

**WORLD 5**5 INDIAN-AMERICANS IN  
RACE FOR US CONG**MONEY 6**SIX MN TONS SUGAR EXPORT  
ON QUOTA BASIS TILL MAY 31**SPORT 8**ENG BEAT LANKA, MAKE SEMIS  
AT COST OF HOSTS AUSTRALIA

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4



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## ‘Quit Guj, will free Sisodia, Jain’, BJP offered: Kejriwal

AAP chief refuses to name person: ‘How can I name one of my own. Offer came via them’



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal during a roadshow in Kutch district

PTI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday claimed the BJP had offered to spare Ministers Manish Sisodia and Satyendra Jain, who are being investigated by Central agencies, if his party withdrew from the Gujarat polls. At the same time, Kejriwal asserted that the Congress will get less than five seats in Gujarat.

Speaking at a media conclave in the national Capital, Kejriwal alleged the BJP had reached out to his deputy Sisodia, persuading and luring him to join the BJP. “After Manish Sisodia rejected their offer to be Delhi Chief Minister by leaving the AAP, they have approached me now... they

have said if you leave Gujarat and don’t contest there, we will spare both Jain and Sisodia and drop all charges against them,” he alleged.

When asked to name who made the offer, Kejriwal said, “How can I name one of my own... the offer has come through them. They (BJP) never approach directly. They go from one to another, to another, to another, to a friend, and then the message reaches you.” He said the BJP was doing all this as it was scared of losing Gujarat and MCD.

Sisodia and Jain are under investigation by Central agencies. While Sisodia is an accused in the Delhi Excise Policy case, Jain is accused in a money laundering case.

Continued on Page 2

## Vote BJP for progress, Modi asks HP voters

PTI ■ SUNDERNAGAR (HP)

Urging people of Himachal Pradesh not to repeat the “mistake” of changing the Government every five years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said taking different “medicine” every week will not help cure the disease and they need to stick to the BJP to bring stability and development in the hill State.

If you elect people here who stall development works, nothing will be possible, no matter how much I will try, he

said addressing an election rally in Mandi district.

“Changing medicines frequently does not help in curing an ailment. You have to stick to one medicine for a long period to gauge its effectiveness... Taking different medicine every week will not help anyone. Himachal Pradesh has made the same mistake,” he said, adding if the voters want accountability and answers from the Government, they should give BJP another opportunity.

Continued on Page 2

## Azaad Bharat’s first voter dies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Independent India’s first voter Shyam Saran Negi passed away at the age of 106 early Saturday morning. Negi, a resident of Himachal Pradesh’s Kinnaur, had cast his last vote (postal ballot) only on November 2 for the upcoming Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections. The PM said he fulfilled his duty before he died.

## Mainpuri, Rampur bypolls on Dec 5

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bypolls in Mainpuri and Rampur will be held on December 5 and counting of votes will take place on December 8. Mainpuri seat got vacant due to the death of Mulayam Singh Yadav while Rampur seat got vacant after Azam Khan was disqualified after a court sentenced him to prison.

## Kejriwal took ₹50 cr from me to offer RS seat, alleges Sukesh

**AAP refutes charge, alleges conman-BJP deal to defame CM**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Jailed conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar on Saturday once again triggered a flutter in the political circles with a second letter from jail addressed to the media in which he has accused Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of receiving ₹50 crore in lieu of a Rajya Sabha seat to him.

The BJP demanded a probe

in the issue and asked Kejriwal to come clean on it; on the other side, the AAP accused BJP of having struck a deal with the conman to target the CM on daily basis in return of setting him free from jail.

“Mr Kejriwal, I am the country’s ‘biggest thug’ according to you. Then why did you receive ₹50 crore from me and offer me Rajya Sabha seat? What does that make you—maha thug?” Sukesh wrote in the letter which was released through his lawyer in the social media.

Sukesh piled a set of questions to Kejriwal in the letter.

Continued on Page 2

## Putin now praises people of India as ‘talented, driven’

PNS I AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI | MOSCOW

A few days after praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership and calling him a “true patriot”, Russian President Vladimir Putin has lauded the people of India terming them “talented” and “driven”. He also said India will achieve its goals of development. This high praise from Putin came a week after he paid glowing tributes to Modi and praised him for following an independent foreign policy in the interest of India.

Incidentally, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will meet his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on Monday during his two-day visit.

Detailed Report on P4

## Riot conspiracy charges slapped on ex-AAP leader

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday framed charges against former AAP leader Tahir Hussain for attempt to murder and criminal conspiracy in a case related to the 2020 riots in Northeast Delhi. The court was hearing a case on the basis of a statement by complainant Ajay Goswami, who suffered a bullet injury during the riots at Main Karawal Nagar Road on February 25, 2020.

Detailed Report on P3

## Divert vehicles away, Delhi Min urges UP, Haryana CMs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the air quality index in Delhi continues to be “severe” for the past three days, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Saturday appealed to the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to take steps to divert trucks carrying non-essential goods to peripheral expressways to avoid traffic jams at Delhi’s borders.

“Stage IV of GRAP has already been invoked with immediate effect from

November 3... Mandating the NCR and Delhi authorities to ensure that trucks carrying non-essential items should not be allowed to enter Delhi till further date as deemed necessary,” Rai said in a letter to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

The Noida Traffic Police, for its part, announced restrictions on the entry of certain vehicles, including private ones, into Delhi from its borders.

Continued on Page 2

## CAPSULE

### WOMAN DUBBED WITCH, BURNT ALIVE IN BIHAR

**Gaya:** A woman belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) community was burnt alive at her home after locals declared her a witch in Gaya district of Bihar on Saturday evening. Nine women were arrested after a case was filed.

### US STRIKES AL-SHABAB EXTREMISTS IN SOMALIA

**Mogadishu:** The United States military says it has carried out an airstrike in support of the Somali Government’s operations against the al-Shabab extremist group that has killed some of the group’s fighters.

### CHHATTISGARH LOGS 12 COVID CASES, 1 DEATH

**Raipur:** Chhattisgarh on Saturday reported 12 Covid-19 cases at a positivity rate of 0.47 per cent, taking the tally to 11,77,619, while the death toll increased by one to reach 14,144, an official said.

### CHARGESHEET AGAINST DAWOOD, CHHOTA SHAKEEL

**New Delhi:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday filed a chargesheet against fugitive don Dawood Ibrahim, his close aide Chhota Shakeel and three arrested persons in a special court in Mumbai, an official said.

### VERDICT ON 10 PER CENT EWS QUOTA TOMORROW

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its judgment on a batch of pleas challenging the validity of the 103rd Constitution amendment providing 10 per cent reservation to economically weaker sections (EWS) persons in admissions and Government jobs on Monday.

॥ श्रमेण लभ्यं सकलं न श्रमेण विना क्वचित् ॥

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# Mistry death: Dr Pandole booked for rash driving

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Dr Anahita Darius Pandole, a gynaecologist at Breach Candy hospital in south Mumbai, was booked by the Palghar police on charges of “negligence” in connection with a car mishap on Ahmedabad-Mumbai Highway, in which Industrialist, Tata Group’s former chairman and head of Shapoorji Pallonji Group Cyrus P Mistry died on September 4.

Dr Anahita was at the wheels of Mercedes Benz car when the vehicle — in which Cyrus and three others were travelling — rammed into a divider in the neighbouring Palghar district in Maharashtra.

Dr Ahahita was booked by the Kasa police in Palghar district under sections 304 A (causing death by negligence), 279 (rash driving), 336 (act



endangering life or personal safety of others) and relevant sections of the Motor Vehicle Act. Mistry and three others were returning Ahmedabad to Mumbai when their car hit a divider on a bridge near Charoti naka in Palghar district, at around 3.15 pm on that day. While Cyrus Mistry and his co-passenger Jahangir Pandole died on the spot, Anahita and her husband Darius Pandole sustained grievous injuries in the car crash. The two injured Pandoles were admitted to a nearby hospital. Dr Anahita, a

gynaecologist at Breach Candy hospital in south Mumbai, was driving the car, when the mishap occurred.

The investigations have revealed that Anahita, who was at the wheel, was allegedly “speeding the car in a rash and mindless manner, attempted to overtake another vehicle, and banged into the road divider” causing the deadly mishap.

The investigators have prima facie revealed that the Mercedes car involved in the mishap was “over-speeding”, that both Mistry and Pandole were not wearing seat belts and that the error of judgement on the part of the driver led to the accident. The footage from the CCTV cameras installed at a checkpoint in the neighbourhood of the mishap site showed that the Mercedes GLC Sports Utility Vehicle, in which Mistry and others were travelling towards a check post

twenty minutes prior to the mishap and that it had covered a distance of 20 km in just nine minutes after crossing the Charoti check post.

Both the deceased Mistry and Jahangir, who were sitting on the backseats, were not wearing seats at the time of mishap. “The curtain airbags did not open for Mistry and Jahangir as they both were not wearing the seat belts,” a senior police official said.

The police said that Anahita, who was behind the wheels, might have lost control of her vehicle, while overtaking another vehicle at a high speed, from the wrong side, and hit the road divider. “Apart from over-speeding of the vehicle and the error of judgement on the part of the driver might have resulted in the mishap. In addition, the deceased were not wearing seat belts,” a police officer said.

# Indian Army top brass to review op readiness to meet any threats

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

As the troops from India and China have disengaged from the last stand-off site in Ladakh, the Indian Army top brass next week will review operational readiness to meet any threat. The commanders will also take stock of the security situation in the neighbourhood including Pakistan.

The five-day Army Commanders’ Conference (ACC) here will commence Monday and Defence Minister Rainath Singh is scheduled to address the meet on November 10.

The conference, which is an institutional platform for conceptual level deliberations culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army, is held twice a year.

The forthcoming conference assumes importance in the backdrop of

China and India withdrawing their troops from Hot-Springs-Gogra (Patrolling Point-15) in eastern Ladakh in mid-September.

However, the forward deployment by the Indian and Chinese armies continue for the second year in succession since the first stand-off took place in May 2020 at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

This issue is likely to figure prominently during the commanders’ meet attended by senior officers of the Indian Army including the Chief of Staff, all Army Commanders and other senior officers. It is also a formal forum for the senior leadership of the Indian Army to interact with the senior officials of the Department of Military Affairs and Department of Defence.

During the course of the conference, the apex leadership of Indian Army will brainstorm on current and emerging security and administrative



aspects to chart the future course for the Indian Army, official said here on Saturday.

Discussions pertaining to transformational imperatives for a future-ready force, progress on capability development and modernisation, a framework for enhanced operational effectiveness of the Indian Army, changes being incorporated to promote Atmanirbharta, implementation of the new Human Resource management policy and future challenges to progressive military training

will form part of the deliberations.

Other activities planned during the conference also include talks by eminent subject experts on “Contemporary India - China relations” as well as “Technological Challenges for National Security”.

The Chief of Defence Staff and the Chiefs of the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force are also scheduled to address the senior leadership of the Indian Army on avenues for promoting tri-service synergy.

# Thakur takes dig at Cong, says party itself has ‘no guarantee’

**PTI ■ SHIMLA**

Union minister and BJP leader Anurag Thakur Saturday took a swipe at the Congress over the promises made in its Himachal Pradesh poll manifesto, claiming no one will take its guarantees seriously as the opposition party itself has “no guarantee”.

Addressing a series of election meetings in the poll-bound state, Thakur reminded the people of various promises made by the Congress in the past, claiming they remained unfulfilled.



In 2003, Thakur said, Congress had made people fill out forms promising employment for one person in each family. “Did you get the job? No, you did not,” he said. He claimed that in 2012 again it promised

unemployment allowance, but never delivered. “Neither did they provide jobs nor unemployment allowance,” he said in his public meetings at Chintpurni and Nadaun assembly segments.

Himachal Pradesh goes for polls on November 12.

Thakur said the farmers ensured the Congress is wiped out in neighbouring Punjab after it failed to fulfil the promise of a loan waiver for the farming community.

Revising the old pension scheme, 300 units of free power, a Rs 680-crore StartUp

fund, one lakh jobs and Rs 1,500 per month for women between 18 to 60 years are among the promises the Congress made in its manifesto for the Himachal Pradesh polls on Saturday.

Continuing his attack on Congress, Thakur, the Hamirpur MP, said the party has no leadership, intent or policies.

He alleged that in 12 districts, as many people are claiming to be the contender for the chief minister’s post. They want to win their seat so that they can become the chief

minister, the BJP MP claimed.

The Congress has said that it is contesting the state election under a collective leadership and will decide on the chief ministerial candidate after discussion with elected MLAs and the party’s high command.

During his election meetings, Thakur also hit out at the Congress for the alleged acts of corruption during its 10-year rule at the Centre, including the 2G scam, the coal scam, the AgustaWestland VVIP helicopter scam and the one related to the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

# India’s youngest Mayor brings disrepute to CPM

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

Arya Rajendran, who hogged the national limelight on December 25, 2020 when she was nominated as the mayor of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Council, has brought disrepute to the CPI(M), her party. A letter allegedly sent by Arya Rajendran, the youngest mayor in the country, to the Thiruvananthapuram district secretary of the CPI(M) found its way to the media on Saturday morning and this has rocked Kerala politics.

Arya, who was just 21 years of age when she was sworn in as the mayor of the corporation council, has asked Aanavoor Nagappan Nair, the high profile party district secretary to forward her names of 295 persons from the CPI(M) to be appointed in vacancies falling under the Corporation. The letter which begins with the CPI(M)’s traditional salutation “Dear Comrade,” carries with it details of the vacancies, pay scale and the offices to which the party workers would be appointed. Though the initial appointments would be on temporary basis, it will soon be regularized, assures the mayor in her letter.

The letter leaked out to the media by insiders of the CPI(M) brought the functioning of the Corporation



Council to a grinding halt as the opposition BJP and the Congress vied with each other to steal the thunder. Workers belonging to both the parties gategashed into the Corporation office and staged a dharna in front of the Mayor’s chamber.

But Mayor Arya Rajendran, who had recently married a CPI(M) MLA was not in her office as the couple was away in New Delhi to protest against the failure of the Narendra Modi Government to provide jobs to the millions of youth in India.

Even as the report about the Mayor’s letter mailed on 1 November 2022 was spreading like a wildfire in the State, another letter written by D R Anil Kumar, a counselor in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation too surfaced in the social media. The counselor had asked Nagappan Nair to nominate nine persons to be appointed as caretakers and managers in a guest house built with Centre’s fund as SAT Hospital in the capital city.

This prompted V D Satheshan, Leader of the Opposition to convene a media meet and lambast the LDF Government. “What more evidence we need to substantiate our charge that Kerala was undergoing the worst ever corruption phase in its history? It is the CPI(M) leaders who act as employment officers in the State. While the CPI(M) leaders stage demonstrations in New Delhi demanding jobs for the millions, they are selling jobs in Kerala. Only relatives and associates of CPI(M) would be appointed to these posts. It is cell rule,” said Satheshan. He said the Pinarayi Vijayan Government was subverting the list of candidates selected by the Kerala Public Service Commission for the jobs and appointing party cadres to the vacancies.

Rahul Maankootathil, Youth Congress state secretary, described Arya Rajendran as the youngest corrupt leader in the party. The BJP has written to the director of vigilance asking for a probe into the appointments made by Arya Rajendran during her two year tenure as mayor. Deputy Mayor Raju said that the letter was fake as Arya Rajendran was away in New Delhi on the day she reportedly wrote it. But Nagappan Nair remained non-committal on the authenticity of the letter.

# ‘Quit Guj, will free Sisodia, Jain’...

**From Page 1**  
Both are under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED). Earlier, the AAP had claimed that the BJP had offered Sisodia the CM post and the suppression of all cases against him if he joined the BJP.

Mocking the Congress, Kejriwal said that nobody took the grand old party seriously. “The people of Gujarat need change. If people did not want change, we would not have got any space. We are getting a 30 per cent vote share. We formed a government in Punjab. There is something different in Gujarat as well,” he said.


“In Gujarat, the Congress will win less than 5 seats. We are number two,” Kejriwal said and asked who takes

Congress seriously. He, however, did not predict BJP’s tally.

Kejriwal on Saturday took out two roadshows in Gandhidham and Anjar in Gujarat where he appealed to give just one chance to the AAP.

Kejriwal again reiterated his commitment that from March 1 onwards, “you won’t need to pay your electricity bills; AAP government will take care of it”. He also promised that be it a crocin or a cancer treatment, everyone’s healthcare will be free.

The AAP contesting Gujarat elections has made it a tri-cornered contest. While retaining PM Modi’s home State Gujarat is an issue of prestige for the BJP, the Congress could suffer a body blow if the AAP outshines it.



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				10.11.2022 at 10.00 A.M.	24.11.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.

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“Remember the time when BJP governments ruled at the Centre and in HP earlier, development works were carried out at a fast pace”.

He said because of some people with “wrong thinking”, the practice of “paanch iske, paanch uske” (five years to one and five years to another) came and development work suffered as the leaders thought they will not retain power after five years.

Modi said after his government came to power in 2014, he wanted all-round development of HP, but at that time the Congress was ruling the state and accused it of creating hurdles in the implementation of central schemes.

“I used to send schemes and funds from Delhi, they used to create hurdles in the same,” said Modi, citing PM Awas Yojana (Urban).

From 2014 to 2017, only 15 houses were built in the state, he stated. During the BJP-led regime in HP, the work on building 10,000 houses was going on and out of them, 8,000 have been built, he said.

“Now you decide whether you want the government

which built 15 houses or the government which built 8,000 houses,” he added, “We are committed to working for you”.

He said after the BJP came to power in 2017, unprecedented development work was carried out in HP and added people have made up their mind to bring back the incumbent BJP to power.

“..Every single vote which will be cast on November 12 will define the development journey of HP for the next 25 years,” Modi said.

He accused the Congress of not fulfilling even a single promise they had made in the election manifesto made in 2012, saying they never even opened the document. He also referred to the promise of abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir and the building Ram Temple. “Did we not fulfill the promise of abrogation of 370? We had promised Ram Temple. Today Ram Mandir is being built,” he said.

He attacked the Congress over the One Rank One Pension, saying despite remaining in power at the Centre for several years, the Congress never implemented it.

# Will bring law to stop seizure for kisan assets over delay in servicing loan: CM Bommai

**PTI ■ BENGALURU**

The Karnataka government will introduce a law to stop the confiscation or auction of farmers’ property over any delay or non-payment of loan taken for agricultural purposes, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Saturday.

Speaking at the concluding session of Krishi Mela and distribution of awards to farmers at the Gandhi Krishi Vignan Kendra (GKVK) campus here, he said in case of non-payment of agricultural loan, farmers must be given more time for repayment instead of confiscating or auctioning their property.

Necessary instructions have already been given to the Department of Cooperation and other departments. As a result the departments are responding to the plight of farmers, he said.



# G'gram Chintels Paradiso Tower to be razed after slab cave-in



**PARVESH SHARMA ■**  
GURUGRAM

Based on a report by IIT Delhi, Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav has given a demolition order for Tower-D having 50 flats of Chintels Paradiso condominium in Sector 109 of Gurugram in the line of Noida twin towers on Saturday. On February 10, 2022, two persons lost their lives after a slab of 6th floor of Tower D collapsed partially during repair work. Following the incident, the State Government formed a committee to probe the matter, and a structural audit of the building was also ordered. A committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Vishram Kumar Meena who was probing the matter. "The team from IIT Delhi has found structural lapses in the construction of this

tower, whose repair is not possible on technical and economic grounds, Therefore, the tower should completely be demolished," Yadav told reporters. "An attempt was made to cover up the structural deficiencies found in Tower-D by painting the rusted bars due to low-quality construction material and chlorine in the water," Yadav said. Apart from this, Yadav said, reports of structural safety complaints from 16 different housing societies in the district will also come by November 15, after which a decision will be taken about them". "The investigation report of IIT Delhi has been submitted in which it had found that there were structural defects in the Tower-D of Chintels Paradiso. Low-level concrete was used in the construction of the building, which is not possible to repair on technical and economic grounds. The committee found

that the steelwork and reinforcement work in the building had been painted to hide the rust. Along with this, the work of retrofitting of the flat on the sixth floor of Tower-D was also not being done without monitoring and as per the prescribed norms. For this, the responsibility of Chintels Paradiso Company and Manish Switch Gear Pvt Ltd has been fixed," he added. He also informed that the team of IIT Delhi has also recommended that the process of demolition should be started by closing Tower-D. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner said that the detailed report of the Administrative Committee constituted under the chairmanship of ADC Meena is also expected to be submitted by Monday. After that, the district administration will take further action in this regard. He said that based

on the investigation report of IIT Delhi, orders will be given to the developer to settle the claim with the allottees of Tower-D. There will be three options in front of the allottees. The builder or the developer, in coordination with the allottees of Tower-D at his level, will settle the claim at his level within the stipulated period and will give this information in writing to the district administration. Under another option, for the convenience of the allottees, two independent evaluators would be engaged, who would assess the current prices of flats etc. and give their reports. Thereafter, it will be mandatory for the developer to accept the price decided by the evaluator and that amount will be given to the allottee. If the allottees are not satisfied even after this, then they can go to court and seek relief. Similarly, the process of structural audit is

going on in Tower-E and Tower-F of the same society and its report will come soon. Till then, by vacating these two towers, the builder has to enter into a rent agreement with their flat owners. Apart from this, the Deputy Commissioner said that complaints were received from 70 different societies related to structural audit in the district, out of which 16 societies were selected for structural audit in the first phase. Apart from agency for structural audit in these societies, builder's representatives and members of RWAs have also been included so that fair investigation can be done. "The reports of 16 societies will be submitted by November 15. In societies, the responsibility was entrusted to listing two agencies for structural audit, which will tell in their report whether this society is safe to live in or not," he said.

## 2020 riots: Conspiracy charges framed against Tahir Hussain

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi court on Saturday framed charges against former AAP leader Tahir Hussain for attempt to murder and criminal conspiracy in a case related to the 2020 riots in northeast Delhi.

The court was hearing a case on the basis of a statement by complainant Ajay Goswami, who suffered a bullet injury during the riots at Main Karawal Nagar Road on February 25, 2020.

"I find all accused persons liable to be tried for the offences punishable under sections 307 (attempt to murder), read with 120 B (criminal conspiracy) and 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) of the Indian Penal Code," Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala said. Eight persons, including Hussain, have been charged. The judge also said six of the accused — Tahir Hussain, Shah Alam, Nazim, Kasim, Riyasat and



Liyakat — were liable to be tried under Section 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as they were "instigating others to teach a lesson to (the) Hindus". The court discharged two accused, Gulfam and Tanvir, for the offence under Section 505, saying there was no evidence to show that they also instigated others. The court said the presence of the accused persons among the riotous mob was established by the statements of several witnesses. "It can be said that this mob acted out of a criminal conspiracy, and hence, all (eight) accused are liable to be tried for hatching a criminal conspira-

cy to indulge in the riot and kill Hindus and harm properties of Hindus and consequent to such conspiracy firing and causing gunshot injury to Ajay Goswami," the court said. The court further said "all accused indulged into targeting Hindus and their such acts were apparently prejudicial to the harmony between the community of Muslims and Hindus and they disturbed the public tranquillity as well". Saying that the description of the specific role of every accused was not required, the court further said "participating and being a member of the mob, being conscious of its objectives, is sufficient to make all accused liable for the deeds of the mob". The court also noted that for the same criminal conspiracy and acts resulting in the various offences, which were common for several incidents of injuries to different persons, charges were already framed under the IPC and the Arms Act in a separate FIR in the same police station.

## AAP, BJP spar over conman's claims

**Sukesh calls Delhi CM 'maha thug'**

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The AAP and the BJP sparred over jailed conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar's another letter accusing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and called him "Maha Thug". AAP leaders hit out at the BJP saying that the party was using conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar as the brand ambassador for its poll campaign in Gujarat Assembly polls and Delhi MCD elections. Twitter was also trending # "SukeshChandrasekharJoinBJP" on Saturday. While the BJP leaders lashed out at the AAP saying the conman has exposed the Kejriwal and demanded sacking of conman's friends Satyendar Jain and Kailash Gehlot because the letter written by Sukesh has made it clear that Satyendar Jain had started running his own corruption shop from the jail itself.

AAP leader and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday alleged that the BJP had struck a deal with the "conman sitting in Tihar". He will level absurd allegations against Kejriwal every day and in return, the BJP will help him in the case, he tweeted. The Delhi Deputy Chief Minister said that the BJP "was scared ahead of the Assembly elections in Gujarat and the civic polls in Delhi." "Fearing a catastrophic defeat in MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) and Gujarat, (the) BJP has locked a deal with a thug lodged in Tihar - he will make absurd allegations against (Arvind) Kejriwal ji everyday and in return. The BJP will help him in his case," Sisodia tweeted in Hindi - without naming Sukesh Chandrasekhar - but did not stop there. "I have heard that JP Nadda ji will get him inducted into the BJP next," Sisodia further added. AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said that Gujarat-BJP elections are pushing BJP into a zone of extreme fear.



"They are piggybacking on a conman like Sukesh Chandrasekhar for mileage. Sukesh Chandrasekhar has become BJP's star campaigner. BJP is fighting these elections with his support," Bharadwaj said. Bharadwaj claimed Chandrasekhar took ₹215 crore from Ranbaxy owners in the name of Home Minister Amit Shah, according to an official statement by the Delhi Government. In a separate press conference, AAP leader Atishi alleged that after using central agencies against the AAP, the BJP was now using the services of a conman. The BJP also launched a fresh attack on the AAP after conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar alleged that he was forced to bring "over 20



people to contribute ₹500 crore towards his party" and also demanded the resignation of party convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Latching onto Chandrasekhar's allegations, BJP National Spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala asked Kejriwal if he had met the conman "at the farmhouse of his minister Kailash Gehlot" and sought to know what discussions were held. Poonawala also said the AAP would win a gold medal if there was one for corruption. He also accused it of playing the victim card in the face of corruption charges. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "This letter exposes Arvind Kejriwal as a maha



(great) thug who conned (the) conman and has cheated his every friend." Echoing a similar sentiment, BJP MP Gautam Gambhir said, "After cheating the people of Delhi by polluting the clean air, now the biggest thug (Kejriwal) is cheating the conman." Bidhuri has said that the letters of Sukesh are telling that the Kejriwal Government is working like a mafia in Tihar Jail and Satyendar Jain is taking full advantage of his position. "Was there a meeting with Sukesh at Hotel Hyatt? Was it a telephonic conversation? Did Satyendar Jain take 50 crore in Kailash Gehlot's farm house? The charges made by the conman against Kejriwal and Jain, should be investigated," Leader of Opposition, Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said.

## BJP, Cong launch fresh salvos at Kejriwal over air pollution

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

As Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is busy campaigning in Gujarat, the BJP and the Congress on Saturday launched a fresh attack on worsening air pollution in the national Capital. BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga put up a poster outside the BJP headquarters in Delhi, comparing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to Adolf Hitler. "Kejriwal is the second ruler who converted his city into a gas chamber, Hitler was first," the poster said while the Delhi Congress launched a campaign 'Pollution on, Kejriwal gone' at ITO. Lashing out at the AAP over the pollution, Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana alleged that despite repeated reminders by BJP, the Kejriwal



Government did not take any concrete steps regarding pollution and today the situation is such that Chief Minister Kejriwal has made Delhi a gas chamber. "The AQI level of air in Delhi has crossed 550 and such air is not only poisonous but also deadly especially for children," he said. While informing about the RTI, Khurana said that it has revealed that the Kejriwal government bought Bio-decomposer solution from Pusa



Institute for Rs.3.79 lakh within two years and then spent Rs.64.12 lakh for spraying it, whereas only tractors and tents were used on rent for spraying. "Rs 23.27 crore was spent on advertising by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to make his face shine. This information has come through a reply

burning there by 34 percent? Delhi Congress has launched "Pollution On, Kejriwal Gone" campaign at the ITO. Speaking at the campaign, Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that Kejriwal had been away from Delhi for 53 days in the past year for his political aggrandizement and civic infrastructure in the Capital has collapsed due to his negligence. Kumar said that for the past 8 years, Kejriwal only made hollow promises without taking any concrete steps to controlling air pollution. "Congress Government had made Delhi green and clean, and air pollution stemmed with introduction of CNG fuel in public transport, but BJP and AAP found time only for making charges and counter-charges without addressing the Capital's issues," Kumar added.

## AAP accuses L-G of misusing powers

**Dare Saxena to fight MCD elections**

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Aam Admi Party (AAP) on Saturday accused Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena of "misusing his powers" and said "he should fight the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections" instead. The Delhi Government and the L-G have been at loggerheads over several issues. AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said, "Since there is a change in the MCD wards and there are 250 wards now, even we have a proposal. We want the L-G to fight the forthcoming municipal elections in Delhi." "He has been misusing his powers in the national Capital.



Let's see whether the citizens support him or not," Pathak said. Criticising the L-G, another AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj challenged Saxena to pick any ward out of the 250 and he'll get to know how much the public is against him. Bhardwaj said that the L-G can select any one seat amongst the 250 wards that will go to polls in the MCD election on December 4 and fight a direct battle against the party, instead of indirectly trying to attack the elected Government of Delhi every other day. "L-G keeps calling meet-

ings over the elected Government's projects to fulfil his desire of getting media coverage everyday. "If the LG loses the election then he must end the drama and submit his resignation. LG must drop his unconstitutional attitude of misusing power without any accountability or responsibility," Bhardwaj stated. "Every other day Saxena, writes baseless letters to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal or to Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Mann, or he tries to interfere in the works of the Delhi Government by chairing meetings of departments that do not directly come under his jurisdiction," he said. "This is our humble request to LG and since nomination process for MCD elections begins on November 7, we urge him to file his nomination from any ward of city and then face Aam Aadmi Party in a direct battle," Bhardwaj added.

## Non-consensual sex with wife aged 15-18 years will amount to rape, LG sends proposal to MHA

New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena has sent a proposal to the Home Ministry recommending that non-consensual sex with wife aged between 15 to 18 years will amount to rape and punishable under Indian Penal Code. It will also remove the discrepancy between the POCOS Act, which is applicable to offences against anyone up till 18 years and the prevailing provisions of the IPC. "Saxena has sent a proposal to the MHA recommending striking down of Exception 2 of Section 375 of Indian Penal Code (IPC), that provides if a girl child between 15 and 18 years is married, her husband can have non-consensual sexual intercourse with her, without being penalised under IPC," sources said. "If recommendation is incorporated and IPC amended, non-consensual sex with a wife between 15

to 18 years will amount to rape and will be punishable under IPC. It will also remove the discrepancy between Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, which is applicable to offences against anyone up till 18 years and the prevailing provisions of the IPC," they added. The proposal to this effect was moved by the Delhi Police and Law Department in response to a letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Home Ministry had asked for the city Government's opinion on the subject in light of a Writ Petition in the Delhi High Court, challenging the validity of Exception 2 of Section 375 of IPC on the grounds that it violates Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution and is also not in harmony with the provisions of POCOS Act, which defines a child to be a person below age of 18 years.

## Education Model in Delhi is visible only in advertisements: BJP

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri has slammed the Kejriwal Government for the city's schools falling behind in the National Performance Grading Index of Education saying that the capital has been ranked eighth. Bidhuri has said that the AAP Government, which has been beating the drums of the 'Kejriwal Model' all over the world, has been exposed again. The reforms made in the field of education are visible only in publicity, on the ground, Delhi is lagging behind in education. The BJP has already been saying that the model of education in Delhi is visible only in adver-

tisements and not in reality. This is the reason that when grading at the national level has been announced, the city schools have come at number eight, whereas Kejriwal and his party have been pretending to revolutionize education in Delhi, said Bidhuri. "In fact, the number of students in Delhi schools has come down. Some school buildings have been shined and are claimed of improved quality of education and this has been given the name of Kejriwal model. AAP has been terming the entire country's education model as substandard, but this grading has again proved that the conduct of Kejriwal and the party is nothing more than an empty vessels which is making much noise only," he added.

## Liquor scam case: ED grills Sisodia's PA for money laundering

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday questioned Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's Personal Assistant in connection with its money laundering probe into alleged irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the now scrapped excise policy. The agency questioned Devendra Sharma and recorded his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), officials said. In a tweet, Sisodia claimed the ED foisted a "false" case against him after which it raided his PA's house and "arrested" him.

The ED has conducted multiple raids in this case so far. In September, it arrested Sameer Mahandru, Managing Director of a liquor manufacturing company Indospirit. The PMLA case stems from a CBI FIR that had named Sisodia as the prime accused in the case which also accused others in the money laundering case. The CBI had raided the premises of the Deputy Chief Minister and some Delhi government bureaucrats after filing the case. The excise scheme came under the scanner after the Delhi LG recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the implementation of Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22. The LG had also suspended 11 excise officials.

## 58-year-old man injured after scuffle with ex-tenant

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

A 58-year-old man sustained injuries after being beaten up by his former tenant over the removal of an expensive toilet seat he had installed while using the property. The incident took place on Friday afternoon. Police received information about a scuffle between a landlord and his ex-tenant at Chanakya Place, 30 Foota Road at 3.38 PM. During the inquiry, the injured, identified as Ved Prakash, said he had rented his property to one Subhash Maggo for office purposes in 2021, who vacated the premises about one month ago, a senior police officer said. During his tenancy, Maggo had installed an expensive toilet seat at the premises, which he wanted to remove now that he was no longer using the

property, the officer said. On Friday, Maggo sent some labourers for removing the seat which was objected by the landlord, following which the former tenant reached the spot along with a few people and started arguing with Prakash. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Harsha Vardhan said. Thereafter, Maggo and his associates started beating Prakash with sticks and fists, the DCP said. A case under sections 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint), 452 (house-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrong-ful restraint), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC has been registered in Dabri police station and necessary action will be taken, police added.



Admiral Kumar would also be interacting with his counterparts and other Heads of Delegations from close to 30 countries participating in the IFR, WPNS and MALABAR.

Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kamorta also arrived at Yokosuka, Japan on November 20 to participate in the IFR and Exercise MALABAR – 2022. The presence of these indigenously built ships of the Indian Navy at these multinational events will be an opportunity to showcase the ship-building capabilities of Indian Shipyards during a large international gathering. The visit of the Navy chief to Japan signifies a high level of bilateral defence engagements with Japan, as well as India's active support and participation in multilateral engagements.



# 5 Indian-Americans in race for US Cong in Nov mid-term polls

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Five Indian-Americans are in race for the US House of Representatives when the country goes for its mid-term polls on November 8.

If the pollsters and opinions of political pundits are any indication, Indian-Americans are likely to have a 100 per cent strike rate for the House of Representatives.

The four incumbents – Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna and Pramila Jayapal – are likely to be re-elected. All four are from the Democratic party.

Adding to the so-called Samosa Caucus of Indian-Americans in the House of Representatives would be entrepreneur and businessman Shri Thanedar, who is seeking his election from the 13th Congressional District of Michigan.

Bera, the senior most of all, is seeking his sixth term in the House of Representatives from the 7th Congressional District of California.

Khanna, who represents the 17th Congressional district from California, Krishnamoorthi (8th Congressional District of



Illinois) and Jayapal from the 7th Congressional District of Washington State, are seeking their fourth consecutive terms.

Adding to political experts, all four are comfortably placed against their Republican opponents. So does Thanedar, who is seeking his maiden entry into the House of Representatives from the heavily African American portion of Detroit. If elected, he would be the fifth Indian-American in the next Congress along with Bera, Khanna, Krishnamoorthi and Jayapal.

Chennai-born Jayapal, 57, is the first ever and only Indian-American woman to be elected to the House of Representatives.

During this election cycle,

another Indian-American seems to be all set to create history in the State of Maryland. Aruna Miller, a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates, is running as Lt Governor of the State on the Democratic ticket.

Political pundits say she is all set to win. In that case, she would be the first ever Indian American to be elected to this position in Maryland. Meanwhile, the Democrats and the Republicans have intensified their efforts to reach out to the Indian-Americans ahead of the November 8 midterm elections. The Washington Post on Friday said that Indian-Americans can play an important role in some of the tightly contested races.

“Ahead of mid-term elections that could be decided by razor-thin margins, Democrats are hoping to capitalise on some of the optimism felt by Indian Americans, a growing and increasingly vital bloc of voters,” the daily wrote.

In the critical State of Pennsylvania, popular TV host Padma Lakshmi, Phenomenal Media CEO Meena Harris and Jayapal would knock doors in Philadelphia to mobilise the community’s South Asian voters.

The canvass launch will feature music, food and a line-up of distinguished speakers. Peloton Instructor Aditi Shah will lead a 20-minute grounding session to kick off the day, focusing on the importance and power of our collective community. Following the launch, over 4,000 estimated doors will be knocked in Upper Darby, Centre City and Northeast Philadelphia.

“I’m inspired to be with so many incredible community activists and South Asian women leaders in Philadelphia this weekend to activate voters who can make the margin in this midterm election. Let’s get out, knock doors, and vote!” Lakshmi said.

# Impasse persists over FIR on Imran life bid

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A deadlock persists over filing of an FIR in connection with the assassination attempt on Imran Khan after the former Prime Minister refused to withdraw the name of a senior Pakistan Army officer from the complaint, which also carries the names of the Prime Minister and the Interior Minister.

Khan, 70, suffered a bullet injury in the right leg when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others mounting on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area of Punjab province, where he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz Sharif government.

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, alleged that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Major General Faisal Naseer were part of a sinister plot to assassinate him in the same way former Punjab governor Salman Taseer was killed in 2011 by a religious extremist.

He also said that an FIR was not being registered as some people were afraid of (some names).

Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervez Elahi is caught between ‘the devil and the deep blue sea’ as Khan, who essentially calls the shots for the



ruling coalition in Punjab, continues to insist on naming the Army officer in the FIR, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The matter was also taken up by the Punjab Cabinet during its meeting on Friday, which was attended by police chief Faisal Shahkar as well as other senior government officials and the provincial law minister.

An official privy to the development told the newspaper that the meeting discussed the serious issues pertaining to all the legal aspects of the registration of a case.

He said the meeting also discussed that a further delay in the registration of a case could spoil all efforts to secure evidence and punish the suspects involved in the armed attack on Khan’s container truck in Wazirabad.

Sharing the political dimensions of the issue, the source said Elahi was against the ‘logic’ of naming the senior army officer in the case.

# Pakistan Army rejects as ‘baseless’, charges by PTI chief against senior officer

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Army has rejected as “baseless and irresponsible” the allegations made by former premier Imran Khan that one of its senior officers was among the people involved in the conspiracy to kill him and demanded the Government conduct a probe and take legal action against those maligning the state institution.

The Army’s overnight statement came in response to an address by Khan from the hospital in which he alleged that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Major General Faisal Naseer were part of a sinister plot to assassinate him in the same way former Punjab governor Salman Taseer was killed in 2011 by a religious extremist.

Khan, 70, suffered a bullet injury in the right leg when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others mounting on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area of Punjab



province, where he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz Sharif government.

“Four people plotted to kill me. I made a video and named those people and have stashed it abroad,” Khan, the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said, adding that it would be released in case something untoward happens to him.

In its response, the Army in a statement said: “The baseless and irresponsible allegations by chairman PTI against the institution and particularly a senior army officer are absolutely unacceptable and uncalled for.”

“The baseless allegations hurled at the institution/officials today are highly regrettable and strongly condemned,” the statement read.



## Iran marks 1979 US Embassy takeover amid nationwide protests

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran on Friday marked the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran as its theocracy faces nationwide protests after the September death of a 22-year-old woman who was arrested by the country’s morality police. Meanwhile, activists in southeast Iran claimed security forces killed at least 16 people in protests there.

Iranian state-run television aired live feeds of various commemorations around the country, with some in Tehran waving placards of the triangle-shaped Iranian drones Russia now uses to strike targets in its war on Ukraine.

But while crowds in Tehran looked large with chador-wearing women waving the Islamic Republic’s flag, other commemorations in the country appeared smaller, with only a few dozen people taking part.

Iran’s hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, speaking to people gathered in front of the former U.S. Embassy building, criticized those protesting the theocracy.

“Anyone taking the smallest step in direction of breaching security and riots, must know that they are stepping in the direction of enemies of the Islamic Revolution,” he said.

# ‘No choice’, says Musk as he justifies major layoffs at Twitter

**AGENCIES:** Amid massive layoffs at Twitter across the world, including in India, and the subsequent backlash, the microblogging site’s new owner Elon Musk on Saturday justified the move, saying there was “no choice” when the company was losing millions of dollars daily.

The company posted a net loss of USD 270 million in the second quarter ended June 30, 2022 compared to a profit of USD 66 million in the same period a year ago. Regarding Twitter’s reduction in force, unfortunately there is no choice when the company is losing over \$4M/day,” Musk tweeted. “Everyone exited was offered 3 months of severance, which is 50% more than legally required,” he added. Hundreds of employees were handed the



pink slips at Twitter on Friday as Musk, 51, started overhauling the social media platform which he bought for a whopping USD 44 billion late last month.

In a letter to employees obtained by multiple media outlets on Friday, the company said employees would find out by 9 am Pacific Standard Time if they had been laid off. The email did not say how many people would lose their jobs. Some employees tweeted

early Friday that they had already lost access to their work accounts. Twitter has also fired majority of its over 200 employees in India. Sources said layoffs are across engineering, sales and marketing, and communications teams. However, there is no clarity yet on the severance package to be paid to employees laid off in India.

The entire marketing and communications department in India has been sacked, the sources said. Musk has blamed activists for a significant drop in the company’s revenues.

“Twitter has had a massive drop in revenue, due to activist groups pressuring advertisers, even though nothing has changed with content moderation and we did everything we could to appease activists.

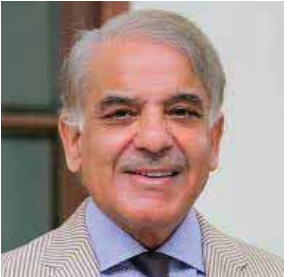
# Shehbaz asks for probe into Imran’s allegations

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday demanded constitution of a “full court commission” by the Supreme Court to probe the allegations levelled by his predecessor Imran Khan who accused him and the interior minister as well as a senior military official of orchestrating the failed assassination bid on him.

Khan, 70, suffered a bullet injury in the right leg on Thursday when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others mounting on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area of Punjab province, where he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz-led government.

While one person died, several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders were injured in the incident. A day after the



attack on him, Khan alleged that three people — Prime Minister Shehbaz, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Major General Faisal Naseer - - were behind the botched assassination attempt on his life.

Addressing a press conference here, Prime Minister Shehbaz demanded Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial to constitute a “full court commission” to probe the allegations levelled by Khan, the Express Tribune

newspaper reported. Reacting to Khan’s allegations against the unnamed military official, Shehbaz said the PTI chief “is attacking the Pakistan Army like an enemy”.

A smear campaign is being run on social media against the military, he alleged. Shehbaz said Khan is a “liar from head to toe” and is trying his best to destroy Pakistan. “You [Imran Khan] are pushing the nation towards destruction through lies...It’s my responsibility to save the nation from this destruction,” he said.

The Pakistan Army said in a statement has said that the baseless and irresponsible allegations by Chairman PTI against the institution and particularly a senior army officer are absolutely unacceptable and uncalled for.

The institution will jealously safeguard its officers and soldiers no matter what. The

baseless allegations hurled at the institution/officials today are highly regrettable and strongly condemned, the Army said in a strong statement, hours after Khan made the allegations.

“No one will be allowed to defame the institution or its soldiers with impunity,” it said, adding that the Army has requested the Pakistan government to investigate the matter and initiate legal action against those responsible for defamation and false accusations against the institution and its officials without any evidence whatsoever.

Meanwhile, Khan asked his party workers and supporters to continue protesting against his assassination attempt until three “accused” resigned. He said the resignations of the three, who “controlled all agencies”, was necessary for an impartial probe.

# Russia cafe blaze kills at least 13 people, injures 5

**Moscow:** A fire in a cafe in the Russian city of Kostroma killed at least 13 people and injured five others on Saturday, local authorities said.

The governor of the Kostroma region, Sergei Sitnikov, said 13 people died in the fire and five more were slightly injured. Russian news agency Interfax cited local emergency officials as saying that the death toll stood at 15. The contradicting numbers couldn’t be immediately reconciled. The blaze erupted in the early hours after someone apparently used a flare gun,

according to the authorities. The Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported that a brawl erupted in the cafe shortly before the fire, but it wasn’t immediately clear if it had anything to do with the use of a flare gun.

Rescuers were able to evacuate 250 people. The roof of the cafe collapsed during the fire, which engulfed an area of 3,500 sq metres (more than 37,000 sq feet). Firefighters spent five hours battling the blaze, and a dozen residents of a nearby residential buildings were evacuated as a precaution.



Firefighters try to extinguish a fire at a cafe in Kostroma 340 kilometres north of Moscow on Saturday

# US to fly 2 supersonic bombers over S Korea to intimidate North

Seoul: The United States will fly two supersonic bombers over ally South Korea as part of a massive combined aerial exercise involving hundreds of warplanes, in a show of force meant to intimidate North Korea over its barrage of ballistic missile tests this week that has escalated tensions in region.

South Korea’s Defense Ministry said at least one B-1B bomber will participate on last day of a joint U.S.-South Korea air force exercise that wraps up Saturday. South Korean and U.S. Military

officials didn’t immediately provide more details. The “Vigilant Storm” exercise, which has involved about 240 warplanes, including advanced F-35 fighter jets from both countries, has triggered an angry reaction from North Korea.

The North this week launched dozens of missiles into the sea, including an inter-continental ballistic missile that triggered evacuation warnings in northern Japan, and flew its own warplanes inside its territory.

# N Korea fires more missiles as US flies bombers over South

**Seoul:** North Korea added to its recent barrage of weapons demonstrations by launching four ballistic missiles into the sea on Saturday, as US sent two supersonic bombers streaking over South Korea in a duelling display of military might that underscored rising tensions in region.

# COP27: Host resort town gives Egypt tight grip over protests



AP ■ SHARM EL-SHEIKH

With turquoise seawaters and rich coral reefs, Egypt’s resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh is a picturesque location for this year’s United Nations global summit on climate change, known as COP27.

But behind postcard-perfect appearances, it’s a tightly controlled fortress on the Red Sea. Climate activists say the restrictions will discourage protests that have been a way for the public to raise their voices at past summits. Many working in tourism have been sent home; those who stayed need special security cards.

es, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi’s government has touted its efforts to make Sharm el-Sheikh a more eco-friendly city, with new solar panels and electric vehicles.

“From the beginning, there was a big question mark on the choice of Egypt as a host country,” said one Egyptian activist, who was detained for over two years without trial during the government’s crackdown on dissent.

He spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing he could be re-arrested. “They know that the choice of Sharm means there would be no protests.”

The scene is likely to be a sharp contrast to COP26 last year in Glasgow, Scotland, where some 100,000 people marched through the streets in one rally and protesters massed frequently in public squares, parks and bridges.

On Friday, a group of activists took part in a small protest calling for climate action on the African continent at a roundabout in front of the conference venue in Sharm el-Sheikh.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068

**PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

(See proviso to rule 8(6))  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mrs. Reena Verma (Borrower) Mr. Mukul Verma (Co Borrower) Loan Account No. LBDEL00005243194/ LBDEL00005259497	Item No 1: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Vacant Site No 20, formed out of Sy Nos. 76/1, 77, 78/2, 79 & 80 of Kambipura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Which is duly converted from Agricultural Purposes to Non-Agricultural Residential purposes, vide conversion Order No. ALN(S)SR(K)/48/ 2012-13, dated 10/01/2013, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and the layout is approved by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) vide No. BDA/TPM/PRL-16/2013-14/6878/2013-14, dated 20/03/2014 and measuring East to West : Northern Side: 47'.00" Feet, Southern Side: 51'.40" feet, North to South: Eastern Side: 30'.33" feet, Western Side: 30'.00" feet, Totally measuring : 1484 Sq. ft., and bounded on the:- East by : Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 19, South by: Site No. 21. Item No 2: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Vacant Site No 21, formed out of Sy Nos. 76/1, 77, 78/2, 79 & 80 of Kambipura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Which is duly converted from Agricultural Purposes to Non-Agricultural Residential purposes, vide conversion Order No. ALN(S)SR(K)/48/ 2012-13, dated 10/01/2013, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and the layout is approved by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) vide No. BDA/TPM/PRL-16/2013-14/6878/2013-14, dated 20/03/2014 and measuring East to West : Northern Side: 51'.40" Feet, Southern Side: 55'.80" feet, North to South: Eastern Side: 30'.33" feet, Western Side: 30'.00" feet, Totally measuring : 1617 Sq. ft., and bounded on the:- East by : Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 20, South by: Private Property.	Rs. 1,26,41,035.42 (as on November 05, 2022)	Rs. 80,00,000/- Rs. 8,00,000/-	November 09, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM	November 29, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-www.disposalhub.com)**. The Mortgagors/ noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **November 28, 2022 before 04:00 PM** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068** on or before **November 28, 2022 before 05:00 PM** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **November 28, 2022 before 05:00 PM** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068** on or before **November 28, 2022 before 05:00 PM**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of **"ICICI Bank Limited"** payable at **Bangalore**.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 9844542086/ 8008999536/ 7304918084**.

Please note that Marketing agencies **1. M/s Matex Net Pvt. Ltd. 2. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit **www.icicibank.com/n4p4s**

**Date: November 05, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**



# Six mn tons sugar export on quota basis till May 31

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Saturday allowed export of 6 million tonnes of sugar on quota basis till May 31, according to a food ministry notification.

As per the notification, the ministry has allocated a uniform export quota of 18.23 per cent of the three years average production of the sweetener in operational sugar seasons. Sugar mills can export themselves or through exporters or swap with domestic sale quota of any other mills, it said. Sugar season runs from October to September.

"In order to prevent uncontrolled export of sugar or with a view to ensure sufficient availability of sugar for domestic consumption at a reasonable price, government has decided to allow export of sugar upto a reasonable limit with effect from November 1 till May 31,



2023," it said.

According to official sources, the first tranche of quota has been allowed only till May-end. Further allocation of quota for export will be decided based on the domestic sugar production.

The sugar production in the new 2022-23 season commenced in Maharashtra and Karnataka from October onwards, whereas in Uttar Pradesh and rest of the cane growing states, it will kick off

in a week's time.

In October month alone, mills had manufactured 4.05 lakh tonnes of sugar, which was lower by 14.73 per cent from the year-ago period, according to cooperative body National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd.

The government had restricted sugar exports towards the end of the 2021-22 season (October-September) to ensure sufficient stocks for domestic consumption and prevent any rise in retail prices during the festive period. Despite restrictions, about 11 million tonnes of sugar were exported during the entire 2021-22 season, according to official data.

Sugar production stood at a record 35.92 million tonnes in the 2021-22 season. Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are the top three sugar producing states in the country.

# SBI logs highest quarterly profit at ₹13,265 cr in Q2

PTI ■ MUMBAI | NEW DELHI

State Bank of India on Saturday reported the highest-ever quarterly profit at Rs 13,265 crore, up 74 per cent year-on-year, for the September quarter of FY23, buoyed by robust loan sales, higher interest income and lower provisions.

The country's largest lender said its total income increased to Rs 88,734 crore during the quarter under review from Rs 77,689.09 crore a year ago. The key net interest income rose 13 per cent to Rs 35,183 crore from Rs 31,184 crore.

Of the total income, more than one-fourth or Rs 24,400 crore came from investment gains, though the bank has not booked profit from government securities in which it holds an additional exposure of over Rs 3.85 lakh crore, chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara told reporters during the earnings



conference at the bank's headquarters.

As the bank nearly passed on the entire rate by the central bank to borrowers as well as depositors, its domestic net interest margin improved to 3.55 per cent from 3.50 per cent earlier.

The asset quality of the bank improved with the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) crashing by 138 basis points (bps) to 3.52 per cent from 4.90 per cent a year ago, while net NPAs nearly halved to 0.80 per cent of the advances from 1.52 per cent in the year-ago period.

As a result, provisions for bad loans declined to Rs 2,011 crore from Rs 2,699 crore on-year, the chairman said.

In absolute terms, the gross NPAs declined by 13.83 per cent to Rs 1,06,804 crore and the net NPAs by 36.5 per cent to Rs 23,572 crore.

While the bank earned an interest income of Rs 79,860 crore, up 15 per cent, its interest expenses rose 16.6 per cent to Rs 44,676 crore. Of the total income, the key net interest income rose 12.83 per cent to Rs 35,183 crore as its NIM (Net Interest Margin) improved by 5 bps to 3.55 per cent.

# 'India faces global shocks with better balance sheets'

## Medium-term growth outlook good, says CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is encountering global shocks with a position of strength backed by far better household, corporate and financial sector balance sheets and its medium term growth outlook is good, said Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran.

"Overall, all things considered, including the risk of oil price, I do believe that the external situation will be manageable, of course with some anxious moments to come," he said while speaking at an event organised by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) here.

He further said that given all the short-term unknowns, it was better to focus on medium-term prospects and what lies ahead of the country in the

next six years until 2030.

"The medium-term growth outlook is actually constructive very simply because we have paid our growth dues last decade and that was because we had to undergo balance sheet repair in the financial and non-financial sector. We are encountering global shocks fortunately with a far better household, corporate and financial sector balance sheet," he added.

On the high debt-to-GDP ratio, Nageswaran said, it is sustainable as India's macroeconomic fundamentals are strong.

Even in the ongoing global turmoil India's borrowing cost is lower than countries which have better ratings than India, he said.

"India's bond yield has not really spiked up. It is doing better than countries that have better credit ratings than India. That tells us a little bit about the overall macroeconomic stability that is there under the current circumstances," he said.

# Tariffs at 'unsustainable' levels, industry needs price correction for continued investments: VIL



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom operator Vodafone Idea (VIL) has said telecom tariffs in India continue to remain at "unsustainable levels" and the industry needs "tariff correction" to support continued investments.

VIL has seen average revenue per user (ARPU) growth for five consecutive quarters now. Its average revenue or realisation per user at Rs 131 in Q2 FY23 was 19.5 per cent higher than the year-ago period, aided mostly by tariff hikes and subscriber upgrades.

ARPU for the September quarter was higher sequentially as well, when compared to Rs 128 in Q1 FY23.

"However, it is important to note that despite the price intervention made in the last one year, the tariffs in India continue to remain at unsus-

tainable levels. And we believe that industry needs further tariff correction to support the continued investments going forward," Vodafone Idea CEO Akshaya Moondra said during the company's analyst call on Q2 FY23 earnings on Friday.

Over the last one year, the company has taken several tariff interventions including for entry level plans, he said, adding VIL continues to focus on getting more customers on 4G and unlimited plans.

Citing the previews of digital and futuristic 5G use cases showcased by the company at the recently-held India Mobile Congress, Moondra said: "We are ready for the next journey of 5G technology where the connected world with limitless digital solutions will soon be new norm, and we will be playing a vital role in the same."

# Cloudtail fined ₹1L for selling pressure cookers on Amazon in violation of BIS standards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Cloudtail India for selling pressure cookers on Amazon in violation of mandatory BIS standards.

The authority has asked Cloudtail to recall 1,033 pressure cookers and also reimburse the money to customers.

According to an official statement, CCPA -- headed by Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare -- has passed an order against Cloudtail India Pvt Ltd for "violation of consumer rights and unfair trade practice" by selling domestic pressure cookers in violation of mandatory standards.

The standards are prescribed as per Domestic Pressure Cooker (Quality Control) Order, 2020.

"The company was also directed to pay a penalty of Rs 1,00,000 for selling domestic pressure cookers to consumers in violation of mandatory standards prescribed under the QCO and violating the rights of consumers," the statement said.

The CCPA initiated suo-moto action against e-commerce platforms for sale of domestic pressure cookers in violation to compulsory stan-



dard.

The CCPA had issued notice to major e-commerce platforms including Amazon, Flipkart, Paytm Mall, Shopclues and Snapdeal as well as to the sellers registered on these platforms.

"Cloudtail India Pvt Ltd is the seller of pressure cooker namely 'Amazon Basics Stainless Steel Outer Lid Pressure Cooker, 4 L (does not give pressure alert by whistle)," the statement said.

The pressure cooker was being offered for sale to consumers on Amazon e-commerce platform.

Cloudtail submitted in its reply to CCPA that after the QCO (Quality Control Order) came into force, it had suspended the import of the pressure cooker.

CCPA observed that though import was suspended, the company had not stopped the sale of such pressure cookers to consumers.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Dnyumoy Mukherjee S/o Sh. Dipak Kumar Mukherjee R/o Flat No. 1001, B2B, Golf Link Residency, Sector-18B, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078 Allottee Of DDA LIG Flat No.46, On First Floor, Pocket-06, Block-C,4, Sector-35, Situated At Rohini, Delhi, has applied for execution of conveyance deed in DDA. The original documents i.e. Site Possession Slip, Possession Letter and NOC for Water & Electricity connection of the above Flat have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch in vide LR. No. 949303/2022, dated 04/11/2022, SO NO. 430 / 2024 Delhi Police. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone. No. 9810079624 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this person can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (IAB) H or Director (H)-1, D Block, 3/F Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.	To be known to all that My Client, Purshotam Dass Aggarwal S/o Sh. Kewal Ram Aggarwal R/o D-404, Vinoba Kunj, Sector-9, Rohini, New Delhi-110085, Purchaser/owner of Society Flat No.D-404, The Vinoba CGHS Ltd., Plot No.9, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085. Vide Membership No.136, The Original Documents i.e. Share Certificate, Allotment Letter, Possession Letter & Other Relevant Documents (In The Name Of Original Allottee i.e. Smt. Girish Tayal W/o Sh. Gyan Tayal), of the above said flat has been lost. An F.I.R./NCR/IR NO. 948650 / 2022 dated 04/11/2022 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write / contact with above named person at above Address/PhoneNo.9313082958 w/in 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Hon'ble President or Secretary, The Vinoba CGHS Ltd., Plot No.9, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085.

<div>FORM A</div> <div><b>PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT</b></div> <div>(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)</div> <div><b>FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF PG ADVERTISING PRIVATE LIMITED</b></div>	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of corporate debtor	PG Advertising Private Limited (Formerly known as Prabhantam Advertising Pvt Ltd.)
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	08-04-2005
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi New Delhi-110024
4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U7-9998012005PTC134902
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Shop IN 1 C-125 G/F Lajpat Nagar Defence -C Flyover New Delhi - 110024. (However, IRP found the registered office operational at C-125, Second Floor, Lajpat Nagar, Defence Colony Fly Over New Delhi-110024)
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	18-10-2022 (Order Passed by Hon'ble Adjudicating Authority, New Delhi on 18-10-2022 in Company Petition No. IB-996NDP/2020 received on 04-11-2022)
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	15-04-2023
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Vinay Kumar Singhal IBI/PA-002/IPN-00624/2018-19/11880
9. Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	411, Essel House, Asaf Ali Road, Near Turkman Gate, New Delhi- 110002 Email: vinasysinghal.ip@gmail.com
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	411, Essel House, Asaf Ali Road, Near Turkman Gate, New Delhi- 110002 Email: pg1.resolve@gmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	17-11-2022 (14 days calculated from the date of receipt of order i.e 04.11.2022)
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Not Applicable
13. Names of frequency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not Applicable
14. (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	a) https://ibci.gov.in/home/downloads b) Not applicable
Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal, Bench-II, New Delhi has ordered the commencement of the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process of PG Advertising Private Limited on 18-10-2022.	
The creditors of PG Advertising Private Limited, are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 17-11-2022 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.	
The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means. A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No. 13 to act as authorised representative of the class (specify class) in Form CA.	
<b>Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.</b>	
Date: 6th November, 2022 Place: New Delhi	Vinay Kumar Singhal Reg. No.: IBI/PA-002/IPN-00624/2018-19/11880 For PG Advertising Private Limited (In CIRP)

PUBLIC NOTICE		
The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these vehicle owners are informed to come to the company's office and claim the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise, all these vehicles will be scrapped in the next three days.		
DL5CH5844	DL7SAA7368	DL5SU1716
UP15R7758	DLX8885	DL6SG0101
DL8CH8404	DL3SH6688	MP09ME4996
DL2CAA2861	DL7SE0779	DL4SA64774
DL5CC0936	DL7SAB6357	DL6SO5807
DL2CV9396	DL1SL7480	HR29H6685
DL3CBW0624	DNK8028	DL6SV8648
DL7GC3241	DNF2629	DL7SD8580
7N09AL9847	CH03A2416	DL7SAQ1254
DL9CM2977	DL8S8440	UP11C4944
DL4CS1610	UA07A4143	UP11F7299
DL9CB3889	DN02224	HR05R2317
HR02Z3284	DIU6093	DL4SF4025
DL5CC3849	DL7SB126	DL2SK5648
DL4CAE7674	CHS.N006	DL6SM3560
DL9S12650	CBHM14982	DL7SAN4070
DL7SL6826	DL7SAJ1026	DL8SAF9643
DL7CD0973	DL7ST0366	MH43S7914
PB08A2455	MP07K7032	DL5SW6045
DL3CD2969	UP78AB8742	DL7S7665
UP14AK1384	DL1SJ0168	DL7SAD9543
DL3CT4978	DL7SAK7338	DL7SAC8003
DL1CF2323	DL3SB0705	BR04S1141
DL9CD5268	DL7SD9631	DL7SAB647
HR26BH5814	DL7SAP6648	DL3SZ9935
DL7CD0374	PCA9462	DL7SAR6995
DL3CAV2302	DL1SO9019	DAH141
DL7CH1025	DL7SH4137	DL7SAR0487
DL7CD2727	DL7SAT8361	UP70G68310
DL9CM8458	PB10BH9021	DL7SAQ2833
DL4CAA4441	DDSE990	MH02AE8673
DL2CZ8693	DL10CC1422	DL2CAG0912
DL7GF1968	DL3CBY0947	DL1CL1152
HR26AL8598	DL5CC8029	DDU6882
UP14DT5051	DL9CGS2186	DL2CAF1525
DL3CBM8555	DL6CJ5427	DL4CAF1276
UP25M0849	UP16D8869	DL8CM7632
DL2CS1223	DN0C7350	DL7SR0019
DL1CM0597	DL2CR9711	DL2FBC0333
DL8CNB1182	HR03H8777	DL7CB5586
DL14C0319	DL5CB2175	DL8CN7718
DL2CAC2015	DL7CH0674	DL5CB8100
DL2CAA3446	DL3CAU0323	DL8CM1935
HR01U7915	DL9CF7153	DL1CL2244
DL7SL6457	UP14AN0004	DL3FW7777
DL6SW2869	DL6CG9536	DL5SAB2832
DL7SA2021	DL2CQ0205	DL3CAL0530
DL7SAQ2143	DL2CAC2630	DL2CQ2727
UP14PB218	DL5C2813	

# Go Fashion reports Q2 PAT at ₹19.3 cr

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Go Fashion (India) Ltd which owns the popular women's wear brand 'Go Colors' has recorded a 3.76 per cent rise on its profit after tax for the second quarter ending September 30, 2022 at Rs 19.3 crore, the company said on Saturday.

The company had registered profit after tax at Rs 18.6 crore during corresponding quarter previous year.

Total revenue during the quarter under review stood at Rs 165.8 crore as against Rs 112.1 crore registered corresponding quarter last fiscal, the company said. The cash flow from operations for the half year period ending

September 30, 2022 stood at Rs 36 crore as compared to Rs 8 crore recorded in same period last year.

In a statement, the company clarified that the second quarter and half yearly performance in last financial year was impacted due to COVID-19 enforced lockdown.

Commenting on the financial performance, Go Fashion (India) Ltd CEO Gautam Saraogi said, "despite a challenging environment, the company has performed well in Q2 and first half of FY2022-23."

Our revenues for the second quarter grew by 48 per cent year on year to Rs 166 crore highest ever quarterly revenues at Go Fashion."

# Bank of Baroda Q2 profit rises 59% to ₹3,313 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bank of Baroda on Saturday reported a jump of 59 per cent in its net profit to Rs 3,313 crore for the second quarter ended September on the back of a decline in bad loans and rise in interest income.

The lender had posted a net profit of Rs 2,088 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

Its total income rose to Rs 23,080.03 crore for the second



quarter of 2022-23, compared to Rs 20,270.74 crore a year ago, it said in a regulatory filing.

Net interest income grew by 34.5 per cent to Rs 10,714 crore. The lender improved its

# NIIT acquires US-based St Charles Consulting Group to expand strategic capabilities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Talent development company and managed training services provider NIIT on Saturday announced it has acquired St Charles Consulting Group for a 'fixed consideration' of USD 23.4 million (about Rs 192 crore).

Headquartered in St Charles, Illinois, StC is a provider of consulting, design, and implementation solutions for strategic learning programmes to professional services firms and Fortune 500 companies.

"NIIT...Announced today that it has acquired 100 per cent membership interest in St Charles Consulting Group LLC(StC) through its wholly-

BUSINESS BRIEF	
<b>POWERGRID POSTS 8% YOY GROWTH IN Q2</b>	<b>GURUGRAM:</b> Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power, GoI, has announced the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2022. The company has reported PAT of ₹3,650 crore and Total Income of ₹11,349 crore on consolidated basis registering a YoY growth of 8%. On standalone basis, the Company has posted PAT and Total Income of ₹3,651 crore and ₹11,190 crore respectively registering a YoY growth of 9% and 7% respectively during Q2FY23. For six-month period (H1FY23), the PAT and Total Income on consolidated basis are ₹7,451 crore and ₹22,518 crore respectively, which are about 11% and 8% higher with respect to the corresponding period of FY22 (excluding exceptional items), while on standalone basis, the PAT and Total Income are ₹7,417 crore and ₹22,207 crore respectively, registering a growth of 12% and 7% respectively with respect to the corresponding period of FY22 (excluding exceptional items).
<b>GOV LAUNCHES ISRO &amp; DAE EXHIBITION IN SRMU</b>	<b>AMRAVATI:</b> Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Biswabhusan Harichandan inaugurated the Science and Technology Exhibition, by ISRO and DAE, at SRM University-AP, Andhra Pradesh, on November 03, 2022. "The societal expectations from science and technology are increasing. Thus, the scientific community has the responsibility to rise to the expectations" said Governor to the intellectual gathering. The exhibition, organised as a prelude to 88th Annual meeting of the Indian Academy of Sciences, will be open till November 06 on the campus.
<b>IAB, SRM HOLD PRESS MEET ON 88TH ANNUAL MEET</b>	<b>AMRAVATI:</b> Indian Academy of Bengaluru, and SRM University-AP Andhra Pradesh held a joint press conference on November 03, 2022, at the university campus following the inauguration of the Science & Technology Exhibition by Governor of Andhra Pradesh Biswabhusan Harichandan. The Annual Meeting of IASc, hosted at SRM AP during November 04-06 aims to exchange scientific inferences and innovations through discourses on recent scientific breakthroughs. Leading scientists, technologists and seasoned academic professionals will be attending the event and disseminating their scientific expertise on technology and development.
<b>KSB LTD SALES GROW BY 17% IN Q2</b>	<b>NEW DELHI:</b> The sales value of ₹4,313 million KSB achieved for this quarter is 17% increase over the previous year. The Sales value for 3 quarters of 2022 is ₹12,974 million which is about 23% increase over the same period last year. It achieved 13% ROS for the quarter. Commenting on the quarterly performance, Farrokh Bhatnara, Director Sales and Marketing, KSB Limited said, "We have registered outstanding Year on Year sales growth of 17% for the third quarter and also, 23% increase in the cumulative sales for 3 quarters with respect to last year.

# Punjab & Sind Bank net profit rises 27% to ₹278 crore in Q2

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Public sector lender Punjab & Sind Bank on Saturday said its net profit rose 27 per cent to Rs 278 crore in the second quarter of FY23 on the back of reduction in bad loans.

The bank had reported a profit of Rs 218 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income of the bank during the July-September quarter of FY23 rose to Rs 2,120.17 crore against Rs 1,974.78 crore in the corresponding period of FY22, Punjab & Sind Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The bank's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to 9.67 per cent of the gross advances at the end of

September 2022 from 14.54 per cent during the same period a year ago.

In value terms, the gross NPAs (bad loans) of the Delhi-headquartered bank stood at Rs 7,128.45 crore by the end of Q2FY23, as against Rs 9,822.80 crore in Q2FY22.

Net NPAs also came down to 2.24 per cent from 3.81 per cent in the second quarter of previous year.



owned subsidiary, NIIT (USA), Inc," the company said in a statement.

The acquisition was completed at a fixed consideration of USD 23.4 million subject to certain adjustments. In addition, the definitive agreements provide for payment of annual performance based earnings over the next four years.

The acquisition helps NIIT add significant presence in the professional services and management consulting sectors while strengthening its fast-growing learning consulting practice.

"The transaction is in line with NIIT's stated goal of accelerating growth through investments that add new capabilities to bring more value to its customers and strengthen presence in attractive customer segments," the statement said.

St Charles' experience in strategic learning programmes aimed towards advancing overall strategy, addressing business priorities, and key initiatives at large companies, are in high demand.

NIIT believes there is a significant growth opportunity for StC's business going forward and expects the transaction to be margin and EPS (earning per share) accretive from the first year, it added.

# Mahindra Lifespace sale bookings grow 32% to ₹399 cr in Q2

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Mahindra Lifespace Developers' sale bookings rose 32 per cent to Rs 399 crore during September quarter 2022-23 on better



# ASIAN ELITE BOXING: MINAKSHI ASSURES INDIA A MEDAL; SAKSHI LOSES IN QUARTERS

IANS ■ AMMAN (JORDAN)

Woman boxer Minakshi assured India a medal by reaching the semifinals of the 2022 Asian Elite Boxing Championship here on Saturday while compatriot Sakshi crashed out of contention after losing her quarterfinal bout.

Minakshi defeated Philippines' Irish Magno 4-1 in a women's 52kg quarterfinals bout in Amman, Jordan on Saturday. That assured her a medal in the prestigious event as all semifinalists get a medal. Minakshi will now be hoping to win her last-four stage bout to capture a better colour medal.

Her compatriot Sakshi ran into a tougher opponent as she lost 0-5 to Chinese Taipei's Hsiao-Wen Huang in the quarterfinals bout in the 54kg weight category thus ending her hopes of winning a medal.

Also on Saturday, five more Indian women boxers including Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain will compete in their quar-



terfinal bouts.

Besides Lovlina, Preeti (57kg), Parveen (63kg), Ankushita (66kg) and Pooja (70kg) will fight their respective bouts on Saturday.

Lovlina, who has changed her weight category from 69kg, will be appearing in her first international tournament in the 75kg weight category as she takes to the ring against the 2016 World Champion, Valentina Khalzova of Kazakhstan.

Late on Friday night, India's Ananta Chopade defeated Tanaka Shogo of Japan 5-0 in a Round of 16 bout in the 54kg weight category.

Compatriot Etash Khan, however, lost 2-3 to Thailand's Khunatip Pidnuch in a Round of 16 bout in the 60kg weight class at the Asian Elite Boxing Championships.

Earlier on Friday, five-time Asian Championships medalist Shiva Thapa along with Sachin and Amit Kumar progressed to the quarterfinals by winning their respective bouts in the elite competition.



## FIFA urges World Cup teams to focus on soccer over politics

AP ■ GENEVA

FIFA's top officials have urged the 32 teams preparing for the most political World Cup in the modern era to focus on the game in Qatar and avoid handing out lessons in morality.

A letter urging teams to "let football take centre stage" was sent by FIFA president Gianni Infantino and secretary general Fatma Samoura ahead of intense media focus on coaches and players when World Cup squads are announced next week.

"Please, let's now focus on the football!" Infantino and Samoura wrote, asking the 32 soccer federations to "not allow football to be dragged into every ideological or political battle that exists."

Qatar being picked in 2010 as World Cup host sparked scrutiny on its treatment of low-paid migrant workers needed to build projects costing tens of billions of dollars and its laws criminalising same-sex relationships.

FIFA's comments in defence of Qatar follows more strident targeting of critics in recent weeks by public officials, including the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, as the November 20 kickoff nears.

The Emir two weeks ago denounced "fabrications and double standards" in what he has called an "unprecedented campaign" against a World Cup host nation.

Eight European teams have committed to their captains wearing heart-shaped armbands — in breach of FIFA rules — to support an anti-discrimination campaign launched in the Netherlands, and Australia players took part in a video airing concerns about Qatar's human rights record.

Several coaches and federations, including the United States, have backed calls to create a compensation fund for migrant workers' families.

Denmark's squad is taking a black team jersey as a sign of "mourning" for those who died in Qatar.

The Dutch soccer federation pushed back at FIFA late Friday, restating its commitment to leave "lasting improvements in the situation of migrant workers in Qatar."

The Netherlands plays Qatar on November 29 in Group A and the team's officials pledged on Friday to press FIFA on creating a long-term resource center in Doha for migrant workers when world soccer's 211 member federations meet hours before attending the World Cup opening game.

Iran has also faced calls to be removed before it plays England in the second game of the World Cup on November 21 in a group that also includes the US.

Iranian fan groups want the federation suspended for discriminating against women, and Ukraine soccer officials asked FIFA to remove Iran from the World Cup for human rights violations and supplying the Russian military with weapons.

Infantino moved from Switzerland to live in Doha for the past year during preparations for what he has consistently said would be the best World Cup ever. "We know football does not live in a vacuum and we are equally aware that there are many challenges and difficulties of a political nature all around the world," the FIFA leaders wrote on Thursday in their letter that did not address or identify any specific issue.

"At FIFA, we try to respect all opinions and beliefs, without handing out moral lessons to the rest of the world. One of the great strengths of the world is indeed its very diversity, and if inclusion means anything, it means having respect for that diversity."

Infantino and Samoura have long insisted hosting the World Cup accelerated the modernizing of labour laws which Samoura said on Friday was accepted as a model for regional neighbors to follow.

About 1.2 million international visitors are expected in Qatar in November.

added: "No one people or culture or nation is better" than any other. This principle is the very foundation stone of mutual respect and non-discrimination. And this is also one of the core values of football."

They repeated long-standing promises made by Qatar, including by its Emir at the United Nations general assembly in New York in September, that all visitors to Qatar will be welcome "regardless of origin, background, religion, gender, sexual orientation or nationality." In a separate in-house interview published on Friday by FIFA, Samoura acknowledged the perception of Qatar "as a conservative society, like my own country in Senegal."

"But let me tell you one thing — Qataris are the most hospitable people you can find on earth," said the former UN official, who is also of Muslim faith.

Frustration with the scrutiny on the first Arab host of the World Cup led at least two government ministers this week to suggest race as a motive.

"Is such racism acceptable in Europe in the 21st century? Football belongs to everyone," Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said in an interview with French daily Le Monde published on Friday.

Labour Minister Ali bin Samikh Al Marri said this week that calls to create a compensation fund for migrant workers were a "publicity stunt," and cited a Qatari-backed scheme that had paid tens of millions of dollars.

FIFA and Qatari officials have long insisted hosting the World Cup accelerated the modernizing of labour laws which Samoura said on Friday was accepted as a model for regional neighbors to follow.

About 1.2 million international visitors are expected in Qatar in November.

## I-League winner to be promoted to ISL next season, says AIFF

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Saturday said that the winner of the I-League, which begins on November 12, will play in the Indian Super League (ISL) next season, without paying any fee as per the roadmap finalised three years ago.

But the participation of I-League winners of 2022-23 season — as well as 2023-24 — in the ISL will be subject to fulfilling the club licensing criteria.

"We can confirm that the I-League winner of this season will be promoted to the ISL (2023-24 season) subject to fulfilling the Premier one licensing criteria and sporting merit," AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran told PTI.

"They (I-League winners) will not give any (participation) fee. Since all the clubs playing in the ISL will have to fulfil Premier one licensing criteria, they (I-League winners) also will have to fulfil the criteria."

According to the roadmap approved in 2019 with the involvement of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and agreed upon by the stakeholders, the I-League champion team of this season (2022-23), as well as that of next year (2023-24), will get direct slot in the next season of the top-tier ISL.

The promotion and relegation system was to kick in the ISL from 2024-25 season onwards.

Asked if the ISL organisers and AIFF marketing partners FSDL have agreed to the I-League winners from this year onwards qualifying for the ISL, Prabhakaran said, "The decision is as per the roadmap which was agreed earlier. We have just continued with the roadmap."

"This will end all the speculation and will take Indian football forward. The I-League clubs will welcome this decision."

There were speculations in certain quarters whether the roadmap will be adhered to by the new executive council led by president Kalyan Chaubey though the AIFF had denied media reports which had suggested any move to deviate from the plan approved by the AFC.

The AIFF was to announce the decision at the press conference held here on Friday, but could not do that as it did not get the go-ahead from its legal team then.

"Our legal team could not complete work yesterday. But they have completed it today and we have got the legal go ahead now," Prabhakaran said.

"Since it was in the roadmap agreed earlier, there is no need for the executive council of the AIFF to approve it again. This decision (to promote I-League winner to ISL) is final."

The I-League, which begins on November 12 at Manjeri with defending champions Gokulam Kerala hosting last year's runners-up Mohammedan Sporting, will be telecast live on two channels — Eurosport and DD Sports — and will be live-streamed on the Discovery Plus OTT platform.



## Para World C'ship: Shuttler Bhagat in singles, doubles finals

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Ace shuttler Pramod Bhagat is one step away from defending his double gold medal at the ongoing Para-Badminton World Championships in Tokyo, Japan.

Pramod Bhagat, who is playing his seventh career World Championships, has won a total of five gold, one silver and three bronze medals in singles and doubles in the six championships he has played. Moreover, except for the 2007 and 2017 World Championships, Pramod has reached the finals in all the editions.

Saturday's exciting semifinal match was between

Pramod Bhagat and Japan's Daisuki Fujihara in which Pramod entered the final with a score of 22-20, 21-14. He will meet his countryman Nitesh Kumar in the final.

In the same way, Pramod Bhagat and his doubles partner Manoj Sarkar went past the pair of Guillaume Gaily and Mathieu Thomas of France easily with a scoreline of 21-08, 21-16 and reached the final. They will meet Indonesia's Ramdani and Ukun Runkandi in the final on Sunday.

On the other hand, World No.3 Sukant Kadam went down fighting in his semifinal match against Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan with a score of 20-22 and 15-21.



## Nishna slips on back 9, as four players share the lead in Thailand

PTI ■ PATTAYA

India's Nishna Patel was fine for the first seven holes before she ran into a disastrous stretch of bogeys and ended the third day at 5-over and Tied-44th in the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship here.

Nishna, who is the only Indian to make the cut from the six who came here, had shot 72-71 on first two days. With 77 on the third, she is 4-over and tied 44th. The defending champion and 36-hole leader, Mizuki Hashimoto (77), suffered a collapse in the last six holes with four bogeys and a double on a day when the greens were tricky and tough. As Hashimoto dropped from overnight 9-under to 4-under and tied ninth, there was a traffic jam at the top with four players sharing the lead at 8-under.

The four included two locals, the highly acclaimed 38th world ranked Natthakritta Vongtaveelop, who won the Thailand Amateurs two weeks ago, and a 16-year-old, Suvichaya Vinijchaitam.

Of the other two, there was Ting-Hsuan Huang from Chinese Taipei and a first timer

at WAAP, while the fourth was Korea's Lim Jiyoo.

Filipino Rianne Mikhaela Malixi, coached by Rick Gibson a former Philippine Open winner and an Indian Open runner-up, was lying sole fifth after a 70 and was at 7-under.

Nishna started steadily with five pars before finding her first birdie. She parred the next, but then her woes began. Nishna bogeyed eighth, ninth and 10th; parred the 11th, but the last seven holes saw four more bogeys and just one birdie on the Par-4 15th.

Nishna said, "The greens were tricky and slopey. The conditions were tough. But it has been a great experience."

It has been a year of learning for Nishna, who also played the Women's Amateur in UK and the World Amateur Team Championship.

Natthakritta, was the joint runner-up last year, and already has five wins in 2022. She closed strongly with birdies on 17 and 18 for a 68 that put her at 8-under for 54 holes.

Her teammate, Suvichaya Vinijchaitam, birdied the 10th and parred the last eight for a 69 and 8-under total.

## Gurleen bags double title at Sat Sports AITA CS7 title; Navin claims boys' singles crown

IANS ■ BENGALURU

Gurleen Kaur bagged a golden double in the Sat Sports Open AITA Championship Series 7 (CS7) U-14 championship while Navin Sundram won the boys' singles title at the Sat Sports Academy on Saturday. Gurleen came back from a set down to beat Deepshikha V. 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 to win the singles title and later joined hands with Geethika Gaddham to bag the doubles crown.

Navin Sundaram won the boys' singles title after brushing aside the challenge of Shreyanth M 6-1, 6-0 in the final.

In the boys' doubles, Shreyanth M. and Tarun H. won the title beating Siva Sampreeth and N. Mohit Reddy in the final.

## PKL 9: Pardeep Narwal replaces Nitesh as UP Yoddhas captain for rest of season

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Star raider Pardeep Narwal has replaced Nitesh Kumar as the captain of UP Yoddhas for the remainder of the Pro Kabaddi League season 9, the GMR-owned franchise announced on Saturday.

Nitesh has been the captain of UP Yoddhas for their two previous seasons and till their last game against Puneri Paltans this season.

Pardeep, who is known as Dubki King, is the only raider to have earned over 1400 raid points in the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL). In the past, he has captained Patna Pirates and helped them win three back-to-back Pro Kabaddi League titles.

UP Yoddhas are currently placed number 10th in the PKL standings with 24 points to their kitty. They would be



facing Haryana Steelers on Saturday night which would also kick off Pardeep's journey with the team as a captain.

"Nitesh is one of our finest defenders and nothing changes that. This season has been testing and hence to concen-

trate on his game and performance Nitesh himself took the decision of giving up on captaincy. Once he expressed his desire, we knowing his worth, respected it and after a long thorough analysis, we only found Pardeep as the best option, given his stature within the team and his past experience leading his past franchise, to take up the role as a captain for UP Yoddhas," said Jasvir Singh, head coach, UP Yoddhas.

Narwal has been one of the biggest icons of the Pro Kabaddi League as statistically there's nothing that he is left to achieve as a raider.

He is currently placed on top of each raiding stat table viz; Total Points, Raid Points, Successful Raids, Average Raid Points, Super Raids and Super 10s of overall seasons of Pro Kabaddi League.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

It took us too long to get to India. We will be here until they want us," said Formula E co-founder Alberto Longo, making his intentions clear 100 days before the inaugural race in Hyderabad on February 11.

A Formula E round and a scheduled Moto GP race in Greater Noida next year are expected to provide a much needed boost to Indian motorsport with the last major racing event in the country -- Formula 1 -- taking place way back in 2013.

Formula 1 left India because of tax and financial issues but Longo and local promoter Anil

Kumar C said preparations are very much on track for Formula E's debut in India.

Hyderabad ePrix will be the third round of the FIA sanctioned World Championship with fully electric single seaters cars vrooming along the Hussain Sagar Lake at a top speed of 320 kmph.

The season opener will be held in Mexico with the championship travelling to major cities of the world, including New York and London.

The 2.37 km long street circuit in the heart of Hyderabad will be tested in two weeks' time in the build up to the Formula E race. A round of Indian Racing League is scheduled



## AHF CEO Ikram elected as new FIH president

PTI ■ LAUSANNE

Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) CEO Mohammad Tayyab Ikram of Macau was on Saturday elected as the new president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), succeeding India's Narinder Batra as its full-time chief.

Ikram defeated Marc Coudron of Belgium 79-47 in the 48th FIH Congress held virtually. Out of 129 national associations, 126 casted valid votes. The duration of Ikram's term will be for two years, in order to complete the mandate of the previous chief, Batra, who resigned on July 18. Now a citizen of Macau, Ikram was born in Pakistan.

Seif Ahmed was the acting president of the FIH following Batra's resignation from the top post after the Delhi High Court asked him to stop functioning as



the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief. Batra, who became the FIH president in 2016, resigned from the post in July. He also gave up his International Olympic Committee (IOC) membership which was directly linked with his IOA position.

The FIH Executive Board consists of a president; eight ordinary members, one half being renewed every two years; an athletes' representative; Presidents of the Continental Federations; CEO; any (non-voting) member co-opted onto the Executive Board pursuant to Article 7.1 (c) of FIH Statutes.

## It took us too long to get to India, says Formula E co-founder Longo

there from November 19-20. Renewable energy major Greenko and Telangana government are local promoters of the race.

"We race in the biggest cities of the world and India was a tier 1 market for us from the very beginning. We have been trying to race since season one (2014) and then we met KTR (Telangana IT Minister KT Rama Rao) who has the vision of electric mobility that we have."

"Mahindra Racing introduced us to him and it was love at first sight. We took too long to get here but if things go well, we will be here until they want us," said Longo.

Mahindra Racing, who have been with the championship since day one, are among the seven manufacturers present in the series including Porsche, Nissan, Tata owned Jaguar, Maserati and McLaren.

"All of our seven manufacturers wanted to come to India, come to China and US but India was a pending country and we are here. We have an Indian DNA in Formula E," he said in a reference to Mahindra and Tata owned Jaguar.

The race is expected to make an economic impact of USD 150 million and Longo said there will be challenges that all stakeholders will have to overcome.



# ENGLAND BEAT SRI LANKA, MAKE SEMIFINALS AT THE EXPENSE OF HOSTS AUSTRALIA



PTI ■ SYDNEY

England rode on the experience of Ben Stokes as they scamped their way to the T20 World Cup semi-finals with a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka, the result ending reigning champions and hosts Australia's campaign in the tournament.

Sri Lanka opener Pathum Nissanka gave them an explosive start with a 45-ball 67 but the English bowlers roared back to restrict them to a modest 141 for eight.

Chasing a tricky target on a dry SCG wicket, Alex Hales (47; 30b) and skipper Jos Buttler (28; 23b) produced a ruthless opening partnership of 75 runs from 45 balls.

From there, they just needed 67 from 75 balls but in no

time, half of the English side were down with crafty spinner Wanindu Hasaranga (2/23) once again triggering a collapse.

He dismissed the English openers in addition of just seven runs, before the likes of Dhananjaya de Silva (2/24) and Lahiru Kumara (2/24) got into the act.

With their designated No. 3 Dawid Malan injured (groin), England had a rejigged batting order and looked shaky, needing 31 runs in 33 balls when Moeen Ali became Dhananjaya de Silva's second victim.

But English Test skipper Stokes, looking to find form in this tournament, held his nerves and closed out the chase with a composed 42 not out from 36 balls.

He was associated in a nervy 15-run partnership with

Chris Woakes.

After rain proved to be a dampener in the Australia-England clash at the Melbourne Cricket Ground earlier in the Super 12, the Aussies ended their group stage campaign with seven points, and their semifinal hopes rested on a Lankan win over the Englishmen.

England finished second behind New Zealand in Group 1 and will take on the Group 2 toppers in the last-four. The top three teams in the group finished on seven points each and Australia missed out by the thinnest of margins.

It was a rollicking start for England as Hales played the role of the aggressor while Buttler took time to settle down.

Gradually, the English skipper also got into the act as he

smashed the wily Hasaranga for consecutive fours and a six.

Earlier, Nissanka provided the perfect start as he blazed his way to a 33-ball fifty after his team elected to bat.

The stylish opener took the English attack to the cleaners and slammed five sixes and two fours, but leg-spinner Adil Rashid (4-0-16-1) brilliantly turned it around by taking his maiden wicket of the tournament in the form of Nissanka.

Seamer Sam Curran (4-0-27-1) also bowled a tidy spell in the middle overs as Sri Lanka, who were going at over eight runs an over at the halfway mark, faltered in the back-end.

The lack of power-hitters cost the Lankans dear as boundaries dried up, and they could manage just 25 runs in the last five overs, a phase where they

also lost five wickets.

England pacer Mark Wood also overcame a woeful start and hit his straps at the back end to return with 3 for 26 as England denied their opposition about 15-20 extra runs.

Buttler brought in his pace ace Wood in the third over and Mendis took him on in the very first ball with a six over deep square leg. Taking a cue from his opening partner, Nissanka finished the over with another maximum as the over yielded 17 runs.

Rashid's entry slowed down their run-rate and wickets kept falling at the other end, but Nissanka continued his counter-attacking approach en route to his ninth fifty, and second of this World Cup. Rashid and Curran then pegged the Lankans back with their smart variations.



## ‘Ben can play many roles, affects game in all facets’

PTI ■ SYDNEY

England skipper Jos Buttler is delighted that Ben Stokes has found his form as the T20 World Cup approaches the business end, saying that the all-rounder can play a lot of roles in the side thanks to his talent.

After an underwhelming tournament so far, Stokes held his nerve through a middle-order collapse to lead England into the semifinals with a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

After a solid start by Buttler and Alex Hales, England batters lost the plot with half the side back in the dugout, largely due to mystery spinner Wanindu Hasaranga before Stokes took the former champions over the line.

"These kind of situations is what he's made for and I'm delighted for him. While he's at the crease, that gives you a sense of calm," Buttler said at the post-match presentation.

"He can play a lot of roles. He effects the game in all three facets. He's a proper competitor. Getting to this stage of competition is where you just see him grow and grow."

Sri Lanka were off to a flyer on the back of Pathum Nissanka's sizzling fifty, before England bowlers roared back to

restrict the Asia Cup champions below 150.

"They got off to a really good start, and we felt the wicket would play that way since it was a used wicket. But the way Adil Rashid got us back was wonderful.

"Lot of people look at the end product with him, he doesn't have the wickets but he has been bowling well."

Young Sam Curran has been sensational at the death for England throughout the tournament, and the skipper was full some in his praise for the pacer and opener Hales.

"Sam keeps growing and growing, he's a key member of this team and he likes to be in these tough moments. I think Alex (Hales) in that one over really took the game out of Sri Lanka."

England, who finished second in the Group 1, will play their semifinal in Adelaide against winners of the second group.

"Excited to go there, we just needed to find a way to win today. Now it is time to go there and think about the semi-finals," Buttler added.

Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka felt his side's chances of winning the title were derailed by multiple injuries to key players. "I think we played good

cricket in patches, but we had a few injuries which cost us the tournament. If not, we could have done better.

However, the skipper said there are a couple of areas that needed improvement.

"When we go home, we'll have to polish up the areas where we didn't do well. (Wanindu) Hasaranga and (Maheesh) Theekshana have bowled well throughout, but the other bowlers have struggled, today they bowled well but that is an area we have to improve."

"Catching has been a problem in this tournament, we need to go back and improve," he added.

Leg spinner Adil Rashid was adjudged the player of the match for his brilliant 1/16, which included the all-important wicket of Pathum Nissanka, who was going hammer and tonks at the English bowlers.

"I think all the bowlers bowled well, Stokes, Wood, everyone. We got some assistance (spin and seam) from this wicket, you don't get such assistance on Australian wickets."

"I felt quite good, even before the tournament I was feeling good. I did my job, was focused on it, rest is history. The pitch might spin, seam, you need to assess the conditions accordingly," he added.



## Preferably I would have liked to cut one cake, says birthday boy Kohli

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

A relaxed Virat Kohli celebrated his 34th birthday at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground with the Indian media and expressed a not-so-secret birthday wish — to cut an even bigger cake on November 13 night, after winning the T20 World Cup for India.

As he walked up the stairs of the MCG gallery, Kohli sported a smile, shook hands with everyone who wished him.

"Aapne kabhi sarvajanik tarikhe se apna janamdin man-aya hai Virat? (Did you ever celebrate your birthday with the media Virat?) a senior journalist enquired.

"Aap logon ne pahle toh kabhi mujhe janamdin pe cake bheja bhi naahin (You people never sent me a cake on my birthdays)," he said with a beaming smile.

He was asked to give a speech and the wry smile was back.

"I am not answering any questions," he said and on the media's demand.

"It's nice to cut a cake at the MCG. Preferably, I would have liked to cut one cake," he smiled and you knew what he was talking about.

Next Sunday is the T20 World Cup final, and what Kohli would like to cut is a celebratory cake after winning the final for India.

India had just finished their net session and Kohli had a good half an hour batting session, facing the net bowlers along with Harshal Patel,

Yuzvendra Chahal and Mohammed Siraj.

Ravichandran Ashwin had informed during his media interaction that the former captain did cut a cake in the dressing room.

"Yeah, we got a cake. Rishabh had it. Just before we came for practice, yes," Ashwin had said in jest when asked about how the team is celebrating.

Credit to the Indian team's media wing and the ICC that when a request was made if Kohli would come for a small celebration with the Indian media contingent, they readily agreed. One of the travelling journalists got a cake and another senior scribe presented him with a special painting bought from Jaipur of a Rajasthani 'King'. A King's portrait for 'King Kohli'.

"Bhai badi acchi cake hain, kisme laya hain (Brother, it's a nice cake, who got it?" he enquired and thanked the reporter who had arranged it in quick time.

"Thank you, it's very tasty."

Someone requested for a group photo and he immediately agreed. The jostling to stand right next to the man of the hour and be relevant was there to be seen, as he patiently waited for the photo journalists to take pictures.

He gave autographs, thank you birthday messages on Youtube channels. Kohli looked happy and content.

He is scoring runs, the team is winning and he is in a very happy space.

## T20 more about older man's game: Ponting

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian great Ricky Ponting believes T20 cricket is an "older person's game" and experienced players such as Virat Kohli tend to find a way to overcome difficult times and succeed.

Ponting said Kohli is a "champion player of the game in all three formats" and India are reaping the rewards of sticking with him as he bounced back in style to ignite hopes for their second World Cup title in the format after 15 years.

Having ended his 1,021-day century drought with a stunning 122 not out from 61 balls against Afghanistan at the Asia Cup in September, Kohli has been in the forefront of India's success at the ongoing T20 World Cup as they inch closer to the semi-finals.

"India now are reaping the rewards of keeping him there and if they go on to the next stage then I'm sure he'll produce something big in one of the finals as well," the two-time World Cup winning captain was quoted saying by the ICC website.

Kohli, who turned 34 on Saturday, has been the leading run-scorer (220 runs) in the

ongoing T20 World Cup and has only been dismissed once in four innings.

India take on Zimbabwe in their Super 12 finale here on Sunday.

"I've also learned about the T20 game over the years that I've been involved, is it's more of an older man's game, or older person's game, than a young man's game."

"Just with the knowledge and the know-how and the expertise in situations like Virat has been confronted with a couple of times."

"They've done it before, and they tend to find a way to get it done more often than not."

Ponting had firmly believed that the out-of-form Kohli would turn it around and urged the Indian selectors to persist with him.

"He's been a champion player of the game in all three formats for a long period of time," Ponting said.

"One thing I've learnt about champion players, in this game in particular, is you just never write them off. They always tend to find a way, particularly when it matters most, to dig deep enough and find a way to get a job done."

Remembering his 82 not



out against Pakistan, Ponting rated India's Super 12 opener against Pakistan as one of the greatest sporting spectacles.

"If you wind the clock back about a week, start of this tournament; India, Pakistan, right here at the MCG — that was what I thought might hap-

pen.

"Virat rolling the clock back a little bit, playing a match-winning knock, being man of the match in what I think is one of the best sporting spectacles that I've ever seen," Ponting said about the epic four-wicket win by India.

## England's Ben Chilwell to miss World Cup with hamstring injury

AP ■ LONDON

England full back Ben Chilwell will miss the World Cup after a scan confirmed a "significant" hamstring injury.

The Chelsea defender, who was likely fighting for the left-back spot with Luke Shaw, was injured in the team's 2-1 mid-week win over Dinamo Zagreb in the Champions League.

The Premier League club said Saturday that a scan revealed "a significant injury" that will prevent Chilwell from playing at the Qatar tournament.

The 25-year-old Chilwell expressed his disappointment in a Twitter post after the diagnosis.

"Following my ACL injury I worked so hard to make sure I was ready for the World Cup. It has always been a dream of mine," he wrote. "Unfortunately, this won't be possible following my scan results. I'll do all I can



to get back playing for Chelsea ASAP. Thanks for the messages of support."

Chilwell had returned to action in May after missing most of last season.

## Zimbabwe cricket chief mulls contesting ICC chairman polls

PTI ■ DUBAI

Zimbabwe Cricket chairman ZTavengwa Mukuhani is likely to be in the race to challenge Greg Barclay for the ICC chairman's post at the upcoming elections slated next week in Melbourne.

Famously known as 'Doc' from his university days as a pharmacist, Mukuhani has been on the ICC Board for a long time.

He's reportedly weighing his options on whether he would get enough support from small Full Member countries and the Associates.

Having suffered a defeat to Barclay in 2020, ICC deputy chair Imran Khwaja is learnt to have pulled out.

The ICC Board has a 16-member electorate with 12 Full Members, one independent director (Indra Nooyi) and



three Associate directors.

As per the new rules, a simple majority, and not a two-third one unlike last time, is needed to decide the new ICC chairman.

"Mukuhani believes he has the experience to take over the leadership and become a voice for smaller members and Associates," reported ESPNCricinfo.

"He is hedging his chances mainly on getting support from a majority of Asian countries except for the BCCI. At the moment, it is believed that the BCCI vote is leaning towards Barclay, but options remain open till election date," it added.

Striving for equity among members and advocating for governance changes is part of Mukuhani's manifesto which is aligned with the vision Khwaja has had for several years.

A member of the ICC's Audit Committee and chair of the Membership Committee, the ZC chairman is also part of the global body's Olympics working group that is pushing for the sports entry at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The ICC elections are scheduled during the ICC meetings in Melbourne on November 12-13.

## West Indies U19 women's team to tour India ahead of T20 World cup 2023

IAN'S ■ ST JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)

Ashmini Munisar has been named skipper, while Trishan Holder will be her deputy in the 15-member West Indies women's U-19 squad for the T20 tour of India beginning in Visakhapatnam on November 13.

The tour will feature matches against India-A Women U19, India-B Women U19 and Sri Lanka Women U19 at the Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy International Stadium in Visakhapatnam. West Indies will then travel to Mumbai where they will play against New Zealand Women U19 at the DY Patil Stadium.

The team will be under the guidance of head coach Steve Liburd. Munisar is an allrounder who led the team when West Indies U19 played against USA Women's U19 in Fort Lauderdale in August. Vice-captain Holder is a top-order batter who was a member of the Barbados team at the Commonwealth Games playing matches against Pakistan, Australia and India.

The players for the T20 matches were selected after trial matches in Trinidad.

"As part of the preparation for the tour the squad was involved in some practice matches during a seven-day training camp in Trinidad. The final team selected contained some of the players who participated in the series in the USA and there are some new players who the panel would like to have a look at before a final team is selected for the World Cup," said lead selector, Ann Browne-John.

"The composition of the team is quite balanced with some strong batters and a good mix of spin and medium pacers. It will be their first experience against top international teams and these tour matches will give a better indication of where the team is at the moment," she added.

This series in the sub-continent will form a crucial part of the team's preparations for the inaugural ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup 2023. The global event will feature 41 matches be played from January 14-29 in South Africa.



I'm a fabulous date, I make sure I look good, I like hearing what a guy has to say and I make sure the evening is a real laugh. I like to laugh  
—Eva Longoria



Brexit has ushered in a period of political instability in the UK. During the last six years, as prime ministers came and went (David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, and now Rishi Sunak), economic programs have been on the back burner and overseas investors on tenterhooks , writes GAURIE DWIVEDI.

# NO QUICK FIX FOR SUNAK

Rishi Sunak, the fifth prime minister in the UK since 2016, has many firsts to his credit: he is the first Asian and first Indian-origin prime minister of the UK. But what remains to be seen is will the youngest PM of the UK become the first leader to arrest the biggest decline of the country since the 1930s. A sea of economic challenges besets the UK, and the task of tackling them is bigger than what many envisage since the problems have been growing for over a decade.

Earlier this week, the Bank of England raised alarm bells when it warned that the UK is likely to slip into a protracted recession. The UK's Central Bank has also cautioned that the economy is performing worse than the US and the Eurozone. Significantly, post-Covid shock all advanced economies have recovered and are now faring better than the UK. The British economy, meanwhile, is showing signs of collapsing under the weight of its systemic problems. The Bank of England also warned that the UK's recession may be its longest and unemployment figures could double in the next two years.

On its part, the Bank of England, like other central banks around the world, is resorting to the only tool in its arsenal: tightening the monetary policy. But it has its own peril. When banks hike rates to tame inflation, the growth is adversely impacted. The Bank of England, in a bid to contain record high inflation, hiked interest rates by the biggest percentage since 1989. The aggressive increase has taken the base rate to 3 per cent. This is the highest level since the global financial crisis in 2008.

The rate hike will only compound Sunak's problems as he tries to shore up confidence for his government, both among the British people and global investors. The sharp rise in rates will hit the poorest 10 percent of households very hard, since this segment spends twice as much of their budget on utilities and food, compared to the richest 10 percent. As per reports, for 8 million people who have fixed-rate mortgages, the rise in annual mortgage payments will kick in once their existing loan contracts expire. On average, this will be to the tune of 3000 pounds in additional pay. For more than 2 million households who are on variable-rate mortgages, the hit will be immediate.

Every politician worth his salt knows that rising mortgages are unpalatable, more so in an economy that is battling record-high inflation and unemployment. And Chancellor Jeremy Hunt acknowledged the pain that lies ahead when he said the rate rise was “going to be very tough for families with mortgages up and down the country.”

As Prime Minister Sunak and Chancellor Hunt work away in their next-door offices, they have just about a fortnight to deliver a statement that will repair trust in the UK economy. Or at least, avoid a political implosion that will make global investors even less wary of investing in the British economy. Sunak's predecessor lost her job after investors began selling the pound against the dollar. Chancellor Hunt has stressed this aspect of his job when he reiterated, “The most important thing the British government can do right now is to restore stability, sort out our public finances, and get debt falling so that interest rate rises are kept as low as possible.”

But rising interest rates will be just one of the many grievances that the MPs will have to address as they head back to their constituencies over the next few days. The economic

SINCE 2016, THE UK'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN IN A STATE OF BREXIT-INDUCED FLUX. AND SINCE MANY OF ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS PREDATE BREXIT, THEY ARE NOW SYSTEMIC AND RUN DEEP. THE UK'S PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH, SINCE THE FINANCIAL CRISIS IN 2008, HAS FALLEN BEHIND OTHER ADVANCED ECONOMIES LIKE FRANCE, GERMANY, AND THE US. THIS HAS RESULTED IN MEDIAN INCOMES IN THE UK BEING LOWER THAN ITS NEIGHBOURS. THIS SCENARIO IS LIKELY TO REMAIN, AT LEAST IN 2023 WHEN THE UK IS SET TO FARE WORSE THAN ALL G20 NATIONS, BARRING RUSSIA. AS PER THE OFFICE OF BUDGET RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH IS THE NODAL BODY OF GOVERNMENT FINANCES, BREXIT WOULD FURTHER REDUCE PRODUCTIVITY AND UK GDP BY A MASSIVE 4 PERCENT



situation for the average British is set to become tougher.

Both the Prime minister and his finance minister (officially referred to as the Chancellor of Exchequer) are preparing for tax rises and large public spending cuts. These are the textbook replies to international investors who are worried about the UK's rising debt and its falling currency (which makes debt repayment more costly). But to voters, these are measures that will reinforce the recession and contract an economy that has been in a state of inertia and low growth for over a decade now.

Welfare cuts have become a part of British politics and economics since 2010 when the age of austerity was rushed in. During the tenure of former chancellor George Osborne, except for the National Health Service, schools, and aid spending; all government budgets were slashed. Public sector pay was also frozen and taxes rose. These measures were in line with the publicly declared commitment to lowering the UK's high budget deficit, which was next only to America.

Three years later, though the government came close to achieving its fiscal consolidation target, these measures planted the British economy on a path of consistent underperformance of productivity and

real GDP. Long periods of low productivity suck demand out of the system, which in turn stifle investment. In 2015, UK productivity, as measured by GDP per hour worked, was lower than the remaining G7 countries by a whopping 18 percentage points. The same year, David Cameron won a general election that was contested on a promise to further cut public spending. And of course, the following year came Brexit, which was touted as the panacea for all the ills and worries of the British economy and its future. Except that it has not.

Since 2016, the UK's political leadership has been in a state of Brexit-induced flux. And since many of its economic problems predate Brexit, they are now systemic and run deep. The UK's productivity growth, since the financial crisis in 2008, has fallen behind other advanced economies like France, Germany, and the US. This has resulted in median incomes in the UK being lower than its neighbours. This scenario is likely to remain, at least in 2023 when the UK is set to fare worse than all G20 nations, barring Russia. As per the Office of Budget Responsibility, which is the nodal body of Government finances, Brexit would further reduce productivity and UK GDP by a massive 4 percent. These official figures indicate that there is

no easy quick fix for Sunak, a passionate Brexitter.

Brexiteers like Johnson and Sunak had claimed that exiting the EU would deliver favourable trade deals for the UK. The UK has indeed signed 71 trade deals since exiting the common trading platform of the EU. But these deals are similar to earlier agreements under the EU. Consider this, it is estimated that the UK's GDP will increase by 0.08 percent by 2035 on the back of its trade pact with Australia. The UK has also signed trade pacts with Japan and New Zealand, but these are likely to yield similar results.

Brexit has ushered in a period of political instability. During the last six years, as prime ministers came and went (David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, and now Rishi Sunak), economic programs have been on the back burner, and overseas investors on tenterhooks.

For the Tories, though, stability tantamounts to more cuts. It seems UK's long-awaited infrastructure schemes like the HS2 high-speed rail line, which has been delayed by nearly 15 years, could be one such casualty to the upcoming tough economic calls by Sunak's government. As cuts deepen, so will any hope of reviving investments. And as investments dry up, so will

the prospect of a long-term change in the UK's economic trajectory.

Osborne's austerity measures in 2010 came at a time when interest rates were at a record low. And with energy bills under check, the Tories could push through the relentless slashing of public budgets. In 2022, Jeremy Hunt has no such luxury; his austerity drive will have both economic and political ramifications. It may be a quick fix to soothe the frayed nerves of global investors, but it will not be able to bring back growth.

With a general election in two years, Sunak needs to turn around the economy and fortunes of Tories, who are facing record-low popularity figures.

Almost fifty years ago, the UK faced stagflation, a global energy crisis, a current account deficit, and huge labor unrest. It had to be bailed out by the International Monetary Fund. It remains to be seen if the UK can avoid a similar outcome now. As the long British winter sets in and the Ukraine crisis shows no signs of ending, the scenario does not seem very far-fetched.

All eyes will be on Hunt's November 17 statement.

(Gaurie Dwivedi is an author and a senior journalist. She is also faculty at the Department of International Relations, OP Jindal University.)



# AIR POLLUTION MATTERS

Only when anti-pollution band-aid is applied, we wake-up to the hazards of breathing in toxic air. It is important to know that exposure to poor air quality is injurious to health—from head to toe. It’s not only children, elderly individuals, those with co-morbidities, and those living in low socio-economic regions but even animals and plants too pay a price. Against the backdrop of the National Capital, Delhi, becoming a gas chamber-laden with toxic air, The HEALTH PIONEER brings a myriad of pollution-associated health studies and some recommendations on actions that individuals and organisations can take to improve air quality on a day-to-day basis.

■ Research by the USEPA finds that certain health conditions, such as the respiratory effects of air pollution exposure, can be directly linked to their economic consequences, such as the costs associated with doctor visits, lost school and work days, hospital visits, and, ultimately, deaths. Such research helps to provide a rubric by which we can evaluate the vast amounts of human health damage that come from air pollution, in terms of the exact costs suffered by society and the economy at large.

■ Research from the OECD's Economic Consequences of Air Pollution project finds that by 2060, global economic output will be reduced by approximately US\$330 USD per person, coupled with US\$155 billion increases in annual health-care costs and 2.5 billion more lost workdays at the global level.

■ A large UK-based study found that even small increases in air pollution are associated with age-related macular degeneration, which causes irreversible sight loss. Even increases in particulate matter on the order of 1 µg/m3 were linked to an 8% increase in the risk for age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

■ Research suggests that cognitive decline, dementia, anxiety, depression, ADHD, and schizophrenia all occur at greater frequency with exposure to various air pollutants.

■ Specific pollutants, such as lead, have also been studied for their connection to learning disabilities, memory impairment, hyperactivity, and anti-social behaviors in children. Children's brain development

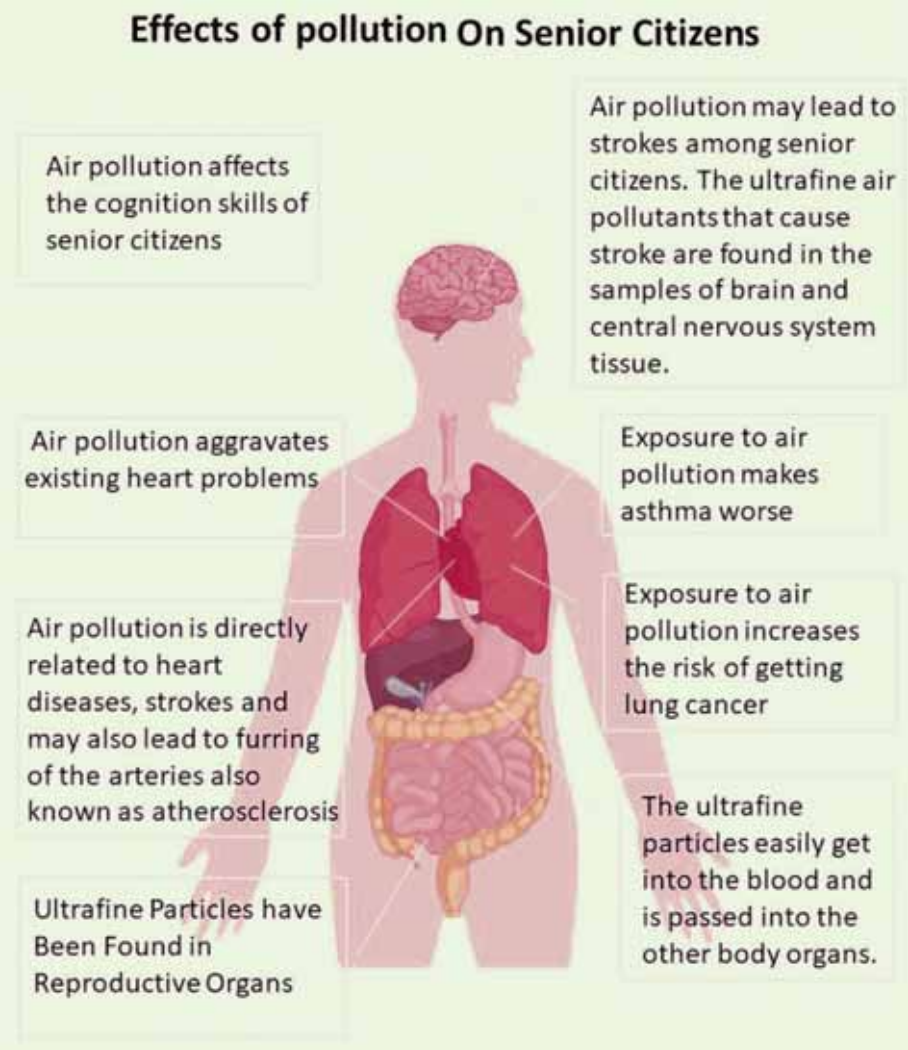
can also be impacted by exposure to high levels of ambient air pollution while they are in the womb because the brain is still developing at this time and air pollution can cause permanent brain damage. Even in utero, high air pollution exposure can also lead to cognitive impairment in old age.

■ A study examining nitrogen dioxide finds that this pollutant is one of the main causes of stroke. The same study found short-term exposure to sulfur dioxide and PM10 was also associated with an increased risk of stroke.

■ A study out of USC has examined the link between air pollution and dementia — this study of over 2,000 older women over 10 years suggests that not only does air pollution exposure contribute to a higher risk of dementia, but improved air quality can also slow this accelerated aging of the brain.

■ Other recent research presented at the 2021 Alzheimer's Association International Conference found similar outcomes. Reducing PM2.5 and NO2 pollution by 10% of the USEPA's current standard over 10 years was linked to 14% and 26% reductions in dementia risk in older women in the United States — including when the results were controlled for age, education, region, and presence of cardiovascular disease.

■ Research demonstrates a clear link between air pollution exposure and worsened cardiovascular health. A 2016 study also noted that exposure to both particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide at levels close to those stated by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were linked to pre-



Images source: Websites

maturely aged blood vessels, causing calcium buildup in the coronary artery, suggesting that this may be the mechanism through which air pollution so severely damages cardiovascular health.

■ Studies have found an association between air pollution

exposure and a slew of gastrointestinal diseases, such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), appendicitis, and intestinal infections in infants.

■ A research estimates that in 2016, air pollution contributed to 3.2 million new cases of dia-



■ Studies show that the risk of pollution-related diabetes increases dramatically even at very low pollution exposure levels, so this risk remains even in places where air quality is deemed acceptable — showing that there is truly no safe level of air pollution.

■ Many studies demonstrate that air pollution exposure has a clear effect on reproductive health and fertility. One Chinese study of over 18,000 couples found a connection between moderate levels of fine particulate matter pollution and a 20% greater risk of infertility, defined as not becoming pregnant within a year of trying.

■ A Harvard study looked specifically at women undergoing in vitro fertilization and found that those that lived closer to major roads were less likely to have successful embryo implantation and live birth as compared to those living further away.

■ Studies find that poor air quality can affect semen quality and could cause sperm DNA damage, thus harming

fertility. This relationship is likely related to the concentration and duration of exposure to air pollutants.

■ Though not extensively studied, research finds that ambient air pollution exposure is associated with lower levels of bone mass, perhaps due to particle inhalation causing oxidative stress and inflammation in the body that ultimately affects bone health. This relationship holds true across a wide range of air pollution levels associated with low-, middle-, and high-income areas.

■ Studies that specifically examined osteoporosis and bone fractures resulting from air pollution found that populations exposed to higher levels of fine particulate matter had lower bone mineral density as well as higher hospitalization rates for bone fractures. Because certain regions of the world, such as Asia, already tend to have a higher risk for osteoporosis, the effects of poor air quality only compound this danger.

■ Lowered life expectancy is a well-studied result of air pollu-

tion exposure. Research from the University of Chicago suggests that if particulate matter air pollution is not lowered to the World Health Organization's recommended level, the average person could lose 2.2 years of life. The number is even higher for those living in more polluted regions, who could lose 5 years or more.

■ Significant decreases in quality of life also result from exposure to air pollution. For example, reduced lung function in children and adults that leads to asthmatic bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) can greatly lower one's quality of life, as can dementia, cardiovascular disease, and many of the other health outcomes discussed above.

■ A study analyzed 5 years of USEPA data to identify over 1,000 toxic hotspots of air pollution across the United States, where 250,000 people living in these areas were exposed to levels of cancer risk above what the USEPA deems acceptable. Even in those areas under the 1 in 10,000 risk rate that the EPA allows, researchers still say that the risk is high enough to be of concern.

■ Many studies found that negative health impacts resulted even at air pollution levels well below the WHO guidelines — reminding us that there is truly no safe level of air pollution. Fortunately, in light of the abundance of research demonstrating the multifaceted health impacts of even relatively low levels of air pollution, the WHO recently updated their guidelines to recommend even stricter regulations on air pollution.



## Lasting change for air quality requires day-to-day commitment

You as an individual and organisation too can take measures to improve air quality. Experts in the sector offer tips. The HEALTH PIONEER reports

**Simple measures you can take to keep the toxic air at bay**

■ **Clean and change your home air filter as necessary:** While ambient air quality may be outside of your immediate control, you have a great deal of control over the indoor air quality inside your own home. In addition to keeping a clean indoor environment with adequate air ventilation, using an air filter in the home can significantly improve indoor air quality. This may consist of a portable filter and/or an updated filter in a home's HVAC system which removes some, though not all, of pollutants

found in the home.

■ **Take alternative methods of transportation when possible:** By walking, biking, or carpooling to their destination, individuals can reduce the release of vehicle emissions that pollute the air. Choosing to group all errands into a single trip and grouping all online orders into one batch during the week also helps to cut down on these transportation-related emissions.

■ **Using environmentally safe, natural home cleaning products:** While having a clean home helps ensure good indoor

air quality, many household cleaning products can release pollutants such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), greenhouse gases, and toxic air pollutants, either by directly releasing them or by creating these compounds as a byproduct after reacting with the surrounding air. Consumers can choose safer cleaning products too.

Keeping rugs and carpets clean also supports better indoor air quality, as they can act as air filters by collecting dust and other particles in the home, removing them from the air.

■ **Create an air quality garden:**

Adding more plants—specifically, those which research has found remove certain air pollutants—to one's yard can be helpful in fighting outdoor air pollution. Different plants can help lower pollutant levels in their surroundings.

■ **Choose green fuel:** Wood burning also accounts for detrimental effects on regional air quality.

**Organizations too need to chip-in**

■ **Allow employees to work from home:** While many businesses have begun work-from-



home operations since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing employees to work from home on a regular basis reduces the number of cars on the road, especially the number driven by solo individuals while commuting to and from work each day. Telework also requires less energy to heat, cool, and light office buildings and power office equipment.

Reducing the number of cars on the road, whether by telecommuting, taking other forms of transportation, or carpooling with others, decreases the amount of harmful emis-

sions released into the air.

■ **Encourage the use of alternative means of transportation:** When remote work is not possible, businesses can encourage employees to choose alternative means of transportation that are more environmentally friendly: walking, biking, public transportation, and carpooling. A British clean air campaign found that eliminating even 1 out of 5 cars on the road for business purposes equates to 11 billion miles saved per year in the U.K.—the equivalent amount of emissions as two airports. This would correspond to a 3.3 mil-

lion ton reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the UK alone.

■ **Clean and replace building air filters as needed:** Installing, cleaning, and replacing air filters in office buildings promotes cleaner indoor air, especially in a place where people spend many hours each day. The EPA has also released a guide on further practices that can be taken to improve air quality in the workplace, such as disposing of garbage correctly, storing food properly, and managing possible pollutant sources like pest control and construction within the complex.



*(The writer is Cultural Adviser to the Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi. Views are personal)*



