

OPINION 6

CRITICISM AND FREE
SPEECH NOT WELCOME

WORLD 8

UN INSPECTING RUSSIA'S
UNFOUNDED 'DIRTY BOMB' CLAIM

MONEY 10

ECO RECOVERING! GST OCT
MOP-UP 2ND TOP

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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WC TODAY
12 SPORTMorbi bridge fall needs
thorough probe: ModiPM meets victims,
calls for learning
from probe must
be implemented
at the earliest

PTI ■ MORBI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for a "detailed and extensive" enquiry into the Morbi bridge collapse tragedy and said its key learnings must be implemented at the earliest. As many as 135 bodies have been recovered from the Machchhu river in Gujarat's Morbi town by the armed forces, National Disaster Response Force and other rescue agencies after the British-era suspension bridge collapsed on Sunday, officials said.

Modi visited the collapse site and the local hospital where the injured have been admitted. He also chaired a high-level meeting at Morbi to review the situation, the PM's Office said in a release.

"The need of the hour is to conduct a detailed and extensive enquiry which will identify all aspects relating to this mishap," Modi said. Key learnings from the enquiry must be implemented at the earliest and authorities must stay in touch with the affected families and ensure that they receive all possible help in this tragic hour, he said.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi, local MLA and minister Brijesh



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets a victim injured in the collapse of a suspension bridge over the Machchhu river, at Civil Hospital in Morbi district on Tuesday

Merja, State Chief Secretary Pankaj Kumar and State Director General of Police Ashish Bhatia, among others.

Modi also interacted with those involved in rescue and relief work and lauded their efforts. State Minister Rajendra Trivedi said as many as 170 persons were rescued after the collapse.

"The kin of all the deceased have already been paid a compensation of ₹4 lakh each as announced by the Gujarat Government. A compensation of ₹2 lakh announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be deposited soon into their bank accounts through DBT (direct bank transfer)," the Minister told reporters in Gandhinagar.

SC to hear plea for judicial
probe into cave-in on Nov 14PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would list for hearing on November 14 a PIL seeking constitution of a judicial commission to probe the Morbi bridge collapse incident in Gujarat.

"You are very quick. What are your prayers," a bench comprising Chief Justice UU Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi said when lawyer Vishal Tiwari mentioned his PIL on the issue for urgent hearing.

"I am seeking a judicial

enquiry by a panel headed by a former Supreme Court judge," the lawyer said.

Tiwari, in the PIL, said the accident leading to the collapse of the bridge resulting in more than 134 casualties, showed the negligence and utter failure of government authorities.

From the past decade, various incidents have taken place in our country wherein due to the mismanagement, lapse in duty, negligent maintenance activities, there have been cases of huge public casualties which could have been avoided, the PIL said.

AAP Min extorted ₹10 cr
for safety in jail: SukeshBJP calls AAP 'maha
thug' for charges
against Jain; AAP
says BJP diverting
attention from Morbi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Jailed conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar has caused the latest round of face-off between the BJP and the AAP. Chandrashekhar has written to the Delhi Lt Governor alleging that AAP leader Satyendar Jain "extorted" ₹10 crore from him in 2019 to ensure his safety in prison. The BJP lost no time to attack AAP calling it a "maha thug" party which even "extorted an extortionist".

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal rubbished the allegation saying it was an attempt to divert attention from the Morbi bridge collapse incident in Gujarat.

Chandrashekhar, who is lodged in Mandoli jail in connection with the ₹200-crore money laundering case, submitted a letter to LG Saxena on October 8 through his advocate Ashok K Singh, making the startling allegations against the AAP.

In the letter, Chandrashekhar has alleged that he has been receiving threats and was under pressure from Minister Jain and Sandeep Goel, the Director General of Prison, Delhi. Chandrashekhar said that he had known the AAP leader since 2015.

The letter alleged that more than ₹50 crore was given to the AAP on a promise of giving Chandrashekhar an important



Sukesh Chandrashekhar, arrested by Delhi Police for allegedly taking money from AIADMK leader TTV Dhinakaran to bribe Election Commission officials in the poll symbol case, being produced in a court in Coimbatore

File photo | PTI

post in the party in South zone, and also help him in getting nominated to the Rajya Sabha.

According to the LG office sources, the letter from Chandrashekhar was forwarded to the Chief Secretary of the Delhi Government for necessary action on October 18.

Chandrashekhar also alleged that he was visited by Jain in Tihar jail, where he was lodged after his arrest in 2017 in the "two leaf symbol corruption case". Jain, who held the portfolio of the Jail Ministry, asked him if he had disclosed anything to the probe agency related to his contribution to the AAP, he alleged.

The Tihar jail is run by the Department of Delhi Prisons, Government of Delhi.

"Thereafter in 2019 again I was visited by Jain and his secretary and his close friend Sushil in jail, asking me to pay

₹2 crore every month to him as protection money to live safely in jail, and to get even basic facilities," he alleged.

"Jain asked me to pay ₹1.50 crore to DG prison Sandeep Goel, who, he said, was a loyal associate of his. He forced me to pay and an amount of ₹10 crore was extorted from me through constant pressure in a matter of two-three months," he alleged in the letter. He also alleged that the amounts were collected in Kolkata through Jain's associates.

"Hence a total amount of ₹10 crore was paid to Jain, and ₹12.50 crore to DG prison Sandeep Goel," Sukesh alleged and added that he has already given this information to the Enforcement Directorate.

Kejriwal said the BJP is planting a fabricated story to divert attention from the Morbi bridge collapse in Gujarat. "Morbi tragedy occurred the

day before yesterday. All TV channels raised this issue yesterday but it disappeared today and Sukesh Chandrashekhar's allegations appeared. Doesn't this look like a completely fictitious story planted to divert attention from Morbi?" Kejriwal said at a press conference. "What can be more blatant than this? Nearly 150 people have died but all channels are discussing a conman," he said.

Minutes later, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra held a press conference saying the AAP did a tuggery with a thug and termed the AAP a "maha thug" party.

"It is learned from news that there has been a tuggery in the house of a thug. And the name of the thug is Sukesh Chandrashekhar. And the person who cheated the thug is Aam Aadmi Party leader Satyendar Jain," Patra said.

Ex-staffer kills man, slits
throat of his wife, maid

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old man, his wife and their domestic maid were killed by the couple's former employee, in association with his five-six accomplices, at their residence in West Delhi's Hari Nagar area on Tuesday morning.

The accused even ransacked the house and took the couple's belongings, including the CCTV camera's DVR to mislead police, planting it as a robbery bid. The entire conspiracy was unearthed after police nabbed two accused within six hours of the incident.

The victims have been identified as Sameer Ahuja (38), his wife Shalu (35), and their maid Sapna (33).



According to West district Deputy Commissioner of Police Ghanshyam Bansal, Sachin (19), a resident of Najafgarh, and Sujet (21), a resident of Uttam Nagar, have been arrested.

A call was received at Hari Nagar police station around 9.15 am regarding an incident

of burglary in a house at Ashok Nagar area following which Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was rushed to the spot.

"When police team reached the spot, the bodies of Sameer, Shalu and their maid Sapna were found. Both Shalu and Sapna were found lying on the ground floor of a salon owned by the couple, while Sameer was found lying in a pool of blood on the first floor of the building," said the DCP.

"Throat of both, Shalu and Sapna had been slit with sharp edged weapon and Sameer had multiple injuries on face and head. However, the couple's minor daughter was found unhurt on the first floor in the hall," said the DCP.

Continued on Page 2

3-judge bench to hear
plea against pre-poll
freebie pledges: SCPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A three-judge bench will hear "in entirety" the pleas against the practice of political parties promising pre-election freebies, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

A bench comprising Chief Justice UU Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi said it is sitting in a combination of two and according to a reference order on the matter, it should go before a bench of three judges for disposal.

"Once there is a reference order that the matter has to be heard by a three-judge bench then it will be heard by a three-judge bench," the CJI said, adding the judicial records be placed before the Chief



Justice in his administrative capacity for listing these cases before an appropriate bench.

Considering the nature of the controversy and submissions made by the parties in the earlier hearings, the matter would be listed as early as possible, the bench said.

Ashwini Upadhyay, one of the PIL petitioners, said the matter has to be heard by a larger bench with an aim to examine the earlier judgment in the Subramaniam Balaji case.

Continued on Page 2

Hurdle in Ukrainian exports to
worsen food insecurity: IndiaPIONEER NEWS
SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW
DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

India has expressed concern over the suspension of food exports from strife-torn Ukraine and said it may further "exacerbate" food security, fuel and fertiliser supply challenges, particularly in the global South.

This plea was made in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) late on Monday by R Madhu Sudan, Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission to the UN against the backdrop of the suspension of the Black Sea Grain initiative, an UN-brokered deal that allowed food exports from Ukraine.

He said the grain initiative, a result of the UN Secretary-General's efforts, had aimed to avert a global food crisis and ensure food security.

The initiative resulted in the export of more than nine million tons of grains and other food products out of Ukraine.

"The Black Sea Grain initiative and cooperation by the parties so far had provided a glimmer of hope for peace in Ukraine... The suspension of the Black Sea Grain initiative, we believe, is expected to further exacerbate the food security, fuel and fertiliser supply challenges faced by the world, particularly the global South," Madhu Sudan said at the Security Council briefing on the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

He said India supports the engagement of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres with the parties on "renewal and full implementation of the initiative, including facilitation of exports of food and fertiliser from Ukraine and Russia."

Russia on Saturday announced it was suspending its involvement in the deal, citing an attack on ships in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol in the Crimean peninsula.

Guterres had said he is deeply concerned about the ongoing situation regarding the Black Sea Grain initiative. A statement issued by his spokesperson had said the UN chief continues to engage in "intense contacts" aiming at the end of the Russian suspension of its participation in the Black Sea Grain initiative.

"The same engagement also aims at the renewal and full implementation of the initiative to facilitate exports of food and fertiliser from Ukraine, as well as removing the remaining obstacles to the exports of Russian food and fertiliser," the UN statement said.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

RAHUL HOISTS TIRANGA AT CHARMINAR DURING YATRA
Hyderabad: As part of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday hoisted the national flag at Charminar, the monument which symbolises Hyderabad.

P5

POCSO ACT WILL PREVAIL OVER PERSONAL LAW: HC
Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court has held that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) and IPC Acts are substantive and prevail over personal laws.

FORCEFUL RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS: 12 HELD
Karnataka: At least 12 persons were arrested for attempting religious conversions of tribals in Kanakapura taluk of Ramnagar district. Police said the accused were making arrangements for a mass religious conversion of Hindu tribals in the region.

Construction at
BJP HQ stopped,
L&T fined ₹5 lakh
for flouting ban

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Tuesday issued a notice to stop work at the BJP headquarters and imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh on private firm Larsen & Toubro Ltd for violating the ban on construction and demolition work imposed in the national Capital due to worsening air pollution.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday informed that a fine of ₹5 lakh has been imposed on the BJP headquarters at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg for violation of air pollution norm.

"The workers said the work concerned the BJP's national headquarters."

Continued on Page 2

Jaishankar hits
at BRI at SCO
meet: Projects
should respect
sovereigntyPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday underlined that connectivity projects should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and uphold international law.

Stressing this point in a veiled attack the China's BRI that passes through Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, Jaishankar called for focusing on Mission LiFE launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Detailed report on P4

Mangarh carnage symbol of tribal
martyrs' bravery, tapasya, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chief Ministers of three States, including one Congress-ruled, paid homage to tribal martyrs of the 1913 massacre at Mangarh Dham in Rajasthan's southernmost Banswara district adjoining borders of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

The visit of Modi and Chief Ministers Bhupendra Patel, Ashok Gehlot and Shivraj Singh Chouhan is significant in view of the impending Assembly polls in all the three States. There are 27 ST seats in Gujarat, 25 in Rajasthan, and 47 seats in Madhya Pradesh. Modi said the struggle and sacrifice of the tribal commu-

nity didn't get their rightful place in the history written after Independence. Today, the country is rectifying that decades-old mistake, he asserted. "Mangarh is a shared heritage of the people of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat," said the Prime Minister after he paid homage to "the sacrifices of unsung tribal heroes and martyrs of freedom struggle".

"Great freedom fighters like Govind Guru were the representative of India's tradition and ideals," he said, adding "India's past, history, present and India's future will never be complete without the tribal community". The Prime Minister paid tributes to Govind Guru whose death Anniversary fell on October 30.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the 'Mangarh Dham Ki Gaurav Gatha' public programme, in Banswara, Rajasthan on Tuesday

PTI

Attending a public programme "Mangarh Dham Ki Gaurav Gatha", the Prime Minister performed "Dhuni Darshan".

Over 1,500 tribals, who were peacefully demanding independence under the leadership of Guru, were brutally massacred by the British.

Addressing the gathering, Modi said that it is always inspiring to be in the holy land of Mangarh which is a symbol of tapasya, bravery and sacrifice of our tribal bravehearts.

"Mangarh is a shared heritage of the people of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat," he said.

"Great freedom fighters like Govind Guru were the representative of India's tradition and ideals," the Prime Minister said adding "Govind Guru lost his family but never lost his heart and made every tribal person his family."

Continued on Page 2

Rain lashes
TN; holiday
in schools

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Overnight rain lashed Chennai, its neighbouring districts and other regions of Tamil Nadu and rainfall continued on Tuesday as well, leading to inundation in parts of Chennai and nearby areas.

In Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Chengelpet, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur and Tiruvallur districts, a holiday has been declared for schools.

Light to moderate rainfall is expected to continue in coastal and Cauvery delta regions of the State.

The Northeast monsoon rains commenced in Tamil Nadu on 29 October.

NCR-PULSE

SERVICES OF BOUNCERS AT LHMC SUSPENDED
New Delhi: The services of marshals and bouncers were withdrawn from Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospital. The move came following instructions from Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. "I am directed to...Inform that the services of marshals/bouncers are temporarily suspended in Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospital, therefore the services of marshals may be withdrawn with immediate effect till further order," the order by Deputy Director V K Sharma issued on October 31 stated. According to sources, Mandaviya had visited the hospital recently to review its functioning.

3 MORE ACCUSED ARRESTED IN GANGRAPE CASE
Gurugram: Three more accused, including two minors, have been arrested in connection with the gang-rape of a Class 10 student here. With this, the total number of arrests have gone up to five, police said on Tuesday. The three young men were produced before the court which remanded them in judicial custody earlier in the day, while the juvenile justice board sent the two minors to a correction home, they said.

BJP STARTS MEGA CAMPAIGN AHEAD OF MCD POLLS
New Delhi: Ahead of the MCD polls, Delhi BJP started a mega campaign to ensure the employees by giving appointment letters to hundreds of sanitation workers. In a programme organized at the Civic Center, Union Labor Minister Bhupendra Yadav and state president Adesh Gupta, while announcing regularization of 10,000 employees, gave appointment letters to the waiting Safai Karamcharis.

MAN ARRESTED FOR STEALING FROM FLIPKART WAREHOUSE
New Delhi: An employee of a third-party agency contracted by Flipkart was arrested for allegedly stealing mobile phones worth Rs 12 lakh from the e-commerce giant's warehouse in Pataudi. Another accused is on the run and efforts are being made to arrest him, they said. The agency had received a tender to supply manpower in the warehouse, according to the complaint filed by the third-party company. Deepak, a resident of Bhiwani, and Dipanshu, a resident of Tajnagar in Farukhnagar, worked as associates in the warehouse.

‘India’s role in ensuring regional stability helped Bangladesh’s growth’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's role in ensuring regional stability has helped Bangladesh in maintaining political stability that essentially facilitated the country's growth trajectory, Bangladesh Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said on Tuesday.

In a media interaction, Mahmud also said that the relationship between India and Bangladesh is "very diverse" and it does not depend only on the Teesta water-sharing.

"Political stability in a country is one of the most essential pre-conditions for prosperity. I strongly believe that to maintain the political stability in Bangladesh, regional stability is also important," he said.

"I would like to thank (India). To keep regional stability, and thereby political stability in Bangladesh, India has played a role," he said during the interaction at the Press Club.



The ties between India and Bangladesh have been on a significant upswing in a range of areas including trade and connectivity in the last few years.

Mahmud also recalled India's role in the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war.

To a question on the long-pending issue of Teesta river water sharing, Mahmud said the bilateral relationship does not revolve only around this issue and that both sides are engaged in resolving it.

"The relationship between India and Bangladesh is very diverse, it doesn't depend only on the Teesta water-sharing. We are sharing many things," he said.

"There are some obligations and procedures under India's Constitution. I hope that after following all the procedures, (they) will be resolved in the future," he noted.

The Teesta deal was set to be signed during the then prime minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh in September 2011 but was postponed at the last minute due to objections raised by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Banerjee had expressed strong reservations against giving Bangladesh a greater share of water from the Teesta river.

Asked about incidents of attacks on Hindu minority members in Bangladesh and whether they could impact bilateral ties, Mahmud said Dhaka came down hard on elements that attempted to foment sectarian tensions.

"This year, Durga Puja was celebrated in a festive manner, and the number of puja pan-

dals increased by 700 over last year. The government has ensured the safety and security of those who follow the Hindu religion," he said.

"No one is a minority in Bangladesh. Our prime minister says don't feel you are a minority, you are the son of the soil, this is your country," he said.

The minister said everyone has equal rights in Bangladesh under the country's Constitution.

"There are fanatic groups both in India and Bangladesh, they try to ignite fanaticism, they try to destabilise harmony across religious groups. That happens everywhere," he said.

Asked about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in India, he described it as the country's "internal issue".

"As an appeal has been submitted in (India's) Supreme Court, that way it has also become a legal issue," he said.

Prez Murmu to start Nagaland, Sikkim visit from today

PTI ■ KOHIMA/GANGTOK

President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to visit two northeastern states - Nagaland and Sikkim - on a four-day tour beginning Wednesday, officials said. On her maiden visit to both states after assuming office, she will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of several projects.

Murmu will first reach Kohima, the Nagaland capital, on Wednesday and the state government will accord her a civic reception. The President will virtually inaugurate newly constructed government schools, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) roads, and Kohima Super Market, officials said.

She is also scheduled to meet state ministers at Raj Bhavan which will be followed by a state banquet at the chief minister's residential complex on November 2.

On Thursday, the President will visit the Kohima War Cemetery and Kigwema, one of the oldest villages inhabited by people of the Angami tribe, located about 15 km from the state capital.

From November 4, Murmu will start her two-day visit to Sikkim, officials said.

She will virtually inaugurate Atal Setu at Rangpo on Sevoke-Gangtok road, a two-lane Chisopani traffic tunnel in East Sikkim and VC Ganju Lama Girls Hostel in Ravongla in South Sikkim.

Murmu will also lay the foundation stone for projects such as the National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Khamdong in East Sikkim, widening and improvement of a road from Namchi to Birdhang connecting West to South districts, district hospital at Singtam and World Renewal Spiritual Brahmakumari's Centre at Namchi in South Sikkim.

Maharashtra political crisis: SC to hear pleas filed by Uddhav, Shinde groups on Nov 29

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear a batch of pleas on the Maharashtra political crisis filed by the Shiv Sena factions led by Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde on November 29, when it is likely to issue some directions.

A five-judge bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud, M R Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha on Tuesday asked both the parties to file their written submissions and a joint compilation on the issues to be adjudicated by the constitution bench.

The bench said, "It has been agreed by the counsels of both the parties that they will meet and formulate the issues which arise for considerations and deciding the reference before the constitution bench. List the matter on November 29 for directions."

On August 23, a three-judge bench of the top court headed by then chief justice N V Ramana had formulated several questions of law and referred to a five-judge bench



the petitions filed by the factions raising several constitutional questions related to defection, merger and disqualification.

The top court had ordered the listing of petitions before the constitution bench and directed the Election Commission not to pass any orders on the Shinde faction's plea that it be considered the real Shiv Sena and granted the party's poll symbol. It had said the batch of petitions raise important constitutional issues relating to the 10th schedule of the Constitution pertaining to disqualification, power of the Speaker and Governor and judicial review.

The apex court said the proposition of law laid down by

the constitution bench in the Nabam Rebia case relating to 10th schedule stands on a contradictory reasoning which requires gap filling to uphold constitutional morality.

It had asked the constitution bench to look into constitutional issues whether notice for removal of speaker restricts him from continuing with disqualification proceedings, whether a petition under Article 32 or 226 lies against disqualification proceedings, can a court hold that a member is deemed to be disqualified by virtue of his/her actions, what is status of proceedings in the house pending disqualification petitions against the members.

The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the prevention of defection of the elected and nominated members from their political party and contains stringent provisions against defections.

The Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena had earlier submitted that party MLAs loyal to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde can save themselves from disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution only by merging with another political party.

Ex-staffer kills...

From Page 1

"During investigation, it was revealed that the couple's driver came at around 9 am who found the house ransacked, so he made the PCR call. The inspection of the spot revealed that it was a friendly entry," said the official.

"Keeping in view the sensational crime, multiple teams were formed and while scanning CCTV footage in the area. The strategic efforts showed the result when the alleged were found captured in a CCTV installed nearby who came on two bikes around 8 am," said the official.

"The accused were also seen rushing in a hurry after committing the crime around 9 am. Though they had taken the DVR of the CCTV, the technical analysis of the event established that the main conspirator of the incident visited the house around 10 minutes prior to the visit of the maid Sapna," said the DCP.

"Based on CCTV footage, the police team managed to nab Sachin, 19, a resident of Najafgarh and Sujat, 21, a resident of Uttam Nagar in connection with the incident," said the official, adding that the main conspirator is still on the run and a manhunt has been initiated to nab him.

Police said so far, the investigation has revealed that the main accused and his girl friend were working with Shalu in the saloon and around 10 days ago, due to their unprofessional attitude, they both were sacked.

"Sameer also verbally thrashed them. The main conspirator felt humiliated and planned to seek revenge and discussed it with Sujit and Sachin. The accused then roped in other three persons and they all on Tuesday morning came prepared and executed the plan," said the DCP.

"As the maid reached the couple's house around 8 am, the accused also slit her throat. They took away the laptop, cash and other articles lying in the house," said a police official.

"The Iphone-13 (Pro-Max) of Shalu, weapon of offence and blood stained towel had been recovered at the instance of the accused persons. Efforts are being made to recover remaining case properties," said the DCP, adding that further investigation is underway.

A manhunt has been initiated to nab the remaining accused and the main culprit, who wanted to seek revenge after being fired from the salon owned by the couple.

3-judge bench to hear plea against pre-poll...

From Page 1

He also suggested that a committee of experts be set up to control irrational freebies in larger public interest and to ensure free and fair election and suggested that the Chief Election Commissioner be made head of the panel.

Upadhyay also said the RBI Governor, Chairman of the Finance Commission, Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog, Controller and Auditor General, Secretary of GST Council and presidents of the Institute of Chartered

Accountants of India and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India be made members of the panel.

The bench, however, said it would not be able to consider any such request and they will be taken note of by the appropriate bench. Earlier, a bench headed by then CJI N V Ramana, since retired, had directed on August 26 that the pleas be listed before a three-judge bench as they needed an "extensive" hearing.

The bench had said the 2013 judgment delivered by a

two-judge bench of the apex court in the matter of S Subramaniam Balaji vs the Government of Tamil Nadu and others required reconsideration.

In its 2013 judgment, the apex court had noted that after examining and considering the parameters laid in section 123 of the Representation of People Act (RPA), it arrived at a conclusion that the promises in the election manifesto cannot be read into section 123 for declaring it to be a corrupt practice.

DU set to welcome new students as semester begins today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University is all set to welcome the students admitted through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) as the new semester begins on Wednesday. Though admissions to 70,000 seats in various DU colleges are still underway, the academic year for the first semester students will commence on Wednesday.

DU Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh said the university is all set for the start of the new academic year and arrangements have been made to ensure the availability of all the facilities for the students. "We are all set to hold classes for the first-year students. This year, we have conducted admissions through the CUET and are implementing the National Education Policy. It



is a different policy and students will have more flexibility," Singh said.

From this academic year, the DU is implementing the NEP and the four-year undergraduate programme. Colleges were busy on Tuesday making last-minute preparations to welcome the students. To ensure the safety of the newcomers, the colleges have conducted fumigation, activated anti-ragging committees and taken all other precautions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. VEHICLES FOR SALE

1) MAH_FURIO11FBT REG. NO. UP14HT8805-YOM 2019 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 287810

2) TATAMOTORS_TATAXENON REG. NO. HR55AG3807-YOM -2019 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 127977

3) SWRJ_MAZDA_SM_SARTAJ REG. NO. DL1LA6846-YOM -2018 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 232958

4) SWRJ_MAZDA_SM_SARTAJ REG. NO. DL1LA6811-YOM -2018 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 232958

5) TATAMOTORS_T1518FBGD REG. NO. UP14HT4779-YOM -2018 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 423118

6) TATAMOTORS_TLPT1109CT REG. NO. UP16GT0480-YOM -2019 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 450598

7) TATAMOTORS_T1518CBGD REG. NO. UP14GT7298-YOM -2017 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 385585

8) TATA_LPT7709FB REG. NO. DL1LAC6109- YOM - 2019 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 459075

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BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., PLOT NO.7 INSTITUTIONAL AREA, SECTOR-125 NOIDA NEAR DELL CAMPUS NOIDA (U.P.) UP-201313 OR CONTACT -RAJESH ANTIL KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT / 09711173320 EMAIL-rajesh.antil@kotak.com

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Saroj Chhabra is absolute owner of Second Floor with half roof rights "said floor", built on Property bearing No. 134, area measuring 220.5 sq. yds., situated in the colony known as Raja Garden, New Delhi, area of Village Sassa Darapur, Delhi state Delhi, with in the limit of Delhi Municipal Corporation, New Delhi-11001 by way of Partition Deed dated 04.10.2019 executed between Mr. Ramesh Chander Chhabra (as first party) and Mrs. Saroj Chhabra (as second party). Now, Mrs. Saroj Chhabra intending to sell the above said property to Mrs. Jasmeet Kaur and further Mrs. Jasmeet Kaur and Mr. Anshul Singh Toray are mortgaging the said property with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 7 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dwivedi/Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL North Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/ 9818228638 (M).

M. P. Power Generating Company Ltd.
No. 07-12/CS-MPPGCL/Advisor/757 Date 31/10/2022.
The last date of submission of offer against Eoi Notice published on MPPGCL's website www.mppgcl.mpg.gov.in vide No. 07-12/CS-MPPGCL/Advisor/714 dated 12/10/2022 is hereby extended upto 07/11/2022.
-Sd-
Chief Engineer (C.S.)
MPPGCL: JABALPUR
//Save Electricity//

NOTICE
This is to inform all the concerned peoples that M/s Sunil Ispat and Power Limited has been granted Environmental Clearance by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide its File No.: J-11011/13/2021-IA.II (IND-I) and EC Identification No.: EC22A008CG/191873 dated 31.10.2022 for Expansion of Steel Plant - DRI Kiln (Sponge Iron from 1,15,000 TPA to 3,46,500 TPA), Induction Furnaces with matching LRF & CCM (MS Billets / Ingots from 30,000 TPA to 3,46,800 TPA), Rolling Mill with hot charging (Rolled Products 30,000 TPA to 2,90,000 TPA), New Rolling Mill with Conventional with LDO (Rolled Products 30,000 TPA), New Ferro Alloy Unit with 2x18 MVA Submerged Electric Furnaces (FeMn 90,000 TPA/ SiMn 60,000 TPA / FeCr 60,000 TPA / FeSi 30,000 TPA/Pig Iron-90,000 TPA /Cast iron- 90,000 TPA), WHRB based Power Plant from 12 MW to 34 MW, CFBC based Power Plant 4.9 MW to 29.9 MW & New Fly Ash brick manufacturing unit (38,000 Bricks/day) & Briquetting plant (300 Kg/Hr) at Village: Chiraipani, Gram Panchayat: Lakha, Tehsil and District: Raigarh [C.G.]. The aforesaid Environment Clearance letter is available on website of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India (MoEF&CC) (parivesh.nic.in) and copies are also available at Head Office of Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Paryavas Bhawan, North Block, Sector 19, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, District Raipur and Regional Office, Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, TV Tower Road, Tehsil and District Raigarh [C.G.].
For, M/s Sunil Ispat and Power Limited (Director)

Construction at BJP HQ stopped, L&T fined ₹5 lakh for flouting ban

From Page 1
"It is a complete violation of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)'s orders. We have issued an order to stop work at the site and imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on the construction agency L&T," Rai said after inspecting a construction site near Rouse Avenue at DDU marg.

Later in a tweet, Rai said: "A surprise inspection as part of the anti-dust campaign found violations at the under construction BJP office. Construction was continuing

despite the ban on construction activity in Delhi. DPCC (Delhi Pollution Control Committee) has been directed to stop the construction activity and impose a fine of Rs. 5 lakh."

Officials said the Minister noticed construction work at the BJP headquarters on DDU Marg while he was returning after inspecting a construction site of the Unique Identification Authority of India. The CAQM-- a statutory body formed in 2021 to tackle air pollution in Delhi-NCR -- had on Saturday

directed authorities to impose a ban on construction and demolition activities in Delhi-NCR, except in essential projects, and other curbs under stage three of the Graded Response Action plan (GRAP).

Blaming the BJP for air pollution, Rai further said that the ideology of the BJP favours rising air pollution levels as the party voiced support to bursting of firecrackers but did not help the Punjab Government provide a cash incentive to farmers for not burning crop residue.

"Lieutenant Governor

Vinai Kumar Saxena would not have stopped the implementation of the "Red Light on, Gaadi off" campaign to reduce vehicular emissions in Delhi without instructions from the saffron party, Rai said.

"The mindset and the ideology of the BJP favour an increase in the air pollution levels. Punjab would have seen a large-scale reduction in stubble burning had the Centre supported the State Government's initiative to provide a cash incentive to farmers for not burning crop residue," Rai said. "We also saw

that those in the BJP were busy supporting the bursting of firecrackers in Delhi (on Diwali). They too live in Delhi. All of us should work together to fight air pollution. The Delhi Government is doing everything it can and we need support. I request those associated with the BJP to step back from campaigns that increase air pollution," he added.

The BJP should stop considering air pollution as a problem of a particular political party or of particular States, the AAP leader said.

Mangarh carnage symbol of...

From Page 1
If Govind Guru fought against Britishers for the rights of the tribal community, the Prime Minister pointed out, he also campaigned against the ills of his own community as he was a social reformer, spiritual leader, a saint and a leader. His intellectual and philosophical aspect was as vibrant as his courage and social activism, Modi said.

Remembering the massacre of 17th November, the Prime Minister remarked that it was an example of extreme cruelty by the British rule in India. Modi said that due to unfortunate circumstances, such a significant and impactful event of the freedom struggle could not find its place in the history books.

He exclaimed, "In this Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, India is filling this void and

correcting the mistakes that were made decades ago."

Modi recalled the glorious struggles that date back to as early as the 1780s when Santhal Sangram was fought under the leadership of Tilka Manjhi. He mentioned 1830-32 when the country witnessed Larka Andolan under the leadership of Budhu Bhagat. In 1855 Sidhu-Kanhu Kranti emerged the nation. Bhagwan Birsa Munda inspired everyone with his energy and patriotism, he said.

"You will not find any patch of time starting from the beginning of slavery centuries ago, till the 20th century when the flame of Azadi was not kept ablaze by the tribal community," the Prime Minister said. He mentioned Alluri Sitaram Raju in Andhra Pradesh. In Rajasthan, even before that, the Adivasi Samaj stood with

Maharana Pratap. "We are indebted to the tribal community and their sacrifice," he said. The Prime Minister highlighted that the tribal population is being provided water and electricity connections, education and health services, and employment opportunities through Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana. "Today, forest cover is also increasing in the country and resources are being protected" he said.

Throwing light on the discussion about the total development of Mangarh Dham, the Prime Minister expressed desire for the expansion of Mangarh Dham asked the four State Governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra to work together and have a detailed discussion about preparing a roadmap so that this memorial site of Govind

Guru Ji finds a place on the world map. "I am sure that the development of Mangarh Dham will make this area a place of inspiration for the new generation", the Prime Minister concluded.

Besides Patel, Gehlot and Chouhan, Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Mangubhai Patel, Union Minister of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Faggar Singh Kulaste, MPs, MLAs were those present on the occasion among others.

At Jambughoda in Gujarat Modi targeted the Congress, saying previous Governments did not think about the development of tribal areas and the Tribal Development Ministry was formed when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. Modi also launched various development projects.

Hurdle in...

From Page 1
Sudan said India believed the exports had contributed to the lowering of the price of wheat and other commodities, evident from the drop in the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) Price Index.

"The Black Sea Grain initiative and its successful implementation over the last four months is consistent with our long-standing position that diplomacy and dialogue is the only solution to end this ongoing conflict that has resulted in serious consequences for the region and beyond," Sudan said.

He said India continues to support all efforts, including that of the Secretary-General, to end the conflict and reiterated that the global order is anchored on principles of the UN Charter, international law and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

Conman’s extortion claim triggers BJP-AAP fight



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Jailed conman Suresh Chandra Sekhar has written to the Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena alleging that AAP leader Satyendar Jain extorted ₹10 crore from him in 2019 to ensure his safety in prison, triggering a political slugfest between the AAP and the BJP.

In a letter written to the L-G by Chandrashekhar, dated October 7, was submitted to Saxena October 8 by his advocate Ashok K Singh. In the letter, Chandrashekhar alleged that he has been receiving threats and was under pressure from Minister Satyendar Jain and Sandeep Goel, the Director General of Prison, Delhi, on corruption and extortions.

The letter alleged that more than ₹50 crore was given to the AAP for giving Chandrashekhar an important post in party in South Zone, and also to help him get nominated to Rajya Sabha. According to LG office sources, the letter from Chandrashekhar was received by LG office and was forwarded to Chief Secretary of Delhi government for necessary action on October 18. Chandrashekhar, who is lodged in Mandoli jail here in connection with ₹200 crore money laundering case, alleged that after his arrest in 2017 in the two leaf symbol corruption



case he was lodged in Tihar Jail and was visited by Jain, who held the portfolio of Jail ministry, asking him if he had disclosed anything to the probe agency related to his contribution to AAP.

“Thereafter in 2019 again I was visited by Satyendar Jain and his secretary and his close friend Sushil in jail, asking me to pay ₹2 crore every month to him as protection money to live safely in jail, and to get even basic facilities,” he alleged.

Jain “asked me to pay ₹1.50 crore to DG prison Sandeep Goel, who, he said, was a loyal associate of his. He forced me to pay and an amount of ₹10 crore was extorted from me through constant pressure in a matter of two-three months,” he alleged.

He claimed the the amounts were collected in Kolkata through Jains associate. “Hence a total amount of ₹10 crore was paid to Satyendar Jain, and ₹12.50 crore to DG prison Sandeep Goel,” the letter alleged, adding that Chandrashekhar had given this information to the ED.

There was no immediate reaction available from Goel to the allegations. Chandrasekhar further said that he also filed a petition before the Delhi High Court seeking a CBI inquiry, and the court has issued notice and the matter is scheduled for hearing next month.

Allegations fictitious, planted by BJP to divert attention from Guj: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Terming jailed conman Suresh Chandrashekhar’s letter to Lieutenant Governor as a fabricated story, AAP supremo and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday brushed it aside, saying “the fact that the BJP has to rely on a conman, as you say he is, shows their sorry state in Gujarat.”

Kejriwal said that Suresh Chandrashekhar’s allegations looks like a completely fictitious story planted to divert attention from the Morbi bridge collapse incident where over 130 people, including more than 40 children, have died.

“On Sunday, the Morbi incident happened. All TV channels raised this issue yesterday (Monday) but it disappeared today (Tuesday) and Suresh Chandrashekhar’s allegations appeared.

The bridge collapse incident was no longer being discussed on the TV channels and it was all about Suresh Chandrashekhar. Does it not seem like a tactic to distract from the tragedy?” Kejriwal asked during a media briefing. “What can be more blatant than this? Nearly 150 people have died but all channels are discussing a conman.”

“Before the Punjab election, they brought Kumar Vishwas. When the BJP realised that it is going to lose the Punjab election, it fired from Kumar Vishwas’s shoulders. Now in Gujarat, the BJP



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during a press conference, in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI Photo

is in such bad shape that they need the support of Suresh Chandrashekhar. You people are only showing that he is a conman. I heard that once he cheated somebody by posing as a CBI officer, as a law secretary, as a PMO officer... How can you believe him? The BJP is planting a fake, fictitious and fabricated story to divert attention from the Gujarat Morbi bridge collapse,” he said.

This is just BJP’s tactic to divert people’s focus from the bridge collapse,” Kejriwal said.

The AAP national convener also tweeted: “The BJP’s situation in Gujarat is so bad that it is having to take the help of the country’s biggest thug. Let the media be alert – all this drama is to divert the attention of the media from Morbi.”

Earlier, Kejriwal demanded that Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel resign and the assembly polls be held immediately. Praying for those who lost their lives in the incident, Kejriwal said the assembly

polls in Gujarat should be held immediately.

Kejriwal has questioned the Gujarat government as to why a watchmaker was given the contract for the upkeep of a British-era suspension bridge. He further asked why this contract was awarded without a government tender and why is the name of the company and its owner not mentioned in the FIR.

He went ahead and alleged that the ruling party got donations from the company. Kejriwal said, “Did BJP ever get donations from this company? How much?”

Morbi-based clock and e-bike maker Oreva group was given the contract by the Morbi Municipality to repair and operate the ill-fated hanging bridge for 15 years and charge tickets in the range of Rs 10 to Rs 15 for its use, according to the municipality documents assessed on Monday.

In a separate press conference, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the Morbi bridge collapse in Gujarat was not an accident, but murder of over 130 innocent people by the BJP’s “corrupt” rule in the state and posed five questions to the saffron party, saying people will vote on them in the upcoming assembly elections.

AAP leaders Saurabh Bhardwaj and Atishi alleged that the party has award the contract for the Morbi bridge to a clock manufacturer with no experience of building bridges.

Conman conned by AAP: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

The BJP on Tuesday termed the AAP as “maha thug” party after jailed conman Suresh Chandrashekhar claimed its leader Satyendar Jain “extorted” Rs 10 crore from him as ‘protection money’. They said that the conman was conned by AAP.

Chandrashekhar has written to the Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena alleging that Jain “extorted” Rs 10 crore from him in 2019 to ensure his safety in prison, his lawyer said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, party spokesperson Sambit Patra citing the letter alleged the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) did a thuggery with a thug and termed the AAP a “maha thug” party.

“It is learned from news that there has been a thuggery in the house of a thug. And the name of the thug is Suresh Chandrashekhar. And the person who cheated the thug is Aam Aadmi Party leader Satyendar Jain,” Patra said. “A conman was conned by AAP,” he said. He further alleged the AAP had extorted money from the conman and it showed that the party was “hardcore corrupt”.

Describing Suresh as a “thug”, Patra said, he is accused in 15 cases and the letter has revealed that both “Jain and the conman are friends.”

Reacting on the issue, West Delhi MP, Pravesh Sahib Singh alleged that despite the BJP demand, Jain is not being shifted to any other jail from Tihar Jail as the jail administration comes under the



Kejriwal government.

“Jail is just an excuse; the reality is to run business smoothly from inside. The ideals and rules of Delhi’s Tihar Jail used to be discussions of law, which Kejriwal government mixed in the soil. “Kejriwal came to power, playing the drum of honesty, the same corrupt and false government is running in the national Capital,” said Singh, while addressing the media.



Chandrashekhar, extracted 10 crore as protection (in Tihar) money and 50 crore for an influential party position in South India. AAP leaders are extortionists. Satyendra is still a minister in Kejriwal’s Govt...”

Corrupt face of AAP has surfaced: Cong



NEW DELHI: Delhi Congress on Monday lambasted the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) saying that the once again the corrupt face of the party has come in front of the people of the national Capital, after the jailed conman Suresh Chandrasekhar wrote a letter to the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena that he had paid Rs 50 crore to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Rs 10 crore to Jailed Minister Satyendar Jain as “protection money”. The All India Congress Committee (AICC) also demanded high level probe in the alleged allegations and strict action against the guilty. “It is clear that why the Kejriwal has not dismissed Jain from the cabinet as he was not only the main fund collector from mafia’s, but also from the people who wanted to join the AAP and want ticket from the party for elections.

“I demand that high level probe should be ordered and stern action against the people those who involved in scandal should be taken,” Anil Kumar said, while addressing media.”

Pollution worsens to ‘severe’, AQI highest this year so far

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Pollution levels in Delhi deteriorated on Tuesday to the severe category with an air quality index (AQI) of 424 on Tuesday the highest so far this year as the layer of acrid smog persisting over the capital thickened amid calmer winds and raging farm fires in Punjab.

NASA’s satellite images showed a dense cluster of red dots denoting farm fires in Punjab and parts of Haryana, and a layer of smoke blanketing huge swathes of the Indo-Gangetic plains -- from east Pakistan to east Uttar Pradesh.

As per the bulletin released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the AQI of the national capital stood at 424 at 4pm. However, the AQI of the neighboring states of the Delhi such as Greater Noida (402) and Faridabad (403) also slipped to the ‘severe’ category, while Ghaziabad (381) and Noida



(398) remained under the ‘very poor’ category.

Out of the total 35 station, 22 stations in the city recorded the AQI in the ‘Severe’ category including Sonia Vihar (465), Vivek Vihar (446), and Wazirpur (450), Ashok Vihar (450), Bawana (435), Burari (437), DTU (416), Dwarka Sector 8 (425), ITO (412), Jahangir Puri (450), Jawahar Lal Nehru stadium (408), and Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium (417. According to the CPCB, the concentration of lung-damaging fine particles

known as PM2.5 was above 450 micrograms per cubic metre, around eight times the safe limit of 60 micrograms per cubic metre, in many areas.

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”. 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 when stubble burning peaks. The city records

an average PM2.5 concentration of 285 micrograms per cubic metre from November 1 to November 15. An official at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said a thick layer of smog lowered visibility to 600 metres at the Safdarjung airport and 900 metres at the Palam airport in the morning.

Low wind speed and low temperatures at night are allowing accumulation of pollutants, said Mahesh Palawat, vice president (meteorology and climate change), Skymet Weather.

However, the transport-level wind direction and speed is favourable for transport of smoke from stubble burning. 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. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And

Research (SAFAR), a forecasting agency under Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, said 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.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) reported 1,842 farm fires in Punjab on Tuesday and 2,131 on Monday - the highest so far this season.

Punjab has recorded a total of 17,846 farm fires since September 15, when stubble burning usually begins. Of this, 102,229 were recorded in the last eight days.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday reiterated that Punjab would have seen a large reduction in stubble burnAing had Centre supported state government’s “mega plan” to provide cash incentive to farmers for not burning crop residue.

Has never been abusive to CM: LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Lieutenant Governor’s office on Tuesday said that the Lt Governor in his communication with the Chief Minister has never been “abusive”.

“On the contrary, even in matters of extreme breach of propriety or blatant verbal misconduct on part of the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his Ministers and members of AAP, the Lieutenant Governor has ignored and refrained from any comment.

It may be noted that it took the Delhi High Court to reprimand and restrain them from being abusive towards Lieutenant Governor,” Raj Niwas said in a statement on Tuesday.

This statement came after the press conference, Kejriwal said by “abusing” Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, he was insulting the mandate of two crore people of Delhi.

The statement further stated that even in matters of procedural impropriety, deliberate lapses and apparent misdeemeanour in matters of governance affecting the people of Delhi, the LG has conveyed his views in writing, in a most dignified, proper and parliamentary language.

Free yoga classes won’t stop, reaffirms Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena’s approval still awaited, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced the free yoga classes being conducted by his Government would not stop and asserted that he was ready to beg before the people of Delhi to ensure that the scheme continued.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal also showed the ‘Dilli Ki Yogshala’ scheme file and said his deputy Manish Sisodia had signed it on October 26 and it would have been sent to the Lieutenant Governor the same or the next day.

Sources in Saxena’s office said no file regarding the scheme had been received from the government so far.

“Yoga won’t be stopped at any cost. These people may be blinded with power, they may be misusing the law, they may be threatening our officers, they may draw back the support of the administration from the elected government but the 2 crore citizens of Delhi are standing against them,” he said. “Even if I have to carry a begging bowl in my hands and go to every doorstep asking for alms to support this programme, I will.

Even if I have to beg at



every corner of Delhi, I will, but I will pay every single yoga teacher. Your charges will be taken care of, it is my responsibility now,” he said.

Asserting that the 2 crore citizens of Delhi would ensure that the yoga classes continued, he appealed to all the teachers to go and take the classes as they were doing earlier. Kejriwal also said the public was miffed over the discontinuation of the classes.

“Several teachers called me and asked me not to stop the classes.

They said they’d go to the parks and teach yoga to the public on their own without any payment from the government but won’t let the yoga mass-movement stop. I got calls from many well-meaning citizens from across the nation, they said they’d donate money to pool in funds to pay the teachers and asked me not to

stop the classes,” he said.

“There were 17,000 people attending these classes at 590 sites daily. Of these 17,000 people, a large share, around 10,000-11,000, was constituted by those suffering from post-Covid symptoms,” Kejriwal said.

Asserting that the government intended to scale up the programme exponentially, he said “certain forces have got together to conspire against Delhi’s wellbeing by stopping this programme”. “These people have forcefully suspended the free yoga classes.

“This is why the free yoga classes did not take place in Delhi today (Tuesday). How can someone have a problem with yoga of all things in the world? How can you make yoga a victim of your petty politics? Is this the level of your intoxication of power?” Kejriwal said.

PM to inaugurate today 3,024 newly constructed EWS flats in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 3,024 newly constructed Economically Weaker Section flats in Delhi as part of an in-situ slum rehabilitation project on Wednesday evening.

During the programme at Vignyan Bhawan , the slum dwellers at Bhoomihin camp will also be handed over keys to the flats, thereby giving them the ownership and a sense of security, a PMO statement said.

The in-situ slum rehabilitation in 376 Jhuggi Jhopri clusters is being undertaken by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in line with the prime minister’s vision to provide housing for all, it said.

“The objective of the rehabilitation project is to provide a better and healthy living environment to the residents of Jhuggi Jhopri clusters, with proper amenities and facilities,” the statement added.

The 3,024 flats under Phase I have been constructed at a cost of about Rs 345 crore and are equipped with amenities such as vitrified floor tiles, ceramics tiles and Udaipur green marble counter in kitchen.

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India, Bhutan discuss ties, regional security

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of China rapidly improving its infrastructure in Doklam region, which resulted in a military standoff in 2017, India and Bhutan on Tuesday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral defence ties during talks here between visiting Bhutan Army Chief Operations Officer Lt General Batoo Tshering and Army chief General Manoj Pande.

The talks took place in the backdrop of China rapidly improving its infrastructure in Doklam region which saw a military stand off between India and China in 2017.

The two chiefs focused on various key dimensions of India-Bhutan defence cooperation and reviewed the evolving regional security scenario. Tshering's visit to New Delhi comes three months after Pande travelled to Bhutan.

"General Manoj Pande #COAS extended a warm welcome to Lieutenant General Batoo Tshering, Chief Operations Officer, Royal Bhutan Army and discussed



Photo by PTI

ways to strengthen the #DefenceCooperation between the two Armies," the Army tweeted. Earlier, the Bhutanese chief laid a wreath at the National War Memorial. He was also accorded a guard of honour in the South Block lawns.

The Doklam plateau is considered an important area for India's strategic interest. The Indian and Chinese armies were locked in a 73-day stand-off at the Doklam tri-junction in 2017 after China tried to extend a road in an area that

Bhutan claimed belonged to it. India strongly opposed construction as it would have impacted its overall security interests. The India-China face-off was resolved following several rounds of talks.

In October last year, Bhutan and China signed an agreement on a "three-step roadmap" to expedite negotiations to resolve their festering boundary dispute. Bhutan shares an over 400-km-long border with China and two countries have held over 24 rounds of boundary talks in a bid to resolve dispute.

Connectivity projects should respect sovereignty of member States: EAM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday underlined that connectivity projects should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)and uphold international law.

Stressing this point in a virtual meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government hosted by China, he also called for focusing on Mission LiFE launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It envisages replacing the prevalent "use and dispose of" economy with a circular economy.

The Minister also appreciated condolences expressed by several countries over the cable suspension bridge mishap in Morbi, Gujarat on Sunday.

Jaishankar said the Chabahar port and the International North South Transport Corridor could become enablers for connectivity in the region.

"Represented India at the meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government which has just concluded. Underlined



that we need better connectivity in the SCO region built on centrality of interests of Central Asian states," he tweeted.

The External Affairs Minister said "connectivity projects should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states and respect international law."

His remarks are seen as a reference to China's Belt and Road initiative. "Our total trade with SCO Members is only \$141 billion, which has potential to increase manifold. Fair market access is to our mutual benefit and only way to move forward," Jaishankar said.

The CHG meeting is held annually and focuses on the trade and economic agenda of the bloc and to approve its annual budget.

The SCO was founded at a

CPM: Kerala Guv trying to destabilise State Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Tuesday accused Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi of advancing the political objectives of the BJP.

Coming down heavily on Khan, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said, the Kerala Governor is attempting to destabilise the Left Democratic Front (LDF) Government in the State.

Addressing a press conference after the two day long central committee meeting, Yechury said that Khan is crossing all limits and his actions have no sanction of the Constitution.

"The CPI(M) Central Committee strongly denounced the steps being taken by the governor of Kerala to advance the political objectives of the BJP to destabilise the LDF Government. The manner in which he demanded the resignation of the Vice-Chancellors of various Universities in the southern State and later, the resignation of the state finance minister, has no sanction of the Indian Constitution. "The Governor, in his capacity as the



Chancellor of the universities in the state, has no authority given by the University Acts passed by the state legislature to initiate such actions," he said, adding that the steps taken by the Governor target Kerala's secular, democratic and scientific higher education system to "facilitate the promotion of the Hindutva ideological agenda and control higher education". He said the Left party will discuss the issue of Governors with all the political parties in the States that are not ruled by the saffron party. Yechury said that he had already discussed with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge about these developments.

Yechury accused that Tamil Nadu Governor is expressing views reflecting the BJP's opinion creating unnecessary controversies and confusion. "The expression of conservative and poisonous ideas while being the Governor is violative of the Constitution.

Aramane takes charge as new defence secy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giridhar Aramane on Tuesday assumed charge as the new defence secretary after incumbent Ajay Kumar retired on Monday.

Aramane, a 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, was serving as secretary of the ministry of road transport and highways prior to his new assignment.

Before taking charge as the Defence Secretary, Aramane laid a wreath at the National War Memorial.

"We draw inspiration from these bravehearts and promise to work towards fulfilling their dream of making India a safe and prosperous country," he said. In his 32-year career as an IAS officer, Aramane has held various important positions in



the central government as well as the Andhra Pradesh government. He also served as an additional secretary in the cabinet secretariat.

Aramane looked after the exploration division in the ministry of petroleum and natural gas and was executive director in-charge of inspections in the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA).

UNICEF introduces course to check spread of misinformation in health reporting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

UNICEF has designed a short term course in collaboration with veteran journalists to check the spread of misinformation in health reporting, especially in the post-pandemic world, and has also collaborated to introduce the course in various universities and media institutions.

The course has also been introduced as a full-time curriculum in journalism institutes like Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), MakhanLal Chaturvedi University of Journalism, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Hyderabad, Telangana) and Himachal Pradesh University (Shimla, Himachal Pradesh) among others. UNICEF is also organising regular workshops along with media professionals.

The course aims to simplify the steps to check the spread of misinformation. At a recent workshop, the UN arm and its experts explained the media tools to weed out misinformation while keeping the special focus on zero-dose children, nutrition, antibiotics, primary health-care, mother and child health amidst the pandemic and Covid-19 Vaccination. "It is important to explain each and every one as far as possible, so that there is a way to check the spread of misinformation. On most occasions, the



intention is not bad but lack of verification spreads a piece of misinformation.

So we want to arm the journalists and writers of the remotest area that there are tools to verify and then release a news piece," said Unicef Communication Officer (Media) Sonia Sarkar. This has helped to better the immunization process and in turn a problematic disease like polio is under control, she said, adding, the Unicef is confident that it will help each achieve desired goals of disease prevention and control.

SC relief to SAD chief, others in party's false undertaking case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the proceedings before a trial court against Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and others in a case pertaining to allegations that his party submitted a false undertaking to seek recognition from the Election Commission of India.

A bench of Justice SA Nazeer and V Ramasubramanian issued notice to the complainant on the petitions challenging the dismissal of quashing petitions



against the criminal case. The Punjab and Haryana High Court on August 27, 2021 had dismissed the plea filed by Badal and others against an order of additional chief judicial magistrate Hoshiarpur who had summoned them in the case.

Social activist Balwant Singh Khara had filed a complaint against Badal, Prakash Singh Badal and Daljit Singh

Cheema in 2009, alleging that the SAD has two constitutions, one that it submitted to the Gurdwara Election Commission and the other to the Elections Commission of India (ECI) to seek recognition as a political party.

Khara alleged that the SAD had given a false undertaking to the ECI that it had amended its constitution to incorporate principles of socialism and secularism, whereas it continued its activities as a 'Panthic' party and participated in the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) elections.

Take adequate precautionary measures for monkeypox prevention: CZA to zoos in India

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid fears that Monkeypox virus could take up permanent residence in wildlife outside of Africa, forming a reservoir that could lead to repeated human outbreaks, the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has asked the zoos across the States to take adequate precautionary measures to keep the infectious zoonotic disease at a bay.

While India has reported ten cases of Monkeypox in humans so far, more than 50,000 such incidents have been recorded in the global outbreak.

Pointing out that people can get infected with the virus through direct contact with infected animals, often while hunting, trapping, and processing infected animals or the infected body parts and fluids of animals, the CZA in its circular issued to the States also warned that small mammals can carry the Orthopoxvirus virus causing Monkeypox, sometimes without apparent symptoms, while non-human primates can get sick with the disease and have signs of disease like humans.

In its circular issued to all the States, a few days ago, the statutory body of the Union Environment Ministry set up to supervise functioning of the zoos in the country, reminded the concerned officials that "Monkeypox virus can infect a wide range of mammal species, including monkeys, anteaters, hedgehogs, prairie dogs, squirrels, shrews and dogs.

Not all animals may have a rash when they have monkeypox. Infected animals can spread Monkeypox virus to people, and it is possible that people who are infected can spread the virus to animals through close contact."

The CZA has also asked the zoo authorities to be extra cautious as "Monkeypox virus can be found in the rash caused by monkeypox (scabs, crusts, fluids) and infected bodily fluids, including respiratory secretions, and potentially in urine and feces."

The circular gives details about the clinical signs like presence of visible skin lesions while species known as possible "reservoirs" will likely not present any clinical signs of infection. Animal health professionals should keep a watch

on animal species showing increase in body temperature, appetite changes, conjunctivitis and/or ocular discharge, coughing or sneezing and abnormal sounds during auscultation of the lungs, as per the circular.

The circular also dwells in details about the precautionary steps to be taken in case of detection of Monkeypox case, if any.

The Monkeypox outbreak was reported in 2003 when all 35 confirmed cases in humans were caused by direct contact with the infected prairie dogs. This time, the infection is said to be through human to human contact as well.

In fact, way back in 1964 there was an outbreak of Monkeypox at Rotterdam Zoo, where two Central/South American giant anteaters were first identified with the disease. Until then, Monkeypox was thought to occur only in primates.

Housed in one large enclosure, the Monkeypox virus subsequently spread to several orangutans, chimpanzees, gorillas, guenons, squirrel monkeys, macaques, marmosets and gibbons, as per various reports.

GM mustard release landmark decision, will encourage more research: Scientists

India desperately requires an increase in the productivity of oilseed crops grown in the country, say researchers



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) and Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) opposed the environmental release of genetically modified (GM) mustard hybrid for cultivation saying it could cause cancer and is injurious to health, a group of scientists has hailed the move, terming it a landmark decision.

The scientists, under the umbrella of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural

Sciences (TAAS), said it would break a long logjam on the release of GM food crops. "The GM technology for hybrid seed production developed by the University of Delhi will play an important role in reducing the edible oil import burden and in moving towards self-sufficiency in edible oil production.

The decision to release GM mustard will encourage more research and innovations to reduce the environmental footprints of agriculture, develop climate resilient crops, and thereby assure food and nutritional security of the country," scientists Trilochan Mohapatra, RS Paroda and KC Bansal said in a statement here.

They said that at present India had a deficit production of edible oils by almost 55-60% of the total consumption.

"In the financial year 2020-21, around 13.35 million tonnes of edible oils were imported at a total cost of around ? 117,000 crore in foreign exchange. India desperately requires an increase in the productivity of oilseed crops grown in the country.

The average mustard yield in India is 1.0-1.3 tonnes/hectare. This has been stagnant for almost two decades. Globally, yields of rapeseed have considerably increased with the introduction of hybrids. More than 90% of

the rapeseed crop in Canada, grown in around 8.7 million hectares, is under hybrids. Most of the rapeseed grown in China and Europe is also hybrids," they added. The scientists added that hybrid varieties had helped the country. They said that GM Mustard could be grown in the fields safely.

They added that trials conducted over three years at eight locations under the supervision of Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Directorate Of Rapeseed Mustard Research showed that the variety had a yield advantage of 28% over the mega variety Varuna and 37% over the

zonal checks. In its letter to the Centre, the BSK had alleged that GEAC, Delhi University and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) are working hand-in-glove in matters pertaining to Genetic Modification in food crops.

Mohini Mohan Mishra, All India General Secretary of BKS said that the actions of the GEAC are unscientific, non socio-economic in cases of GM crop and asked the Government to revisit the matter. The SJM wrote to Union Environment Minister urging him to ensure that crop's "dangerous" seed is not allowed to be planted "now or ever".

Army fully prepared: Lt Gen on Rajnath's reclaiming PoK

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR

Days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hinted at retrieving Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), a Srinagar based Chinar Corps Commander Lt-Gen ADS Aujla on Tuesday said the Indian Army is "fully prepared for action" on orders from the Government.

The senior Army officer was interacting with journalists in Srinagar on the Defence Minister's remarks. "Whenever the Central Government takes such a decision, orders will come to us and in such a situation, we are fully prepared. Apart from our conventional strength, we are also strengthening ourselves modernly, so

that we do not have to look back in such a situation," Lt Gen Aujla maintained.

Speaking at a 'Shaurya Divas' programme in Srinagar on October 27, Rajnath Singh had said, "We have just begun walking north, our journey will be complete when we implement the resolution passed unanimously by the Indian Parliament on February 22, 1994, by reaching Gilgit-Baltistan."

Commenting on the prevailing situation at LoC, Lt Gen ADS Aujla said that a lot of parameters are showing signs of "normalcy" and the challenge is to sustain the ceasefire.

"A lot of parameters are showing signs of normalcy and the challenge for us is to



ensure that we're able to sustain this ceasefire & phase of normalcy that we are seeing on a daily basis," Lt Gen Aujla told reporters.

He also said that in the last 75 years, the capacities and the capabilities of the Indian Army have been upgraded. Our preparedness is at a very good level and whenever it is needed

to be displayed, you will see a very different impact.

While talking about the current situation, General Aujla said, "Right now the situation is completely under control, but whenever there is an opportunity, there are attempts to infiltrate, but the Indian Army is ready with full force to protect our border."

Rahul unfurls national flag in front of Charminar during Bharat Jodo

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday unfurled the national flag in front of the iconic Charminar here, over 32 years after his father and then party chief Rajiv Gandhi had started the 'Sadbhava Yatra' from the same spot.

Gandhi unfurled the tricolour amidst a massive crowd at the congested Charminar locality. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, senior leader Digvijaya Singh and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief Revanth Reddy were among those present at the event.

Gandhi arrived at Charminar to loud cheers and "Bharat Jodo" slogans with a sea of national as well as party flags dotting the road leading up to

the Charminar.

The Gandhi scion also paid floral tributes to his father Rajiv Gandhi's photograph on the stage. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the spot where Rahul Gandhi unfurled the tricolour was the same at which Rajiv Gandhi on October 19, 1990 started the 'Sadbhava Yatra'.

Every year on that day, the Congress has raised the national flag here, he said, adding that this time they could not do it on October 19 so they were doing so Tuesday.

The padayatra resumed from Matha Temple in Shamshabad Tuesday morning and halted at the Legacy Palace at Bahadurpura in Hyderabad for an afternoon break.

The yatra's night halt will be at Gandhi Ideology Centre in Bowenpally.



Vemula's mother joins Yatra

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader Rahul Rohith Vemula is and will remain the symbol of his struggle against social discrimination and injustice, as

he was joined in the Bharat Jodo Yatra by the mother of the Dalit student who died by suicide in 2016 following alleged harassment.

Dhika Vemula walked with Rahul briefly during the morning leg of the Yatra.

Maha ex-HM Deshmukh completes 1 year in jail today

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As he waits for the Bombay High Court to hear his bail plea in the alleged corruption case lodged against him by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on November 11, Maharashtra's former Home Minister and senior NCP leader Anil Deshmukh will on Wednesday complete one year of incarceration in the CBI's corruption case and also alleged money laundering case

filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

After skipping the summons issued by the ED for five consecutive times on the alleged money laundering case, Deshmukh had finally appeared before the central investigating agency officials on November 1, 2022 and his questioning had gone on well past midnight. At around 1.30 am on November 2, 2021, the ED formally arrested Deshmukh under the Prevention of Money

Laundering Act (PMLA) on charges of bribery, conspiracy and misuse of office.

Deshmukh -- who is also being investigated by the CBI in connection with a First Information Report (FIR) registered by it on April 24 2021 under section 7 of the amended Prevention of Corruption Act and section 120-b (conspiracy) of IPC for an "attempt to obtain undue advantage for important and dishonest performance of the public duty" --

- was granted bail by the Bombay High Court on October 4, 2022 in the alleged money laundering case registered against him by the ED.

In view of the observations made by the Bombay High Court while granting bail to him in the alleged money laundering case, Deshmukh hopes to get bail in the alleged corruption case filed against him by the CBI, when the high court hears his bail application on November 11.

While granting bail to

Deshmukh on October 4. 2022, the high court had indirectly held that the ED had failed to prove two of its allegations against the former minister, while Deshmukh was given benefit under law in the third allegation.

Deshmukh is currently in judicial custody at the Arthur Road Central Prison.

Ahead of hearing Deshmukh's bail application on November 11, the high court has asked the CBI to file its reply by November 9.

Salil Deshmukh granted bailed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

In a big relief, a Special Court on Tuesday granted bail to Salil Deshmukh, son of r incarcerated former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, in an alleged money laundering case.

Both Salil and his father Anil Deshmukh have been charge-sheeted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED)



in a money laundering case registered on the basis of an FIR lodged by the CBI against the former Home Minister on corruption charges.

The Bombay high court

had granted bail to father Anil Deshmukh in the alleged money laundering case on October 4, 2022.

Salil appeared before the Special Court on Tuesday, through his lawyer Aniket Nikam filed for bail.

While allowing his bail application, Special judge MG Deshpande directed Salil to deposit Rs 3 lakh surety and also surrender his passport.

Voters being paid to choose NOTA in Andheri East Assembly bypoll, alleges Uddhav-led Shiv Sena

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray party on Tuesday alleged that voters were being paid to choose None Of The Above or NOTA option in the November 3 Andheri East Assembly byelection in the city.

The campaigning for the byelection came to an end at 5 pm.

The party has raised this issue with the Election Commission as well as the police, said its senior leader Anil Parab

The election will have ramifications in the coming



Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election too as for the first time it will see the combined strength of Maha Vikas Aghadi allies (Thackeray-led Sena, NCP and Congress), Parab said.

"Some people are being paid money to choose NOTA," the former Maharashtra minister alleged.

His party has video clips showing purported workers of the Republican Party of India (RPI) indulging in such acts, he said. The RPI (Athawale faction) is part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena faction has fielded Rutuja Latke, the wife of incumbent Sena MLA Ramesh Latke whose death necessitated the election.

The BJP fielded Murji Patel, but he later withdrew his candidature after the party decided not to contest.

"On the one hand, the BJP withdrew its candidate saying it respects the tradition of not

fielding a candidate against family members of deceased lawmakers. On the other hand, people are being asked to cast their vote for NOTA," Parab said.

He exuded confidence that Latke will bag 98-99 per cent of votes and said she will complete the works which remained incomplete due to her husband's death.

The constituency has issues like connectivity to the eastern and western suburbs as it is a major commercial centre, Parab said, adding that several Slum Rehabilitation Authority projects in the area are pending.

Campaign ends for bypolls for two Bihar Assembly seats

PTI ■ PATNA

Campaign ended on Tuesday for by-polls to Gopalganj and Mokama assembly seats of Bihar — the first electoral test for the Nitish Kumar-led 'Mahagathbandhan' government, formed less than three months ago.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who remained conspicuous by his absence during campaigns owing to "injuries suffered in a recent mishap", issued a video message urging people of Mokama to vote for RJD candidate Neelam Devi, whose husband Anant Singh's disqualification necessitated



the by-poll to the seat.

Deputy CM and RJD heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav, however, led from the front as he addressed rallies in Mokama as well as in Gopalganj, situated in his eponymous native district and which he seeks to wrest from the BJP that bagged it for four consecutive terms.

The BJP has fielded Kusum

Devi, wife of four-term MLA Subhash Singh, whose death necessitated the by-poll in Gopalganj.

Yadav, whose campaign for RJD's Gopanlganj candidate Mohan Gupta was peppered with caustic attacks on the BJP, also took potshots at the saffron party's 'B' team', an allusion to his own aunt Indira Yadav who is in the fray on a BSP ticket, and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, which has for long been accused of being a "spoiler" that cuts into "secular" votes.

The JD(U) sought to make up for the absence of Kumar, its de facto leader, with active

canvassing by top office-bearers like national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan and parliamentary board chairman Upendra Kushwaha.

The BJP campaign was steered by its leaders belonging to the state and it received a boost in the last couple of days when Chirag Paswan, an estranged ally, canvassed in support of its candidates.

Chirag's rebellious uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras, a Union minister, is already with the NDA, and the two leaders' backing, in spite of mutual differences, has made the BJP hopeful of garnering a sizeable chunk of Dalit votes.

OPP CRY DIVISIVE POLITICS

Adhikari: After Guj, CAA will be implemented in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after the Centre decided to provide citizenship mainly to the minorities who migrated from Pakistan and were presently living in the two Gujarat districts of Mehsana and Anand Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari said Gujarat decision was a prelude to the implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act getting implemented in rest of India, and "particularly Bengal."

Adhikari said "though I am not privy to what transpired in Delhi... it seems that a rule has been issued on the CAA and it is in the process of being implemented."

Speaking to the media personnel the Trinamool Congress-turned BJP leader said, "it is apparent that the CAA is being implemented in Gujarat by providing citizenship to the minorities who came from countries like Pakistan... it is just a beginning and will be implemented all over India in phases... as Bengal is a part of India this Act will be implemented soon in this state also."

The "Matua and Nama Sudras communities who migrated from Bangladesh and have to produce their land deeds to get passports or visas will not have to go through such tedious proceedings... they will also be recognised as the other ordinary citizens of the country now," Adhikari said.

Adhikari's statement comes months before Bengal goes to panchayat elections early next



year.

As new citizenships in Gujarat would be accorded under the Indian Citizenship Act 1955 instead of the much debated Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019 the Bengal BJP leader's statements is being seen as an attempt not only to play to the Matua gallery but also ensure that the electoral atmosphere remains polarised as it had been during the recent elections, experts say. Matua leader and Union minister of State Shantanu Thakur who had last year given the Centre an ultimatum to implement the CAA too said that implementation of the amendment act would be of great help to the 80-lakh strong Matua community that had a direct impact on at least 75 assembly seats in the State.

The Central government decision to provide citizenship is likely to benefit non-Muslim people of two who had earlier migrated from the neighbouring countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan.

Reacting to Adhikari's statements CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty said, "BJP in Bengal has no issue... they have gone bankrupt and their

graph is falling... this is the reason they are once again trying to play divisive politics... but let them try to implement CAA in Bengal and see the consequence."

Going by the results of the recently conducted by-elections and the Kolkata Municipal Corporation polls a moribund Left has come up to the second position by displacing the BJP.

The ruling Trinamool Congress on the other hand too has suffered politically in the recent months particularly after a number of its ministers and leaders went to jail post school level appointment scam and coal and cattle smuggling expose. This has seen the TMC losing a number of panchayats to the Congress and the Left in Muslim dominated districts like Murshidabad.

Congress State president Adhir Chowdhury said "the BJP is trying to play divisive politics... By telling the half truth Suvendu Adhikari is trying to mislead the people of Bengal... In Gujarat citizenship is being provided under the Citizenship Act of 1955 and not the CAA."

Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that the citizenship drive was a ploy to divert attention from the Morbi Bridge collapse case. "Why doesn't Suvendu Adhikari say something about the bridge collapse... why did they require to provide this citizenship just before the Gujarat elections... let them explain this first... the people of Bengal are smart enough to understand BJP's gimmicks."

4 terrorists killed in 2 separate encounters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

In a major success a joint team of security forces eliminated four terrorists including one foreign terrorist in two separate encounters in Awantipora area of Pulwama and Bijbehara area of Anantnag late Tuesday evening.

Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir Vijay Kumar termed it a big success.

He said three terrorists were gunned down at Khandipora, Awantipora area of Pulwama district. Out of these three, one of them is a foreign terrorist and one local LeT terrorist has been identified



fied as Mukhtiyar Bhat. According to police Bhat was involved in several terror crimes including killing of 01 ASI of CRPF & 2 RPF personnel.

An 'unidentified' terrorist was killed by the joint team of security forces at Senthana area of Bijbehara in Anantnag on

Tuesday evening till the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, Srinagar police Tuesday arrested three 'hybrid' terrorists at a security check point in Harnambal area of Srinagar. An IED weighing 10 kgs and two grenades were recovered from their possession.

High-pitch but business-like campaign by students in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

It is election time in campuses across Kerala. Campuses in the State were having lock down for the last two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic as students were confined to their homes and were taught through the on-line mode.

The festival of democracy has returned with a bang and university students are busy campaigning in colleges. The CPI(M)'s Students Federation of India (SFI) and the Indian National Congress' students wing Kerala Students Union are the main contenders for the top honours.

Party leaders have a lot to learn from the student community. No washing of dirty linen in public or no name calling during campaign speeches. It reminds one of the ambience in an international organisation where the rival student

leaders speak out their apprehension and fears.

Both SFI and KSU consider the Hindu communalism and fundamentalism as the main threat facing the nation. The government diktat that politics should be kept away from campaigning has not gone down well with the SFI leaders. "Everything in the country is based on politics. The history of Kerala itself has been moulded to suit the convenience the upper caste Hindus. How many of us believe that Kerala was created by Parasurama by throwing his axe? Can any sensible person believe this argument?" asked SFI leader Aslraf Saleem during his campaign speech at Government Law College, Thrissur that goes to the polls on November 8.

The dress code for students prescribed by the university authorities, the new education police announced by the Centre, the directive that boys

and girls should not sit together and the interference of faculty members in the personal relation between students and the non-inclusion of student representative in Staff Councils have drawn the ire of the students. Interestingly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and the RSS are the focus of their attacks.

The Manifesto Drafting Committees of both the KSU and the SFI are busy giving finishing touches to the manifestos. "We have a lot of surprises for the students.

Our attention is on making campuses the real heaven in earth. Students should be able to come to the campus without fear and we will make the campuses a home away from home for the students," said Theres P Jimmy, the intellectual face of KSU and a law student.

According to K J Gopinadhan, an engineer and a former student activist, the

Srinagar to host all women's league Wushu competition



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR

Srinagar is all set to host an all women's league Wushu competition under khelo India.

Vijay Sarraf, President, Jammu and Kashmir Wushu Association Tuesday said the competition of this Women's League under Khelo India will be organized from 04 to 07

November at S K Indoor Stadium, Srinagar.

Saraf said only women players of sub-junior, junior and senior categories will participate in this competition. Teams from Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Ladakh, Haryana including host Jammu and Kashmir will participate in the four day long competition.



politics in campuses have undergone a major transformation. "The students speak with erudition but they should come out of the indoctrination by the political masters. They should read and discuss more instead of swallowing what the leaders tell them," said Gopinadhan.

It is festival time in the campuses till November 8 and the contestants are making use of all means to reach out to the "voters". What caught the attention of the visitors to

Government Law College Thrissur were the campaign committee offices of the SFI and KSU, made out of coconut leaves and wood. It is cool inside the offices while campaigning is getting hotter outside.

"We will play the game in the spirit of the game. There would not be any untoward incidents," said Justin James and Jerrin of KSU and SFI respectively. Well, the veteran politicians have a lot to learn from these youngsters.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Tough road ahead

Musk would have to do a lot of balancing to fly his sparrow in India without runing into trouble

After purchasing Twitter, Elon Musk, the co-founder and CEO of Tesla, has sacked its Indian CEO Parag Agrawal. Another Indian, Sriram Krishnan, will be closely associated with the revamp. The exit of Agrawal was inevitable, given the value system Musk subscribes to. Musk is a “free speech absolutist.” Ironically, this has made him a villain in the eyes of liberals. There was a time when the world’s richest man was adored by thought leaders and glitterati, for he believed in, among other things, climate change. All this changed when he championed the cause of free speech. On the face of it, this is surprising because liberals are expected to uphold individual liberty and freedom of expression; but that doesn’t happen anymore. So, the antipathy towards Musk is enormous. There have been rumours right from the beginning about massive layoffs if he takes over the company. There were reports that three-fourths of the employees would lose their jobs once the \$44-billion deal is closed; Musk denied any such plan. Then several media organisations showed two laid-off employees moving out; it turned out that they were pranksters. The fact that multiple media platforms were tricked by a pair of pranksters also underlines the fact that reporting on Twitter takeover has to be taken with a pinch of salt. What is undeniable is that Krishnan is, in his own words, “helping out” Musk in the social media giant’s revamp.

A tech guy and general partner at Silicon Valley venture capital firm, Krishnan “led core consumer teams at Twitter where he was responsible for products including the home timeline, new user experience, search, discovery, and audience growth,” his profile said. He is expected to play a key role in carrying out the changes Musk wants to carry out. The billionaire owner wants to revise its user verification process. Twitter is reportedly contemplating charging for the blue check mark which verifies the identity of an account holder. There is also a report about a \$19.99 payment for the new Twitter Blue subscription. How Musk’s Twitter fares in India, a big market, will be interesting to see. The Government hasn’t commented anything substantive on the takeover. “Our rules and laws for intermediaries remain the same regardless of who owns the platforms,” said Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar. “So, the expectation of compliance with Indian laws and rules remains.” Musk’s free speech absolutism will be severely tested in our country, where freedom of expression faces assaults on an hourly basis and from all quarters. Sentiments in India are so delicate that they keep getting hurt all the time; worse, political parties and governments are always concerned about sentiments and never about freedom of expression. In a nutshell, Musk would have to take care of a variety of factors—his free speech beliefs, India’s sentimentalism peddlers, and liberals in the West. A great deal of balancing will be needed.



Hindu devotees offer prayers to the sun during Chhath Puja festivities, in Boston, USA.

PTI

The death bridge

The greed, corruption, political expediency all played their part in the bridge tragedy in Gujarat

The collapse of a colonial era cable bridge at Morbi in Gujarat on Sunday in which nearly 145 persons lost their lives and many got injured was a gruesome tragedy. Global leaders like Russian president Vladimir Putin, Dalai Lama, Sri Lanka’s Ranil Wickremesinghe expressed their shock and condolences and this speak about the seriousness of the situation. The collapse of the recently renovated bridge happened on the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for building the manufacturing plant of the C-295 Transport Aircraft being built by Air Bus Industries of France at Vadodara adds to the seriousness of the disaster. The Prime Minister’s new mantra “Make in India, Make for the Globe” falls all flat with the collapse of the Morbi cable bridge.

What adds to the mystery behind this accident is the continued silence of Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel even after 24 hours of the disaster. Patel should have been the first person to tell the world that an accident of heavy magnitude has taken place and those who are responsible for the collapse of the bridge should be brought before the law. But he remained incommunicado and media persons who tried to speak to him were driven away by his personal staff. The fact that a clock manufacturing company based in Morbi with no experience in renovating bridges or specialisation in heavy engineering works was given the contract for the renovation and restoration work of the bridge. A former Fire Safety Officer has come out in the open saying that he had alerted the authorities three times about the sub-standard works being carried out under the pretext of renovation.

The catchword is that the leader should always lead from the front. But Patel is not seen anywhere near the rescue and relief operations. The death toll definitely mandates that Patel should have been present on the scene in the first hours of the accident itself. His action does not augur well for a person of his stature. The fact that the company Oreva that had been awarded the contract to renovate the bridge is owned by the family of Odhavji Raghavji Patel, founder of the group too needs to be investigated. Initial reports say that the deal looks fishy and filthy. The days of driving away media persons and scaring the people who ask questions are long over and we live in an open society. The attitude of Chief Minister Patel is highly condemnable.

Criticism and free speech not welcome

The present-day world leaders are becoming increasingly intolerant about criticism and wouldn’t mind nudging away their challengers

Imagine former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee when alive or former Party President Rajnath Singh being removed from a BJP Chintan Shivir presided over by PM Modi. Unthinkable. Wrong. It is possible if Modi, as things are going, becomes the supreme leader of the BJP and the country’s ultimate ruler. But even then it will not be easy. In President Xi Jinping’s new China, under Emperor Xi (or Maximus Xi), anything is possible: from a warlike lockdown zero COVID policy where in some places COVID tests are held twice a day, to remove former President Hu Jintao (79) his predecessor from the closing day proceedings of the recent 20th National Party Congress. Journalists who were allowed into the Great Hall opposite Tiananmen Square have reported this event backed with video footage - many with more than one set of footage - of the stunning event which, but for this unprecedented incident, passed off with peace and tranquility.

The first reports of the tumultuous incidents appeared on BBC on 23 October which showed Hu’s ‘extraction’ with the explanation it was due to Hu being unwell. But the clips that have now become collector’s items, do not indicate an unwell Hu. He is shown remonstrating with the Emperor and also his protégé, Prime Minister Li Keqiang, sitting on Xi’s right. Nevertheless, he has whisked off the stage without a murmur from the 2300-odd delegates in the Great Hall.

The Hindu was the first Indian newspaper to report that something had gone amiss at the Party Congress. Ananth Krishnan wrote that Hu had attended the opening on 16 October and was known to be in ill health and sat beside Xi. Hu insisted on attending the last session despite health issues. On the closing day, he appeared to mistakenly take a white sheet of paper placed in front of Xi which the latter then removed away from him. Xinhua, China’s official news agency, reported that Hu was not feeling well so his



staff took him to the room next to the venue meeting for rest. Throughout the Party Congress sessions, Hu was shown following behind Xi to indicate his hallowed status.

Meanwhile, on its Twitter handle, Xinhua’s reporter Li Jiawen reported the incident on the same lines as Krishnan. The event depicting Hu escorted out against his will when he insisted on attending the closing session has caused a stir. Anybody seeing the video footage will also draw this conclusion. Li’s tweet suggested that Hu should not have attended the session but he did so in defiance of Xi’s wishes. Observers that included several foreign media outlets interpreted Hu’s removal as preventing him from apparently expressing dissent on the removal of his faction (as part of collective leadership of the past) which represented their wipe-out from the leadership. With Li Keqiang and Vice Premier Wang Yang dropped and Hu Chunhua, demoted, (all from the Communist Youth League associated with Hu Jintao) the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee is now stacked with Xi loyalists.

Other video footage of the incident showed that twice Hu attempted to return to his



OTHER VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THE INCIDENT SHOWED THAT TWICE HU ATTEMPTED TO RETURN TO HIS SEAT: HE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO RETURN BY HIS AIDES, FEARING WORDS OF DISSENT FROM HIM

seat: he was not permitted to return by his aides, fearing words of dissent from him. This supplements clips of how outgoing Politburo members Li Zhanshu, sitting to Hu’s left, took a file away from Hu while speaking to him. Then, Xi is seen giving instructions to the escorts who persuade Hu to leave not before he is seen muttering words to Xi and Le Keqiang. Krishnan had earlier reported that Hu’s removal was to ensure that he did not vote in the session where several sweeping amendments proposed Xi is “everything” in the constitution.

Richard McGregor of Lowy Institute Sydney described ‘truly extraordinary’ the incident that reflected a lack of basic courtesy to Hu while ‘wooden men elevated by Hu were frozen and dumbfounded in stony silence. Another video shows Hu going to look at the contents of the red folder in front of him only to be stopped by Lin. Hu later reaches for papers in front of Xi who puts his hand on them to prevent Hu from taking them. The footage read together tells the story: Health issues or not, one thing is clear; Hu could have created a big stir that was not in the script. Every event in the Party Congress is so perfectly choreographed

that a misstep is almost impossible. Still Hu did it.

In the new Xi era, he is everything forever. His three aides promoted and chose military commanders in the Central Military Commission (CMC) only a powerful insider can rock the boat. Xi has ignored age caps, replaced rules with political standards (loyalty), and brought core interests (Taiwan, South China Sea, and Senkaku Islands) to the front and middle of the great rejuvenation. The video footage of the Galwan clash attracted applause. The image of the PLA commander, the injured Qi Fabio standing with his arms outstretched facing Indian soldiers heralded the start of the conference. Qi was one of the delegates. He was also the torchbearer during the winter Olympics. China has regaled Galwan heroes signaling longer winters in Ladakh. And rubbing salt on wounds PLA had earlier painted in red in 1962 on a stone at Nakula in north Sikkim. India has to show it is 2022, not 1962. But that will require using power.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PAYING PRICE FOR BEING A VEGETARIAN

Sir — We have been omnivores right from the time we evolved from hominine. There was a long stretch period when we were predominantly meat-eaters rather than vegetarians. The mix had more meat and less veg. It was after the agricultural revolution that we turned from being hunter-gatherers & forgers to a settled life. Even then, we had cattle, goat, chicken farms, and fishing professionals that kept our food balance in a healthier proportion. Many castes consume meat but not on holy days.

There is plenty of research over the past 3 decades showing the benefits of a vegetarian diet and the diseases caused by red meat. It is freely available in the public domain. The US has changed the food pyramid recommended for children. India gave vegetarianism to the world. If people want to consume meat, it is their matter. But there is no need to resort to falsehood and hype.

KR Subramaniam | Chennai

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Sir — Looks to be a case of mistaken identity. The fishing boats are supposed to be equipped with radio identification. The setup helps the Indian Navy to identify friends or foes. If the fishermen are not trained or certified this possibility can become unavoidable. Why were they shooting instead of approaching apprehending needs? The recent incident where Indian Navy personnel shot at an Indian fishing boat injuring one fisherman has sent shock waves throughout the fishing community.

They are convinced it is a case of the fence preying on the crop and say it makes them feel vulnerable. The fishing boats were flying the Indian National Flag. The Indian Naval ships are provided with powerful searchlights & flares which could easily identify the Indian fishing boat. They chose not to do so. This is a clear case of our Protectors attacking our own unarmed Indians. At least the CO of INS Adyar & Chief of Naval Staff should have immediately

Punish the guilty for the lapses



propos ‘Questions galore’: Nov 1. Of all Indian states that an innocuous bridge should generate a major human disaster at Morbi is inexcusable. Gujarat is a rich and progressive state and Morbi is a thriving industrial hub and yet a 143-year-old hanging bridge for pedestrian use was ill-advisedly taken up for renovation. A basic hanging contrivance for pedestrian use has consumed the lives of so many citizens. The suspension bridge is entirely dependent on the state of the support ropes. Its steel fibers, rusting over a century and open to raw weather must have lost much of their strength already. Perhaps the cost of a new bridge span may not be far higher than its repair as every rope must be changed. And

these makeup most of the cost. Rejuvenation of a simple but very old structure instead of a new one has been the primary error.

The Chath pooja with its migrant vote bank at the threshold of assembly elections and the angst of civic authorities to be seen inaugurating a facility for political visibility have been co-conspirators. Sad that care was taken to impress a vote bank than the safety of the very people who constitute it. The blame for the tragedy must rest on many a shoulders. But then politicians will be spared and in turn the officials too, by dint of patronage.

This is now a sorry state of affairs in the country that the politicians care only about harvesting votes without giving any attention to their welfare. Besides, rampant corruption in the government allows the officials and the politicians to fill their pocket. It is a matter of probe why a company that had no prior experience in bridge construction or maintenance was awarded the contract for the upkeep of the bridge. The tragedy of this magnitude is not negligence but a criminal activity and hence all perpetrators must be brought to book.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

expressed regret for the Indian casualties. A sense of disquiet is palpable in the coastal hamlets after the recent shooting of a fisherman by the Indian Navy at Palk Bay. It is time to provide the best assistance and take serious note of this encounter.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

SC LASHES OUT AT ED

Sir — What a judgement! The Supreme Court (SC) has pulled up the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for challenging bail granted to a cancer patient by a lower court and ordered ₹1 lakh to be recovered from the salary of the ED officer who authorised the filing of the appeal in the top court. The concerned ED officer must be not only a heartless guy, but over enthusiastic officials want to project his

image by resorting to these types of appeals. When having known the fact, the accused is in his last stage of life with cancer, it should have acted with humane consideration. It is high time that the Modi government should humanise enforcement agencies

It’s praiseworthy, that the bench headed by Justice MR Shah and comprising Justice MM Sundresh, recovering the fine from the officer’s salary is fitting. “The department ought not to have filed such a Special Leave Petition, wasting the stationery, the legal fees and the court’s time,” said the bench, side by side also refused to interfere in the case.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Today, the country is rectifying that decades-old mistake. India’s past, present and future is not complete without the tribal community.

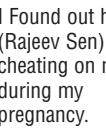


Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



We would continue grain initiative despite Russian suspension.

Ukrainian President —Volodymyr Zelenskyy



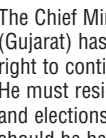
I Found out he (Rajeev Sen) was cheating on me during my pregnancy.

Actor —Charu Asopa



We have to manage the workload. We hurried up with JaspritBumrah a bit, we tried as the World Cup was coming and see what happened. We are without JaspritBumrah for this World Cup.

Chief selector BCCI —Chetan Sharma



The Chief Minister (Gujarat) has no right to continue. He must resign and elections should be held immediately.

Delhi CM —Arvind Kejriwal

FIRST COLUMN

REAL SUCCESS COMES ONLY FROM ATMA BAL

Atma Bal is also the basis of life, ananda

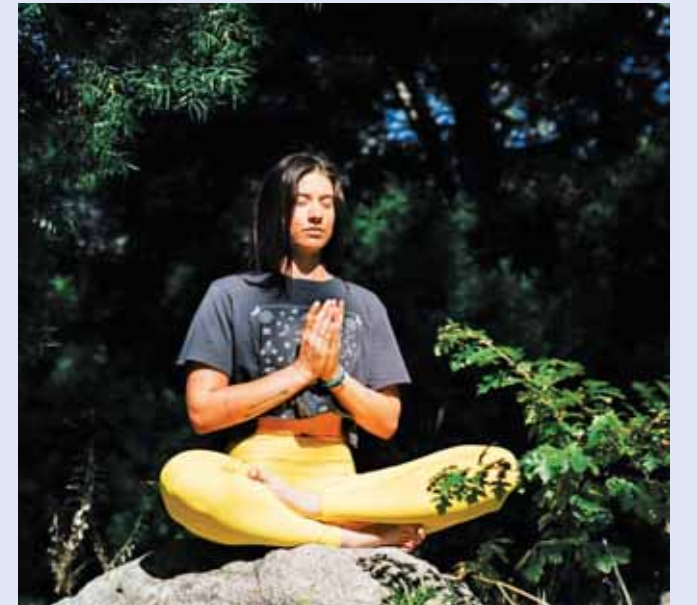


AJIT BISHNOI

Atma bal is defined as the strength of the soul or spiritual strength. It is also called inner strength or soul power. Atma or soul is alive; it is not a dead matter like a stone. Rather it is full of energy. As long as the soul is in a material body, it remains alive. The motive force for the body comes from the soul only.

Atma bal is extremely vital for us. We really cannot do without it as long as we are alive. Let me begin with doing duties. These we know are according to time, place and circumstances. Surely, there will be difficulties, bodily discomforts, etc., in accomplishing them. That is the reason why atma bal is required in plenty. Even children have to do their duties, which is mostly to learn. Fortunately, all of us souls, irrespective of whether one is a child or an adult, have atma bal; it is intrinsic to us.

Yes, the quantum will vary, because it is in direct proportion to our efforts to deserve it. Atma bal comes from previous births. It increases if we associate it with 'sattva guna' (the mode of goodness), which is essentially to be good in all aspects of life. The lower modes of passion and darkness suppress it, especially 'tamo guna'. The premier source of atma bal is God; He is much pleased if we are



trying to be good. He is still more pleased if we follow 'dharma' – very dear to God. Then, our atma bal goes up. We can experience it because our 'mano bal' becomes better. By the way mano bal or mental health is closest to atma bal.

When Arjuna was succumbing to cowardice, Lord Krishna chastised him by strong words, "This is not proper for you. O Arjuna, get up by giving up petty faint-heartedness." (The Bhagavad-Geeta #2.3) After that, Arjuna became willing to do his duty of fighting a just war to uphold dharma. He said, "O Krishna, my delusion has been dispelled by Your mercy; my memory has been restored. I am free from doubt, I am composed, and I will follow Your instructions now." (18.73) He had gained sufficient atma bal from Lord; he had become sufficiently charged with atma bal.

The same is true regarding gaining inspiration to do what we must. If we remain in the shelter of God, we won't lack atma bal and will be able to motivate ourselves in the right direction.

I strongly desire that my descendants should continue nicely now and after I am gone. How can I help them in achieving this noble goal? Only God can ensure it as He is presently helping me to live well. To help my descendants, I must inspire them by my personal example, by giving them good sanskars in order that they also become inclined to take shelter of God.

As we get older, we are supposed to resist temptations, yes of maya. How else to do it except by having a lot of atma bal. We must have lots and lots of atma bal to exist well. God is the premier source but if we embrace the mode of goodness that will help also, as does serving others. Believe it or not, real success comes only from strong atma bal, which is also the basis of ananda; it brings out our intrinsic quality of ananda – the real sukha.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

Powerful PM may not be benign to the ruling party

Congress is paying heavily for Indira Gandhi's deeds, but history may repeat itself as BJP is going down the same road



RK MISRA

Written off as a 'dumb doll (gungi gudiya)' by veterans of Congress, Indira Gandhi emerged from their shadows to become one of the most powerful prime ministers of the country. As a resurgent BJP under an equally dominating Prime Minister Narendra Modi goes about its self-professed task of a Congress-free India, there are educative parallels of how powerful leaders have ended up pulverizing the very organisations that seeded their growth. The past, thus, indicates that the present Congress could be the future of the BJP.

Indira Gandhi began with a whimper but soon came into her own with a bang. Thereafter, there was no look-

Xi's 3rd term calls for closer India-Japan ties

China may escalate tensions on borders with neighbours, including India; counter-measures must begin

Chinese President Xi Jinping's announcement of vision for his upcoming tenure threatens democratic countries. His ambitious plan of troop training and combat preparedness to "fight and win" apart from creating a "strategic deterrence" strongly indicates how the situation would be on China's borders. China has already started funding for expanding its military capabilities and greater synergy between its civil-military fusion.

At the end of 2020, Beijing launched a three-year plan to improvise its state-owned enterprise system, which is an essential part of its defence-industrial sector. Initiatives of mixed private-public ownership and defence research institutes via the methodology of stock market listings of principal state-owned defence contractors have been aggressively adopted.

As per the Military Balance Report (2022), a total of \$370 billion was raised between 2012 and 2020, out of which \$20.7 billion was done in 2020 alone. Consequently, for the fiscal year 2022, Beijing announced a defence budget of \$229 billion, which was a sharp 7.1 per cent increase from 2021. The reforms, due for completion in 2023, will lead to active civil-military fusion in different domains such as maritime, space, cyber, biotechnology, new energy, A.I. and quantum technologies.

Further, showcasing the Galwan clip at the 20th Chinese Communist Party Congress may be an official recognition of India as an enemy. Prior to this, Zhou Bo, a senior fellow at Tsinghua University's Centre for International Security and Strategy, commented on India-China relations in a very intimidating manner. He warned that "friction and even conflict between the two sides is possible if (New Delhi) regards the Indian Ocean as the 'Great Ocean for Hindus' or India as a 'net security provider' for the Indian Ocean". Thus, there are indications that Xi's new tenure could snowball into turmoil and conflict in the region.

On the other front, Japan has genuine concerns about the increased Chinese aggressiveness. It fears that China might simulate the Russia-Ukraine conflict in the region. In case of a military conflict on the Taiwan issue, it may have a spillover effect in the region. After the incidents of the launch of missiles into Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), besides the hostility displayed during Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, Japan is eager to increase its strategic outreach and reformulate its military policies.

In terms of regional military expenditures in 2021, China's share of entire Asia's defence spending accounted for 43 per cent at \$207 billion. On the contrary, in 2022, India's military spending was merely \$70 billion. Japanese PM Fumio Kishida asked for a budget of \$40.4 billion for the fiscal year 2023. Thus, China essentially surpasses the efforts of India



TRILATERAL COOPERATION INVOLVING TAIWAN FOR MICROCONTROLLERS, JAPAN FOR ROBOTICS AND INDIA FOR ITS SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY AND THE FINAL END MANUFACTURING OF ROBOT SOLDIERS CAN ADD NEW DIMENSIONS TO THE EXPANDING DOMAIN OF THE INDO PACIFIC

(The author is an Assistant Professor, Punjab University)



and Japan, even if taken cumulatively. As geopolitical and tactical convergences exist between the US, Japan and India, the future regional security landscape in the Indo Pacific region would be governed most prominently by the primary objective of containing the Chinese threat.

Each triangular dynamic between the US, China and India, apart from China, India and Japan, would have its challenges and opportunities for India. A high level of military cooperation is already in place with the US and its primary ally Israel, which has helped India with technical cooperation in intelligence and counter-terrorism. Much can be achieved in the tactical cooperation between India and Japan.

Kishida has aimed to "drastically" increase Japan's defence spending to two per cent of its GDP within the next five years and develop "counter-strike capabilities". In 2017, Japan spent 13 per cent of its defence budget on R&D. Given Japan's technological edge, joint R&D apart from the production in defence innovation can help India as the china factor is common to them. For instance, Japanese private players like Mitsubishi Electric Corporation can play an essential role in the Indian defence company. Mitsubishi's J/FPS-3 active electronically scanned array radar and J/TPS-P14 mobile air surveillance radars have been recently exported to the Philippines to help counter the Chinese threat, including the South China Sea. India can also seek such technologies which have not been exported to any other country.

In a hostile situation, the Quad can become a military counterweight to China's aggressiveness. Until now, the Quad has been an

informal arrangement that has not been institutionalised with an anti-China purpose. Focusing on the freedom of navigation, the interplay of bilateral and multilateral agreements revolves around Malabar naval exercises, information sharing, interoperability and coordinated military activities. As India and Japan have a shared perception of the growing military challenge, on the lines of various treaties amongst the Quad members, both countries can go in for multiple agreements in the future, such as Mutual Logistic Support Arrangement, Preventing and Combating Serious Crime, Reciprocal Access Agreement, and, Geo-Spatial Cooperation. Thus, the two groupings could broadly cooperate depending on China's hegemonic tendencies.

Indo-Japan cooperation needs to be strengthened. The two countries have taken new initiatives for defence Projects such as UAVs, anti-drone systems, robotics and underwater communication. In particular, using robotics in the defence sector to produce military robots with artificial intelligence to decrease casualties in counter-terrorism operations and natural disasters can be a pathbreaking development. Although there is active robotic cooperation between India and Japan, with many Japanese companies like ABB Robotics, Kawasaki Robotics, and Yaskawa having heavy investments in India, these are for civilian uses, mainly commercial in nature. India and Japan must evolve their tactical partnership and civil-military fusion at a greater pace.

Further, trilateral cooperation between Taiwan, India and Japan can help us as a possible synergy between the three can help main-

tain the freedom of the Indo Pacific region. Taiwan is a leading country in the manufacture of semiconductors, with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) occupying 80 per cent of the microcontrollers used in cars. Trilateral cooperation involving Taiwan for microcontrollers, Japan for robotics and India for its software technology and the final end manufacturing of robot soldiers can add new dimensions to the expanding domain of the Indo Pacific.

Nevertheless, there can be active cooperation between the Japan Meteorological Agency and the Indian Meteorological Department. In the last few years, the number of cloud bursts in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh Ladakh, especially at critical locations such as the Jawahar tunnel, Line of Actual Control (LAC), etc., has increased. In the near future, the Bilaspur-Leh rail line should be protected from all sudden weather changes. Such incidents are related to global warming, but our adversaries' capabilities to use artificially induced calamities such as avalanches, artificial rains and cloud bursts as a tool to achieve their political interests is no less. Using such technologies drastically reduces the cost of military operations, avoiding detection, retaliation and nuclear escalation. The emerging domain of 'weather warfare' and hybrid warfare, where the weather can be artificially modified and used as a weapon of war to accelerate food shortages and military casualties, should not be overlooked by the Indian defence agencies and their research institutes. Thus, a strong Indo-Japan military cooperation is the need of the hour and would serve the strategic interests of both.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE IS NO LINK BETWEEN SATYENDAR JAIN AND CONMAN SUKESH. —DELHI CM ARVIND KEJRIWAL



JAIN EXTORTED RS 10 CRORE IN THE NAME OF 'PROTECTION' INSIDE TIHAR JAIL. I HAVE CONTRIBUTED ABOUT RS 50 CRORE TO THE AAM AADMI PARTY. —CONMAN SUKESH CHANDRASEKHAR

ing back. "Indira is India" is how then party president DK Baroah described her. In time, her power dominated every facet of governance as well as the party, diminishing all others to merely the roles assigned by her. The BJP is headed the same way, as Modi eclipses his mentoring edifice. Today, he is the government and he is the party.

Once upon a time, Congress chief ministers would vanish without a word; now BJP chief ministers are here today, gone tomorrow. Biplab Deb became the latest BJP chief ministerial head to roll into history in the north-eastern state of Tripura. Until September last year four BJP chief ministers had been sent packing in six months in

three states - Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Gujarat.

If Nehru was essentially a statesman and a democrat with strong secular credentials and a zest for promoting science and technology, his daughter Indira Gandhi metamorphosed fast into a strong, aggressive hard boiled politician, who could captivate and cut down with equal ease. She was as much at ease in the countryside of India as holding her own in "Woh kehte hain Indira hatao, main kehti hoon garibi hatao (They say remove Indira, I say remove poverty)". "They" included the Jan Sangh then. Sounds familiar! Years later, Modi was heard saying "who kehte hain Modi hatao, main kehta hoon corruption hatao (they say remove Modi, I say

remove corruption)". "They" now meant the Congress.

Similarities abound.

Indira Gandhi's propensity for playing on the front foot formed the basic template of Modi's politics which, however, deviated sharply thereafter into the rough and tumble of no-holds-barred freestyle fighting.

In Indira Gandhi's case, she went slam-bang into the old guard of her father's era and bludgeoned her way to the top by splitting Congress. She was one of the most powerful Prime Ministers in the history of India who was famously described by BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee as "Durga" after she split Pakistan to carve out Bangladesh in 1971.

However, it was during

her 15 years at the helm that the PMO became all powerful and the party was reduced to an add-on to Indira. All power flowed down from her whether it was the government, party or constitutional appointments.

In fact, the Congress return to power after defeating the Atal Bihari Vajpayee led 'India shining' NDA in 2004 and the two terms thereafter lulled the Congress led UPA into a false sense of complacency while the RSS was busy cobbling together a new narrative which was being tested in its political laboratory in Gujarat by strategist chief minister Narendra Modi. The recipe involved a potent blend of heightened religiosity, communal cleaving, corporate

indulgence, grandiose schemes, global lobbyists and tech-savvy social media management. This was topped with Modi's masterful oratory and skilled self-marketing.

However, after eight years in power the Narendra Modi-led BJP is today suffering from all the infirmities which has brought Congress to its present state. The Jan Sangh and its present avatar the BJP prided in being decision-based party where decision making flowed from the bottom to the top. The pyramid stands inverted and today power flows from a single source down to the bottom.

In a tearing hurry for a 'Congress-mukt' Bharat, the ruling party at the Centre is a bloated 'Congress-yukt' BJP. Manik Saha, the replacement

for Deb in Tripura, is the fourth leader of Congress lineage in the North East to become BJP chief minister in the region. That he was elected to the Rajya Sabha just two months ago also confirms that there is no method in the measure, just a summary step to neutralise anti-incumbency as Tripura goes to polls next year.

Hardly any of those who served as state party chiefs or chief ministers after Narendra Modi in Gujarat have risen on the strength of their own standing. Vijay Rupani disappeared along with his cabinet, a day after he was praised for good work during the pandemic, as did many other BJP CMs countrywide. Modi's domination has reduced all others to insignificance.

UN inspecting Russia’s unfounded ‘dirty bomb’ claim

AP ■ KYIV

Experts from the United Nations' nuclear watchdog Agency inspected two sites in Ukraine on Tuesday that Russia identified in unfounded claims that Ukrainian authorities planned to set off radioactive “dirty bombs” in their own invaded country.

Russian strikes targeting eight regions of southeastern Ukraine killed at least four civilians and wounded four others in 24 hours, the Ukrainian president's office said. Tens of thousands of people faced power blackouts and water shortages following Russian shelling of energy infrastructure in 10 regions on Monday.

International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi said the inspections for evidence of a so-called dirty bomb, requested by Kyiv in the wake of the unsubstantiated Russian allegations, would be completed soon.

In the wake of battlefield set-

backs for Russia in its war in Ukraine, top Russian officials, including President Vladimir Putin, made unsubstantiated accusations that Ukraine was manufacturing such an explosive device, which scatters radioactive waste.

The Russians, without providing evidence, alleged the Ukrainians planned to make the purported bomb look like Russia's doing.

Russia's UN ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, alleged in a letter to Security Council members last week that Ukraine's nuclear research facility and mining company “received direct orders from (President Volodymyr) Zelensky's regime to develop such a dirty bomb.”

Western nations have called Moscow's repeated claim “transparently false.” Ukrainian authorities dismissed it as an attempt to distract attention from Moscow's own alleged plans to detonate a dirty bomb as a way to justify a further escalation of hostilities.

The International Atomic



Energy Agency has said the investigated sites “are under IAEA safeguards and have been visited regularly by IAEA inspectors,” whose mission is detecting undeclared nuclear activities and materials related to the devel-

opment of dirty bombs.

“The IAEA inspected one of the two locations a month ago and no undeclared nuclear activities or materials were found there,” the agency said in a statement Monday.

The UN's atomic energy watchdog also has had on-site monitors at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Fighting around near Europe's largest nuclear power station has created wor-

ries of a possibly catastrophic leak there.

The Ukrainian president's office said on Tuesday that cities and towns around the plant experienced more heavy shelling between Monday and Tuesday. In Nikopol, a city which faces the plant from across the wide Dnieper River, over a dozen apartment buildings, a kindergarten, and various private businesses were damaged, the office said.

Russian shelling hit 14 towns and villages in the eastern Donetsk region on Monday and into Tuesday, destroying sections of railway track, damaging a power line and taking down mobile communications in some areas. A missile also struck the city of Kramatorsk, which hosts the Ukrainian army's headquarters.

The shelling killed three civilians and wounded three others, the region's governor, Pavlo Kyrylenko, said.

Donetsk is one of four regions illegally annexed by

Moscow last month, and continues to see fierce clashes as Russian forces press their grinding attack on the cities of Bakhmut and Avdiivka.

Another woman was killed after Russian rockets slammed into apartment buildings and a school in the southern city of Mykolayiv, its mayor reported on Tuesday.

Ukraine was still grappling on Tuesday with the consequences of Mondays' massive barrage of Russian strikes, which disrupted power and water supplies in multiple Ukrainian cities and villages.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said authorities restored electricity and running water in the capital's residential buildings but that rolling power outages would continue in the city because of significant power shortages.

Kyiv region Gov. Oleksiy Kuleba said on Tuesday that 20,000 apartments remained without power.

“Russia has opened an energy front, and is using energy to

blackmail the civilian population, provoking hunger and cold in Ukraine,” Kuleba said on Ukrainian TV.

Ukraine's state energy company, Ukrenergo, said in a statement on Tuesday that seven regions would experience rolling blackouts “to reduce the load on the (energy) grid, maintain a stable balance within the system and avoid repeated failures.”

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, subway service was suspended again on Tuesday, according to the sub-way's Telegram page. No reason for the suspension was given.

In the occupied Kherson region, Russian-installed authorities sought to evacuate up to 70,000 more people living within 15 kilometres (9 miles) of the Dnieper River in anticipation of a Ukrainian counteroffensive pushing deeper into the region. The effort was already underway on Tuesday morning, according to the Kremlin-appointed governor of the region Vladimir Saldo.

Ships sail from Ukraine despite Russia suspending grain deal

AP ■ LONDON

Ships loaded with grain departed Ukraine on Tuesday despite Russia suspending its participation in a UN-brokered deal that ensures safe wartime passage of critical food supplies meant for parts of the world struggling with hunger.

The UN said three ships carrying 84,490 metric tons of corn, wheat and sunflower meal left through a humanitarian sea corridor set up in July. The corridor, brokered by Turkey and UN, was seen as a breakthrough that would ensure Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia would receive grain and other food from the Black Sea region during Russia's war in Ukraine.

Russia cited an alleged Ukrainian drone attack against its Black Sea fleet in announcing the suspension of its part of the grain deal over the weekend. The Russian Defence Ministry said Monday that ship traffic from ports in southern Ukraine



was halted, calling the movement “unacceptable.”

But a total of 14 ships sailed Monday, including one chartered by the UN World Food Programme to bring wheat to Ethiopia, which along with neighbouring Somalia and Kenya, is badly affected by the worst drought in decades.

Analysts say that because Russia is bound by the conditions of the grain deal it signed with Turkey and the UN, which include a commitment not to

target civilian vessels travelling under the agreement. Such an attack also would violate international law.

“Although it is not currently participating in that deal, it is still a signatory to it. Russia's interests are not going to be served in any way, shape or form by attacking vessels and groups in the international community,” said Munro Anderson, head of intelligence of the risk consultancy company Dryad Global.

Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasized to reporters on Monday night that Moscow was “not saying that we are ending our participation” in the grain deal but “we are talking about the fact that we are suspending” it. The move drew an outcry from Ukraine, the US and other allies.

Anderson said Russia was “unlikely to mount any overt action against any vessels operating within the parameters of the original deal”, though the risks were as high as ever of Russia attacking Ukrainian grain silos, other agricultural infrastructure or targets at sea.

The interruption in the deal nonetheless is likely to have lasting consequences, according to Joseph Glauber, a senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington. In terms of insuring cargo ships to travel from Ukraine, “rates are going to go up and likely be prohibitive,” he said.



Friends of a liberated soldier react while meeting him after the exchange of servicemen of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic who were imprisoned, in Amvrosoivka, Donetsk People's Republic, eastern Ukraine, on Tuesday. Russia and Ukraine on Saturday made an exchange of prisoners, which took place according to the formula "50 to 50" (AP photo)

Ukrainians grapple with power outages as winter approaches

AP ■ KYIV

The decorative candles Yaroslav Vedmid bought more than a year ago were never meant to be lit, but the dried wax that now clings to them attests to how they've been used almost nightly — a consequence of power cuts across Ukraine.

Seated at the dinner table with his wife in a village on the outskirts of the capital, Kyiv, the two can't count the number of times they've eaten in the dark since Russian attacks triggered the blackouts beginning in early October.

Moscow has openly declared its intention to target the country's energy infrastructure and drive the nation into the cold.

“When you're relying on electricity, the worst thing is that you can't plan ... Psychologically it's very uncomfortable,” said Vedmid, a 44-year-old business owner in Bilohorodka. The cuts are getting longer — nearly 12 hours of outages a day, he said.

So far, Russia has destroyed about 40 per cent of Ukraine's energy infrastruc-



ture, affecting 16 regions, according to the Ukrainian government.

The latest assault came on Monday, when a massive barrage of Russian cruise missile and drone strikes hit 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.

The unpredictable rolling blackouts are increasing as the government scrambles to stabilise the energy grid and repair the system ahead of winter. The cuts add another layer of angst and uncertainty to a population already struggling with the stress of nearly

nine months of war.

To try to ease people's burdens, energy companies are publishing daily schedules of when neighbourhoods won't have power. But it's not consistent, especially as strikes intensify.

Last week a power station in the central region was damaged, causing an emergency shutdown and prompting the government to warn citizens of tougher and longer outages.

“Unfortunately, the destruction and damage are serious,” Kyiv region Gov. Oleksiy Kuleba said in a Telegram post. “It is necessary to prepare for emergency power outages for an indefinite period,” he said.

No breakthrough in Armenia, Azerbaijan peace talks in Russia

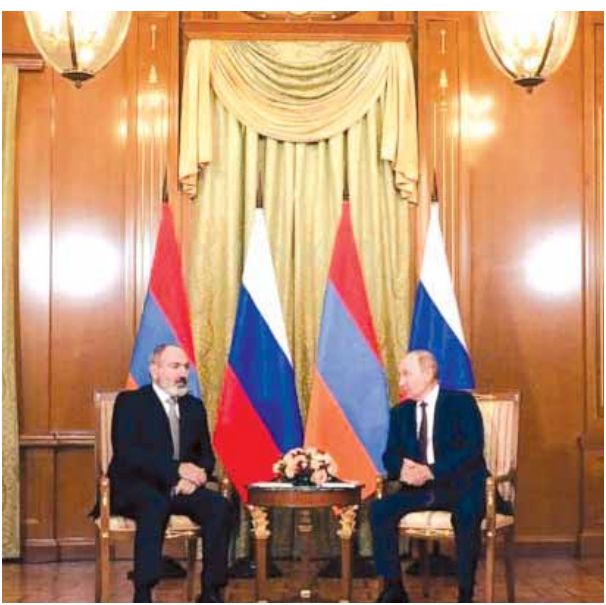
AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan on Monday to try to broker a settlement to a longstanding conflict between the two ex-Soviet neighbours, but announced no breakthrough.

The peace talks took place as Putin's military delivered a new missile barrage targeting Ukraine's critical infrastructure in the conflict that has entered its ninth month.

After meetings with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi, Putin said they had to remove continuing points of disagreement from a prepared statement that was to have formed the basis of a peace deal. He called the meetings “very useful” but declined to answer a reporter's question about the remaining sticking points, saying they were too delicate to discuss publicly.

Before the meeting with Pashinyan, Putin had said the goals would be to ensure peace and stability, and unblock transportation infrastructure to help



Armenia's economic and social development.

A joint statement released after the talks said the two sides pledged to refrain from the use of force, to negotiate issues based on respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders. It said Armenia and Azerbaijan

would work to normalise relations, foster peace and stability, as well as the security and economic development of their region.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which is part of Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994.

“We see the approaches of our colleagues to what is happening on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and around Karabakh,” Putin said Monday. “This conflict has been going on for a decade, so we still need to end it.”

The meetings concern implementation of a 2020 peace deal that Russia brokered. During a six-week war in 2020, Azerbaijan reclaimed broad swaths of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent territories that Armenian forces held for decades. More than 6,700 people died in the fighting. Moscow deployed about 2,000 troops to the region to serve as peacekeepers.

Pashinyan said Monday that he would press for Azerbaijan to withdraw its troops from the Russian peacekeeping zone in Nagorno-Karabakh, and seek freedom for Armenian prisoners of war.

An extension of the Russian peacekeeping mandate was also under discussion, Russian state news agencies

reported. Putin told reporters afterward that extension of Russia's peacekeeping mission would depend on resolution of other issues.

A new round of hostilities erupted in September, when more than 200 troops were killed on both sides. Armenia and Azerbaijan traded blame for triggering the fighting.

Russia is Armenia's top ally and sponsor. In a delicate balancing act, it maintains a military base in Armenia but also has developed warm ties with Azerbaijan.

In an apparent reflection of tensions with Armenia's leadership, Putin noted last Thursday that the Kremlin had advised Pashinyan's government before the 2020 hostilities to agree to a compromise in which Armenian forces would give up Azerbaijani lands outside Nagorno-Karabakh that they seized in the early 1990s. Putin lamented that “the Armenian leadership has taken a different path.”

During the 2020 fighting, Azerbaijan reclaimed not only those territories but significant chunks of Nagorno-Karabakh proper.

Greece: Dozens missing after boat carrying migrants sinks

AP ■ ATHENS (GREECE)

A major search and rescue operation was underway on Tuesday for dozens of migrants reported missing after the overloaded sailing boat they were on capsized and sank in stormy weather overnight off an island near the Greek capital, authorities said.

The incident was the latest in a series of recent shipwrecks involving migrant boats in Greek seas that have left dozens of people dead or missing.

The coast guard said nine survivors, all men, had been found on an uninhabited islet south of the island of Evia and had been picked up by a coast



guard vessel in the early hours of Tuesday.

None had been wearing lifejackets, the coast guard said. The survivors told authorities they had been on board a sailing boat with a total of around 68 people that had left from Izmir on the Turkish coast, and

that the vessel had capsized and sank. The rescue operation was hampered by particularly rough weather, with gale force winds on Tuesday morning, the coast guard said.

The area where the boat sank, the Kafireas Strait between the islands of Evia and Andros,

is notoriously treacherous, with even light winds kicking up rough seas. Wind strength eased in the early afternoon, but the ongoing search had not yet located any further passengers from the sailing boat.

Images of the rescue operation released by the coast guard showed a small group of people standing on rocks beneath a cliff waving for help, and waves crashing over the coast guard patrol boat during the night-time search and rescue.

A photo released by the coast guard showed the survivors wrapped in emergency foil blankets sitting on the deck of the patrol boat.

The coast guard said author-

ities were initially alerted by a distress call in the early hours of Tuesday from passengers saying the boat they were on was in trouble, but they did not provide a location. An aircraft, a coast guard patrol boat and two nearby ships were participating in the search and rescue operation.

A separate search and rescue operation was also continuing on Tuesday afternoon off the coast of the eastern Aegean island of Samos, which lies near the Turkish coast, for seven people still missing from an inflatable dinghy that capsized on Monday with 12 people reportedly on board. Four survivors were rescued Monday from that incident.

Roberts delays handover of Trump tax returns to House panel

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Chief Justice John Roberts on Tuesday put a temporary hold on the handover of former President Donald Trump's tax returns to a congressional committee.

Roberts' order gives the Supreme Court time to weigh the legal issues in Trump's emergency appeal to the high court filed on Monday.

Without court intervention, the tax returns could have been provided as early as Thursday by the Treasury Department to the Democratic-controlled House



Ways and Means Committee.

Roberts gave the committee until November 10 to respond. The chief justice handles emergency appeals from the nation's capital, where the fight over Trump's taxes has been going on since 2019.

Lower courts ruled that the

committee has broad authority to obtain tax returns and rejected Trump's claims that it was overstepping.

If Trump can persuade the nation's highest court to intervene in this case, he could potentially delay a final decision until the start of the next Congress in January. If Republicans recapture control of the House in the fall election, they could drop the records request.

The temporary delay imposed by Roberts is the third such order issued by justices in recent days in cases related to Trump.

Biden paints oil firms as war profiteers, talks windfall tax

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Monday accused oil companies of "war profiteering" as he raised the possibility of imposing a windfall tax on energy companies if they don't boost domestic production.

Biden in brief remarks criticised major oil companies for making record-setting profits while refusing to help lower prices at the pump for the American people. The president suggested he will look to Congress to levy tax penalties on oil tax companies if they don't begin to invest some of their profits in lowering costs for American consumers. The president issued the warning just days before the November 8 midterm elections.

"My team will work with Congress to look at these options that are available to us and others," Biden said. "It's time for these companies to stop war profiteering, meet their responsibilities in this country and give the American people a break and still do very well."

Biden took aim at one company, ExxonMobil, that reported \$19.7 billion earnings in the third quarter alone. He lashed at the Irving, Texas-headquarter



company for using record profits to provide shareholders with hefty stock buybacks but failing to invest in production improvements that would benefit consumers at the pump.

Another oil company, Chevron, had \$11.23 billion in profits in the third quarter, almost reaching the record profits it attained in the prior quarter.

"Oil companies. Record profits today are not because of doing something new or innovative," Biden said. "Their profits are a windfall of war, a windfall for the brutal conflict that's ravaging Ukraine and hurting tens of millions of people around the globe."

High prices at the pump

have exacerbated inflation and have taken a toll on Biden and Democrats' standing among voters.

Congress would have to approve any additional taxes on the energy producers — which would be a tall order in the current Congress where Democrats have narrow control of the House and Senate, and even less likely should Republicans retake one or both chambers on November 8.

Americans have struggled with painfully high gasoline prices in recent months, paying more than \$4.80 on average for a gallon of regular at the beginning of July, according to AAA. They've since fallen to \$3.76 on average nationally, but the

White House says they should be lower, given declines in global oil prices over the same period.

"Can't believe I have to say this but giving profits to shareholders is not the same as bringing prices down for American families," Biden tweeted on Friday.

Biden has been critical of energy companies profits since at least June, when he complained publicly that "Exxon made more money than God this year."

Biden's threat of windfall taxes on energy companies follows calls by progressive Democrats, including Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, for such a proposal.

And last week, California Governor Gavin Newsom called on Congress to tax the profits of oil companies. "Crude oil prices are down but oil and gas companies have jacked up prices at the pump in California. This doesn't add up," Newsom said on Friday. "We're not going to stand by while greedy oil companies fleece Californians. Instead, I'm calling for a windfall tax to ensure excess oil profits go back to help millions of Californians who are getting ripped off."

N Korea warns US of 'powerful' response to allied drills

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea's Foreign Ministry criticised the United States for expanding joint military exercises with South Korea that it claims are practice for a potential invasion, and it warned on Tuesday of "more powerful follow-up measures" in response.

The statement from the ministry came as the US and South Korea conduct aerial drills involving more than 200 warplanes, including their advanced F-35 fighter jets, as they step up their defense posture in the face of North Korea's increased weapons testing and growing nuclear threat.

North Korea has ramped up its weapons demonstrations to a record pace this year, launching more than 40 ballistic missiles, including developmental intercontinental ballistic missiles and an intermediate-range missile fired over Japan.

The North has punctuated those tests with an escalatory nuclear doctrine that authorizes preemptive nuclear attacks in loosely defined crisis situations.

The US and South Korea have resumed large-scale military drills this year after downsizing or suspending them in past years as part of efforts to



create diplomatic space with Pyongyang and because of the pandemic.

The United States and South Korea's "Vigilant Storm" air force drills, which are to continue through Friday, came after South Korea completed its annual 12-day "Hoguk" field exercises that officials say also involved an unspecified number of American troops.

North Korea's latest statement came just days after the country fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea, extending a barrage of launches since late September. Some of those launches have been described by the North as simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean and US targets.

North Korea has said its testing activities are meant as a warning amid the joint military drills. But some experts say Pyongyang has also used the

drills as a chance to test new weapons systems, boost its nuclear capability and increase its leverage in future dealings with Washington and Seoul.

In comments attributed to an unidentified spokesperson, the North Korean Foreign Ministry statement said the military drills exposed the United States as the "chief culprit in destroying peace and security." It said the North was ready to take "all necessary measures" to defend against outside military threats.

"If the US continuously persists in the grave military provocations, the DPRK will take into account more powerful follow-up measures," the spokesperson said, using North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The statement did not specify what those measures could be.



3 kids among 15 hurt in Chicago Halloween shooting

AP ■ CHICAGO

As many as 15 people were injured in a drive-by shooting, including three children, in the city's Garfield Park neighbourhood on Halloween night, Chicago police said.

According to WLS-TV, Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown said there are three juvenile victims: a 3-year-old, an 11-year-old and a teenager who may be 13 years old. The others wounded by gunfire are adults ranging in age from their 30s to their 50s. One person was struck by a car. The Chicago Fire Department said it sent at least 10 ambulances to the scene.

Brown said the drive-by shooting happened around 9:30 pm and was over in a matter of seconds. It was captured on police surveillance video, which investigators are reviewing.

Preliminary information indicates there were at least two shooters seen on the video, firing indiscriminately into the crowd.

Brown said the victims' conditions range from non-life threatening injuries to critical condition. No fatalities were immediately reported. Police were waiting for their emergency treatment to be resolved so they can interview them.

Investigators are trying to determine a motive and get a description of the car and those responsible, Brown said. No one was in custody.

Brown said there were no known conflicts at the corner Monday night. Brown said there were several large groups at the corner, which is a popular gathering spot in the neighbourhood.

100-yr-old oldest candidate in Nepal's poll To fight against former PM Prachanda in parliamentary election

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Tika Dutta Pokharel, a centenarian freedom fighter, will be the oldest candidate in Nepal's parliamentary election to be held on November 20, contesting against former prime minister Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda" and aims to turn the Himalayan nation into a Hindu state again.

Pokharel, born in Gorkha district, filed candidacy from Gorkha – 2 constituencies along with 11 other candidates against 67-year-old Prachanda, according to Sushil Man Serchan, President of Nepali Congress (BP), a breakaway faction of the ruling Nepali Congress.

The Election Commission has registered his name as the candidate at the age of 99. Pokharel turned 100 on Monday.

His health is sound, can walk and talk very well and is active in politics, said Serchan.

A father of seven children, Pokharel is contesting the election on behalf of the Nepali Congress (BP) with the symbol water vessel.

He is the oldest candidate contesting the November 20 elections. Nepal will hold elections for the federal Parliament and provincial assembly in a single phase on November 20.

"There is no real leader in the country and those who claim themselves as leaders have come just to earn money," Serchan quoted Pokharel as saying.

"I have filed my candidacy to give rights to the people and to turn our country into a Hindu state again," said Pokharel, who is contesting the election for the first time.



Nepal abolished its 239-year-old Hindu monarchy in 2008.

Talking to people, who came to his house to extend good wishes on his birthday, Pokharel claimed that he will win the election by defeating Prachanda saying "the stone and soil of Gorkha knows what kind of person I am, and the people are well aware of my opponent."

"The leaders of this country have gone beyond policy and principle and looted the country instead of serving the people," remarked Pokharel.

He also criticised the ruling Nepali Congress Party, saying that "how can the Nepali Congress form an alliance with the Maoist party, who had targeted many leaders and cadres of the Nepali Congress during the decade-long insurgency." Nepali Congress has also supported Prachanda's candidacy in the Gorkha district.

Danish elections could pave way for centre Government

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Denmark held a national election on Tuesday that is expected to change the Scandinavian nation's political landscape as new parties seek to enter parliament and others see their support dwindle.

Neither the centre-left nor the centre-right is expected to capture a majority, which is 90 seats in the 179-seat Folketing legislature. That could leave a former prime minister who left his party to create a new one this year in a kingmaker position if his votes are needed to form a new government.

Domestic issues have dominated the campaign, ranging from tax cuts and a need to hire more nurses to financially supporting Danes amid inflation and soaring energy prices because of Russia's war in Ukraine.



Denmark's more than 4 million can choose lawmakers from among 14 parties. At least three politicians are vying to become prime minister.

The contenders for head of government include incumbent Mette Frederiksen, who steered Denmark through the COVID-19 pandemic and teamed up with the opposition to hike Danish defence spending in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



UK Home Secretary Suella under fire over migrant 'invasion' claim

PTI ■ LONDON

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman is under fire from the Opposition and refugee activists for classifying an increase in the number of refugees landing on the country's shores seeking asylum as an "invasion" by migrants on the border.

The Indian-origin Cabinet minister told Parliament on Monday evening that illegal migration to the country "is out of control" and that the asylum system is "broken", with the sheer numbers arriving via the English Channel in small boats making it impossible to provide accommodation for all.

Her statement followed a violent incident involving a petrol bomb attack at one of the migration centres on England's southern coast over the weekend. "The British people deserve to know which party is serious about stopping the invasion on our southern coast, and which party is not," Braverman told the House of Commons.

"Some 40,000 people have arrived on the south coast this year alone. For many of them, that was facilitated by criminal gangs; some of them are actual members of criminal gangs, so let us stop pretending that they are all refugees in distress. The whole country knows that that is not true. It is only Opposition

members who pretend otherwise," she said.

Her junior minister in the Home Office, Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick, was forced to defend the statement saying his boss was right to be straight with the public about the "sheer scale" of illegal migration.

"In a job like mine, you have to choose your words very carefully. And I would never demonise people coming to this country in pursuit of a better life," he told 'Sky News' when asked about the phrase.

However, he said describing people crossing the Channel as an "invasion" was a way to show the scale of the challenge "and that's what Suella Braverman was trying to express".

The Opposition Labour Party accused the Home Secretary of using "highly inflammatory" language and the Scottish National Party (SNP) said such "incendiary language makes a mockery of [Prime Minister] Rishi Sunak's claims about so-called compassionate conservatism".

"No Home Secretary who was serious about public safety or national security would use highly inflammatory language on the day after a dangerous petrol bomb attack on a Dover initial processing centre," said Yvette Cooper, Labour's shadow home secretary.

Seoul's Halloween victims primarily women, young

AP ■ SEOUL

The narrow street in Seoul's popular Itaewon neighbourhood was already packed with people celebrating Halloween as high school student Eunseo Kim and her friend pushed themselves into the crowd. Lines of people waiting for their faces to be painted or to get into restaurants slowed the flow of revellers walking through the party zone in South Korea's capital.

As the 17-year-old slowly worked her way up the narrow alley on a hill, the crowd became increasingly compressed. "Women were repeatedly saying 'please don't push', as men were saying 'push, push,'" she recalled. She began struggling to breathe as her chest was crushed.

Then she lost her balance and fell. On the ground, Kim felt like she had become invisible to the crowd. People stepped on her ankle, wrist and calf, and she remembers thinking she was going to die.

Incredibly, she survived, but at least 156 others were killed in the crush Saturday night, 101 of them women, primarily in their teens or 20s, according to figures released Tuesday by the Interior and Safety Ministry.

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli citizens will elect their 25th Knesset (Israeli Parliament). Opinion polls predict an incredibly close race with mostly predicting another stalemate, but some giving an edge to the right-wing formation led by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The prospect of the next government seems to be largely hinging on 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 facing a battle of political survival.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I Shobha Guha W/o Late A K Guha am the allottee of DDA SFS Flat No.79, GF,Category-II,situated at Aravali Apt,Alaknanda Kalkaji,ND.MY original documents viz. 5th & Final Demand Letter & NOC for water/electricity connection have been misplaced.An information Report of this effect has been lodged in Police Station Crime branch Delhi vide LR No.937427/2022 on 01.11.22. Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection/found in possession of original document, may write/contact with above named person at above add/9818466641 within 15days from the date of publication of this notice.The person claiming any right/interest,objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director,(LABH) or Director (H)-1,D-Block,Vikas Sadan INA,N-D-23

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL: NEW DELHI COURT – IV
ITEM No. 5
IA No.- 5215/ND/2021 in IB-660/ND/2020
IN THE MATTER OF:
Entertainment Network India Ltd.
... Applicant/Petitioner
Vs.
Praise Communications Pvt. Ltd.
... Respondent

ORDER
Under Section 9 of IBC.
Order delivered on 12.11.2021
Coram:
SHRI DHARMINDER SINGH,
HON'BLE MEMBER (JUDICIAL)
SHRI NARENDER KUMAR BHOLA,
HON'BLE MEMBER (TECHNICAL)
PRESENT:
For the Applicant :
Mr. Shashwat Tripathi &
Ms. Ridhima Verma, Advs.
For the Respondent :
ORDER
Issue Notice As To Why The Application For Initiating The CIR Should Not Be Admitted Against The Corporate Debtor. Process Dismissed As Well As Through All Modes. Ia-5215/ND/2021: This Application Has Been Filed, For Recalling The Order Dated 12.10.2021 Whereby The Petition Was Dismissed For Want Of Prosecution. Accordingly, The Notice Of The Same Is Issued.
Let the matter be fixed for issuance of publication and reply. if any, on 09.11.2022
Sd/-
Narendra Kumar Bhola
Member (Technical)

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notify to the public that M/s Kitchen Star Foods Pvt. Ltd. Address Plot No. H-117, Kasna Industrial Area, Surajpur UPSIDC-Site-5, Greater Noida Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. have lost original allotment letter Ref. No. 9105, Dated 06.01.1999. If the above said original allotment letter found please Contact Rina Jain, R/o A-378, Sector-46, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P)
Rina Jain

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APPENDIX IV [See rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas,
The authorized officer of State Bank of India ("Original Lender"/"Assignor Bank") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated October 03, 2013 calling upon the Borrower M/s KLG Systel Limited (in Liquidation), Guarantors Mr. Kumud Goel and Mrs. Pushpag Lata Goel to pay the amount mentioned in the said notice being a sum of Rs. 1,68,68,69,408 (Rupees One Hundred Sixty Eight Core Sixty Eight Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Eight only) due as on October 03, 2013, along with further interests, costs and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Guarantor and the public in general that in compliance of the order dated September 09, 2022 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Punjab and Haryana ("High Court") in "CA No. 270 of 2016, the Official Liquidator has handed over peaceful, physical possession of the secured assets more specifically mentioned herein below to the undersigned. The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC Trust SC 30 ("EARC") has taken physical possession of the secured assets more specifically mentioned herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on October 31, 2022.

The borrower, guarantors and mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of EARC for an amount of Rs. 1,68,68,69,408 (Rupees One Hundred Sixty Eight Core Sixty Eight Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Eight only) due as on October 03, 2013 along with further interests, costs and expenses thereon.

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

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

1. Name of work with its location	"Low frequency oscillation study of DLI area in zone CB-275 SBB/TSB."
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs 1897833.33/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 38000/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission start date	09.11.2022
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date E-Tender Open Date & Time	23.11.2022 (15:00 hrs.)
6. Fund Allocation	EBR
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.treps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 24A-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Dated : 01.11.2022 2914/22

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Phone: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com
Tender Notice Dt. 01.11.2022
Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chibro Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders from interested parties.
Tender No: (1) CH(Maint.)-22/2022-23 Replacement of Cooling & Bypass Pipe Line (Including supply) for Unit 1 & 2 at Chibro Power Station (2) CH(Maint.)-23/2022-23 Annual running & upkeeping work of clean water supply to shaft gland of 60 MW turbine at Chibro Power Station
Estimated cost: (1) ₹23,00,720 (2) ₹8,42,475 (GST extra receptively)
Date of availability of bid on website : 03.11.2022, 11:30 hrs
Last date for submission of tender: 25.11.2022, 13:00 hrs
For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"
(Executive Engineer, Maint., Chibro)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियान्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, कर्णप्रयाग
E-Mail: edckarnprayag@gmail.com

ई-निविदा विस्तारिकरण सूचना

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा विधिकरण संख्या 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 / EDC(K) / 2022-23 जो कि दिनांक 03 / 11 / 2022 को खोली जानी थी, अपरिहार्य कारणों से अब ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने एवं ऑनलाइन एवं ऑफलाइन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय दिनांक 16 / 11 / 2022 को 13:00 बजे तक एवं ऑनलाइन एवं ऑफलाइन निविदा मांग-एक खुलने की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक 17 / 11 / 2022 को क्रमशः 11:00, 11:15, 11:30, 11:45, 12:00 एवं 12:15 बजे तक विस्तारित की जाती है, अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। उपरोक्त निविदाओं की अधिक जानकारी हेतु www.uktenders.gov.in पर देखें।

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Eco recovering! GST Oct mop-up 2nd top

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST revenues registered the second highest collection ever at ₹1.52 lakh crore in October, reflecting pick up in economic activity in the festive season.

The collections in October this year recorded a 16.6 per cent rise over ₹1.30 lakh crore collected in the same month last year.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection had touched a record high of nearly ₹1.68 lakh crore in April. In September, it was ₹1.48 lakh crore.

“The gross GST collected in the month of October 2022 is ₹1,51,718 crore, of which central GST is ₹26,039 crore, state GST is ₹33,396 crore, integrated GST is ₹81,778 crore (including ₹37,297 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹10,505 crore (including Rs 825 crore collected on import of goods), which is second highest till date,” an official statement said.

The total revenue of the Centre and the states after regular as well as adhoc settlements in the month of October 2022 is ₹74,665 crore for CGST and ₹77,279 crore for the SGST.

GST mop-up has been over ₹1.40 lakh crore for eight months in a row, while for two months it has crossed the ₹1.50



lakh crore-mark.

During the month of September 2022, 8.3 crore e-way bills were generated, which was significantly higher than 7.7 crore e-way bills generated in August 2022.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said the sharp sequential pickup in the headline GST collections in October 2022 reflects a combination of quarter-end flows relating to the transactions in the previous month, as well as the surge in GST e-way bills ahead of a robust festive season.

“With the festive season in October 2022, the generation of GST e-way bills is expected to have remained high, which should bolster the GST collections in the month of November 2022,” Nayar said.

ICRA expects the CGST collections to exceed the FY23 Budget Estimates by ₹1.3-1.4

lakh crore.

N. A. Shah Associates Partner Indirect Tax Parag Mehta said October was also a month of festivals and holidays wherein people have splurged on real estate, vehicles, holidays and other necessities.

“It now looks that GST collections will surely cross ₹1.50 lakh crore on monthly basis from November 2022,” Mehta said. Deloitte India Partner M S Mani said major states have reported impressive increase in collections indicating that it is a broad based phenomenon across the country.

EY LLP Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said that with both the revenue wings — CBDT and CBIC — charged up with increasing the tax collection, healthy collection can be expected in the coming months too.

Sensex rallies for 4th day, breaches 61,000-mark

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices darted up for the fourth day running on Tuesday to close at over nine-month highs, buoyed by positive macroeconomic data and a bullish trend overseas.

A recovering rupee and continuous foreign fund inflows added to the momentum, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 374.76 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 61,121.35 — closing above the 61,000-level for the first time since January 17 this year.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 133.20 points or 0.74 per cent to end at 18,145.40.

NTPC was the top gainer among the Sensex constituents, spurring 5 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, Dr Reddy’s, Infosys, TCS, UltraTech Cement, HCL Technologies, Sun Pharma and Asian Paints.

Only four stocks logged losses — Axis Bank, Maruti, Reliance Industries and Tata Steel, dropping as much as 3.76 per cent.

“The bulls are driving the trend in the domestic market with backing from FIIs and the global markets. The PMI numbers show that manufacturing activity in India remained strong in October and that pricing pressures were kept in check as new orders and pro-



duction increased, albeit slowly.

“Investors are keeping an eye on the central banks’ policy meetings for any indications of a slowdown in the pace of rate hikes,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Manufacturing activities in India remained robust and price pressures were contained in October as new orders and production rose, according to a monthly survey released on Tuesday.

The seasonally-adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) was up from 55.1 in September to 55.3 in October.

GST revenues registered the second highest collection ever at ₹1.52 lakh crore in October, reflecting pick up in economic activity in the festive season, official data showed.

India’s gold demand hits pre-pandemic levels

Q3 demand up 14% to 192 tonnes: WGC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India’s gold demand has reached pre-pandemic levels and has witnessed an annual growth of 14 per cent during the July-September quarter at 191.7 tonnes mainly driven by strong consumer interest, according to a World Gold Council (WGC) report.

According to the ‘Gold Demand Trends Q3 2022’ report by WGC, the total demand stood at 168 tonnes during the July-September quarter of 2021.

In value terms, gold demand grew by 19 per cent to ₹85,010 crores during the third quarter of 2022, compared to ₹71,630 crores in the corresponding period of 2021.

India’s total gold demand in the third quarter of 2022 at 191.7 tonnes is a 14 per cent increase over last year, which reflects better-than-expected performance and strong consumer interest, helping year-to-date demand return to pre-Covid levels, Somasundaram PR, Regional CEO, India, World Gold Council told PTI.

Meanwhile, total jewellery demand in India during the third quarter increased by 17 per cent at 146.2 tonnes, compared to 125.1 tonnes in the



same period last year.

Value-wise jewellery demand was up by 22 per cent at ₹64,860 crore during the quarter under review, from ₹53,330 crore in July-September 2021.

“Credit expansion added impetus to this demand, with bank loan growth touching a nine-year high by quarter-end. Recovery in gold jewellery demand was primarily driven by urban India, more specifically southern parts, underpinned by robust economic activities with a 17 per cent y-o-y increase in tonnage terms,” Somasundaram noted.

Power consumption grows marginally to 114.64 bln units in October

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India’s power consumption grew 1.64 per cent to 114.64 billion units in October compared to the year-ago period, according to government data.

The power consumption rose only marginally in October, mainly due to incessant unseasonal rains which kept the mercury levels low and reduced the use of cooling appliances.

However, experts said power consumption and demand will further increase in the coming months due to use of heating appliance especially in the northern part of the country, and improvement in economic activities on account of the beginning of the new rabi crop season. The farmers use electricity to run tubewells for irrigation for new crops. In October last year, power consumption was 112.79 Billion Units (BU), higher than 109.17 BU in the same month of 2020, the data from the power ministry showed.

Coal India yield rises 17% in April-October

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL on Tuesday said its coal production increased by 17.4 per cent to 351.9 million tonnes (MT) in the April-October period of the ongoing fiscal.

The company’s coal output in the corresponding period of last fiscal was 299.6 MT, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a filing to BSE.

The coal production by the maharatna firm also increased to 52.9 MT last month, over 49.8 MT of coal production in the corresponding month of previous fiscal.

The public sector enterprise also said its coal offtake during April-October went up to 385.7 MT from 364.4 MT in the year-ago period.

However, in October the offtake dropped to 53.7 MT from 56.5 MT in the same month of last fiscal. The coal major did not give the reason



for the drop in offtake.

Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.

CIL will achieve 1 billion tonnes of coal production target by 2025-26 as against the earlier timeline of 2023-24 in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, coal minister Pralhad Joshi had earlier said.

Coal output by CIL in current financial year is expected to be 700 MT and there would be additional output of 200 MT from other sources.

Govt's paddy procurement up 12% at 170.53 lakh tonnes till October

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government’s paddy procurement for the central pool rose 12 per cent to 170.53 lakh tonnes till October of the ongoing 2022-23 kharif marketing season, according to the food ministry data.

Higher quantities of paddy were purchased from Punjab, Haryana and Tamil Nadu.

Normally, paddy procurement begins immediately after the withdrawal of the Southwest monsoon from October onwards. However in southern states, especially in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, it begins from September.

The government aims to procure 771.25 lakh tonnes of paddy in the 2022-23 kharif marketing season (October-September). The actual procurement stood at record 759.32 lakh tonnes in the previous kharif marketing season.



According to the official data, the overall paddy buying has increased to 170.53 lakh tonnes till October 31 of the 2022-23 kharif marketing season from 152.57 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period.

Out of the total, about 107.24 lakh tonnes of paddy was purchased from Punjab till October-end compared to 99.12 lakh tonnes in

the year-ago period. From Haryana, 52.26 lakh tonnes were bought as against 48.27 lakh tonnes in the same period a year ago.

However, in Uttar Pradesh, paddy procurement remained lower at 33,668 tonnes till October-end of this kharif marketing season as against 83,766 tonne in the year-ago period, the data showed.

Wheels India reports Q2 net profit at ₹15.14 crore

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd, manufacturer of steel wheels for automobiles has reported net profit at ₹15.14 crore during the quarter ending September 30, 2022, the company said on Tuesday.

The company had reported net profits at ₹21.2 crore during corresponding quarter previous year.

For the half year ending September 30, 2022, the net profits of the company stood at ₹25.8 crore as against ₹31.3 crore registered in the corresponding period last year.

Revenues for the quarter ending September 30, 2022 grew to ₹1,109 crore as compared to ₹911 crore registered in the same period last year.

Sebi slaps ₹ 21 cr fine on 52 entities in Religare Finvest fund diversion case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has imposed a fine totalling ₹21 crore on 52 entities, including Fortis Healthcare Holdings, in a case pertaining to huge diversion and misutilisation of funds of Religare Finvest, an arm of Religare Enterprises.

They have been asked to pay the fine within 45 days, according to an order passed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Monday.

The case involves a complex web of transactions whereby the funds of listed company Religare Enterprises Limited (REL) were diverted through its subsidiary Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL) for the ultimate benefit

of the erstwhile promoters -- RHC Holding, Malvinder Mohan Singh and Shivinder Mohan Singh. Funds were also misutilised for repayment of earlier loans taken from RFL.

“The whole scheme of fraud led to diversion of funds of ₹2473.66 crore out of a material subsidiary of REL and also mis-utilisation of funds of ₹487.92 crores of RFL,” Sebi said in its 390-page order.

Such a huge diversion and misutilisation of funds of RFL in which REL held 85.64 per cent stake and which contributed 57 per cent of consolidated revenue of RFL as on March 31, 2018 definitely abuses the assets of a listed company and in turn also affects the investors, it added.

LIC shareholding in Tata Motors crosses 5%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shareholding by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) in Tata Motors Ltd has crossed 5 per cent as the insurer stepped up shareholding over the past ten months, investing Rs 11.39 crore in the auto company.

LIC said its shareholding in Tata Motors Ltd has increased from 16,59,48,741 to 16,61,98,741 equity shares increasing its shareholding from 4.997 per cent to 5.004 per cent of the paid-up capital of the company, the insurer said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday.

“Holding in the company has crossed 5 per cent on October 31, 2022,” LIC said. The acquisition of shares were done during the period from



December 3, 2021 to October 31, 2022 at an average cost of ₹455.69.

As per regulatory norms, listed companies are required to inform stock exchanges when their shareholding in a company crosses 5 per cent.

Tata Motors has a market capitalisation of ₹1.38 lakh crore. Stock of LIC closed at ₹605.30 apiece on BSE, up by 0.22 per cent from previous close. Tata Motors scrip ended at ₹421.50, up by 2.16 per cent.

Sebi penalises 9 persons in Bombay Dyeing case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has slapped a penalty totalling Rs 59 lakh on nine persons in a case pertaining to alleged fraudulent scheme of misrepresenting financial statements of Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company Limited. These persons were either members of the audit committee of Bombay Dyeing or CFOs of the company during the violations. They have been asked to pay the fine within 45 days, Sebi said in its order passed on Monday.

The regulator conducted an investigation to ascertain whether the books of accounts of Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company Limited (BDMCL) were manipulated for the financial

years from FY12 to FY19.

The investigation revealed that BDMCL, by entering into various Memoranda of Understanding with its group company Scal Services Limited during FY12 to FY18 and by subsequently recognising revenue on the basis of such MoUs and not consolidating the transactions carried out with Scal, had inflated its sales and profits with respect to its real estate segment during FY12 to FY18 to the tune of ₹2,492.94 crore and ₹1,302.20 crore, respectively.

Sebi noted that because of the failure of these persons to carry out their responsibilities laid down in the LODR Regulations, the revenues and profit of BDMCL were inflated during the period from FY12 to FY18.

IITM Incubation Cell inks pact with SSN iFound

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras Incubation Cell has signed a partnership withN Incubation Foundation (SSN iFound) aimed at supporting budding entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu, the company said on Tuesday.

Through the partnership, IIT-M Incubation Cell would supportN iFound in developing an ecosystem that nurtures a culture of building things and provides incubation support to promising entrepreneurial ventures.

“As a first step in this direction, IITM Incubation Cell will support N iFound in setting up Build Club - a student only run club, and managed by them,” a company statement said here.

Tech Mahindra Q2 net profit falls to ₹1,285 cr

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Tech Mahindra on Tuesday reported a 4 per cent decline in consolidated profit after tax at ₹1,285 crore in the September quarter. The country’s fifth largest IT services exporter had reported a net profit of ₹1,339 crore in the year-ago period.

The company’s overall revenue rose 20.7 per cent to ₹13,129 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal. In the same period a year ago, it stood at ₹10,881 crore, according to a statement.

Tech Mahindra’s Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director C P Gurnani described the market conditions as “evolving” and said that supply side challenges continue. It reported a total contract value of newly signed deals at USD 716 million for the September quarter as against USD 750 million in the year-ago period and USD 802 million in the preceding June quarter.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor wholesales up 6% in Oct

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Tuesday reported a 6 per cent increase in domestic wholesales at 13,143 units in October. The company had sold 12,440 units in the same month last year in the domestic market, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said in a statement.

“Demand continues to grow as we witness strong bookings for the self charging



hybrid electric model - Urban Cruiser Hyryder. The brand-new SUV from Toyota has received a phenomenal response with booking orders exceeding our expectations,” TKM Associate Vice President, Sales, and Strategic Marketing Atul Sood said in a statement.

Honda Cars report 18% rise in wholesales in October

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Honda Cars India on Tuesday reported a 18 per cent increase in domestic wholesales at 9,543 units in October.

The company had dispatched 8,108 units in the domestic market in October last year.

The automaker said it exported 1,678 units last month, as against 1,747



units in the year-ago period.

“This festive season has been remarkable for us as we registered a healthy

growth of 18 per cent in our domestic sales in October.

Our dealer network has been buzzing with activity during this period, witnessing strong demand for all our Honda models,” Honda Cars India Director, Marketing and Sales Yuichi Murata said in a statement.

The improvement on the supply side benefited the automaker to realise this result, he added.

HNG Glass race won by RA rejected by CCI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

According to sources familiar with the matter, the Hindustan National Glass & Industries Ltd (HNG) committee of creditors, led by State Bank of India (SBI), voted in favour of AGI Greenpac Ltd (98% votes) resolution plan despite their application being rejected (INVALID) by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

DBS Bank, HNG’s third largest creditor, dragged HNG into insolvency process and later was admitted into CIRP by the Kolkata NCLT on October 21, 2021.

We're going with do-or-die approach to achieve specific goals: Satwik

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Absolute clarity about goals, frequent mental tune-ups, and taking time off from the game are the primary reasons behind Indian shuttler Satwiksairaj Rankireddy's dream run this season alongside Chirag Shetty.

Satwik and Chirag on Sunday added another crown to their cabinet when they claimed the French Open Super 750 title, becoming the first Indian pair to achieve the feat.

The 22-year-old from Amalapuram, Andhra Pradesh says a well-thought-out plan and adopting a do-or-die approach to achieve specific goals helped them to enjoy the game and attain success.

"In 2019, I was playing every tournament, there was no break. I was also playing both men's and mixed doubles. It was like there is always another tournament, so even if we lose it is okay, but now it is do or die. We want to win whichever tournament we are playing," Satwik told PTI.

"So we are not targeting every tournament, that is something which has changed. We are not playing like robots, we have a proper plan. We know we have to hit this mark, and if we are achieving our goal, then we are done for the year.

"We are pushing ourselves more than 100 per cent in practice. We are focussing mentally a lot on the tournaments. So it's like go, have a podium finish, come back home, take a break and then set fresh goals, so trying to make it a good habit."

SATWIK AND CHIRAG ON SUNDAY ADDED ANOTHER CROWN TO THEIR CABINET WHEN THEY CLAIMED THE FRENCH OPEN SUPER 750 TITLE, BECOMING THE FIRST INDIAN PAIR TO ACHIEVE THE FEAT

Satwik and Chirag have been sensational in 2022 as they claimed two World tour titles -- India Open Super 500 and French Open Super 750 -- clinched the Commonwealth Games gold, anchored India's epic Thomas Cup triumph and also bagged a maiden bronze at the World Championships.

"I prepared mentally a lot. We knew we have to play in the Commonwealth Games. We won, but we are not satisfied, because we know we have the world championships," says Satwik, who is currently competing at the Hylo Open in Germany.

"So prepared our mind in such a way that we have these two big events, so we have to push ourselves, and in the process, even if we get injured, it is fine, we have all year to recover.

"The process has helped us to



enjoy playing these tournaments. In Thomas Cup, we were dancing all the time. So you want that win again and again. Once you are in that race,

you push again and again to get that victory."

The French Open title has revived their chances of qualifying

Sen crashes out of Hylo Open badminton in first round

PTI ■ SAARBRUCKEN

Top Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen suffered a straight-game defeat at the hands of Ng Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong in the men's singles to make a first-round exit from the Hylo Open badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old Sen, a world championships bronze winner and a Commonwealth Games champion, lost 12-21 5-21 in the opening round match that lasted just 27 minutes.

It was a poor show by the seventh-seeded Indian as he was outplayed by his opponent. Sen struggled throughout the match. In the first game, Sen lost the

way after 2-2 and Angus left the Indian far behind to easily take a 1-0 lead.

The second game was even worse for Sen as he allowed Angus to take nine straight points at one stage to pocket the match.

In the mixed doubles, the Indian duo of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto lost 13-21 12-21 to the Chinese pair of Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping in the first round.

Kidambi Srikanth, Sameer Verma, H S Prannoy, Saina Nehwal, Malvika Bansod, the French Open champion duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are among the Indians taking part in the Super 300 tournament.

for the BWF World Tour Final as they jumped four places to the 12th position in the HSBC Race To Guangzhou rankings.

However, with only the top eight qualifying for the season-ending tournament, Satwik and Chirag will also have to put up a stellar show in Germany and Australia to make the cut.

"The win did help in our ranking for the Race to Guangzhou but we still are 8000-9000 points behind the top eight. Our qualification depends on a lot of other factors.

We obviously have to play the finals in Hylo and Australia Open, but the top players also have to lose early," he said.

"We couldn't play seven-eight major events due to injury. After the Thomas and Uber Cup, I had a side strain so we missed the Thailand Open and two events in Indonesia, Malaysia Masters, then Singapore Open, and also one in Japan after the world championships.

"So if we could have played even the first round it would have got us some ranking points."

Satwik said they still need to work on how to switch from defence to attack during the rallies.

"Being an attacking player is no more an advantage as people read you. In France, shuttles were fast, so it was an advantage because we know how to create that attack. But the main problem is when we are in defence, we just keep retrieving, we are trying to solve it.

"Keeping it simple is the key, not thinking much and getting the right length while lifting the shuttle is important, so that opponent can't play the hard smash. We have been practising lifting and we got a lot of points with our defence this time too, so we're progressing well in our defence as well."

While the Indian duo has proved to be a handful for most of the top players, two pairs -- Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik and Indonesia's Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo -- have proved tough customers.

"It has become more of a mental thing. We are not enjoying our game against them. In the world championships, we played 80 per cent of our game, that's why we came close. They are not taking us as a danger and we have to break that. Once we do that, it will change things, it is a matter of time.

"We are on that borderline. It is about confidence. We have to open up the court when we play against these pairs, hopefully, we will break it at the right time," he signed off.



Fritz wins in Paris to remain in hunt for ATP Finals spot

AP ■ PARIS

Taylor Fritz of the United States stayed in contention for one of the two remaining ATP Finals spots by beating Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of Spain 7-5, 6-2 in the first round of the Paris Masters.

The ninth-seeded Fritz rallied from a 4-2 deficit in the opening set and took the second by winning the last four games. Davidovich Fokina made 24 unforced errors to just nine for Fritz.

Carlos Alcaraz, Rafael Nadal, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Casper Ruud, Daniil Medvedev and Novak Djokovic have already qualified for the ATP Finals.

Fritz, Felix Auger-Aliassime, Andrey Rublev and Hubert Hurkacz are in the running to round out the eight-player field.

"It's been the best season ever," Fritz said. "No pressure. I'm just trying to have the best result I possibly can. I played well here last year, so I don't see why I can't do it again this year."

Fritz has won titles in

Tokyo, Eastbourne and Indian Wells this season. He lost to eventual champion Djokovic in the Paris Masters quarter-finals last year.

No. 13 Matteo Berrettini withdrew because of a left foot injury and was replaced by lucky loser Fabio Fognini in the main draw.

Jannik Sinner and Marin Cilic were the only seeded players to get knocked out on Monday.

No. 11 seed Sinner lost to Swiss qualifier Marc-Andrea Huesler 6-2, 6-3, while No. 15 seed Cilic was stunned by coming Italian Lorenzo Musetti 6-4, 6-4.

"I got a bit lucky on some important points," Huesler said, "I made the right decisions in tight moments."

Americans John Isner, Maxime Cressy and Frances Tiafoe also progressed. But compatriot Sebastian Korda lost to Alex de Minaur, with the Australian advancing 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Isner made a winning comeback on his return from a wrist injury by beating qualifier Oscar Otte 6-4, 7-6 (3).

AP ■ FORT WORTH

World number seven Aryna Sabalenka rallied from a set down to beat second-ranked Ons Jabeur on Monday as round-robin play began at the season-ending WTA Finals.

Sabalenka shook off an error-strewn start to beat the Tunisian, a finalist at both Wimbledon and the US Open this year, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas.

"I think it's the biggest win of the season for me," said Sabalenka, who was a semi-finalist in the WTA's season finale last year but has endured a disappointing 2022 campaign.

"She played unbelievable and somehow another miracle happened for me and I was able to win this match."

Sabalenka had to dig deep to improve her record against Jabeur to 3-1.

Jabeur, making her WTA Finals debut, was two points away from victory at 5-3 in the second set tiebreaker, and she had two chances to break for a 5-2 lead in the third.

But Sabalenka held on, breaking Jabeur at love to level the set at 4-4 and capturing the victory when Jabeur netted a forehand on the first match point.

"I didn't feel welcome on this court," Sabalenka said of her early struggles. "I couldn't understand what was happening, the ball was bouncing too slow for me."

"Then in the second set I kind of calmed down and tried to think what I had to do to win this match."

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Shubman Gill celebrated his T20I call-up for the New Zealand tour in style, smashing his maiden century in the format as Punjab defeated Karnataka by nine runs in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy quarter-finals here on Monday.

The opener batted till the last ball of the penultimate over and top-scored with a career-best 126 in Punjab's 225 for four.

In reply, the two-time champions and last season's runners-up put up a fight before being restricted to 216 for six. Punjab will face Himachal Pradesh in the first semi-final at Eden Gardens on Thursday.

Earlier, the 23-year-old Gill, who is all set for a T20I debut in the upcoming New Zealand tour, made a big statement.

Making full use of a reprieve by Karnataka glovesman Luvnith Sisodia on 34, Gill blazed his way to a 30-ball 50, and then completed the century in 49 balls.

Overall, he smashed 11



fours and nine sixes during a knock that was a blend of artistry and aggression.

Veteran Manish Pandey lifted Karnataka from 18/3 with a 29-ball 45, and then, Abhinav Manohar kept them in the

hunt with a 29-ball 62 not out. Manoj Bhandage slammed 25 off 9 balls, while Manohar and Krishnappa Gowtham (30 not out; 14b) brought the equation down to 38 from the last two overs.

But Siddarth Kaul and Harpreet Brar held their nerves to seal a win for Punjab.

DELHI OUT

Delhi fell short by just one run in a tricky chase of 158 to

Gill's maiden T20 ton powers Punjab to SMAT quarters

be knocked out by Vidarbha in a second quarterfinal at the Jadavpur University Second Campus ground in Salt Lake.

It was Yash Thakur who was the architect of their win as he bowled a perfect final over to dismiss Lalit Yadav (17) and Lakhsay Thareja (4) in three balls to swing the match in their favour.

Vidarbha will take on Mumbai in the second semi-final at the Eden.

Chasing 157, Delhi needed 26 off the last two overs and managed 16 off veteran India pacer Umesh Yadav.

In the last over, Thakur bagged two wickets.

Earlier, Dhawan, who was appointed India ODI captain for the New Zealand tour, got off to a brisk start as he along with Himmat Singh (27) put on a 48-run stand.

But Singh became Thakur's first victim, while Dhawan was dismissed by Aditya Sarwate (2/16) in the ninth over as Vidarbha kept on taking wickets at regular intervals.

Vidarbha scored 157 for

five with skipper Ashkay Wadkar leading from the front in a 53-ball 63.

BENGAL CRASH OUT

Bengal suffered a four-wicket loss to Himachal Pradesh in another thrilling last-eight finish. Shahbaz Ahmed top-scored for Bengal in a 32-ball 59 to propel them to 199 for six.

In reply, Himachal's Akash Vasisht slammed an unbeaten 76 off 42 balls, while Nikhil Gangta scored 50 off 37 deliveries to seal a last-ball win.

MUMBAI DOWN SAURASHTRA

Shreyas Iyer top-scored for Mumbai with a 30-ball 40 while Shivam Dube came up with a 25 not out from 13 balls as Mumbai sealed a two-wicket win against Saurashtra.

Prerak Mankad's explosive 25-ball 61, studded with seven fours and three sixes, propelled Saurashtra to 166 for eight.

In reply, Mumbai complete the chase with three balls to spare.

I-League 2022-23 to kick off on November 12

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 2022-23 I-League season will kick off on November 12 at Malappuram, Kerala, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Tuesday.

In the opening match, defending champions Gokulam Kerala FC will face last season's runners-up Mohammedan Sporting.

The last two seasons saw the league being played from within the confines of the bio bubble, as all the matches were played in Kolkata, Kalyani and Naihati in West Bengal.

With the COVID restrictions lifted, all the 12 clubs are set to play in as many as 13 venues across the country. Gokulam Kerala will play six of their home matches at the Payannad Stadium in Malappuram, while the other five will be played at the EMS Stadium in Kozhikode.

Where they have already been play-



ing in the previous campaigns.

The Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar will also make its I-League debut, with Real Kashmir FC shifting to the venue from February onwards.

The Deccan Arena in Hyderabad and the Chhatrasal Stadium in New Delhi will be the other two venues debuting in the

league this season for Sreenidi Deccan FC and Sudeva Delhi FC, respectively.

Meanwhile, the I-League will return to one of its favourite venues with Kenkre FC hosting their home games at the Cooperage in Mumbai. In Delhi, the Ambedkar Stadium will play host to Rajasthan United FC.

Volpato fires Roma past 10-man Verona

AP ■ ROME

Cristian Volpato shot Roma into the top four of Serie A on Monday with a late strike and assist in a 3-1 win at Verona which moved his team above Lazio a week before the Rome derby.

Jose Mourinho's team were level heading into the final two minutes at the Stadio Bentegodi but 18-year-old Volpato met Nemanja Matic's low cross with a perfect first time finish to put the away side ahead.

Australia-born Volpato then ensured Roma would take three points when he slid in Stephan El Shaarawy to net a third in stoppage-time with a perfect through ball.

"The manager called me



up, I hadn't even warmed up or anything. I'm really happy to have come, score and change the match," said a delighted Volpato after his first appearance of the campaign.

Roma are a point ahead of Lazio and Inter Milan in fourth place, with the clash against their local rivals, who will be without Ciro Immobile and suspended Sergei Milinkovic-

Savic, coming up on Sunday.

Nicolo Zaniolo tapped Roma level in first-half stoppage time after Pawel Dawidowicz was sent off for the home side nine minutes before the break.

Dawidowicz was given a straight red card for a bad foul on Zaniolo nine minutes after he had rolled ahead the hosts, who stay in the relegation zone after their seventh defeat in a row.

Mourinho insisted that he was not interested in the Rome derby, a huge event in the Italian capital which traditionally occupies fans for weeks beforehand.

Roma need to beat Ludogorets on Thursday to make the knockout rounds of the Europa League.

INDIA FACE B'DESH IN T20 WC

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Rishabh Pant's flair and chutzpah at the top might be in demand but India could still persist with an out-of-form KL Rahul when it takes on a relatively weaker Bangladesh in the T20 World Cup, here on Wednesday.

Matches against Bangladesh across formats are always like a proverbial banana peel where slipping remains a possibility but India would certainly start favourite in their penultimate Super 12 match.

The rude jolt the famed Indian batting line-up got on the paciest of tracks in Perth would have left the coaching staff, especially coach Rahul Dravid, pondering a few points.

The 22 runs in three matches with flop show against big teams like Pakistan and South Africa has once again raised questions about KL Rahul's big-match temperament and technique against quality attacks.

However, KL Rahul might continue as opener as Dravid has unshakeable faith in the fellow Bengaluru player's ability.

Bangladesh, not the most decorated of T20 sides in this competition due to their mediocre bowling attack, might just be the ideal opposition for Rahul to gain some form.

The attack comprising Mustafizur Rahaman, Taskin Ahmed, Mehidy Hasan Miraj, skipper Shakib al Hasan and Hasan Mahmud is decent but certainly not world class by any standards.

Suryakumar Yadav and Virat Kohli have already played brilliant knocks while Rohit Sharma looked good in his fifty against the Netherlands.

However, Pant's exclusion from the playing XI is pretty baffling as he and Suryakumar Yadav bring that x-factor in the batting line-up.

Dinesh Karthik's back spasms issue might just be a blessing in disguise for the Indian team. It may open up the opportunity for Pant's inclusion in the playing XI for the Bangladesh game.

Bangladesh have four left-handers in their batting line-up, including skipper Shakib, openers Soumya Sarkar and Najmul Hossain Shanto and middle-order batter Afif Hossain Dhrubo and it will be interesting to see if India continue with Ravichandran Ashwin, who was mauled by David Miller in the previous game, or play Axar Patel.

India's attack may not struggle much in dealing with Bangladesh as the troika of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh



and Mohammed Shami holds a distinct edge over rival side's batting line-up.

A few numbers would corroborate how Bangladesh's batters have struggled in this tournament. Out of the two games they have won, one was a thriller against Zimbabwe while they played a close game against the Netherlands.

Despite facing minnows, Shakib's batters have struggled on bowler-friendly Australian pitches.

After three games, opener Shanto is the only batter to have aggregated more than 100 runs and that too at a strike-rate of 125 which isn't commendable at all for an opener.

The second highest run getter is Afif, the middle-order enforcer. A lot will depend on how Afif and Mosaddek Hossain bat towards the back-end but against an Indian attack of this quality, they will be under pressure.

The team that opts to bowl first might make the best use of the famous Adelaide evening twilight when the ball swings a wee bit more than usual.

With three potent swing bowlers, it won't be a bad idea if Rohit Sharma opts to bowls first and try to restrict Bangladesh to a low score.

For Bangladesh, the sharp slump in their only world class player Shakib's form is the reason that they aren't considered a threat for quality teams.

Shakib, who has had his run-ins with the BCB even during the ongoing World Cup, isn't in the best frame of mind and the deterioration in his batting is difficult to fathom.

He is still bowling some restrictive left-arm spin but the bite is no more there and hence it could just be meat and drink for the Indian batters during their duel with the Bangladesh captain.

India have come to win Cup, we haven't: Shakib



PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Shakib Al Hasan has no qualms in admitting that Bangladesh are not title contenders in the T20 World Cup and a win against India will be considered an upset.

Both Bangladesh and India are on four points from three games.

"We haven't come here to win the World Cup, but India have. If we win tomorrow, it will be an upset victory. India are favourites tomorrow," Shakib told reporters on the eve of the game.

The cold conditions in Adelaide does create a problem but the key will

be adaptability.

"It is a little difficult. Hobart was very cold and here it's cold. It is difficult to adjust to this cold but most players have at some point played here. You can't change the weather but we have to manage it," he said.

While Shakib had no hesitation in calling Suryakumar Yadav India's No. 1 batter in T20Is over the past year but he believed Bangladesh will need to concentrate on each and every Indian batter.

"If you aren't good, you won't be playing World Cup for India. It is a phenomenal batting order," he said.

Karthik looks patchy in nets, Dravid says will 'take call tomorrow'

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

His place in the team under the scanner, Dinesh Karthik did a lot of keeping drills during an hour and a half's indoor session at the Adelaide Oval, but didn't look fully fit.

Coach Rahul Dravid said that a call on his participation in the T20 World Cup match against Bangladesh will be taken on Wednesday, the day of the game.

Karthik has scored 1 and 6 in the two games he has batted, and has struggled with back spasms since trying to collect a Hardik Pandya bouncer in the match against South Africa at Perth.

Rishabh Pant didn't train on the day



and normally, players, who have their places assured in the XI, don't come for training on eve of the match.

"Yeah, he's (Karthik) pulled up pret-

ty well today. It was unfortunate he had that spasm when he jumped to collect a bouncer. I think when he landed badly, he landed in a way that I think he just hurt his back a little bit.

"But with treatment and with the day -- this morning he's pulled up pretty well," Dravid told reporters before start of the training session.

"So we'll be assessing it. We'll see how it goes, and we'll see how he pulls up tomorrow morning after a good practice session today.

"We'll put him through his paces and ensure that we've given him a good workout and then see how he pulls up tomorrow morning before making a final decision," the head coach added.

Buttler-inspired England down Kiwis

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Captain Jos Buttler led by example with a scintillating knock before his bowlers held their nerves and powered England to a crucial 20-run win against New Zealand in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

As far as New Zealand were concerned, Glenn Phillips continued his red-hot form to smash a fiery half-century, but that was not enough as England kept their semi-final hopes alive in the competition.

England rode on a solid start by Alex Hales (52; 40 balls) and Buttler (73; 47 balls) to post 179 for six. The openers added 81 runs in 62 balls after England opted to bat. In reply, New Zealand ended at 159 for six.

The win took England past defending champions Australia to second spot.

On a surface that aided a bit of spin, Phillips (62; 36b; 4x4, 3x6) took on England leg-spinner Adil Rashid, smashing him for two successive sixes as New Zealand needed 54 runs from the last four overs.

But the English pace attack made a strong comeback. Mark Wood (3-0-25-1) was superb at the back-end before Sam Curran (2/34) and Chris Woakes (2/34) restricted New Zealand.

Curran took the prized scalp of Phillips in the 18th over, almost sealing the game in his team's favour.

It was the first defeat for the



Group 1 leaders after four matches, and they will face Ireland in their final Super 12 league fixture on Friday.

A rain-marred loss to Ireland, followed by a washout against Australia had left Buttler's side in a spot of bother.

England now have to go past Sri

Lanka in their concluding group match on Saturday to make the last-four.

Coming off a scorching century against Sri Lanka, Phillips made England pay for a dropped chance as the Kiwi No. 4 cruised to a 25-ball half-century in their chase of 180.

It was England's struggling Test

skipper Ben Stokes who triggered the collapse, dismissing Kane Williamson (40; 40b) with a slower ball.

Stokes, who had an injury scare after hurting his index finger, came back and broke Williamson's match-decisive stand with Phillips, after it had yielded 91 runs off 54 balls.

Wood, then, gave away just three

runs and dismissed Jimmy Neesham (6) in an excellent 16th over.

Playing his 100th T20I, Buttler brilliantly seized the initiative with a 35-ball fifty in a knock that also took him past former skipper Eoin Morgan as England's leading run-scorer in T20Is.

Buttler hit seven fours and two sixes while Hales had seven boundaries and one maximum.

Moeen Ali dropped a dolly when Phillips was on 15, but the Kiwi batter overcame the early hiccup and made his intention clear by taking on the Wood, when he whacked him over mid-on for a six.

Fortunately for England, the drop did not cost them much with the pacers sealing a fine win.

Earlier, the Kiwis came back at the death and took four wickets, including that of Buttler off a run out, and conceded just 22 runs in the last three overs.

Tim Southee had a superb penultimate over where he dismissed Harry Brook (7) and Stokes (8) in three balls, something that denied England 10-15 extra runs.

Luck also favoured Buttler who looked a bit edgy early on and got two reprieves, on 8 and 40.

He got his first life inside the powerplay, when his Kiwi counterpart Kane Williamson seemed to have taken a blinder at the covers, only for the ball to spill out of his hands.

We have confidence as we have great players in squad: Jos

PTI ■ BRISBANE

England captain Jos Buttler on Tuesday insisted that his side did not think too much about the shock defeat against Ireland as it knew that it had the confidence, and the squad, to bounce back in the ongoing T20 World Cup.

England kept their semifinal hopes alive with a 20-run win against New Zealand here on Tuesday.

"We didn't think too much about the past poor performance (loss to Ireland), we have great players in the playing XI and in the squad, we had the confidence that showed up today," Buttler said at the post-match presentation.

"We bat deep, I thought the wicket was a little bit tricky, especially against spin and I thought Alex Hales played a fine hand, it's all about partnerships, one day he gets going, some other day it'll be my turn."

Buttler, who was named the Man of the Match for his 47-ball 73, said teams will be under pressure in some ways in such a big tournament.

"It's a ruthless tournament,

last year South Africa went out despite having four wins out of five games. This is a World Cup, there will be pressure and the best teams do thrive under it."

Talking further about the match, he said, "The game was shaped in different ways, facing spin was tough, we wanted to be flexible with both bat and ball - the way Moeen bowled that fantastic first over, he put New Zealand under a lot of pressure."

"Hales played brilliantly, we know what he is capable. You need to be patient in T20 cricket, you need to keep backing guys. It's important to keep pushing them and keep encouraging them."

On going past Eoin Morgan as England's leading run-scorer in men's T20Is, Buttler said, "It's nice at the end of a career when you look back at things on an individual level."

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson admitted that England were the better side on the day. "Credit to the way England played, they put us under pressure. They played beautifully, hats-off to them, they were pretty clinical," Williamson said.

Mithali predicts India-NZ final in T20 World Cup

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mithali Raj has predicted an India-New Zealand final in the ongoing T20 World Cup.

The former India captain's semifinalists include South Africa and either England or defending champions Australia.

"My predictions for semi-final spot, that is four spots will be India and South Africa from Group 2. From Group 1, it will be New Zealand and a toss-up between England and Australia."

And the finalists, there is no doubt, India has to be there, and New Zealand," she told Star Sports.

Mithali made her commentary debut with the India-South Africa clash on Sunday. With two wins in three games, India are placed second in Group 2 behind South Africa.

Want to show I deserve national call-up: Gill

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Excited about his much-anticipated T20 International debut in the upcoming New Zealand series, promising top-order batter Shubman Gill wants to show that he belongs at the top level.

A day after he got a national call-up in India's T20I team for the tour of New Zealand, Gill smashed his maiden century in the format to power Punjab into the semifinals of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here.

"It's an important milestone for me, especially when it has come at the Eden," the former Kolkata Knight Riders batter said after his career-best 55-ball 126.

Punjab won the match against Karnataka by nine runs.

"Especially as an opener when you spend time on the pitch and make runs, it gives a lot of confidence," Gill said.

Reflecting on his selection for the

T20Is, Gill said: "It is a good feeling to get selected for the Indian team in any format. Now I have to show that I deserve this chance."

Gill mastered the conditions at Eden Gardens and toyed with the Karnataka attack after getting a reprieve on 34.

"On this pitch, you find seam movement early on during the powerplay. Later, it becomes easier to bat."

"I made a mistake in the previous match and went for a big shot instead of waiting for the right time. So, I wanted to take my time. Feels good to have executed the plan well," he added.

Even as India struggle with K L Rahul's indifferent form in the ongoing T20 World Cup, the 23-year-old Gill has been in great nick, having scored a maiden international century -- 130 -- in an ODI against Zimbabwe recently.

He was also in superb form in county cricket and scored his first century there for Glamorgan.

Hasaranga, Dhananjaya keep SL's semis hopes alive

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Wanindu Hasaranga led an inspired bowling effort before Dhananjaya de Silva hit a fine fifty as Sri Lanka kept their semifinals hopes alive with a six-wicket win over Afghanistan in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

Mystery spinner Hasaranga (3/13) and pacer Lahiru Kumara (2/30) shared five wickets among themselves to restrict Afghanistan to 144 for 8.

Dhananjaya then took control of the Sri Lankan innings with a strokeful unbeaten 66 off 42 balls as the reigning Asia Cup champions crossed the line with nine balls to spare.

With the win, Sri Lanka climb up to the third spot in group 1.

Afghanistan, on the other hand, dropped out of semifinal contention.

Defending a modest total, Sri



Lanka started off well but Mujeeb ur Rahman (2/24) produced a leading edge to mark the end of

Pathum Nissanka (10) putting the Sri Lankans under pressure. Fazalhaq Farooqi (1/22) bowled

a maiden in the following over to tighten the screws.

However, Kusal Mendis (25) hit back-to-back boundaries in the next over, both over mid-wicket as Sri Lanka dallied to 28 for 1 in the Powerplay.

Rashid Khan (2/31) struck in his first over as Mendis went for a premeditated sweep but top-edged for the keeper to catch it.

While the Afghans tried to build pressure by bowling dots, Sri Lanka continued to score at a healthy rate, milking boundaries and sixes every now and then.

Together with Charith Asalanka (19), Dhananjaya stitched a 54-run stand followed by a 42-run partnership with Bhanuka Rajapaksa (18) to take Sri Lanka to victory.

Earlier, while the Afghans were able to stitch a few partnerships at the top, Sri Lanka did well to strike at regular intervals.