

"My tributes to the first woman Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi ji, on her martyrdom day. Be it agriculture, economy or military power, Indira ji's contribution in making India a strong nation is incomparable," Kharge said in a tweet in Hindi.

Kharge also offered floral tributes to Indira Gandhi at the AICC headquarters.

Indira Gandhi, the then prime minister, was assassinated on this day in 1984 by two of her own security guards.

In a tweet Rahul said, "Grandmother, I am carrying



both your love and values in my heart. I will not allow the India for which you have sacrificed your life to fall apart."

In a post from its official Twitter handle, the Congress said that from liberation of Bangladesh to ushering in of the Green Revolution, Indira Gandhi led the nation through its highs and lows.

"We salute her unyielding resilience & unwavering vision for the nation's development," the party said.

On Sardar Patel, Rahul said the most fitting tribute to him would be to keep the flame of unity he ignited shining brighter than ever.

Patel is considered the chief architect of integration of the erstwhile princely states with the Union of India.

"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's ironclad will united India. The most fitting tribute to him would be to keep the flame of unity he ignited shining brighter than ever," Gandhi said in a tweet.

# 21st SCO meet to be held on virtual mode

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI-BEIJING

The 21st Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) will be held on Tuesday in the virtual format. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent India in the meeting hosted by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. The SCO CHG meeting held annually focuses on the trade and economic agenda of the Organization and approves its annual budget. The Meeting will be attended by SCO Member States, Observer States, Secretary General of the SCO, Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), Turkmenistan and other invited guests, the ministry of external affairs statement said here on Monday.

India remains actively engaged in various SCO activities/dialogue mechanisms in the region as well as other multilateral cooperation within the SCO framework, it said.

Reports from Beijing said Premier Li Keqiang will host the 21st Meeting. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a media briefing on Monday. Launched in Shanghai in June 2001, the SCO has eight full members, including its six founding members, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.

Premier Li, who is set to

retire early next year after the major reshuffle of officials following the recent once-in-a-five-year congress of the ruling Communist Party of China, will host the meeting via video link. The SCO heads of the state held their first in-person summit after two years at Samarkand in Uzbekistan last month which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

# IN SHORTS

## RAILWAY STAFF SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY: SC

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday said that employees working under the Railway Board in different zones or divisions are required to be treated equally and there cannot be any discrimination.

## SC TO HEAR ELECTORAL ROLL DATA-ADHAAR PLEA

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a plea challenging the Centre's decision that enables linking electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem.

## CENTRE GRANTED MORE TIME IN SEDITION LAW

**New Delhi:** An interim order putting on hold the contentious sedition law and the consequential registration of FIRs will continue as the Supreme Court granted additional time to the Centre on Monday to take 'appropriate steps' with regard to the reviewing of the colonial-era provision.

## PARL TO HOLD WINTER SESSION IN OLD BUILDING

**New Delhi:** The winter session of Parliament could be held in the old building as some construction work of the new building may stretch beyond the stipulated time, sources said.

## 63 COPS FROM 5 STATES FOR SPECIAL OP MEDAL

**New Delhi:** As many as 63 police personnel belonging to five states were on Monday named for the 'Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal' for the year 2022.

## LUMPY SKIN DISEASE: SC SEEKS GOVTS' RESPONSE

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court sought responses from the Centre and six States on Monday on a plea that has sought the formulation of a national health plan on lumpy skin disease in cattle.

# Omicron's new variant XBB seen in 9 States, TN tops list with max cases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid reports of emergence of highly transmissible Covid variant XBB in various countries including India, an international team of researchers has identified a pan-variant and ultra-potent neutralizing antibody that can offset Omicron variants.

In India, the XBB subvariant of Covid-19's Omicron variant is fast emerging as the dominant, with nine states reporting cases of it with Tamil Nadu topping the list.

The researchers in the study published in the journal Science.Named 'S2X324', said that its neutralizing potency was largely unaffected by any of the Omicron variants tested.

The scientists suggested that combining this antibody with others in a cocktail might reduce the chances of the virus becoming antibody-treatment resistant. The team looked at several aspects of the effects of exposure to earlier forms of the SARS-CoV-2 spike antigen -- or immune-provoking protein -- on the immune system's

reaction to the Omicron variants. They explained that mutations in two of the main antibody targets in the virus explain why there is markedly reduced antibody neutralising ability against these variants, especially in people who have not received booster doses. "As a result, an increasing number of reinfections are occurring," the researchers wrote, "even though these cases tend to be milder than in infections of immunologically naA-ve individuals". The Omicron variants appeared at the end of 2021

and have marked genetic differences from the ancestral SARS-CoV-2.

The many, distinct mutations in their infection machinery have enabled them to escape from antibodies elicited from the original series of vaccines, from a history of infection, or from both of those two immune-system training events.

People who had a breakthrough infection after vaccination also produced neutralising antibodies against these variants in the mucus lining the inside of their noses.



# TMC returns BJP's 'cut-money' taunt over Guj bridge collapse

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Monday returned the "cut money" taunt to the BJP a day after the Sunday's Gujarat cable bridge collapse that left more than 135 people dead and about 50 missing.

The Bengal ruling outfit referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hard hitting statements against Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee after the 2016 Kolkata fly-over collapse that had claimed 27 lives and wondered whether the Prime Minister would shed some tears for the Gujarat victims too.

In 2016 the Prime Minister had taunted Banerjee saying the Kolkata bridge collapse was not an act of God (as claimed by the Chief Minister) but an "act of fraud". Referring to this, TMC Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Shekhar Roy said, "PM Modi taunted Mamata Banerjee over Kolkata flyover collapse. Let there be a few drops of tears, Modi ji over the death of 132 persons in newly renovated bridge collapse in Gujarat yesterday."

His party colleague and TMC spokesperson Kunal



Ghosh leveled cut-money charges on the Gujarat BJP leaders wondering whether the Government of that State would investigate as to how much cut-money had gone into the bridge repairing contract.

About 135 people died and more than 50 on Sunday went missing when the cable bridge over Macchu River in Morvi district of Gujarat collapsed apparently on account of overweight. The bridge had allegedly been thrown open to the public without any fitness certificate four days after its repair was completed by a maintenance company.

Senior TMC leader and party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh slammed the BJP government saying "whenever something happens in Bengal fact finding teams are sent here now we ask whether fact



finding teams will be sent to Morvi ... we also ask whether cut money was involved or how much of that was taken for awarding of the contract to the company responsible for the maintenance of the bridge ... questions must also arise as to whether the company that was given the maintenance work had enough expertise to do so ... we will also ask why the Gujarat government is trying to hide the actual number of people who died in the accident."

Ghosh said both Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah "who jointly supervise the Gujarat model of the so-called double engine government will have to take responsibility of the death of so many people ... they cannot wash of their hands by announcing a few lakh of rupees to the next of kin of the deceased." He said, "Why fact

finding teams and central agencies like ED and CBI will not be sent to Morvi to find out the real fact of the matter," asking "is ED and CBI reserved for the opposition-ruled states only or whether the death of 135 people is not enough to merit serious probe."

Another TMC leader and MLA said "it is a shame for the BJP which calls itself a party with a difference that they handout only a meagre Rs 2-Rs 4 lakh to the relatives of the dead persons while shelling hundreds of crores in buying MPs and MLAs to topple opposition governments."

Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury too taunted the Prime Minister wondering whether the Morvi represented the best model of a double engine government. "I want to ask Modi ji whether it is the famed Gujarat model of development that comes via a double engine government that was responsible for the mishap or it was lack of efficiency on the part of the BJP-run administration that brought about such a big disaster ... I also want to ask whether they will send an NIA team to Morvi to find out things."

# Will win Guj polls, AAP only in air, anti-incumbency against BJP: Rahul

PTI ■ KOTHUR (TELANGANA)

The Congress has a "solid base" in Gujarat and will win the upcoming Assembly polls, former party chief Rahul Gandhi said on Monday, contending that there is "massive" anti-incumbency against the BJP while the AAP is "only in the air" with no support on the ground.

Addressing a press conference here during his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi said the march is "not a magic wand" but a good first step to connect with the people. He also ruled out any alliance with the TRS, saying it is "diametrically opposite" to what the Congress stands for.

Dismissing the challenge posed by Aam Aadmi Party in Gujarat, Gandhi said the Congress has a solid base in the state.

"Congress is fighting the Gujarat elections effectively and the Congress will win the polls. AAP is only in the air. It has nothing on the ground," he told reporters here to questions on his party's prospects in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state.

"There is massive anti-incumbency. The media has



created a buzz based on the advertisements given by AAP. The Congress party is a solid party in Gujarat. The Congress is going to win the election there," he said.

On when and where he will campaign in the poll-bound states of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, Gandhi said, "Kharge Ji is the president of the party and he will decide how I am to be utilised."

In the 2017 Gujarat assembly polls, the Congress had put up a spirited fight and bagged 77 seats to the BJP's 99. However, there have been several defections from the Congress post-2017 and their current tally in the assembly stands at 62, while the BJP's tally has risen to 111.

Many political observers feel that the Congress is on a weak footing this time and with

the Aam Aadmi Party being a contender this time, it would be a triangular contest that could dent the Congress' chances.

On a question about the tragedy in Morbi where a bridge collapsed leaving more than 130 dead, Gandhi said he did not wish to politicise the incident.

"I don't want to politicise this incident. People have died here. It is disrespectful for them to politicise this incident, so I am not going to do it," Gandhi said. A two-minute silence was held in memory of those killed in the tragic accident.

Asked about his remarks at the Udaipur Chintan Shivir that the Congress' connection with the people has been broken and how far he has been able to reestablish it with the Yatra, Gandhi insisted that he had stated that the connection of the Congress Party with the people has "weakened".

"The connect of the Congress party with the people has not broken in any way, but it has weakened. This is a good first step in connecting with the people, it is not a magic wand...The Congress party is an idea. It stands for a certain vision of India... But I think,

there is a lot of work that has to be done," Gandhi added.

On a question about the OBC census, Gandhi said as far as the OBC census is concerned, it is the Congress that came up with the idea and did the census.

"I am very clear, I have absolutely no question in my mind, the OBC census needs to be made public. People need to understand the makeup of India's population," he asserted.

The former Congress chief said the fight in India today is between two ideologies -- one that is seeking to divide the nation and the other that wants to bring the nation together.

"The line is very clear. I feel, and the Congress party feels, that it is very important that the Opposition works together harmoniously to defeat the ideology of the RSS and the BJP," Gandhi said.

On the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), he said there is absolutely no possibility of any relationship between the TRS and the Congress.

"The corruption, the approach, the attitude of the TRS is not acceptable to us. We are diametrically opposed to what they are doing," he said.

# Andaman gangrape: SIT questions ex-Chief Secy for third day

PTI ■ PORT BLAIR

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Andaman and Nicobar Police for the third day on Monday grilled former chief secretary Jitendra Narain in connection with the alleged gang rape of a 21-year-old woman, officials said.

Members of the BJP's women wing Mahila Morcha staged protests, holding black flags and placards, at the main and rear entrances of Police Lines, where Narain is being questioned, and raised slogans



against the former chief secretary.

The police, however, took Narain through the main entrance of the Police Lines before protesters gathered and is questioning him since 10 AM.

Narain was grilled on two

days - Friday and Saturday - while a homestay in Port Blair was raided on Sunday in connection with the probe.

Sampa Banerjee, the BJP Mahila Morcha president of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, said, "We are protesting such acts by senior bureaucrats in the islands. This is our fight to protect the dignity and respect of our local women."

"If found guilty, we demand stern action against all those named in the FIR. We demand an impartial probe into the matter by the SIT," she

said.

The SIT, formed to probe the woman's allegation that she was raped by Narain and others after being lured to the chief secretary's residence with the promise of a government job, on Sunday conducted a search operation, along with a forensic team, at a homestay in Dollygunj locality of Port Blair to collect some evidence.

The survivor had accompanied the SIT team. The room where she was taken by the homestay's owner was examined by the investigators.

Apart from Narain, Labour Commissioner R L Rishi, a police inspector and the homestay's owner have been named in the police case lodged in connection with the gang rape.

The team was seen coming out of the homestay with envelopes but refused to divulge any information regarding it.

Narain is unlikely to leave Port Blair till November 4 as the airport on the island will remain shut from November 1 because of runway repair works.

The former chief secretary is being kept at a private resort. He arrived here to face questioning following a Calcutta High Court order.

The FIR was registered on October 1 when Narain was posted as the chairman and managing director of the Delhi Financial Corporation. The Centre suspended him on October 17.

The woman claimed that as her father and stepmother did not take care of her financial needs, she needed a job and was introduced by some peo-

ple to the labour commissioner as he was close to the then chief secretary.

She alleged in the FIR that the chief secretary appointed "7,800 candidates" in various departments in the administration of the islands "on the basis of recommendation only" and without any "formal interview".

The woman alleged that she was lured to the chief secretary's home with the promise of a government job, and then raped there on April 14 and May 1.

A vacation bench of the Calcutta High Court comprising justices Bibek Chaudhuri and Prasenjit Biswas has granted interim protection from arrest to Narain till a date that will be fixed by the circuit bench in Port Blair on November 14, on its first date of sitting after the Durga Puja vacation.

The court also noted that Narain, who was transferred to Delhi on July 21, has declared that he is ready and willing to cooperate with the investigation.

# Curious case of Bench hunting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It seems the plight of farmers of Amaravati to be not ending even after winning the case before the High Court. A full Bench of High Court by a judgment dated 22nd of March 2022 had favoured farmers while castigating Government of Andhra Pradesh in stalling infrastructure and development projects in the Capital region.

Interestingly, few private parties and the State of Andhra Pradesh had approached the Supreme Court way back in the month of July and October respectively. Verified sources who are aware of the ongoing litigation before the Supreme Court have confirmed that when the matters were mentioned before previous Chief Justice [Justice N V Ramana], the Bench indicated that a

Special Bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice Surya Kant, and Justice Vikram Nath, three incoming future Chief Justices were constituted to hear the matter.

However, on October 18, 2022, without notice to the parties, the matter was placed before the Bench of the present Chief Justice of India Justice UU Lalit. On October 18, the case was adjourned without any hearing.

In a twist of circumstances, State of Andhra Pradesh suddenly circulated a letter for early listing on October 20.

It is surprising that a matter which remained in cold storage since March of this year was mentioned for urgent listing without any urgency. Even the High Court proceedings of contempt are stayed until the Supreme Court decides which

clearly indicates no urgency.

Again, on November 1, 2022 this matter is posted before Justice UU Lalit. The matter essentially pertains to allegations against the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for his plan for shifting of capital.

Telugu Desam Party which is at the centre of the entire controversy has had earlier pointed out that shifting of capital was a smoke screen and the real intention behind such shifting was to ensure that properties held by YSRC Party members in Vishakhapatnam would quadruple if such move is sanctified.

Further, it is now to be seen whether Chief Justice would recuse himself from the case as he had already done in an earlier petition involving Jaganmohan Reddy as he was his lawyer in corruption cases against him.

# 13 Kashmiri Pandit families from J&K submit applications for getting registered as 'migrants'

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A group of 13 Kashmiri pandit families Monday jointly submitted their application in the office of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), Jammu for registering them as "Migrants".

The move is set to impact a series of measures taken up by the Union Government headed by Narendra Modi to ensure early return of Kashmiri pandits to their homes and hearths in the Kashmir valley.

These fear stricken families had earlier locked up their homes in the Chowdhary Gund village of South Kashmir's Shopian district before embarking on one of the toughest journeys of their lifetime after the merciless killing



of Pooran Krishan Bhat outside his home on October 15, 2022.

These families were staying put in their ancestral villages even at the peak of militancy and had not migrated in 1990.

Speaking to The Pioneer over telephone, one of the members of a Kashmiri pandit family revealed, they have lost sense of security and cannot think of returning to the Kashmir valley under the pre-

ailing circumstances. "Today we have jointly submitted our formal application so as to complete the necessary formalities to register ourselves as migrants". The family of Pooran Krishan Bhat has already submitted their separate application for completing the necessary formalities as he was the sole bread earner of the family and was not registered as migrant.

# Seat belts must for vehicle drivers, passengers from today in Mumbai

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Beginning Tuesday, the Mumbai traffic police will strictly enforce the rule making it mandatory for all drivers and passengers of motor vehicles to wear seat-belts in the metropol-

is. In line with the order issued by them on October 14, the city police will implement the amendment to the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act's Section 194 (b) (1), which has mandated that any person driving without a seat belt or carrying passengers not wearing the same shall be liable for punishment.

The Mumbai Traffic Police had given time to all vehicle owners who do not have seat-belt facility for all to install them by the deadline of October 31.

Ahead of the start of the implementation of the "seat belt must" rule, a senior traffic police official said: "We will deploy special squads at vantage points to check the compliance to the rule. We will also make random checks of vehicles on the highways and other main roads, at key signals or

junctions to ensure all follow the new safety rule".

The preparations by the Mumbai traffic police to enforce "seat belt must" rule comes in the midst of a request by the Western India Automobile Association (WIAA) to delay the implementation of the rule on the ground that there was not adequate awareness among the vehicle owners about the new rule.

While lauding the decision to enforce "seat belt must" rule for motor vehicles in Mumbai, former MP and WIAA Chairman-Emeritus Y P Trivedi said: "The move is very good from the safety point of view. But, there should have been a proper awareness among the vehicle owners before implementing this decision. Mumbai is not fully ready for the rule. If anything, the rule will cause inconvenience to the vehicle users".

Trivedi, who is also the former President of All India Automobile Association (AIAA), urged the Mumbai traffic police and transport officials to adopt a lenient attitude towards the offenders at least till December 31.



"Beginning January 1, 2023, the traffic police should come down heavily on the rule violators. This is essential because many of the old vehicles still don't have seat-belts in the rear seats," he said.

It may be recalled that the death of eminent industrialist Cyrus P Mistry in a road accident on September 4 while travelling in a speeding vehicle from Gujarat to Mumbai, without wearing a seat-belt had sparked an intense debate on road safety. On his part, Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari had said that henceforth wearing seat-belts would be mandatory for all passengers in a car failing which a penalty would be imposed.

On September 21, the Ministry of road, transport

and highway issued draft rules making it compulsory for car-makers to install seat belt alarms in all seats for the cars.

In its notification, the Mumbai Police said that whoever drives a motor vehicle without wearing a safety belt or carries passengers not wearing seat belts shall be punishable.

Through a notification issued on October 14, the Mumbai traffic police had stated: "All motor vehicle drivers and all commuters in vehicles, whoever travels on the road of Mumbai City are hereby informed that, it will be mandatory for drivers and all passengers to wear seat belts while traveling from November 1, 2022. Otherwise, action will be taken under section 194(B)(1) of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019".

# Land grabbing cases in Goa were treated casually by police: CM Pramod Sawant

PTI ■ PANAJI

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said the State Government would not have had to form a special investigation team to probe land grabbing cases if the police had not treated these incidents casually.

The Chief Minister said some land grabbing cases were registered 15 years ago with respective police stations, but they were treated casually by officers.

"These complaints were treated like routine ones, which is why we had to form a special investigation team (land) to probe them. Land grabbing had started in the state 15 years ago," Sawant said.

The Chief Minister was addressing the state secretaries and heads of various departments on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week at Porvorim, near here.

Sawant further said that a delay in processing files is also anti-government attitude.

Sometimes officers claim that they are not corrupt, but



they delay processing of files and by doing that, they are incurring losses to the state. This type of behaviour is equally corrupt, he said.

If the subordinate staffers perform their duties in a timely manner, 99 per cent cases will not reach the seniors and people would not have to approach ministers, the chief minister said.

Over the last three months, the state government has activated the department of public grievances inviting people to send their complaints online and offline, he said.

The department has received 306 complaints in three months, of which 70 per cent have been addressed by concerned officers, he added.

<p><b>Form No. 3</b> [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3) <b>DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)</b> 1st Floor SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd &amp; 4th Floor also) <b>Case No.: OA/1533/2021</b> <b>Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993</b> <b>Exh. No.: 11476</b> <b>ICICI BANK LIMITED VS. RAHUL JAIN</b></p> <p>To, <b>(3) M/S. SIDHARTHA BUILDHOME PRIVATE LIMITED</b> R/O. SHOP NO. 1 AND 4, LOCAL SHOPPING CENTER, PUSHP VIHAR, MADANGIR, NEW DELHI- 110062 THROUGH ITS AUTHORIZED OFFICER BUILDER.</p> <p><b>SUMMONS</b> WHEREAS, OA/1533/2021 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on <b>22.07.2022</b>. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of <b>Rs.16201510.62/-</b> (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under : (i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted; (ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal; (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before <b>Registrar on 03/11/2022 at 10:30 A.M.</b>, failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. <b>Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date 03/08/2022.</b> <b>Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue Summons</b></p>	<p><b>Form No. 3</b> [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3) <b>DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)</b> 1st Floor SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd &amp; 4th Floor also) <b>Case No.: OA/1570/2021</b> <b>Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993</b> <b>Exh. No.: 11478</b> <b>ICICI BANK LIMITED VS. RAJEEV TOMER</b></p> <p>To, <b>(3) M/S. SIDHARTHA BUILDHOME PRIVATE LIMITED</b> RESIDENT OF SHOP NO. 1 AND 4, LOCAL SHOPPING CENTER, PUSHP VIHAR, MADANGIR, NEW DELHI- 110 062 THROUGH ITS AUTHORIZED OFFICER.... BUILDER.</p> <p><b>SUMMONS</b> WHEREAS, OA/1570/2021 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on <b>22.07.2022</b>. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of <b>Rs.11030776/-</b> (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under : (i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted; (ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal; (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before <b>Registrar on 03/11/2022 at 10:30 A.M.</b>, failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. <b>Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date 03/08/2022.</b> <b>Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue Summons</b></p>
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# Questions galore

How could the local authorities be ignorant that the Morbi bridge had no fitness certificate?

The death of at least 141 people in Gujarat's Morbi is yet another case that highlights the low priority given to public safety by administration. For seven months, the cable bridge over Machchhu river underwent repair work. On October 26, the Gujarat New Year, it was reopened for the public, even though it didn't have a fitness certificate from the local authorities. Sandeep Singh, head of Morbi's civic body, told the media that the company responsible for repairs, Oreva, had to inform the civic authorities that the bridge's renovation was complete. This is followed with an inspection. According to him, the reopening happened "of a sudden," resulting in the mishap. But this raises several questions: How could a bridge be opened without the administration knowing about it? And, even if it opened without the local authorities' consent, how could they remain unaware of this fact for three-four days? Then there is the issue of overcrowding; there is also a report that some "mischievous kids" were shaking the ropes of the bridge which by the way happens to be a major tourist spot in the area. In fact, people have to pay to use the bridge. Oreva managing director Jaysukhbhai Patel told the media that the company didn't want "to overwhelm the sturdiness of the bridge." So, he added, it was decided to limit the crowd and charge for an entry. Apparently, his company failed miserably in this role.



In fact, the choice of Oreva for repairing the bridge was also surprising. The Oreva Group specialises in the manufacture of home and electrical appliances, wall clocks, calculators, ceramic products, e-bikes, etc. It owns the famous Ajanta and Orpat brands. Infrastructure and construction works, however, were never its forte. So, how could it get the contract to repair the bridge and also collect the ticket money for its usage? It has been reported that the bridge was supposed to open in 8-12 months, so what was the haste to open it in seven months? And that too without a fitness certificate? Was it greed that drove the company to prepone the opening? These and other questions can be answered only after a proper inquiry into the accident. Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi has announced that a criminal case has been registered and a five-member high-powered committee constituted to look into the matter. The case has been registered under charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder; nine accused persons are being interrogated. The police have already arrested nine persons, including two Oreva managers. While senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that he doesn't want to "politicise this incident," his party colleagues are less forgiving. Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted: "This is not a natural accident, it is a man-made tragedy. The BJP government of Gujarat is directly guilty of this heinous crime." Only time will tell if the tragedy would have an impact on the forthcoming Assembly poll.



Labourers work at a grain market during paddy procurement season, in Patiala

# Gagging social media

With the new rules in place, the social media may have to comply with the govt dictates

The censorship on social media is on its way, though not called so and sugarcoated to sound like a redressal system. The new rules the government has put in place would reign in social media like never before. The government has notified rules under which it will set up appellate panels to redress grievances that users may have against content posted on social media. Though it sounds rather benign, in effect it takes away the independence and neutrality of social media platforms in a big way. Social media content posted is already monitored but there is no mechanism to leash them. Not anymore. Now the onus would be on social media platform to correct any incriminating content posted by anyone on its platform, or else there would be consequences. To put the mechanism of redressal in place the Centre would form panels in three months to hear appeals on social media posts. MoS Rajeev Chandreshakhan has his reasons for doing so he said that the move was necessitated as lakhs of grievances were not responded to by social media firms despite complaints, which is not acceptable. These Platforms will have obligation to remove within 72 hours of flagging, any "misinformation" or illegal content or content that promotes enmity between different groups on the grounds of religion or caste with the intent to incite violence.



Perhaps the government's motive is not to safeguard the individuals but to save its own skin. Lately, many social media channels on YouTube etc have mushroomed which are rather critical of the government and cause it an embarrassment. Things were different earlier as the electronic media danced to its tunes and the government did not care much about social media. The cheap internet and ubiquitous smartphones have been game changers. The cumulative reach of social media now far exceeds the reach of TV channels whose credibility and reach is fast declining. Besides, the BJP had first mover advantage in social media but now other political parties are also catching up. The appellate system could change all that. It is easy now, a drop of a complaint letter from a proxy or dummy individual could set the ball rolling and the social media platform would have to oblige without much deliberations. It is backdoor censorship which could become more stringent with time. Social media has done some very good work in exposing lies and misadventures of the governments but that could be a thing of the past.

# Sunak must deliver to remain saddled

Rishi Sunak has a daunting task at hand to bail out the UK's failing economy, it is difficult but not impossible to put it back on track

Rishi Sunak, as Prime Minister of Great Britain, is a child of desperation; he is not the choice of all British people. Most leaders in his shoes would instinctively prioritize protecting what his predecessor Boris Johnson described as "the best job in the world". This is a mistake young Rishi should not make. More so, because he has been selected, not elected, to deal with Britain's greatest crises after World War II. Moreover, Sunak is brown, young as well as relatively inexperienced; only seven years have passed since his first election as an MP and his selection as PM. He is a Hindu and not a Christian, or a Muslim.

Incidentally, Rishi Sunak is not the youngest Prime Minister in British history. William Pitt the younger in the 18th century was only 24 years old when he was elected to the top job. He brought prosperity to Britain as never before and ruled continuously for 22 years. He died, as it were, on his chair at the age of 46. Uncannily, Pitt had planned to generate such a budget after budget that before the end of his rule, the treasury would be so rich that thereafter, the country could live off the interest earnings so that the people would have to pay no tax. Unfortunately for him and his people; Napoleon Bonaparte, in his expansionist urge to be the master of all of Europe, had declared war and Pitt had to finance it. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak might find this interesting. Under all these circumstances, he has few alternatives other than finding a magical or miraculous formula to prevent Britain from falling into a financial ditch. However risky the formula, he would have to carry the risk. He happens to have told the Conservative Members of Parliament that they have no other choice but "unite or die". We now ought to tell him that he must "succeed or perish" in public life.

First things first, as an answer to the inflation, in the UK's small but reliable food



chains to a small section in every store, the five most basic items of food at fixed reasonable prices ought to be available upon display of identification. If any extra expenditure is to be incurred, the government must step in to pay. Such a measure would ensure that no citizen, however poor, would have to go to bed hungry. No inflationary spiral would then claim lives. A full belly would avert the onslaught of inflation on the populace.

As the first step to obtaining the finances needed, a 10 per cent cut on all heads of expenditure would save approximately £100 billion. This would enable immediate action without the fear of going wrong either politically or economically. Apart from dealing with a weak national economy, the next threat would emerge from a global recession and falling exports. Another £100 billion cut must be aimed at. To locate the heads under which this saving can be made, some time to study, think, and debate with experts and colleagues would be required. For this, the government must take an entire month of consideration so that there are no blunders of haste.



THEREAFTER, ATTENTION CAN BE DEVOTED TO BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS. TO START WITH, AN INDO-UK ACCORD WOULD BE DESIRABLE

Thereafter, attention can be devoted to bilateral trade agreements. To start with, an Indo-UK accord would be desirable. The economies of the two countries are comparable in size; plus, the officials and businesspersons of the two countries should be familiar with each other's ways of working. Also, India's armed forces and their culture were shaped under British direction.

For example, we are familiar with the Rolls Royce automobile and engine, and the post-War British combat aircraft, which were the initial mainstay of our air force. We cannot forget that we purchased *INS Vikrant*, our first aircraft carrier, from the Royal Navy. There would be a long list of things we can buy from and export to the UK, from computer chips and spare parts for industrial machinery. On the other hand, modern Britain was built on innumerable exports from India. Many other countries would trade with Britain, especially if the British prices were more reasonable to compete in the global market. Knowing the British character, the Conservative Party would most likely remain united so long as Rishi Sunak

appears to be delivered efficiently. The better Sunak performs, the more the opposition Labour Party is likely to get impatient. In any case, this particular opposition party carries the image of being pro-Pakistan. It should also be realized that in the event of failure, Britain's only refuge would be to merge with the USA; say, as four states, England, Scotland, Wales, and North Ireland. These four states should be rewarded with eight Senate seats. If Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean can be a part of the USA, why cannot there be states of that country in the Atlantic Ocean? After all, Britain after the Second World War has been entirely in the American camp in its foreign policy.

An Oxford veteran, traveling in 1950, in connection with the automobile industry, was so cut up by the loss of the brightest jewel in the crown that, vented his disappointment. "My country will now head towards either sinking in the ocean or merging with America".  
(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NATIONAL UNITY DAY

Sir — India observes October 31st as the National unity day in memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India. He merged more than 500 princely states under the tricolor at the time of independence. The first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India are stamped in our minds for his devotion to unity and Hindu-Muslim brotherhood. From leading the farmers of Gujarat to playing a crucial role in the tortuous negotiations with the British for freedom and Partition of the country. The iron man of India was indeed one of the strong believer in secularism, though he had some differences with Nehru but both had good chemistry. They were on same page when it came to the basics of democracy and governance. To mark the occasion in 2018 PM Modi inaugurated the 8th wonder of the world named the Statue of Unity (182m) to pay homage. It is much taller than any other statue in the world. The tallest statue of Sardar Patel will always remind all of us Indians of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. The country will always and forever remain grateful for his crucial efforts leading to the integration of India.

Tashi Baheti | Ujjain

### SPARROW JOURNEY IN TESLA

Sir — Elon Musk's Tesla supercar journey finally came to an end on October 26 after buying a 9.2% stake in Twitter on April 2, and now Twitter's sparrow is sure to ride in a luxurious Tesla Car. The journey of Twitter, which has been stalled for many reasons in the meantime, has been a bumpy ride. On April 14, Twitter sold \$15.5 billion of its Tesla shares for \$44 billion with a bid of \$54.20 per share, and also took out \$13 billion in debt. Sparrows are expensive and it should not be surprising if the prices go up. It would be interesting how Twitter under Musk operates in India as the Indian government wants to control social media while Elon Musk, is against controlling content on Twitter; Twitter users are thus

## Politics for personal gains



Politicians who were elected as MPs and MLAs are, at times, switching their sides from one political party to the other according to their whims and fancies, personal gains, and greed. In the process, they are making a mockery of our political system. In Bihar state, the chief minister Nitish Kumar Yadav took the support of different political parties to remain in power twice just to score personal gains. In Telangana too, Raja Gopal Reddy, the elected MLA of Munugodu constituency on the TRS ticket resigned from the

post and again contested for the same constituency after joining with the BJP, only for his gains. This is unfortunate that our leaders have given up values for petty gains and do not mind flaunting their arrogance in public. Some have the audacity to even justify their actions in the name of religion and caste. Moreover these turncoat leaders are top rated opportunists and political weathercocks who do not mind switching sides for enjoying power at the cost of values. They shamelessly use their money power and muscle power to win the elections and then sell themselves for money. Their actions topple governments and loss to exchequer. This phenomenon is occurring with almost all parties. It is high time that there should be legislation that the person who resigns from any political post for personal reasons will be barred from contesting the election for at least for next ten years.

V Nagendra Kumar | Hyderabad

in a state of ambivalence. Only time will tell how high the new sparrow, which advocates freedom of expression, will rise.

Datta prasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

### NEHRU'S LEGACY UNDER SCANNER

Sir — Our contemporary history is being overwritten by the politics of the day, an exercise in palimpsest about Nehru's mistakes that cost us all dear. However, despite the best efforts of the people who want to destroy Nehru's legacy they have been unable to do so successfully. Nehru is no longer faulted for misreading China as six decades on we find equations thereto are no different and as unsure. So the thrust on him reverts to Kashmir, though here too no headway is brought made post abrogation of Art 370, by a clueless center.

That cannot negate the reality that the Nehru era was ahead of its times and enabled us to sustain both democracy and economic progress at fair levels. The first of the famed IITs were established ahead

of our first General election of independent India - a foresight to ensure that the right to education goes hand in hand with the right to vote and technological and research institutes go to form, the bulwark of our macroeconomics.

The newer generation may not be expected to know our first PM and the neo-elite troll tall characters in history that they do not care to comprehend. Nehru perhaps pursued a socio-political-economic line suited to the decades of the 1940s and '50s, when global politics prescribed a path of nuanced neutrality. And its utility has sustained long and is now vindicated in Ukraine. Mankind repeats mistakes in believing that personal gain is made by crushing others and worrying about things that cannot be changed or corrected to then neglect the refinement of the mind. Those who ignore history, only repeat it.

R Narayanan | Navi Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

Today, India manufactures fighter plane, tanks and submarine. Besides, Indian medicines and vaccines are saving the lives of millions of people. Soon, passenger planes would be made in India.

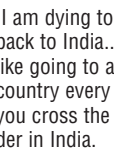


Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



Greatest privilege of my life...will work day in and out to deliver.

UK Prime Minister —Rishi Sunak



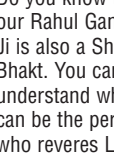
I am dying to go back to India...it's like going to a new country every time you cross the border in India.

Actor —Priyanka Chopra



I have seen what happens in the last over with spinners, so I just wanted to go the other way and see if I could finish Ash and not keep him for the last over.

Indian skipper —Rohit Sharma



Do you know that our Rahul Gandhi Ji is also a Shiv Bhakt. You can understand who can be the person who reveres Lord Shiva. I am happy that the statue got ready.

Rajasthan CM —Ashok Gehlot



FIRST COLUMN

A DECK OF CARDS HAS SPIRITUAL WISDOM IN IT

There are deep messages in game of cards



RAJYOGI **BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI**

Playing cards is a most popular pastime all over the world. Most people see playing cards as games of gambling. However, due to its universal use and timeless symbolism, people can also feel an affinity with the cards on a subconscious level. Going deep down the history, it can be seen that in every culture the game of cards crept into the language and have been used as metaphors. Like, we see many people using the phrases that ‘this guy is an Ace’ or ‘the whole thing could fall down like a pack of cards’ or ‘he’s a Joker’. Even though people regularly try to change the basic designs of the cards or put famous faces on them, the mystical power of the cards and their symbolism ensures that their original depictions retain their longevity and popularity.

There are a variety of card games — from those played by a single player to others that involve several players. Enthusiasts vouch for the enjoyable experience that card games provide, pointing out that such games are a harmless way to kill time, especially when one is on a train journey or waiting at the airport. However, one can learn a few lessons from cards if one looks at them from a spiritual point of view.



Most of us know that half the cards in the pack are in red and the rest in black. These may be taken to represent the bright and dark stages of this world, where righteousness prevails in the Golden and Silver Ages and increasing darkness gathers in the Copper and Iron Ages. The aces in the pack represent quality over quantity. The aces have more value than cards with higher numbers. In the real world also those who live by God's teachings are few but they are not only looked up to by their fellow humans but also valued by God. Such souls are a source of strength for those around them and serve as the pillars that uphold morality and ethics in society.

That righteousness prevails over the numerical superiority of the unrighteous is also shown in Mahabharata, where the five Pandavas attain victory over the larger Kaurava army. Then there are the court cards — the king, queen and jack or servant. It is notable that it is a servant and not a subject who is represented along with the royals. That is because although a servant may be lower in status than a wealthy citizen, he is closer to the royal family than the subjects. The servants of a royal household live in the premises of the royal palace, where a commoner, however high his status, cannot enter unless he is invited.

In the Golden and Silver Ages, when divine beings lived on earth, their servants had the fortune of living close to them, whereas the subjects got a glimpse of these deities only on special occasions. Similarly, the joker in the pack is used as a substitute for any other card. This is a representation of an all-rounder who can play any role in the time of a crisis situation. God also tells his children to be full of all virtues and powers so that they can perform any task when the need arises. Such an ever ready all-rounder is an asset to any group or organisation. So next time when you play cards with your friends and family, keep in mind the deep and mystical side of this system. It may definitely enhance your knowledge as well as increase your insight into your life lessons and personal relationships.

*(The author is a spiritual educator)*

# Making of an inclusive self-resilient Haryana



BANDARU **DATTATRAYA**

## Haryana has scripted all-inclusive development in last eight years, worthy of being replicated by others

No other day can be better than November 1 for me to share my feelings and thoughts about Haryana. It is Haryana Day today, and I extend my warm greetings and wishes to the people of this lovely state, culturally so rich and diverse. The sense of camaraderie among the people of all shades in the state is so strong and lively! On July 15, 2021, I took oath as the 18th Governor of Haryana. Today, I feel emotionally attached to the state and its people, who are affable, humble, down-to-earth, simple and so straight.

The great divine message of the holy Gita was delivered by Lord Krishna during the Mahabharata War at Kurukshetra. I have been to Kurukshetra many times. I could feel the divinity of the place while participating in ‘aarti’ at Brahm Sarovar. I was overjoyed to visit Adi Badri, north of Kathgarh, in the foothills of Siwalik Hills in northern Yamunanagar district, from where the river Saraswati originated.

The aura of Great Gurus like Sri Guru Gobind Singh, the valour of freedom fighter Rao Tula Ram and the farsighted leadership of Sir Chhotu Ram – Haryana offers more than what one’s eyes! The magnificent Aravalli and Shivalik hills add grandeur to the beauty of the state. It won’t be fair if I do not reflect upon people’s common urge to grow together in an atmosphere of peace and brotherhood. Their love for dairy business, sports, traditional song, dishes is quite unique.

It does not surprise me at all when I find Haryana so close to Telangana in several respects. There is so much similarity in cultural ethos, art and craft, cuisines, and monumental identity that spontaneously make us feel about the strength of ‘Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.’ Like Telangana, Haryana’s culture is deeply rooted in a pluralistic ethos.

In terms of development, Haryana has undergone a multidimensional metamorphosis. It has fast emerged as the development model in line with the vision of the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, based on the principle that no one is left behind. From health, education, welfare of women and child, upgradation of infrastructure to vulnerable sections of society, the all-government approach under able leadership of the Chief Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal, has made a monumental difference at the grassroots level, accelerating the pace of making Haryana robust, inclusive, resilient and self-reliant as a state.

Today, Haryana boasts of having the best infrastructure among all developed states of the country. Its Global City, a mixed land use township being developed over 1080 acres of land in Gurugram, is all set to redefine the concept of urban development. The education infrastructure of the state – which is implementing the new National Education Policy-2020 by 2025 against the national


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THOUGH SMALLER IN SIZE, TODAY HARYANA HAS 70 GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, GIVING A BOOST TO THE STATE’S HEALTHCARE AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL

deadline of 2030 – is one of the best in the country. Today, Haryana has 186 government ITIs as compared to 142 in 2014, while the number of ITIs in the private sector has gone up to 225 as against 95 in 2014.

In the last eight years, Haryana has witnessed an ecosystem firming up which encourages institutional autonomy, best and honest practices in research. Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU) has been granted powers to affiliate private institutions for skill certification. Pursuant to the NEP-2020, the government has decided that all government colleges and universities should be accredited by 2023. In order to promote 21st century skills, STEM Labs, on the lines of Atal Tinkering Labs, will ensure exposure and training to students in 3D Printing, drone technologies, AI, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Block Chain management and so on.

Though smaller in size, today Haryana has 70 government hospitals, giving a boost to the state’s healthcare at primary and secondary level. The state has 121 Community Health Centres and 640 Primary Health Centres as compared to 470 in 2014. It has a huge network of 2,674 Sub Health Centres (SHCs). As on April 16, 2022, a total of 1150 Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres are operational in the state, out of which 364 are in Rural PHCs, 684 in Sub-Centres and 102 in Urban PHCs. The number of medical colleges has gone up to 12 from eight in the last eight years and the number of seats in med-



ical colleges rose from 850 in 2014 to 1735.

The hike in old age pension from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,500 is a reflection on the government’s commitment to take care of elderly people. Currently, about 18 lakh senior citizens are getting old age pension in the state. The benefits under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana have been extended to 17 lakh more families by changing the income slab of BPL from Rs 1.20 lakh per annum to Rs 1.80 lakh per annum.

One needs to understand the importance of Antyodaya, as envisioned by great thought leader Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, in governance. The empowerment of the poorest among the poor should be at the core of governance. It is praiseworthy indeed that in the first phase of ‘Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Parivar Utthan Abhiyan’, there is a target to identify around two lakh such poor families whose annual income is less than Rs 1 lakh, and enhance their annual income to Rs 1 lakh.

Similarly, more than 33,000 poor families have been provided with loan sanction letters for their self-employment in three phases of Antyodaya Gram Utthan Melas. A massive boost has been given to farmers’ ease of life through ‘Meri Fasal, Mera Byora’ web portal, where about 9 lakh farmers registered themselves in Rabi and Kharif seasons.

A critical challenge for governance lies in enabling people to reap benefits of schemes and services in a hassle-free manner. As

many as 547 services and schemes of 42 departments have been made online on Antyodaya Saral Portal. As many as 150 schemes have been uploaded on DBT portal, of which 94 are state schemes and 56 centrally sponsored schemes. A total of 29.63 crore transactions have taken place since 2017, in which Rs 52,374 crore have been deposited in the accounts of the beneficiaries.

Through DBT, 36.75 lakh ineligible beneficiaries were also identified in the last eight years, resulting in a saving of about Rs 6,700 crore. During 2019-20, Haryana was ranked first in the country for the successful implementation of the DBT Mission.

Three big dams are being built from where Haryana will get 47 per cent of their waters. Nearly 14,000 ponds are being repaired. Check dams are also being built on the hills. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, fresh tap water is being supplied to every household in all villages by giving about 18 lakh water connections. Only recently, the Union Home Minister, Mr. Amit Shah, inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of four projects costing about Rs 6,629 crore. These include laying the foundation stone of Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor costing Rs 5,618 crore, inauguration of Rail Coach Refurbishment Factory in Sonapat district costing Rs 590 crore, and India’s first longest elevated railway track built in Rohtak at Rs 315.40 crore. Collective efforts of all stakeholders must continue for accelerated and balanced development, bringing more prosperity to the people of the state.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

SHOULD I POUR THIS CHEMICAL ON YOUR HEAD? PEOPLE WILL TAKE A DIP ON CHATH AND YOU ARE SPRAYING THESE CHEMICALS HERE. —BJP MP **PARVESH VERMA**



DELHI GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING FOR CHHATH PUJA AND BJP LEADERS ARE STOPPING WORK, MISBEHAVING. —AAP LEADER **SAURABH BHARDWAJ**

# RSS must check corruption in states, sycophancy

## The RSS cannot keep projecting itself as a socio-cultural organisation when actually its cadres help win elections

The Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is always in the news for various reasons. Recently, one Maulana, who heads All India Imams Organisation, an organization that reportedly represents five lakh Imams and three lakh mosques, Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, called Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat as “Rashtra Pita (father of the nation)”. Before visiting the Muslim localities and Mosque in Delhi, he also reached out to a few Muslim intellectuals and former civil servants. It was an attempt to dispel the fears that RSS is anti-Muslims and anti-minority and to stress the need for reconciliation between Hindus and Muslims.

A few months ago, he also



VK **BAHUGUNA**

*(The author is former Director General, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)*

rightfully made a statement that the DNA of all Indians is the same. The RSS has been trying to reach out to Muslims since 2000. He also reached out to Dalits and exhorted them to completely discard the caste and Varna system. The RSS is known for its selfless service. Its thousands of Pracharaks dedicate their lives to the cause espoused by the Sangh; they do not marry and eat in the houses of their supporters. It is a marvelous unparalleled instance of selfless service to the nation by individuals.

The RSS is one of the largest socio-cultural organizations in the world with more than 5.85 lakh members and around 57,500 branches spread in India and abroad. The RSS was founded in

1925 on Vijaya Dashmi day with the objective to do selfless service to the nation with focus on character building of the youth. It focused its activities on consolidation of Hindu society and its culture.

The BJP with support from the RSS is the largest political party in the country as it had more than 18 crore members in 2018. The party draws its strength from support of the RSS cadres. Large sections of the people support the RSS for consolidation of Hindu centric ideas considering such mobilization in other religions.

Therefore, the role of RSS and other socio-cultural organizations is going to be crucial in the progress of the country, considering the social milieu and influence of

international geo-politics that impinges upon the thinking of youths. We need to discuss the expectations of people from the RSS amid the emergence of the BJP as the dominant political force.

Ensuring social harmony among all sections of society and to firmly isolate the fissiparous anti-national forces many of which have deep roots and foreign linkages and are spreading their tentacles among vulnerable sections of people like Dalits/tribal/rural areas by taking advantage of our fault lines is key. Also, the RSS needs to take up the population control issue as the carrying capacity of the country’s resources to sustain the rising population is reaching its threshold.

Additionally, politics be cleaned especially in states from the vices like grip of political/moral corruption and criminalization of politics. Surprisingly, people are accepting and supporting such leaders for sectarian reasons. Reforms in administration of affordable justice and change in the colonial mindset of civil services and its structure for better governance are also needed. Fifth, the formulation of a common civil code is a prerequisite for a stable society. The Sixth and most important is legislative reforms through constitutional amendments for a better governed democracy.

However, the RSS appears to be ignoring the corruption and anti-people activities in states. Uttarakhand is an

example where the youths have been cheated by the leaders of both the BJP and Congress and the views of independent experts completely ignored, specially failing to control settlement of outsiders in border areas. The RSS leadership needs to show zero tolerance for corruption and immoral acts of its workers and supporters in politics if it has to savour its image and at the same time involve experts in various fields because it is not only the RSS workers but also there are large numbers of people who think and ceaselessly work for the nation.

The RSS cannot take shelter in projecting itself as a socio-cultural organisation by stating that it does not interfere in the party’s affairs

when actually its cadres help win elections. Another important factor the RSS leadership needs to take note is that it sometimes gets over influenced by people of dubious credentials especially in bureaucracy and poney academics which slowly forms a ring surrounding powerful leaders. It is very well seen in many government appointments.

Ministers are easily misguided by bureaucrats for their selfish gains, resulting in power brokers continuing their dominance. If these suggestions are accepted by its leadership it would be a great tribute to the large number of grassroots selfless pracharaks of RSS who had sacrificed their youth and comfort for no material gain.



# Russian strikes hit Ukraine, most of Kyiv without water

AP ■ KYIV

A massive barrage of Russian strikes on Monday morning hit critical infrastructure in Kyiv, Kharkiv and other cities, knocking out water and power supplies in apparent retaliation for what Moscow alleged was a Ukrainian attack on its Black Sea Fleet over the weekend.

The mayor of Ukraine's capital said that 80 per cent of consumers in Kyiv were left without water supplies "due to the damage to a power facility near" the city from Russian military strikes on Monday.

Local authorities were working on restoring the supplies as soon as possible, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said, telling Kyiv residents in the meantime to "stock up on water from the nearest pump rooms and points of sale."

In a separate Telegram post, Klitschko added that water supplies in some areas of Kyiv will be restored in "three to four hours," and power had already been restored in one of the city's districts.

Loud explosions were heard across the Ukrainian capital in the early morning as residents prepared to go to work. Many

received text messages from the emergency services about the threat of a missile attack, and air raid sirens wailed for three straight hours.

The attacks occurred just before Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala and many top members of his government, including the foreign, defence and interior ministers, arrived in Kyiv in the latest show of support from European leaders for Ukraine.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said there was no justification for Russia launching missiles meant to inflict so much suffering on civilians.

"Don't justify these attacks by calling them a 'response'. Russia does this because it still has the missiles and the will to kill Ukrainians," he tweeted.

There was a heavy military presence north of Kyiv. Smoke was rising from the left bank of the Dnieper River, either from a missile strike or where it was shot down by Ukrainian forces.

A resident of the area said he heard four loud explosions that rocked the area.

"At first I thought I heard a jet going by, but then I realised it was a missile," said Serhii, who refused to give his full name.



"The explosions were so loud! I consider myself experienced and prepared for attacks like this. But it was way too close and loud. I was frightened, really frightened."

In the outlying region,

authorities warned people to be prepared for a long power outage because of the emergency cuts.

Kyiv region Gov. Oleksii Kuleba also said that one person was wounded and a number of

houses were damaged as a result of the morning attack.

In the eastern city of Kharkiv, two strikes hit critical infrastructure facilities, according to authorities, and the subway ceased operating. Officials

also warned about possible power outages in the city of Zaporizhzhia resulting from the strikes there.

The Lviv region in western Ukraine was also targeted, but the missiles were shot down,

Lviv Gov. Maksym Kozytskyy said.

Critical infrastructure objects were also hit in the Cherkasy region southeast of Kyiv, and explosions were reported in other regions of Ukraine. In the Kirovohrad region of central Ukraine, the energy facility was hit, according to local authorities. In Vinnytsia, a missile that was shot down landed on civilian buildings, resulting in damage but no casualties, according to regional Gov. Serhii Borzov.

Some parts of Ukrainian railways were also cut off from power, the Ukrainian Railways reported.

The attack comes two days after Russia accused Ukraine of a drone attack against Russia's Black Sea Fleet off the coast of the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

Ukraine has denied the attack, saying that Russia mishandled its own weapons, but Moscow still announced halting its participation in a UN-brokered deal to allow safe passage of ships carrying grain from Ukraine.

Commenting on Monday's attacks, the head of Ukraine's presidential office Andriy Yermak said that Russian forces "continue to fight with civilian

facilities."

"We will persevere, and generations of Russians will pay a high price for their disgrace," Yermak said.

The deputy head of the presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said urgent power shutdowns were being carried out after "Russian terrorists once again launched a massive strike on energy facilities in a number of Ukrainian regions."

It's the second time this month that Russia unleashed a massive barrage of strikes on Ukrainian infrastructure.

On October 10, a similar attack rocked the war-torn country following an explosion on the Kerch Bridge linking annexed Crimea to mainland Russia — an incident Moscow blamed on Kyiv.

This time, however, the Ukrainian forces say they were able to intercept most of the missiles launched by Russia.

Ukraine's air force said that more than 50 cruise missiles were launched from Tu-95/Tu-160 strategic aviation missile-carrying aircraft from the north of the Caspian Sea and from the area around the Russian city of Volgograd in the Rostov region. A total of 44 of them were shot down.

## What Russia's suspension of grain deal could mean

AP ■ NAIROBI, KENYA

Russia has suspended its part of the deal allowing Ukraine to ship grain from its Black Sea ports safely amid a monthslong war, and it appears that the remaining partners are now left to take their chances.

On Monday, Ukraine said a dozen ships had sailed despite initially reporting that more than 200 vessels, many loaded and ready to travel, were stuck after Russia's weekend announcement. Such exports are crucial: Ukraine and Russia are key global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other food to countries in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia where many are already struggling with hunger.

But it's not immediately clear who would choose to take the risk of sailing from Ukraine without Russia's protection after Moscow alleged a Ukrainian drone attack against its Black Sea fleet. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said implementing the grain deal is "hardly feasible" in a situation when "Russia talks about the impossibility of guaranteeing the safety of navigation in the mentioned areas."

Here is what Russia's decision could mean for a world increasingly worried about food



security and high food prices:

### WHAT HAS THE DEAL ACHIEVED?

The grain initiative has been a rare example of cooperation between Ukraine and Russia since Russia's invasion in February. Brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, it has allowed more than 9 million tons of grain in 397 ships to safely leave Ukrainian ports. The grain agreement has brought down global food prices about 15% from their peak in March, according to the U.N., and the U.N. secretary-general had urged Russia and Ukraine to renew the deal when it expires Nov. 19.

Wheat futures prices

jumped more than 5% on Monday in Chicago following Russia's move, while key oil futures prices rose in Asian markets.

A spokeswoman for the Joint Coordination Center overseeing the logistics and inspection of ships didn't immediately respond to questions Monday about which vessels might sail after Russia suspended its role.

Before the grain deal was brokered, the United States and European partners accused Russia of starving vulnerable parts of the world by denying exports from one of the world's major grain producers.

Since the deal, Russian President Vladimir Putin has

alleged that most of the exported grain was going to Europe instead of the world's hungriest nations. Experts have said many shipments are fulfilling business deals but have played an important role in stabilizing grain markets, even if data by the deal's monitor has shown that relatively few ships have had African nations as their destination.

The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development said in a report published last week that wheat is mostly going to developing countries, saying nearly 20% of exported wheat has gone to the least developed countries.

Ukraine has said more than 5 million tons have been exported to African and Asian nations, with 190,000 tons of wheat sent to countries struggling with hunger that are getting relief from the U.N. World Food Program.

A ship carrying 30,000 tons of wheat for Ethiopia under that program sailed Monday, Ukraine said, one of a dozen ships with more than 354,000 tons of agricultural products that sailed after the U.N. and Turkey agreed on the traffic of ships through the humanitarian corridor. They continue pursuing full implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

## Norway ups military preparedness, cites need for vigilance

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Norway said on Monday it's stepping up its military preparedness, but the NATO member's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said there is "no reason to believe that Russia will want to invade Norway or any other country directly."

"We must be more vigilant," Gahr Store said. "I don't believe ordinary people will notice any change."

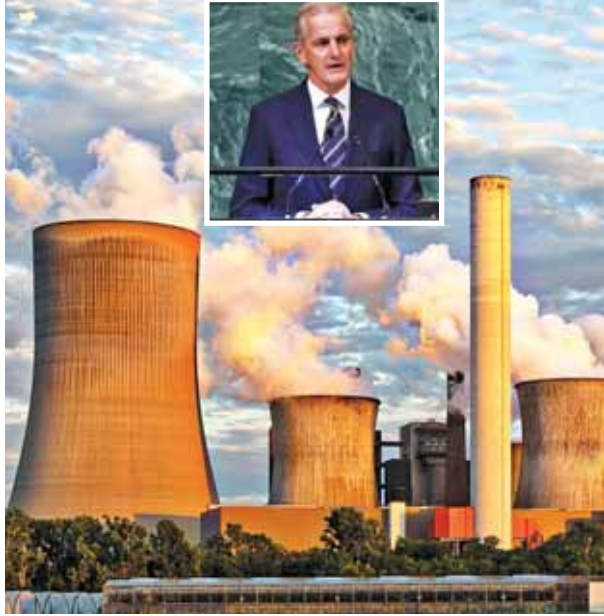
Even before Russia invaded Ukraine, the Norwegian government had boosted its level of preparedness, he said, adding that Russia's "large losses ... Are causing the Russian regime to resort to new means."

Gahr Store stressed that nothing has happened in recent hours to cause the increase of preparedness, which was "due to developments over time."

Defence Minister Bjorn Arild Gram declined to give details as what the increased preparedness meant, saying it was classified.

Norway has a 198-kilometre (123-mile) border with Russia in the Arctic.

Last week, Norwegian authorities detained a man who they say posed as a Brazilian scholar but was allegedly a Russian intelligence officer suspected of spying out state secrets. Norway's PST domestic intelligence service said his



name was Mikhail Mikushin.

The suspect was detained on Monday in the Arctic city of Tromsø, where he worked at the Arctic University of Norway.

Several Russian citizens have been detained in Norway in recent weeks, chiefly for being in possession of drones or allegedly photographing subjects covered by a photography ban. Most have since been released.

European nations have heightened security around key energy, internet and power

infrastructure following underwater explosions that ruptured two natural gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea built to deliver Russian gas to Germany.

The damaged Nord Stream pipelines off Sweden and Denmark discharged huge amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, into the air.

The Russian Embassy in Norway's capital, Oslo, has alleged that authorities there have used drone and ship sightings, as well as Russians with cameras, to fuel a 'spy mania.

## White House invites nations for ransomware summit

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The White House is bringing together three dozen nations, the European Union and a slew of private-sector companies for a two-day summit starting Monday that looks at how best to combat ransomware attacks.

The second International Counter Ransomware Summit will focus on priorities such as ensuring systems are more resilient to better withstand attacks and disrupt bad actors planning such assaults.

A senior Biden administration official cited recent attacks such as one that targeted the Los Angeles school district last month to underscore the urgency of the issue and the summit.

The official previewed the event on the condition of anonymity.

Among the administration officials planning to participate in the event are FBI Director Christopher Wray, national security adviser Jake Sullivan, Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo and Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman. President Joe Biden is not expected to attend.

## Imran to file Rs 10 bn lawsuit against election commission chief for disqualifying him

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Imran Khan on Monday targeted the chief of the Election Commission of Pakistan and announced that he will file a Rs 10 billion defamation suit against him for destroying his reputation by disqualifying him, as the ousted premier addressed his supporters at the start of the fourth day of his long march.

Khan has announced that his objective was to gain Haaqeeqi Azadi (real freedom) through the march to Islamabad which in his words was possible if free and fair elections are held immediately.

Khan, 70, was earlier this month disqualified from membership of the current National Assembly by a five-member panel of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), which was headed by its chief Sikandar Sultan Raja.

"Sikandar Sultan, I will take you to court ... so that in the future, you do not destroy anyone's reputation on someone else's instructions," Khan said while addressing PTI supporters at Kamonki at the start of the fourth day of his long march.

He alleged that the ECP's decisions against him in Toshakhana and prohibited funding cases were given on the instructions of the incumbent "imported government".

"You (Sikandar) are friends of thieves and action will be taken," he said.

According to Pakistan's law, any gift received from dignitaries



of a foreign state must be put in the state depository or the Toshakhana.

The former prime minister had earlier announced that he would file a defamation case against Raja. The former premier made the announcement while speaking to a private news channel.

"I will file a defamation lawsuit against CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja in Toshakhana reference and foreign funding case," Khan said in an interview and reiterated his demand for free and fair elections in the country under the new ECP chief.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief also said he would back out himself if any allegations against him in the cases were to be proven true.

"Whenever courts against me prove that I have done an illegal thing, I will not wait for the court's decision to be issued and will back out on my own," Khan said.

## 'Ukraine war, other crises take toll on jobs'

AP ■ GENEVA

The U.N. Labour agency warned Monday that job vacancies and employment growth are expected to decline worldwide in the fourth quarter as the war in Ukraine and "multiple and overlapping crises" have led to shrinking wages, higher debt and yawning inequality.

Gilbert Hounbo, the new director-general of the International Labor Organization, called on governments to intervene to help set prices for goods, redirect

"windfall profits" and boost income support and social protections.

"Tackling this deeply worrying global employment situation, and preventing a significant labour market downturn, will require comprehensive, integrated and balanced policies both nationally and globally," he said in a statement.

Hounbo said a quick end to the war in Ukraine "would further contribute to improving the global employment situation."

ILO noted a rebound in global hours worked at the



## ICC judges approve request to reopen Afghanistan probe

AP ■ THE HAGUE

Judges have approved a request by the International Criminal Court's prosecutor to reopen an investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity in Afghanistan, saying Afghan authorities are not carrying out meaningful probes into the alleged crimes.

The court announced the decision Monday, saying that authorities in Kabul have not established that "Afghanistan has investigated, or was investigating, in a manner that covers the full scope of the Prosecutor's intended investigations and that would justify even a partial deferral of the court's investigations."

The decision comes just over a year after Prosecutor Karim Khan announced that he wanted to resume an ICC probe in Afghanistan because under the country's new Taliban rulers there was "no longer the prospect of genuine and effective domestic investigations" in the country.

Judges at the global court authorised an investigation by Khan's predecessor, Fatou Bensouda, in 2020 covering offenses allegedly committed by Afghan government forces, the Taliban, American troops and U.S. Foreign intelligence operatives dating back to 2002. The United States are not a



member of the court and do not recognize its jurisdiction.

The decision to investigate Americans led to the Trump administration slapping sanctions on Bensouda, who has

since left office. However, the probe was shelved after Afghan authorities asked to take over the case — known at the court as requesting deferral.

The ICC is a court of last resort, set up in 2002 to prosecute alleged atrocities in countries that cannot or will not bring perpetrators to justice — known as the principle of complementarity.

When Khan sought last year to reopen the court's investigation, he said he now plans to focus on crimes committed by the Taliban and the Afghan affiliate of the Islamic State group, adding that he will "deprioritize" other aspects of the investigation.

## UK Govt under fire for 'wretched' migrant centre conditions

AP ■ LONDON

British politicians from both opposition and governing parties on Monday demanded the Conservative government improve conditions at an overcrowded facility for migrants, described by an independent inspector as "wretched".

Hundreds of people who crossed the English Channel in small boats have been moved to Manston, a former airfield in southeast England, after another processing centre was hit with gasoline bombs on Sunday by an attacker who then killed himself.

There already were 3,000 people at the facility, which is intended to hold about half that number.



Lawmakers are demanding that Home Secretary Suella Braverman come to Parliament on Monday to answer questions about conditions at Manston.

It is supposed to be a temporary processing centre where new arrivals spend 24 hours before moving on to longer-term accommodation, but refugee groups say some people have been stuck there for weeks.



# China slams plan for US B-52 N-bombers in Australia

AP ■ CANBERRA

The United States is preparing to deploy up to six nuclear-capable B-52 bombers in northern Australia, a news report said Monday, prompting China to accuse the U.S. Of undermining regional peace and stability.

The United States is preparing to build dedicated facilities for the long-range bombers at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal in the Northern Territory, national broadcaster Australian Broadcasting Corp. Reported.

Tindal is south of the coastal city of Darwin, where thousands of U.S. Marines Corps troops have spent about half of each year since 2012 under a deal struck between then-U.S. President Barack Obama and then-Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese did not directly respond when asked at a news conference on Monday if the United States is preparing to deploy bombers in Australia.

"We engage with our friends in the United States alliance from time to time," Albanese said.



"There are visits to Australia, including in Darwin, that has U.S. Marines on a rotating basis stationed there," he said. The U.S. Air Force told ABC the ability to deploy U.S. Bombers to Australia "sends a strong message to adversaries about our ability to project lethal air power."

Asked about U.S. Nuclear bombers being positioned in Australia, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said defense and security cooperation between countries should "not target any third parties or harm the interests of third parties."

"The relevant U.S. Behaviors have increased regional ten-

sions, seriously undermined regional peace and stability, and may trigger an arms race in the region," Zhao told reporters at a regular briefing in Beijing.

"China urges the parties concerned to abandon the outdated Cold War and zero-sum mentality and narrowminded geopolitical thinking, and to do something conducive to regional peace and stability and enhancing mutual trust between the countries," Zhao added.

Australian opposition leader Peter Dutton, who was defense minister when his conservative government was voted out office in May, welcomed the prospect of B-52 bombers having a regular presence in Australia.

## 'China woos 2 diplomatic allies with Pacific aid'

AP ■ CANBERRA

Beijing was targeting its Pacific aid to new diplomatic allies Solomon Islands and Kiribati while Chinese financial support across the region continued to decline, the Lowy Institute reported on Monday in its latest annual analysis of regional assistance.

China's aid to the Pacific has fallen from a peak of USD 287 million in 2016 to USD 187 million in 2020 — the lowest level since 2008, when the Sydney-based international policy think tank began quantifying support for developing island nations in the Pacific.

At the same time, pandemic response measures drove Pacific aid to a record USD 4.25 billion in 2020, a 47 per cent increase on the previous year, Lowy's Pacific Aid Map report showed.

# Lankan Prez hopeful of resolving problems faced by ethnic Tamils

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has said he is hopeful of resolving the problems faced by ethnic Tamils in the country, as he announced the appointment of a committee to find ways to integrate the Indian-origin workers in the plantation sector into the society.

Wickremesinghe's remarks came on Sunday during an event in Colombo to accept a consignment of medicine donated by the Union Territory of Puducherry at the request of Ceylon Worker's Congress (CWC), a leading political party representing the Indian-origin Tamils in the Central Province.

"While some of the Tamils of Hill Country origin had integrated successfully into the Sri Lankan society, some have failed and measures would be taken to assist them to do so," he said.

Wickremesinghe said that the government will appoint a committee to seek how best to integrate the Tamils of Hill Country origin further into the Sri Lankan society.

He said that these issues would be gradually resolved in the coming years as the government resolves the whole eth-



nic problem in Sri Lanka.

The President recalled the Sirimalwatte-Shastri Pact between the then Indian and Sri Lankan leaders under which some of the Indian-origin plantation Tamils were repatriated.

The pact was signed on October 30, 1964 between the then Prime Ministers of Sri Lanka and India - Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Lal Bahadur Shastri. It was a significant agreement in determining the status and future of people of Indian origin in Ceylon.

Wickremesinghe recalled that it was the Ceylon Workers Congress founder the late Saumyamurthi Thondaman who had obtained citizenship for some people who should have gone under Sirima-Shastri Pact but decided to stay back in Sri Lanka.

## Li to host SCO council of heads of Govt meet

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang will host the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) via video link on Tuesday, the foreign ministry said here on Monday.

Launched in Shanghai in June 2001, the SCO has eight full members, including its six founding members, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.

Premier Li, who is set to retire early next year following the major reshuffle of officials following the recent once-in-a-five-year congress of the ruling Communist Party of China, will host the meeting via video link. According to officials, India will be represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the online meeting.

The SCO heads of the state held their first in-person summit after two years at Samarkand in Uzbekistan last month which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.



His family moved from Brazil's poor northeast region to Sao Paulo state in pursuit of a better life, following his father who had travelled south years before.

Upon arriving, however, they found he had settled down with another woman.

Da Silva's mother was left alone to raise eight children, of whom little Lula was the youngest.

Pressed for money, he became a metal worker at age 14 in the metropolis' gritty outskirts. It was a physical job that famously cost him his left pinky finger.

# 'Our phoenix': Lula's ups and downs in Brazil defy belief

AP ■ SAU PAULO

Four years ago, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's reputation and political future were in tatters. After an unlikely rise from poverty to union leader to Brazil's presidency, the man universally known as Lula had landed in prison.

On Sunday — in yet another twist — Brazilian voters chose him by the narrowest of margins to once again lead the world's fourth-largest democracy. He will also be putting his legacy on the line.

"They tried to bury me alive, and I am here," da Silva said in a speech on Sunday night after results that confirmed his third presidential win.

"I am here to govern in a very difficult situation. But I have faith in God that, with our people's help, we will find a way out for this country."

The life of da Silva has unfolded in such a unique, extraordinary way that, were it fiction, it would strain credulity.

# Iran plans public trials for 1K protesters in Tehran

AP ■ DUBAI

Iranian authorities announced on Monday they will hold public trials for 1,000 people in the capital, Tehran, over the protests that have convulsed the country. The mass indictments mark the government's first major legal action aimed at quashing dissent since unrest erupted over six weeks ago.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted judicial officials as saying that a thousand people who had a central role in the protests would be brought to trial in Tehran alone over their "subversive actions," including assaulting security guards, setting fire to public property and other accusations.

The nationwide protests first erupted over the Sept 16 death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of the country's morality police. She was detained for allegedly violating Iran's strict dress code for women. Although the protests first focused on Iran's mandatory headscarf, or hijab, they have since transformed into one of the greatest challenges to the ruling clerics since the chaotic years following the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Those who intend to confront and subvert the regime are



dependent on foreigners and will be punished according to legal standards," said Iran's judiciary chief, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei, indicating that some protesters would be charged with collaborating with foreign governments. Tehran officials have repeated unsupported claims that Iran's foreign enemies have fomented the unrest.

"Without a doubt, our judges will deal with the cases of the recent riots with accuracy and speed," he said.

Security forces have dispersed gatherings with live ammunition and tear gas over the weeks of sustained protests. At least 270 people have been killed and 14,000 arrested, according to the group Human Rights Activists in Iran.

Demonstrations have continued — even as the feared paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has warned young Iranians to stop.

Ejei claimed that prosecutors sought to differentiate between angry Iranians who merely sought to vent their grievances on the streets and those who wanted to take down the theocracy.

"Even among the agitators, it should be clarified who had the attention of confronting the system and overthrowing it," he said.

Judicial authorities have announced charges against hundreds of people in other Iranian provinces. Some have been accused of "corruption on earth" and "war against God," offences that carry the death penalty.



## Sedition trial begins for closed Hong Kong news site editors

AP ■ HONG KONG

A sedition trial opened in Hong Kong on Monday for two former top editors of a shuttered online media outlet who have been detained without bail for 10 months.

Stand News editor-in-chief Chung Pui-ken and acting editor-in-chief Patrick Lam were arrested last December during a crackdown on dissent following widespread anti-government protests in 2019.

Stand News was one of the city's last openly critical voices after the closure of the pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper, whose jailed founder Jimmy Lai faces collusion charges under a sweeping national security law enacted in 2020.

Ahead of the opening statements, the judge heard arguments from both sides about which articles could be included as part of the prosecution's case and whether it was necessary to prove the defendants had seditious intent.

# Netanyahu eyes comeback in Israel election

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Election-weary Israelis will go to the polls on Tuesday, the fifth in less than four years, in which former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu will try to stage a comeback, amidst indications that the outcome this time too is too close to call.

The prospect of the next government hinges around two factors — the level of right-wing polarisation, not necessarily in favour of veteran politician Netanyahu but for him to lead the coalition, and the extent of voter apathy, surprisingly, in the Arab sector.

Netanyahu, 73, Israel's longest-serving prime minister and among one of the most polarising ones whose leadership plagued by charges of graft has been at the centre of current instability, is looking to make a comeback which would largely depend on both these factors.

Israel has a parliamentary system made up of several parties — none of which have ever received enough votes on their own to secure a majority of seats in the 120-member parliament. That means parties must team up to form coalitions and reach the 61 seats needed to form a ruling government.

The last four elections in Israel ended in an indecisive mandate, at times alliances



falling short by just one vote in the Knesset. The results of Tuesday's vote is expected to be out by Wednesday.

It will be the first time since 2009 when Netanyahu will be running into the polls not as the prime minister.

He hopes that the anti-incumbency factor also boosts his prospects of a return given that the loosely garnered alliance of ideologically divergent political parties, built around opposition to his political leadership, failed to survive for long.

Netanyahu has left no stone unturned to ensure that right-wing votes "do not go waste" as per Israeli election laws where political parties have to cross the 3.25 per cent votes threshold, even personally getting involved in closing 'deals' between warring right-wing factions over seat allotment.



## S Korea probes Halloween crowd surge as nation mourns

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korean police are investigating what caused a crowd surge that killed more than 150 people including 26 foreigners during Halloween festivities in Seoul last weekend in the country's worst disaster in years, as President Yoon Suk Yeol and tens of thousands of others paid respects to the dead at special mourning sites.

Saturday's disaster was concentrated in a sloped, narrow alley in Seoul's Itaewon neighborhood, a popular nightlife district, with witnesses and survivors recalling a "hell-like" chaos with people falling on each other like dominoes.

They said the entire Itaewon area was jammed with slow-moving vehicles and party-goers clad in Halloween costumes, making it impossible for rescuers and ambulances to reach the crammed alleys in time.

Police said they've launched a 475-member task force to investigate the crush.

## Aro granite industries Ltd.

CIN : L74899DL1988PLC031510  
Regd. Office : 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi - 110025  
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**NOTICE**  
Pursuant to Clause 29 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday the 10th November, 2022 *inter-alia* to approve the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and half-year ended 30.09.2022. The above details of the said meeting are also available on the website of the Company [www.arotie.com](http://www.arotie.com) and also at the website of the Stock Exchanges [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com).

For: **Aro granite industries Ltd.**  
Sabyasachi Panigrahi  
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My client HDFC Ltd, Capital Court, Munirka, New Delhi, is in the business of Housing Loan, from whom Mr. Dinesh Rana and Mrs. Manisha Rana has taken a housing loan against the Flat bearing No. 88A, in Block-F, Second Floor, in the colony known as Sushant Lok Phase-III, Village Tigra, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana, but in the movement of file one file containing the original Conveyance Deed dated 30.03.2012 in favour of Mr. Rajesh Choudhary is not traceable, if any body found the same may return to the undersigned, if anybody misuses the same, the same shall be at his/her own risk.

Karnail Singh, Advocate,  
K-8, Basement, Jungpura Extension  
New Delhi. Contact No. 981163363 & 995363363

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Prashant Sharma is in process to avail the LAP with the Primal Capital & Housing Finance Limited against his Property bearing No. 461, Area Measuring 111 Sq. mtrs. part of Kharsa No. 172, Situated in the abadi Extended Lal Dora of Village Rithala Delhi-110085, having acquired vide Gift Deed dated 13.06.2019 (Doc No. 2441) executed by Bhagwan Dass Sharma. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)  
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pk-E, CSC, Mayapuri Vihar-II, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810063351

**उपग्रह राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण**  
ए-114, लखनऊ, कानपुर

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

एलएड द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण को विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के विद्युत विकास कार्यों हेतु संरचनात्मक डिजाइन / वास्तुनैतिक उपकरण / डिजाइन / प्राधिकरण / पट्टिका / नगर पिकायों में विद्युत व्यवस्थापन के लिए विद्युत लाइनें की रचना करने के लिए निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो दिनांक 02/11/2022 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 21/11/2022 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक अपरालोक की जा सकती है। निविदा दिनांक 22/11/2022 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शर्त पत्रों की पूर्ण प्रतियाँ दिनांक 25/11/2022 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती हैं। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सामग्री निम्नलिखित प्रमाणित है-

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत (लाख ₹)
1	Providing and Fixing of 12.5/16/20 Mtr. High Mast Lights in Surajpur Industrial Area Site-B&C and Housing Site IV, V & EPIP Kasna.	177.47

नोट:- 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जीएसटीएलसी सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर रकम नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय "विद्युत व्यवस्थापन" उपलब्ध साधन, लखनऊ में सभी "ए" अनुमोदित लाइसेंस अनिवार्य कराना अनिवार्य होगा, निविदा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा।

निविदा सामग्री विद्युत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website: [www.upsida.com](http://www.upsida.com) पर स्थित ई-निविदा एवं सूचीकरण की website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखे जा सकती है।

वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक (मु) विद्युत, उपग्रह राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण, कानपुर

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

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

1	Name of work	TRR (P) of 13.4Km HNZM-DLI in the section of SSE/Pway/NDLS under ADEN/NDLS.
2	Approx. cost of work	Rs. 1,69,63,579.84/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Nine Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Nine & Eighty Four paise Only)
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 2,34,800/- (Rupees Two Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Only)
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	25.11.2022 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	<a href="http://www.irops.gov.in">www.irops.gov.in</a>
7	Allocation	29314103

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E - Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
- No manual offers are acceptable.
- Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

**No. No. 128-W/280/eTender Notice/NIT/80/2022-23/W-3 Dated: 31.10.2022**  
2893/2022

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**BRIGHT STAR BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED**

M 11, Middle Circle, Connaught Circus, New Delhi 110001

We, Bright Star Builders Private Limited, having office at M 11, Middle Circle, Connaught Circus, New Delhi 110001, do hereby inform the general public by way of the present notice that we have lost the Original Exchange Deed (Tabadlanama), having 6 (six) pages, with registration no. 1847, Dated 28.06.2017, Book 1, Vol. 3, Page No. 60, duly registered at the office of Sub Registrar, Badshahpur, Gurugram, executed between Bright Star Builders Private Limited as First Party; and Sh. Dushyant, Sh. Surender, Sh. Devender and Sh. Rakesh, all S/o Sh. Om Prakash S/o Trikha, resident of Village Palda/Palra, Sub Tehsil Badshahpur, Gurugram as Second Party pertaining to land belonging to the parties i.e. First Party - Khawat No. 10, Khatauni No. 11, Mustil No. 25, Kila No. 6/2 Min West-North (0-2) Salam, Jamabandi 2004-05, Mutation No. 2011, situated at Village Palda/Palra, Sub Tehsil Badshahpur, Gurugram. And Second Party Khawat No. 10, Khatauni No. 11, Mustil No. 25, Kila No. 5/2 Min East (0-2) Salam, Jamabandi 2004-05, Mutation No. 2351 and 2422, situated at Village Palda/Palra, Sub Tehsil Badshahpur, Gurugram.

We, have filed First Information Report with Crime Branch, Delhi Police vide in respect of Article / Document Lost in Delhi vide SO No: 430/2014 Delhi Police, P.S: Crime Branch, Delhi LR No: 884772/2022 dated October 13, 2022.

Finder may send/contact the below-mentioned address-

**Rohit Mohan**  
(Authorised Signatory)  
**BRIGHT STAR BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED,**  
M 11, Middle Circle, Connaught Circus, New Delhi 110001



# India e-logistics industry set to touch \$9 billion



IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

India's e-logistics sector has become one of the largest and fastest growing logistics markets globally and is all set to reach the \$9 billion industry, with a compound annual growth rate of 35 per cent, a report showed on Monday.

The number of e-commerce logistics shipments is expected to grow by four times in the next five years.

"Thanks to new-age tech enabled players who have entered India's logistics arena, it is now easier for small- and medium-sized businesses to transport goods, and there is a drastic increase in the speed and efficiency in which parcels

are delivered," says the report by Bengaluru-based Redseer Strategy Consultants.

Among such players, Delhivery is well positioned at the cross-section of the various logistics sector growth drivers including infrastructure, offline commerce, digital consumption, and adoption of technology and data sciences.

The ecommerce logistics sphere has contributed to the overall growth of India's logistics sector and enabled the e-retail boom in India.

Proliferation of smart-phones and localisation of the internet in non-English languages is drawing in new consumers from non-metro locations into the internet economy and creating new demand

for online commerce, thus paving the need for disruption in logistics.

According to the report, the availability of multiple payment options such as UPI, no-cost EMI, BNPL (buy now, pay later) etc. are further driving the adoption of digital commerce by more consumers, thereby creating a need for ecommerce logistics.

"Multiple segments in the India logistics market are addressable by full-stack-tech-enabled logistics service providers. There seems to be great headroom for growth as tech-enabled logistics players venture into adjacent segments such as hyperlocal delivery, express delivery, trucking, and more," the report mentioned.

# RBI to launch first pilot of Digital Rupee today

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's first Digital Rupee pilot project will commence on Tuesday with nine banks, including SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, issuing the virtual currency for transactions in Government securities. "...The first pilot in the Digital Rupee - Wholesale segment shall commence on November 1, 2022," the RBI said in a statement on 'Operationalisation of Central Bank Digital Currency-Wholesale (e?-W) Pilot'.

It also announced that the first pilot in Digital Rupee - Retail segment is planned for launch within a month in select locations in closed user groups comprising customers and merchants. The use case for the pilot is settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities, the RBI said regarding the maiden project starting Tuesday. "Use of e?-W is expected to make the inter-bank market more efficient," it added.

Settlement in central bank money would reduce transaction costs by pre-empting the need for settlement guarantee infrastructure or for collateral to mitigate settlement risk.

Nine banks -- State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC



Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank and HSBC -- have been identified for participation in the pilot project.

Going forward, other wholesale transactions and cross-border payments will be the focus of future pilots, based on the learnings from this pilot, the central bank said.

In a recent concept note on Central Bank Digital Currency, the RBI said CBDC is aimed to complement, rather than replace, current forms of money and is envisaged to provide an additional payment avenue to users, not to replace the existing payment systems.

CBDC is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. While most central banks across the globe are exploring the issuance of CBDC, the key motivations for its issuance are specific to each country's unique requirements.

# Sebi bans Mehul Choksi from capital market for 10 yrs, slaps ₹5 crore fine

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Monday barred fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi from the securities markets for 10 years and imposed a fine of Rs 5 crore on him for indulging in fraudulent trading in the shares of Gitanjali Gems Ltd.

He has been directed to pay the penalty within 45 days, as per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) order.

Choksi, who was the chairman and managing director as well as part of promoter group of Gitanjali Gems, is the maternal uncle of Nirav Modi. Both of whom are facing charges of defrauding state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) of more than Rs 14,000 crore.

Both Choksi and Modi fled India after the PNB scam came to light in early 2018. While Choksi is said to be in Antigua and Barbuda, Modi is lodged in a British jail and has challenged India's extradition request.

The present proceedings emanate from a common show cause notice issued by Sebi in May 2022 against Choksi pursuant to an investigation by the regulator into the alleged manipulative trading in the scrip of Gitanjali Gems. The regulator conducted an investigation into the trading activities of certain entities in the



scrip of the company for the period July 2011 to January 2012.

In its order, Sebi said that Choksi had funded a set of 15 entities known as 'front entities', who were directly or indirectly connected with him and with each other and who had taken position in the scrip of Gitanjali Gems both in the cash and derivative segments during the investigation period. He had used them as front entities for manipulation in the company's scrip.

It was observed that the fund transfers by the company to front entities were to the extent of Rs 77.44 crore, out of which funds to the tune of Rs 13.34 crore were used by front entities to trade in the scrip.

The regulator noted that immediately prior to the investigation period, the shares of Gitanjali Gems, excluding promoter holding and holdings of banks/ financial institu-

tions/ FPIs, available to the general investors was 28.96 per cent for the quarter ended June 2011. This was reduced to 19.71 per cent in the quarter ended September 2011. Subsequently, the shares available to general investors increased to 25.36 per cent post the investigation period.

This indicates that Choksi, through front entities, tried to corner the shares available in the market during the investigation period to reduce the shares available for general investors which subsequently increased after the front entities sold the shares in the market. Further, the front entities cornered the position limits in the scrip of Gitanjali Gems by building up substantially large position in the derivatives segment.

"I find that the above mentioned findings coupled with the noticee's (Mehul C Choksi) failure to rebut the said findings, clearly establishes the noticee's role in creation of false and misleading appearance of trading in the scrip of GGL by using and funding the front entities in executing manipulated trades.

"I thus find that the noticee has violated the provisions of... PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) (PFUTP) Regulations," Sebi Whole Time Member Ashwani Bhatia said in his 20-page order.

# Retail inflation for industrial workers rises to 6.49% in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation for industrial workers rose to 6.49 per cent in September from 5.85 per cent in August 2022 mainly due to higher prices of certain food items, according to the government data released on Monday.

"Year-on-year inflation for the month (of September 2022) stood at 6.49 per cent compared to 5.85 per cent for the previous month (August, 2022) and 4.40 per cent during the corresponding month (September 2021) a year before," a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, it stated that the food inflation stood at 7.76 per cent against 6.46 per cent of the previous month and 2.26 per cent during the corresponding month a year ago.

The All-India CPI-IW (Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers) for September, 2022 increased by 1.1 points and stood at 131.3 points. It was 130.2 points in August 2022.



On one-month percentage change, it increased by 0.84 per cent with respect to previous month compared to an increase of 0.24 per cent recorded between corresponding months a year ago, it stated.

The maximum upward pressure in current index came from food & beverages group contributing 0.68 percentage points to the total change. At

item level, rice, wheat atta, buffalo milk, dairy milk, poultry/chicken, carrot, cauliflower, green coriander leaves, onion, potato, tomato, vada, idli, dosa etc are responsible for the rise in index.

However, it stated that this increase was largely checked by fish (fresh), palm oil, mustard oil, sunflower oil, soyabean oil, apple, asafoetida, orange,

gourd (lauki) etc putting downward pressure on the index.

At centre level, Bhavnagar recorded a maximum increase of 4.5 points. Among others, 6 centres recorded increase between 3 and 3.9 points, 10 centres between 2 and 2.9 points, 24 centres between 1 and 1.9 points and 30 centres between 0.1 and 0.9 points. On the contrary, Chindwara, Ahmedabad and Shilong recorded a maximum decrease of 0.6 points each.

Among others, 8 centres recorded decrease between 0.1 and 0.9 points. Rest of six centres' index remained stationary. The Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been compiling Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers every month on the basis of retail prices collected from 317 markets spread over 88 industrially important centres in the country.

The index is compiled for 88 centres and All-India and is released on the last working day of the succeeding month.

# Core sector output grows 7.9% in Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Production of eight infrastructure sectors expanded by 7.9 per cent in September -- the highest in three months -- on account of better show by coal, fertiliser, cement and electricity segments, according to official data released on Monday.

In September last year, the growth rate stood at 5.4 per cent. It was 4.1 per cent in August. The previous high was in June when the output expanded by 13.1 per cent.

The production growth of eight infrastructure sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- was 9.6 per cent during April-September this fiscal, compared to 16.9 per cent a year ago.

Output of coal, fertiliser, cement and electricity in September rose by 12 per cent, 11.8 per cent, 12.1 per cent, and 11 per cent, respectively.

Refinery products output to rose 6.6 per cent as against



6 per cent in the same month last year.

However, crude oil and natural gas production contracted by 2.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent, respectively, during the month under review.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted: "A reason why India is being called a global bright spot is the strength of its core industries. Output of 8 core industries in September grew 7.9 per cent."

Commenting on the data, ICRA Ltd Chief Economist

# Tata Steel Q2 net profit plunges 90% to ₹1,297 cr



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic steel giant Tata Steel on Monday reported a nearly 90 per cent drop in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,297 crore for the July-September quarter of 2023-23, dragged by higher expenses.

The company's net profit stood at Rs 12,547.70 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year, Tata Steel said in a BSE filing.

Its total income during July-September 2022 stood at Rs 60,206.78 crore as against Rs 60,657.98 crore in the year-ago period.

The firm's total expenses rose to Rs 57,684.09 crore from Rs 47,239.63 crore earlier.

Homegrown Tata Steel is among the top steel producers in the world.

# Mumbai airport opens renovated terminal for business jets



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Adani group-run Mumbai International Airport on Monday announced the opening of its renovated general aviation terminal exclusively for business jets from November 1.

Spread over 753.26 square feet, the refurbished terminal at the country's second busiest airport in the financial capital can handle over 50 passengers per hour. The revamped terminal offers facilities such as advance booking of the meeting and conference room with audio and video aids, expansive lounges with butler service and round-the-clock staff-on-call, among others, the private airport operator said.

The terminal handles on average 2,400 fliers per month through 750 domestic and international flights on average per month, a Mumbai International Airport spokesperson said.

On a daily basis, it sees some 80 fliers arriving or departing with 25 flights on an average, he said. In the first seven months of 2022, the airport handled 6,081 passengers at the general aviation terminal, according to Mumbai Airport. The terminal has been built with an aim to support the movement and processing of passengers flying through chartered flights from the airport, it said.

# Sensex reclaims 60k, Nifty tops 18k-mark

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex finished above the psychologically key 60,000-mark while the Nifty surged past the 18,000-level on Monday on across-the-board buying amid a mixed trend overseas.

A depreciating rupee and concerns over the US Federal Reserve hiking rates later this week failed to quell investors' appetite for stocks, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 786.74 points or 1.31 per cent to settle at 60,746.59. During the day, it

jumped 826.85 points or 1.37 per cent to 60,786.70.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 225.40 points or 1.27 per cent to end at 18,012.20.

UltraTech Cement topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 4.18 per cent, followed by HDFC, Sun Pharma, M&M, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance.

Only three counters closed in the red -- Dr Reddy's, NTPC and IndusInd Bank, slipping up to 0.66 per cent.

"Investors are hoping for a small-



er rate hike by the US Federal Reserve this week against the earlier expectation of a more aggressive rate increase. This optimism has fuelled a sharp upsurge, which has pushed both the local benchmark indices above their key psychological levels.

cal levels.

"Also, FIIs are looking at local shares with renewed interest, which has boosted the investors' sentiment. However, if the Fed adopts any hawkish stance, markets could be in for a steep correction in the near term," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said the buoyancy of Wall Street was reflected well in the domestic market, supported by sliding oil prices following weak Chinese factory data.

# Wal-Mart India FY22 loss widens to ₹299 crore; revenue up 7%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wal-Mart India Pvt Ltd, which operates Best Price Flipkart wholesale stores, has witnessed its loss widening to Rs 299.01 crore in FY22 despite its revenue from operations going up, according to financial data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler.

Wal-Mart India, in which Flipkart acquired 100 per cent interest in July 2020, had reported a net loss of Rs 200.80 crore in FY21.

The company's revenue in FY22 grew 6.9 per cent to Rs 5,349.98 crore as compared to Rs 5,004.88 crore for the financial year ended on March 31, 2021. Its total income also went up 6.40 per cent to Rs 5,361.72 crore for the financial year that ended on March 31, 2022. It was Rs 5,038.75 crore in FY21.

Wal-Mart India's revenue from other income was at Rs 11.73 crore in FY22.

Its total expenses in FY22 were at Rs 5,660.74 crore, up 8.03 per cent in comparison to the previous year.

Flipkart Wholesale stores sell personal care products, home care appliances and laundry utilities besides staples, spices and snacks to kirana stores, hotels, restaurants and caterers (HoReCa), institutions and MSMEs.

As per the information available on its website, Wal-Mart India currently operates 29 Best Price Flipkart Wholesale stores and 2 fulfilment centres in 9 states across India.

Best Price Flipkart Wholesale is a business-to-business, cash and carry wholesale format, owned and operated by Wal-Mart India Pvt Ltd. Flipkart Group is one of India's digital commerce leaders and includes group companies Flipkart, Flipkart Wholesale and Myntra.

# Timeline to complete acquisition of DB Power by Adani Power extended till Nov 30

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Power on Monday said that the timeline for completion of the Rs 7,017-crore deal to acquire thermal power assets of DB Power Ltd has been extended by one month till November 30, 2022.

"The parties (Adani Power and DB Power) to the proposed transaction have mutually agreed to extend the long stop date as 30th November 2022, or achieving the closing/completion," a BSE filing stated. Earlier in August this year, Adani Power had informed the bourses that it has agreed to acquire DB Power Ltd (DB Power), which owns and operates a running 2x600 MW thermal power plant at district Janjgir Champa in Chhattisgarh.

The DB Power has long and medium-term power purchase agreements for 923.5 MW of its capacity, backed by fuel supply agreements with Coal India Ltd.

# Sebi issues fresh guidelines to standardise CRAs' rating scales

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Monday came out with fresh guidelines in order to standardise the usage of rating scales used by Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs).

Issuer rating or corporate credit rating indicates the degree of safety of the issuer or the rated entity with regard to timely servicing of all its debt obligations.

Pursuant to the consultation with the CRAs, standardised symbols and their definitions have been devised for issuer rating or corporate credit rating, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular, adding that the new guidelines will come into force from January 1, 2023.



According to Sebi, 'rating outlook' indicates CRA's view on the expected direction of the rating movement in the near to medium term, whereas a 'rating watch' indicates a CRA's view on the expected direction of the rating movement in the short term. CRA will have to assign a rating outlook and disclose the same in the press release. Also, the regulator has specified standard descriptors for rating watch and rating out-

look. Rating watch with positive implications, rating watch with developing implications, rating watch with negative implications are the three standard descriptors to be used for when an issuer security is placed on rating watch.

Further, stable, positive and negative are the standard descriptors to be used for when an issuer or security is placed on rating outlook.



# ALL EYES ON SATWIK-CHIRAG IN HYLO OPEN

PTI ■ SAARBRÜCKEN

Newly-crowned French Open champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will look to carry on the momentum when they begin their campaign at the Hylo Open Super 300 badminton tournament, here on Tuesday.

Commonwealth Games champions Satwik and Chirag notched up their biggest title of the season when they beat Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han in the men's doubles finals of French Open on Sunday night.

The world number 8 pair has been in sensational form this season and will look to add another title to its cabinet when the third seeded duo opens its campaign against Chinese Taipei's Lee Yang and Lu Chen.

Top seeds Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi of Japan are also in their half of the draw but the Indian pair will take confidence from its win over the same opponents on way to the semifinals at Paris last week.

Among other Indians, Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth will compete in the singles competition of the \$180,000 tournament, which was first held in 1988.

While 2019 champion Lakshya, seeded seventh, will have to quickly recover from his first round exit at Paris when he opens against Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus, world No. 12



Prannoy will look to continue his consistent run when he takes on Indonesia's Shesar Hiren Rhustavito.

Srikanth, on the other hand,

hasn't really clicked since his giant run in India's epic Thomas Cup win and the Commonwealth Games bronze medallist will look to get back

his form when he opens against China's Lu Guang Zu.

Sameer Verma, who looked in good touch last week, will face sixth seeded Indonesian

Jonatan Christie in his opener. The world number 31 Indian had stunned world number 6 Anthony Sinisuka Ginting at French Open and will be eyeing

another good outing here.

In women's singles, London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal has struggled to cross the opening hurdle of late and that would be the first thing on her mind when she meets Thailand's fourth seed Busanan Ongbamrungphan.

Upcoming player Aakarshi Kashyap, member of India's CWG silver medal-winning mixed team, takes on Léonice Huet of France.

The tournament will also see the likes of French Open runners-up Carolina Marina and former world champion Nozomi Okuhara in action.

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will square off against local pair of Linda Efler and Isabel Lohau in the women's doubles, while Tanisha Crasto and Shruti Mishra, Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda, and Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker are also in the fray.

In mixed doubles, Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto will be up against Chinese pair of Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping, while National Games gold medallists Ashwini Ponnappa and Sai Pratheek will clash against second seeded French pair of Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue.

The Hylo Open was formerly known as BMW Badminton Cup, BMW Open, Bitburger Masters, Bitburger Open and SaarLorLux Open.

## BAI announces ₹5L cash rewards



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Badminton Association of India on Monday announced a cash reward of ₹5 lakh each for Sankar Muthusamy and the men's doubles pair of Satwik Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty for their commendable performances at the World Junior Championships and French Open respectively.

Former junior world number 1, Sankar on Sunday became only the second Indian male shuttler to claim a Silver medal at the World Junior Championships after going down in the summit clash against Chinese Taipei's Kuo kuan Lin in Spain.

Satwik and Chirag, on the other hand, claimed the French Open Super 750 crown with a straight game win over

Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han in the finals at Paris.

"This is a great moment of pride for all of us to see both our junior as well as senior shuttlers ensuring podium finishes defeating top class players and becoming the flag bearers of pride and glory," said BAI president Himanta Biswa Sarma in a release.

En route to their title run at Paris, Satwik and Chirag had become the first Indian doubles pair to win a BWF Super 750 tournament. The two had also defeated the World Number 1 pair of Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi in the quarter-final.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Sankar became the ninth Indian shuttler to bag a medal at the premier junior championships.

"The boys in the past one week have played some fearless badminton and we are really glad to see India finishing among the top countries at such global events. This will also be a huge inspiration for the younger generations," said BAI Secretary Sanjay Mishra.

Satwik and Chirag have had a dream run this year, claiming the India Open title, followed by the historic Thomas Cup and Commonwealth Games victory and winning a bronze medal at the World Championships.

## Union Berlin back to top

AP ■ BERLIN

Union Berlin's Danilho Doekhi headed in a 97th-minute winner to send his side back to the top of the Bundesliga in a 2-1 home win over Borussia Mönchengladbach on Sunday.

Union completed a comeback from a goal down in the last second of the game, sending the crowd into raptures.

Union hold a one-point lead in the table over defending champions Bayern Munich, who thrashed Mainz 6-2 on Saturday.

Union, who have been unlikely leaders since early September, led at no point in the match until the late twist.

Union's Dutch striker Sheraldo Becker looked to have given the home side the lead in the 29th minute with his seventh goal of the season, but the strike was ruled out by VAR for a handball in the build-up.

Just three minutes later, Gladbach took the lead in the simplest fashion, with Nico Elvedi heading in a Lars Stindl corner.

With Union at risk of a sec-



ond loss in a row, manager Urs Fischer brought on the cavalry, making five changes in a 10-minute period to try and get at least a point out of the match.

The changes worked, with Kevin Behrens heading in the equaliser just five minutes after being brought onto the field.

With the home fans in full voice, Union pushed for a winner and thought they had claimed the three points in the 87th minute, but Christopher

Trimmel's goal was ruled out by VAR.

The home fans did not need to wait long however, with midfielder Jamie Leweling crossing for Doekhi to head home with the last touch of the match.

Later on Sunday, Freiburg leapfrogged Borussia Dortmund into third with a 2-0 win away against Schalke thanks to two goals from Italian midfielder Vincenzo Grifo.

## Torino shock Milan in Serie A

AP ■ MILAN

Torino pulled off a shock 2-1 win over AC Milan on Sunday which extended Napoli's Serie A lead to five points in their bid for a first league title in over three decades.

Reigning champions Milan were on a run of four straight league wins but defeat dropped them down to third, six points behind Napoli, after Koffi Djidji and Aleksei Miranchuk netted twice in two first-half minutes to claim the win for Torino.

Stefano Pioli's side have been overtaken by Atalanta, who are one point ahead of Milan thanks to their 2-0 win at Empoli in Sunday's early match.

But the weekend's big winners are Napoli, who kicked off the action on Saturday with another avalanche of goals and look increasingly like a team that could bring the title to Naples for the first time since 1990.

"We weren't sharp, didn't bring any real quality, and we weren't at it during the moments that changed the game. We were poor in both our and the



opposition's areas," Pioli told DAZN. Torino had scored just twice at home before this weekend but are up to ninth following their fifth win of the season, a match which nearly boiled completely over after Junior Messias pulled a goal back for the away side midway through the second half.

A dreadful mix-up between goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic and Alessandro Buongiorno — plus what looked like a clear push from Messias — allowed Milan's Brazilian to clip in his second goal of the season.

Torino coach Ivan Juric was sent off for his furious protests at no foul being given, but he

calmed down after his team held out for a big win.

"It's all over. Now I'm happy," said Juric before saying he was wrong about Messias' goal after seeing footage with DAZN's analysts.

"From my angle at the time it seemed a lot worse... life's funny like that."



## Anurag Thakur flags off the 'Run for Unity'

PNS ■ MOHALI

On the occasion of the 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' which is being observed on the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur flagged off 'Run for Unity' at IISER.

Thakur said that Sardar Patel's contribution to the unity and integrity of the country will continue to be a source of inspiration. He said that due to the inspiration of PM Narendra Modi, Run for Unity is being conducted in more than 75 thousand places across the country in which youth from all over the country are increasingly participating. He also said that this time's cleanliness campaign has also received a great response from the youth of the country.

"We had a goal to collect 100 Kg of garbage between Gandhi Jayanti and the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. We achieved this great goal in just 19 days. So far, a total of 2,08,83,704 Kg of garbage has been collected." He also apprised that out of this collected waste, 2,04,84,176 Kg of waste has been duly disposed of so far," said Thakur.

"The youth of the country is moving forward on the idea given by Prime Minister that he will make the country strong and self-reliant in the Amrit period," said Thakur flagging off the 'Run for Unity', were around 1200 volunteers participated.



## FIFA & AFC want to focus on India to host more future events

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Delighted with India's ability to host marquee events, including the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President Shaikh Salman Al Khalifa said both the world and the continental body of the sport want the country to hold more tournaments.

The FIFA U-17 World Cup was held across three cities – Bhubaneswar, Goa, and Navi Mumbai – with the AFC President attending the summit clash between Colombia and Spain at the DY Patil Stadium here on Sunday.

Speaking to the-aiff.Com, the AFC President said, "FIFA and AFC want to focus on India to host more future events, and over the last few years since I've taken over at the AFC, I think India has played a big role in Asian football."

"You have hosted two World Cups and the Senior Women's AFC Asian Cup here. India is a major country in Asia and hopefully it can take its position at the same level in football, in the coming years."

Shaikh Salman arrived in Mumbai on Friday evening, along with AFC General Secretary Datuk Windsor John, Deputy General Secretary Vahid Kardany, and met AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey, Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran, Treasurer Kipa Ajay and the Executive and Technical Committee members.

Shaikh Salman extended the AFC's full support towards the growth of Indian football.

"I've met the new management here, and I will always give all the support I can for India to succeed as a footballing nation. India's success will be our success in Asia," said Shaikh Salman. The AFC President feels that India has a greater chance for success in the future.

"India has taken great strides in recent times, but the pace could be even faster. Of course, the COVID pandemic has not helped in the last two years, and that was not just in India.

"There will always be challenges, be it COVID or other things, but I think the determination is there from all stakeholders to progress."

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Indian hockey skipper Harmanpreet Singh urged his team to "finish well" as they suffered their first defeat in the ongoing FIH Men's Pro League going down to lower-ranked Spain here.

Execution of penalty corners once again became the talking point as India lost to Spain 2-3 here on Sunday, which came on the back of a thrilling 4-3 win over New Zealand in the tournament-opener.

"We were creating a lot of chances. We received a lot of penalty corners. We were trying for different variations and combinations. But sometimes, they do not work out. We have two more matches to go next week, so hopefully we will try to convert more chances," Harman-



preet said. World No 5 India got five penalty corners against eighth ranked Spain but could only convert one — from

the sticks of Harmanpreet himself in the 27th minute.

The other being a field goal by

## Congested calendar raises injury risk for World Cup stars

AP ■ PARIS

As Manchester United defender Raphael Varane left the field in last weekend's 1-1 draw with Chelsea, the Frenchman's face sank into his shirt to hide his tears from the cameras.

Within seconds of pulling up at Stamford Bridge, Varane was aware his appearance at the World Cup was in jeopardy.

The former Real Madrid centre-back may have got lucky, with an initial diagnosis of a small hamstring tear giving him a chance of making it to Qatar.

Many more have not been so fortunate.

N'Golo Kante will not feature in France's defence of the tournament.

Uruguay will be without Ronald Araujo and Portugal shorn of Diogo Jota.

Germany have concerns

over the fitness of Bayern Munich duo Manuel Neuer and Leroy Sane.

Meanwhile, England manager Gareth Southgate's prediction of a catalogue of injuries for the Three Lions is proving prescient with Reece James, Kyle Walker and Calvin Phillips major doubts.

The uprooting of football's traditional calendar to fit in a first ever mid-season World Cup has resulted in fixture congestion at club level and little time to prepare for international managers.

Europe's major leagues will pause just a week before the World Cup kicks off on November 20.

To make space in the schedule, the group stages of European club competitions were squeezed into two-month period.

As a result, many clubs will



have played 13 times in 42 days before the World Cup break.

"I am pretty sure they have one eye on the World Cup," said Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola.

"Now it is just two or three weeks before the end, so it is the last effort."

"I always say the best way to not get injured is to be focused and give your maximum in the

game. When you lose the attention is when you are at risk."

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp claimed his players remain "1000 percent" committed to the cause at club level.



# FINCH'S FIFTY REVIVES AUSSIES CAMPAIGN

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Skipper Aaron Finch returned to form with an aggressive half-century as defending champions Australia revived their T20 World Cup campaign with a 42-run win over Ireland, here on Monday.

Finch, who struggled with a hamstringing issue, revived Australia's innings with a 44-ball 63 as the hosts overcame a slow start to post a competitive 179 for five after being sent into bat.

Chasing the imposing total, Ireland, who knocked out two-time champions West Indies and shocked England in the Super 12 stage, were dismissed for 137 in 18.1 overs.

By virtue of this win, Australia, with five points from four games, jumped to second spot in Group 1 ahead of England to be in the reckoning for a semifinal spot. New Zealand are leading the group.

Australia will take on Afghanistan in their last group game on Friday in Adelaide.

Australia rode on their pace prowess to dismiss half of the Irish side inside four overs with the scoreboard reading 25.

Wicketkeeper-batter Lorcan Tucker stood tall for Ireland with the bat as he hit a counter-attacking unbeaten 71 off 48 balls to keep his side's hopes alive.

But with little support from the other end, it was too much of an asking from Tucker and it was all over for Ireland after Joshua Little was ran out in the penultimate over.

Pace spearhead Pat Cummins (2/28) started it all, cleaning up Ireland's in-form opener Andy Balbirnie (6) before Glenn Maxwell (2/14) dismissed Paul Stirling (11) and Harry Tector (6) within a span of five balls.



## Finch under injury cloud after sustaining hamstringing strain again, to go for scan

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Australia skipper Aaron Finch suffered an injury scare when he sustained a hamstringing strain en route to his scintillating fifty. The 35-year-old, who had suffered a hamstringing injury in 2016 as well, left the field early during Ireland's chase.

"Really a hammy twinge I think, I will get a scan tomorrow, I have a history of them. It doesn't look bad at the moment but let's see how it goes after the scan," said Finch during the post-match presentation.

Singapore-born all-rounder Tim David also spent the entire Ireland innings off the field but

Finch said it was "just a bit of hammy tightness, that was more precaution than anything."

Finch, who was adjudged the Player-of-the-Match, said it was a difficult track to bat but he was happy that the team could post a good score.

"It was a good performance. Getting 180 was a decent score on that wicket. We knew we had to lay the foundation early and couldn't risk being 4-5 down.

"It wasn't the easiest wicket, it was a lot slower than what we expected. They changed their pace really well and bowled a lot of cutters early in the innings, it was hard to get



a rhythm and we did well to get 180," he said. Ireland captain Andy Balbirnie lauded Lorcan Tucker, who fought till the end with an unbeaten 71 off 48 balls but lacked support from the other end.

"The first innings got away, we bowled well but a couple of overs didn't go our way and certainly didn't get the start with the bat, but to show the fight at the end was nice," he said.

"Looking at the scoreboard we thought it wasn't against us, again the wickets column was a problem and who knows if someone had stayed with Tucker. He has had a really good World Cup and these wickets here suit him."

# Hardik to lead India in NZ T20Is, Dhawan in ODIs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All-rounder Hardik Pandya was on Monday named India's captain for the three-match T20I series in New Zealand, starting November 18, while opener KL Rahul and keeper-batter Dinesh Karthik were rested as part of "workload management of players".

Regular skipper Rohit Sharma, star batter Virat Kohli and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin have also been rested for the New Zealand tour, where veteran Shikhar Dhawan will lead the side in the three-match ODI series.

The T20 series will begin four days after the conclusion of the ongoing T20 World Cup on November 18 in Wellington. The second match will be played on November 20 in Mount Maunganui, while the series will conclude on November 22 in Napier.

The ODI series will begin on November 25 (Auckland), followed by matches on November 27 (Hamilton) and November 30 (Christchurch).

Selection Committee Chairman Chetan Sharma also announced squads for the Bangladesh tour, where the team will play three ODIs and two Tests.

This is the first time that the BCCI has announced four squads at the same time.

Rohit Sharma will lead the side in Bangladesh, where Kohli and Ashwin will also play.



"Nobody asked for rest. All the decisions are part of workload management of players. We have reports from the medical team on who to give rest when and how to manage them," Sharma said during a virtual media interaction.

### SQUADS

**NZ T20Is:** Hardik Pandya (C), Rishabh Pant (vc & wk), Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Surya Kumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson (wk), W Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Mohd. Siraj, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umran Malik.

**NZ ODIs:** Shikhar Dhawan (C), Rishabh Pant (vc & wk), Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Surya Kumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson (wk), W

Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Shahbaz Ahmed, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Deepak Chahar, Kuldeep Sen, Umran Malik.

**Bangladesh ODIs:** Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc), Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Shreyas Iyer, Rahul Tripathi, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, W Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Deepak Chahar, Yash Dayal

**Bangladesh Tests:** Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (VC), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), KS Bharat (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Umesh Yadav.

# Bhuvni bhai's economical bowling has helped me attack: Arshdeep

PTI ■ PERTH

Arshdeep Singh credits his success in the ongoing T20 World Cup to senior pace bowling partner Bhuvneshwar Kumar who, he feels, has been creating relentless pressure in Powerplay overs which has made it easier for him to get wickets. Arshdeep had struck vital blows in both his opening overs against Pakistan and South Africa, removing top batters like Babar Azam and Quinton de Kock respectively.

While Arshdeep has taken seven wickets in three games at an economy rate of 7.83, Bhuvneshwar, despite three wickets in as many games, has been phenomenal with an

economy rate of 4.87 in the 10.4 overs that he has bowled.

"We study the batters' weaknesses and myself and Bhuvni bhai try to get some swing first up and beat the batter at start. I'm able to attack the batter because Bhuvni bhai is bowling so economically that the batter is already under pressure," Arshdeep told reporters after India's five wicket defeat to South Africa.

Bhuvneshwar's effectiveness might not reflect in the wickets' column but he has got appreciable movement in all the three games to keep batters under check.

"Credit for my success goes to him. The batters aren't taking chances against him

Mitchell Starc (2/43) then produced a sensational opening over, cleaning up Harry Tector (6) and Curtis Campher (0) in a span of five balls to reduce Ireland to 25 for five.

But Tucker was in no mood to give up without a fight and stitched a 43-run stand off 33 balls with Gareth Delany to keep them in the hunt.

Tucker also smashed Mitchell Starc for 12 runs, including two back-to-back boundaries in the 12th over.

Luck also favoured Tucker as Cummins dropped him on 35 in the same eventful over of Starc.

Earlier struggling for runs, Finch brilliantly switched gears to reach his 50 off 38 balls -- his first T20 International half-century in eight innings -- and together with Marcus Stoinis (35) shared an entertaining 70-run partnership.

But the skipper, however, could not finish well and became Irish pacer McCarthy's third victim in the 17th over as the defending champions struggled to get going at the death, falling some 15-20 runs short.

Left-arm spinner George Dockrell (4-0-24-0) conceded just three runs in the 18th over, while left-arm pacer Josh Little (4-0-21-2) also finished well, dismissing Stoinis and giving away just four runs in the penultimate over.

McCarthy was the pick of the Irish bowlers, returning with 3/29, including the wickets of David Warner (3) and Mitchell Marsh (28) who looked ominous with a 102-metre six but only to fall for 22-ball 28.

But the Aussies managed to get going in the final over with Tim David hitting two boundaries en route to 10-ball 15 to push the total.



# DK doubtful for B'desh match

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Senior wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik will be a doubtful starter for India's next T20 World Cup match against Bangladesh on Wednesday as he is suffering from back spasms which forced him to leave the field during the last five overs of the South Africa game.

Karthik's injury could pave way for Rishabh Pant's entry into the playing XI.

Pant kept wickets from the 16th over till the end of the game against South Africa on Sunday after Karthik was forced to leave the field due to pain.

The primary reason could be extremely cold conditions which can cause these kind of niggles. The extent of severity of the back spasm couldn't be confirmed but normally it takes anything between three to five days for pain to heal, if it is a minor one.

"Karthik felt pain in his lower back. We haven't heard

about the severity of his back spasm. The medical team is working to get him fit as heat treatment and massaging helps reduce the discomfort, quickly. So don't rule him out yet," a senior BCCI official privy to development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Karthik has had an underwhelming tournament so far as he scored 1 against Pakistan and 6 off 15 balls against South Africa.

He is a designated finisher but not being able to cope with pace and bounce on offer at the Optus Stadium in Perth with not much support for Suryakumar Yadav in their 52-run stand did invite a bit of criticism.

Indian coaching team has also faced some flak for keeping a counter-attacking player like Pant out of the side.

In Test matches, Pant has enjoyed stupendous success in Australia. He is a better player of horizontal bat shots as compared to Karthik.



(Bhuvneshwar) and are doing that with me. So we have forged a good partnership. A bowling partnership is as important as batting partnership," Arshdeep added. His own confidence has been boosted by the breakthroughs he has got in initial overs.

"You feel confident when you get wickets first up and team also feels confident of your abilities."

Arshdeep found the Perth track the paciest in his short but eventful international career.

"It was great track to bowl on. It was a dream wicket for any fast bowler and perhaps the spiciest of the tracks I have bowled so far in my career," he said.

# Auger-Aliassime wins Swiss Indoors for 3rd title in Oct

AP ■ BASEL

Felix Auger-Aliassime won his third straight title in October, beating Holger Rune 6-3, 7-5 in the Swiss Indoors final.

Auger-Aliassime went through his five matches at Basel without dropping serve, and he saved all three break points Rune had.

The ninth-ranked Auger-Aliassime added the Basel title to wins in the last two weeks at Florence, Italy, and Antwerp, Belgium. He extended his winning streak to 13 matches.

The 22-year-old Canadian



shares the same Aug. 8 birthday with Swiss great Roger Federer who had intended to return to tournament play at his hometown event. Federer announced his retirement last month at age 41 because of persistent knee injuries.

"I actually thought about

him this morning, and thought how cool it would be if I win here, where he won 10 times," Auger-Aliassime said of Federer.

Every winner of the Swiss Indoors from 2006 up to this edition also has a U.S. Open title. The others are Novak Djokovic, Juan Martin del Potro — who both had to beat Federer in their finals — and Marin Cilic.

"I'm very far from that, but it's so cool to have my name with all these great champions at this prestigious tournament," said Auger-Aliassime, who beat the current US Open champion, top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, on Saturday in the semifinals.

# Naib to replace injured Zazai in Afghanistan squad

PTI ■ BRISBANE

All-rounder Gulbadin Naib will replace injured Hazratullah Zazai in the Afghanistan squad for the remainder of the T20 World Cup. The Event Technical Committee of the ICC men's T20 World Cup 2022 has approved the replacement for Zazai, the ICC stated. Naib, who is a travelling reserve, was named as a replacement after Zazai was ruled out due to an abdominal muscle strain.

Winless Afghanistan are languishing at the bottom of six-team Group 1 with two points from three matches which include two washouts.

The Mohammad Nanki-led side will take on Sri Lanka in their fourth Super 12 match here on Tuesday.

adjust to the conditions on the day.

"England are going to have a lot of firepower and we need to combat that."

The clash against England at the Gabba is a replay of the 2021 T20 World Cup semi-final which New Zealand won by five wickets in Abu Dhabi.

It is also a repeat of the 2019 50-over World Cup final, which England edged by the finest of margins, a boundary count-back, after a super over couldn't separate the sides.

Ferguson said New Zealand knew that a win would seal a semi-final place, but they were not looking that far ahead yet.

"Clearly, there's a long way to go for us. We need to make sure we take it game by game," he said.

"It's very much one game at a time. Tomorrow is a big focus for us, after that we'll cross the next bridge when it comes."

# NEW ZEALAND WARY OF ENGLAND FIREPOWER

AP ■ BRISBANE

New Zealand can become the first team into the T20 World Cup semi-finals this week but first will need to contain England's powerful batting lineup, said pace bowler Lockie Ferguson on Monday.

Ferguson told reporters that New Zealand would need him and fellow quicks Trent Boult and Tim Southee to be at their best to overcome England at the Gabba on Tuesday night.

"What you always expect from England is that they come out very hot," said Ferguson. "They pride themselves probably on that aggressive nature and bat very deep."

New Zealand sit top of Group 1 of the Super 12 stage after two wins and one washout and need one more victory from their last two games against England on Tuesday or Ireland on Friday to clinch a place in the



final four.

Boult has been superb in the tournament so far, taking six wickets including a career-best 4-13 against Sri Lanka on Saturday.

Southee took 3-6 as New Zealand started with bang, routing Australia in the tournament opener.

"Tim and Trent have had a blinder in these first two games,"

said Ferguson.

"When the ball's swinging, there's not much better in the world. So I think from that point of view, nothing needs to change too much, and we just need to