

## OPINION 6

A MUCH-AWAITED  
DIWALI GIFT

## WORLD 9

LEADERS PUSH FOR CLIMATE ACTION,  
FOSSIL TAX AT UN TALKS

## MONEY 10

JURY STILL OUT ON DEMO  
EFFICACY AFTER 6 YEARS

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

## the pioneer

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NZ IN T20 WC  
SEMIS TODAY  
12 SPORTCan't cut cheap oil import  
from Russia: India to WestJaishankar meets  
Lavrov in Russia,  
calls for talks to  
end Ukraine warPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict saying the world is watching its "consequences" after Covid took a toll on global economy along with the issues of terrorism and climate.

Sounding this note of caution, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in Moscow these developments have a disruptive impact on global progress and prosperity. His remarks came after his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its impact on the prices of fuel, foodgrains and fertiliser.

The Minister reiterated New Delhi's stand that dialogue and diplomacy are the way forward to resolve the conflict. He also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Russian President Vladimir Putin a few weeks back that "today's is not an era of war".

On India's likely response to calls by the West to cap Russian oil purchases, Jaishankar said there is indeed a stress on the energy markets

External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov talk to each other after a joint news conference following their talks in Moscow on Tuesday  
AP I PTI

due to a combination of factors.

"As the third-largest consumer of oil and gas and where incomes are not very high, we need to look for affordable sources, so the India-Russia relationship works to our advantage. We will keep it going," he said.

In the last few months, India has increased the import of discounted crude oil from Russia notwithstanding increasing disquiet over it by several Western powers.

Moreover, New Delhi, so far, has refrained from voting against Russia in the United Nations, and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on its military action in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Lavrov and Jaishankar held wide-ranging parleys and discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties, besides the Ukraine conflict and its effect on fuel and food supply chains.

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Zelenskyy: Talks with  
Russia possible on  
Ukraine's terms

Kyiv: Ukraine's president has hinted at the possibility of peace talks with Russia, and listed his usual conditions for dialogue: the return of all of Ukraine's occupied lands, compensation for damage caused by the war and the prosecution of war crimes.

Detailed report on P8

Rahul to campaign in Guj,  
to skip drive in HimachalCong ex-chief to  
take break from  
Yatra for road  
shows in GujaratDEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■  
NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who is currently leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra, will join the party's campaign for the Gujarat Assembly polls, but will altogether skip the battle of Himachal Pradesh.

Sources said the former Congress chief may take breaks from the Bharat Jodo Yatra currently touring Maharashtra and conduct road shows in Gujarat. The party is working out Rahul's detailed schedules.

Sources said Rahul is satisfied with the work done by Priyanka Gandhi and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in the Himalayan state and hence would skip the campaign in Himachal Pradesh.

Sources said Rahul will not do any rallies or public meetings in Gujarat and mainly focus on road shows.

In between the fortnight long padyatra in Maharashtra, Rahul will take breaks and visit Gujarat at least twice. Depending on the need, he may take a third trip to the poll-bound State just before the polls. Gujarat will vote on December 1 and 5.

Claiming that the party was headed towards a two-thirds majority in Himachal,

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a Guru Nanak Jayanti programme during the ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Nanded district on Tuesday  
PTI

Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur would have difficulty in winning his own seat.

In the absence of Rahul during the campaign in Himachal, Surjewala said the party was fighting the Assembly polls under a collective leadership and the victory of the party would be the victory of each Congress person.

He added Rahul will be here when the Congress Government will be formed in Himachal Pradesh.

Asked about Priyanka being the face of the party in the elections in the hill State, Surjewala said, "She is our national leader and is spearheading the campaign. All other senior leaders are campaigning. Ours is a collective

leadership."

The star campaigners for HP are Sonia Gandhi, newly appointed Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi, Ashok Gehlot, Baghel, and Anand Sharma.

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Leader dies of  
cardiac arrest  
during Yatra

Mumbai: Tragedy struck the Congress' ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra on its 62nd day on Tuesday as a 75-year-old Congress Seva Dal worker died of a cardiac arrest, while he was walking along with other party workers in the yatra in Nanded district of Maharashtra. See P5

'One Earth, One Family, One Future',  
India's G-20 Presidency mantra: ModiPM unveils logo,  
theme, website,  
says Presidency a  
matter of great  
pride for IndiaPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said it is a matter of pride and a great opportunity for India to assume the presidency of the powerful G-20 grouping in its 75th year of Independence.

He made these remarks after unveiling the logo, theme and website of India's G-20 presidency in an online event stressing the mantra for G20 presidency will be "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

India will assume the pres-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils the logo, theme and website of India's G20 Presidency, via video conferencing, in New Delhi on Tuesday  
PTI

idency of the grouping from the current chair Indonesia on December 1. The G-20 or Group of 20 is an inter-Governmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

The Prime Minister will

take part in the G-20 summit on November 15-16 in Bali, Indonesia, along with other world leaders like US President Joe Biden, Chinese President Xi Jinping and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

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HC annuls court ban  
on INC, BharatJodo  
Twitter handles

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A division bench of the High Court of Karnataka has set aside an order of a designated economic court that ordered blocking of @INCIndia and @BharatJodo Twitter handles calling it "punitive action."

The order is subject to the Congress party removing the offending content before noon on Wednesday.

The Congress agreed to remove the 45-second clip that used the copyrighted song before noon on Wednesday from all its social media accounts.

The HC ordered the party to provide screenshots of the Twitter handle and the other social media accounts before the contentious material was

removed. The HC ordered, "We are of the opinion that prayer deserves to be allowed to set aside impugned order, subject to appellant taking down offending material."

The lower court had given the order on Monday in a suit filed by MRT Studios which claimed 45 seconds of its copyrighted music from "KGF Chapter 2" movie was used in a "Bharat Jodo" song by the Congress party.

The Division bench of Justices G Narendar and Justice PN Desai heard the petition by the Congress in an emergency hearing on Tuesday evening.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi argued the case for the party challenging the lower court's Monday order.

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Graft, garbage, pollution  
key issues in MCD polls

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

Corruption, cleanliness and "pollution" are the main issues that the BJP, the AAP and the Congress are raking up to take on each other as the fight for the upcoming MCD elections in Delhi intensifies with each passing day.

If the BJP and the Congress are showcasing the alleged involvement of the AAP in cases of corruption and the prevalent pollution, then the latter is pointing to the mountains of garbage in the landfill sites to accuse the BJP of messing up the national Capital's cleanliness. All these slanging match is happening even as the three are making claims and counterclaims of either having implemented infrastructural development works or pointing a finger to the lack of it.

Interestingly, the Congress



is bringing back the memories of work done by former Chief Minister late Sheila Dikshit into the people's mind to seek power in the civic body.

"The AAP has not built a school, flyover, hospital, or a college. Instead, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has turned Delhi into a 'Gas Chamber'. Despite his Government in Punjab, the cases of stubble burning increased due to which the Delhiites are facing hardships in breathing," Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, told *The Pioneer*.

Over the remarks of the AAP on garbage mismanagement, Bidhuri said that the three landfill sites indicate that under the leadership of the BJP, the MCD has done its work effectively and collected the garbage from each household on a daily basis.

"Kejriwal claims to clean Delhi if his Government gets elected in the MCD. Likewise, he promised to clean the Yamuna in the 2015 Assembly polls, but till date the river has not been cleaned, then how will he clean the city," he asked.

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17% of Wales-England  
residents born abroad,  
Indians top the chart

PTI ■ LONDON

Nearly one in six people living in England and Wales last year were born outside the country and Indians constituted the largest chunk at 1.5 per cent of residents, according to latest statistics based on the country's 2021 census data.

The UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) found that India remained the most common country of birth outside of the UK last year at 9,20,000 people, followed by Poland at 7,43,000 people or 1.2 per cent of residents and Pakistan at 6,24,000 (1 per cent).

"One in six usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK, an increase of 2.5 million since 2011, from 7.5 million (13.4 per cent) to 10 million (16.8 per

cent)," the ONS said in a release.

"India remained the most common country of birth outside the UK in 2021," the release said.

The top three countries of birth outside the UK for England and Wales remain unchanged as India, Poland and Pakistan since the last census 10 years ago, with the numbers rising across all categories — India from 6,94,000, Poland from 5,79,000 and Pakistan from 4,82,000 in 2011.

The census data also shows that Polish (7,60,000, 1.3 per cent), Romanian (5,50,000, 0.9 per cent) and Indian (3,69,000, 0.6 per cent) were the three most common non-UK passports held by residents in England and Wales in 2021.

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Centre abusing Guv's  
offices to topple State  
Govts, says Kerala CM

PNS ■ KOCHI

As the fight between Kerala Governor and the Marxist Government intensified, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday said that the BJP-led Central Government was misusing the office of Governor to sabotage constitutionally run State Governments in the country.

"The BJP-led Government at the Centre is past masters in derailing State Governments led by Opposition parties. They brought down many such governments through horse-trading. Wherever horse-trading was not working, they are deploying the Governors to sabotage the Constitution," Vijayan said while addressing the Staff Association meeting of the Indian Space Research Organisation at

Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. The CPI(M) has a strong presence in ISRO.

The Chief Minister alleged that Governor Arif Mohammed Khan was tarnishing the image of Kerala which had appreciation across the globe. "It was my Government which made Kerala the number one State in the country. Having failed to win at least a single seat in the legislative Assembly, the BJP in its bid to establish presence in the State was making use of Raj Bhavan to create chaos," charged Vijayan.

But he did not refer to the Governor's statement that the former had fallen at the feet of a young IPS officer in 1971 when his attempt to free an accused in a murder case was spoiled by the police in Kannur.

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## Birds on a wing and a prayer!

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rising surface air temperature due to climate change is leaving animals, insects and birds among others at the receiving end.

Wildlife activists and scientists have flagged concerns that due to increasing weather conditions there has been a spike in cases of birds, and animals like jumbos and reptiles falling ill.

"Climate change is jeopardising the survival of many animal and bird species. In some cases, it's pushed them up the endangered animal species list. Moreover, a certain section of animals such as Red Panda is severely affected by these deadly heat waves more than others as their food is on decline," said Kartick Satyanarayan from the SOS Wildlife, a non-profit organization engaged in the rescue of animals in distress in the country.

Satyanarayan added that his colleagues have been busy



with treating a record number of birds for conditions such as fever, dehydration and heat-stroke as temperatures rose to a sweltering 46 degrees Celsius (118.4 degrees Fahrenheit) in Delhi-NCR early this year.

If Wildlife SOS treated

over 300 birds with heat-related illnesses in the summer, a media report said that a rescue group in Hyderabad retrieved more than 150 dehydrated birds. Similarly, a bird hospital in Gurgaon saw an intake of 1.5 times the usual number of

birds, compared to previous years.

In March alone, the Wildlife SOS Rapid Response Unit rescued nearly 120 birds, which included 30 kites and more than 70 pigeons. April remained busier for our Rapid Response Unit in Delhi-NCR as they rescued a whopping 156 birds including 82 Black kites and 42 pigeons. Other birds included mynah, peacocks, Barn owl, Shikras and doves, to name a few, wrote Neelohit Banerjee in a report compiling the rescue work of the SOS Wildlife.

India recorded its hottest March in 122 years, while Delhi reportedly experienced its second hottest April in 72 years. In fact, the avian population of the NCR region has been the most hit by the heat in May 2022. As per the SOS Wildlife data, a total of 176 birds — kites, bulbuls, parakeets — were rescued from this region in May.

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NCR-PULSE

ROUND TABLE HELD TO DISCUSS FRAMEWORK OF NLC



**New Delhi:** To lay the framework of the National Legislators' Conference (NLC), a Round Table Discussion was held in the national Capital where former Speakers of Lok Sabha -- Sumitra Mahajan, Meira Kumar and Shivraj Patil who are patrons of NLC --took part in the discussion highlighting the importance of NLC, scheduled to be held in Mumbai from 16th to 18th June 2023. The event was also attended by more than 15 Speakers and Chairpersons of Vidhan Sabhas and Vidhan Parishads, including Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Haryana, besides former Secretary Generals of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and several senior bureaucrats who shared their expertise towards nation-building and good governance.

MAN STEALS MONEY FROM PARALYSED UNCLE'S A/C, HELD

**New Delhi:** A 27-year-old man was arrested for allegedly withdrawing Rs 2.45 lakh from his paralysed uncle's pension account, police said on Tuesday. The accused Rahul Baisla, a resident of Loni in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad, worked as a salesman at a private company in Rani Bagh, they said.

KHARGE ASSIGNS AJAY ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF DELHI

**New Delhi:** Ahead of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has assigned Ajay Kumar the additional charge of Delhi till the completion of the civic body polls as the regular AICC-in-charge of the party's capital unit was busy with the Gujarat Assembly polls.

WOMAN ACCUSES BROTHER-IN-LAW OF ATTEMPTED RAPE

**New Delhi:** A 35-year-old woman has accused her brother-in-law of molesting and also attempting to rape her at their house in Subhash Nagar Colony here, police said on Tuesday. In her complaint, the woman also alleged that her husband and in-laws beat her up and kicked her out of the house along with her children when she protested. The alleged incident took place on October 27.

IFSO CONDUCTS JOINT TRAINING WITH FRENCH EMBASSY

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit is conducting a three-day joint training session on investigation techniques to combat cyber crime in coordination with I4C and the French embassy, a statement said on Tuesday. The session will be conducted by three cyber experts from the French cyber crime investigation team with two support staff from the French embassy and three cyber expert officers from India, it said.

OVER 8,400 OLD VEHICLES IMPOUNDED THIS YEAR

**New Delhi:** Over 8,400 old vehicles have been impounded so far this year, an increase of almost 188 per cent from last year, according to official data. In 2018, the Supreme Court had ordered that plying of diesel and petrol vehicles older than 10 years and 15 years respectively is banned in Delhi, adding that the vehicles violating the order will be impounded.

EU FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH INDIA

**New Delhi:** The European Union Film Festival (EUFF), inaugurated by the European Union (EU) Ambassador Ugo Astuto and Italian Ambassador H.E. Vincenzo De Luca, kicked off its 27th edition recently with the Italian film "Easy Living", directed by two brothers, Orso Miyakawa and Peter Miyakawa. The on-ground film festival is running in New Delhi across three venues -- India Habitat Centre, Instituto Cervantes and India International Center - till 13th November. Astuto said, "This year marks 60 years of diplomatic ties between EU and India."

ORCHIDS ANNOUNCES FOURTH BRANCH IN GURUGRAM

**Gurugram:** Orchids The International School (OIS) has announced the launch of its fourth branch in Gurugram at Sector 113 Bajghera Dwarka Expressway. The school will initially have classes till grade 7 and will be upgraded every year. "I'm happy to be leading the branch at SECTOR 113 in one of the fastest growing cities. It will be a complete delight to groom Gurgaon children with the philosophy of Orchids," said Principal Nidhi Kapoor.

Rahul to campaign...

From Page 1

Assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh will be held in one phase and polling of votes will take place on November 12 and the counting of votes will be done on December 8 along with the counting for Gujarat.

Canvassing for his party in Gujarat, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Tuesday attacked the BJP government at the Centre, saying thousands of crores of rupees are being spent

on "vanity projects" such as the new Parliament building in Delhi and the country's first bullet train connecting Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

The former Finance Minister advised the Congress in Gujarat to stay away from such vanity projects and focus on helping the poor and spend money on improving education and healthcare facilities if voted to power in the next month's Assembly elections.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's first privately developed rocket -- Vikram-S -- is set for a launch in a sub-orbital mission with three payloads between November 12 and 16, Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace announced on Tuesday.

The maiden mission of Skyroot Aerospace, named 'Prarambh' (the beginning), will carry two Indian and one foreign customer payloads and is set for launch from Indian Space Research Organisation's launchpad at Sriharikota.

"A launch window between November 12 and 16 has been

notified by authorities, the final date being confirmed based on weather conditions," Skyroot Aerospace CEO and co-founder Pawan Kumar Chandana said.

"We have two Indian and one foreign payloads," Chandana told PTI, refusing to divulge more details.

Spacekidz, a Chennai-based aerospace startup, will fly 'Fun-Sat', a 2.5 kg payload developed by students from India, the US, Singapore and Indonesia on the sub-orbital flight on board Vikram-S.

"We want the children to learn about conducting experiments in space. It is a simple

payload developed by grandparents with their grandchildren," Srimathy Kesan, CEO of Spacekidz, told PTI.

On Monday, ISRO Chairman S Somanath unveiled the mission patch for the Skyroot Aerospace launch.

With this mission, Skyroot is set to become the first private space company in India to launch a rocket into space, heralding a new era for the space sector which was opened up in 2020 to facilitate private sector participation.

"The Vikram-S rocket is a single-stage sub-orbital launch vehicle which would carry three customer payloads and

help test and validate the majority of the technologies in the Vikram series of space launch vehicles," Naga Bharath Daka, Chief Operating Officer of Skyroot Aerospace, said in a statement.

Chandana said Skyroot could build and get the Vikram-S rocket mission-ready in such a short time only because of the invaluable support from ISRO and IN-SPaCe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre).

Skyroot's launch vehicles are named 'Vikram' as a tribute to the founder of the Indian space programme and



renowned scientist Vikram Sarabhai.

Based in Hyderabad, Skyroot was the first startup to sign a memorandum of understanding with ISRO for launching its rockets. It aims to dis-

rupt entry barriers to cost-efficient satellite launch services and space-flight by advancing its mission to make space-flights affordable, reliable and regular for all, the statement said.

PM Modi, French Prez Macron to address 25th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit on Nov 16

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, will address the 25th edition of Asia's largest Tech Event 'Bengaluru Tech Summit' (BTS), during its inaugural here on November 16.

The flagship event organised by the Department of Electronics, IT, Bt, S&T, Government of Karnataka along with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) will be held physically from November 16 to 18 at the iconic Bangalore Palace here. According to E V Ramana Reddy, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T, Government of Karnataka, it



will be a recorded address by both Modi and Macron.

Among the dignitaries attending the event are: Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, UAE; Tim Watts, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia; Petri Honkonen, Minister of Science and Culture of Finland, Finland; and Martin Schroeter, Chairman & CEO, Kyndryl, USA.

As part of the landmark

25th year celebrations, BTS 2022 will witness the unveiling of the Silver Jubilee Commemoration Plaque of Bengaluru Tech Summit 2022 by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, along with the felicitation of 35 companies from ITE and Biotech who have completed 25-plus years of service in Bengaluru.

The event will also witness the coming together of global tech leaders, Indian corporates and startups from IT, Deep tech and Biotech, showcasing disruptive technologies, forging partnerships and alliances.

Speaking to reporters, Karnataka Minister for Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology, Science and Technology, C N Ashwath Narayan said, the

aspiration is to scale-up to the level of Davos in Switzerland, which hosts World Economic Forum, in the years to come.

"We plan to ramp up or scale up the summit to a much bigger level in the years to come. What you see in Davos, we want to adapt that style. That's the kind of aspiration we have...If we grow to it, definitely it will be the most happening," he said.

BTS 2022 this year will consist of a multi-track Conference on IT & Electronics, Deep Tech, Start-Ups & Biotech, Global Innovation Alliance and India USA Tech Conclave. Over 350 domain experts from over 20 countries will address 70-plus sessions attracting 5,000 business delegates.

HC annuls...

From Page 1

Allowing the appeal, the HC said, "Appeal is allowed in part, subject to appellants (INC) removing it from their social media accounts. This order shall not come in the way of the plaintiff making any request to court to protect their copyrights."

Before that the senior advocate in his arguments pointed out that the Commercial Court had no urgent reason to pass the interim order and unless it is stayed Twitter would take down the party's accounts. He submitted that the party was ready to take down the 45 seconds of the alleged clip which infringing on MRT's copyright. To block Twitter accounts for the 45-second clip has ulterior motives, he told the court.

"Blocking Twitter handles will not help the respondents unless they have any ulterior motive," he told the court.

The alleged infringed music clip was on the Twitter handle from October itself but the copyright owner filed the petition on November 2 which was heard on November 5 and the lower court gave the order on November 7. An ex-parte injunction was passed without issuing notice or recording reasons, he told the division bench.

Graft, garbage, pollution key issues in...

From Page 1

Bidhuri also asserted that the anti-incumbency factor will not work against the BJP. On the contrary, he claimed, it will work against the AAP as it's been eight years since it assumed power in the Capital and has not fulfilled the promises made to win the polls. AAP has broken the faith of the Delhiites by making false promises, he charged.

Former leader of Opposition in MCD and AAP leader, Prem Chauhan, said his party's agenda will be highlighting the garbage mountains created by the BJP ruled-civic body in the city. "The people of Delhi are frustrated with the three landfills sited created by the Corporation and want the AAP to run the Corporation as they trust the Kejriwal government. They know if anyone will be able to clean the city, it's the AAP."

"We will win more than 200 seats in the civic polls," claimed Chauhan saying that they are working on the ground and seeing the anger among the citizens regarding the work done by the BJP in MCD in the past 15 years.

AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said that the party will conduct Jansamvad at all 13,682 booths of Delhi from November 8 to November 20. It has appointed more than 600 spokespersons for the dialogue and who have been given training for outreach.

'One Earth, One Family, One...

From Page 1

In his remarks, Modi delved into India's development journey and said all Governments and people contributed in their own way in taking India forward after the Independence.

He said India can show the world that the scope of conflict can come to an end when democracy becomes a culture. The Prime Minister also said development and the environment (Pragati and Prakriti) can walk together while emphasising sustainable development.

"It is a matter of pride for all Indians; it will bring greater glory for all Indians," Modi said on India's upcoming presidency of G-20.

The logo, theme and web-

site of India's G20 presidency reflected the country's "message and overarching priorities" to the world.

"India led the renewable energy revolution with One Sun, One World, One Grid. India strengthened the global health initiative with One Earth, One Health. And now India's theme for the G-20 will be One Earth, One Family, One Future," he said.

At the launch of the logo and website, Modi said, "I congratulate countrymen on historic occasion of India's G-20 Presidency.

"Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam" is signature of India's compassion to world. Lotus portrays cultural heritage and faith of India in bringing the world together."

17% of Wales-England residents...

From Page 1

London remained the region with both the largest proportion of people born outside the UK and the largest proportion of people with non-UK passports.

In 2021, more than four in 10 (40.6 per cent) usual residents in London were non-UK born, and more than one in five (23.3 per cent) had a non-UK passport.

This is a marginal increase since 2011, when 36.7 per cent of London residents were non-UK born and 21.0 per cent had a non-UK passport.

The number of people who listed Romania as their coun-

try of birth grew by 576 per cent since the previous census, from 80,000 in 2011 to 539,000 in 2021 -- marking the highest out of any country, driven by working restrictions for Romanian citizens being lifted in 2014.

"The census paints a picture of how the make-up of the population has changed in the past decade. That decade, of course, saw us leave the EU as well as live with the pandemic," said Jon Wroth-Smith, Census Deputy Director.

"While these events may have had an impact on people's decisions or ability to migrate or travel at a given time, the

Centre...

From Page 1

Vijayan's outburst came against the backdrop of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan's statement on Monday ridiculing the CPI(M). The Telangana Government too has alleged that an axis led by BJP leader BL Santhosh, a Union Minister and Eezhava community leader Tushar Vellappilly in Kerala had offered million of rupees to TRS MLAs to bring down the Chandrasekhar Rao Government in the State.

The CPI(M) launched its door-to-door campaign in Kerala to get the Governor a persona non grata in the State. Party leaders distributed pamphlets containing "chargesheet" against the Governor in households across the State.

Birds on...

From Page 1

Most of these birds were suffering from dehydration or heatstroke. Even the Agra team had a busy time running across the city, rescuing 40 birds from the scorching heat. The list included an Egyptian vulture, Barn owl and Shikra, among others. The numbers could be higher given that many cases of birds suffering with heatstroke go unreported as many do not get timely help.

Situation in northern India's Kashmir was also not encouraging. The Wildlife SOS rescue activists received 19 snake rescue calls in April this year as compared to just one in 2021! This was also caused by a warming Kashmir, where snakes do not emerge during the colder months of March and April. In May a total 24 snakes were rescued, as per the NGO website.

Due to extreme heat waves caused by a rapidly-changing climate, draughts-like crises have become more severe across wild habitats. Therefore, a severe water shortage impacted a number of animals such as tigers, leopards, civets and foxes. Even elephants need enormous amounts of freshwater, without which their daily lives, including their breeding and migration patterns, can be negatively affected, said Satyanarayan.

As water becomes scarce for wild animals, food shortage presents another problem up in the high Himalayas. Global warming is gradually shifting the treeline higher, thereby fragmenting and shrinking invaluable snow leopard habitat, said the wildlife activist.

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(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Captain Deepak Kumar (Borrower), Lsn No. LBDEL00004221662 & LBDEL00004221672	Dda Mig, Flat No-86C, Block-GG-1, Second Floor, Vikas Puri, Delhi, Admeasuring an area of 700 Sq Ft.	Rs. 1,02,08, 743.09/- as on Oct 31, 2022	Rs. 91,60, 000/- From Rs. 9,16, 000/- to 2:00 PM	November 25, 2022, From 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM	December 16, 2022, 12:00 Noon onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL: <https://disposahub.com>) The Mortgagors/ noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till December 15, 2022 before 05:00 P.M 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, 3rd Floor, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005 on or before December 15, 2022 before 05:00 P.M and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before December 15, 2022 before 05:00 P.M 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, 3rd Floor, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005 on or before December 15, 2022 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

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 812613708/7304914763.

Please note that Marketing agencies 1.M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt.Ltd 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](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date : November 09, 2022  
Place : Delhi NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

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Printed and published by Narendra Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printtech Ltd., No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.



# Hang if I'm wrong, or you quit: Suresh to CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a three-page letter addressed to the media shared by his lawyer, he said, "Kejriwal ji, if any of my raised issues to Delhi LG turn out to be wrong as you and your associates said, I'm ready to be hanged. But if the complaint is proven true, you will resign and retire from politics for good."

In the letter, shared by his lawyer, Suresh said, "I hereby am giving this press statement as AAP is trying to fight me and provoke me with war of words instead of answering the truth of all that I have said and asked in my previous press release, and complaints to Delhi LG."

The conman said that questioning the timing of his disclosures, as few states are going to polls and Delhi bracing for the MCD polls, was not right as he was purely moving as per the law.

"Kejriwal ji you and your associates are saying that all this is done purposely now during elections, why it was not done before when ED and CBI Questioned me? And why I did not disclose it before? I will answer this, let me tell you that



I kept quiet and ignored everything but due to your constant threats and pressure through the jail administration and Mr. Jain (Jailed Delhi Minister Satyendra Jain) asking me to give funds during Punjab and Goa polls, brazenly even though I was undergoing investigation this year, it became too much and I don't have any need to take all this from you, I decided to move as per law," he wrote.

"Kejriwalji why Mr. Jain was constantly asking me to withdraw complaint filed in HC against former DG Sandeep Goel and the jail administration, why was I constantly threatened apart from asking me to give more funds for your election campaigns?

## Kejriwal 'janta ka laadla' neither terrorist nor corrupt, tweets CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said he was "the darling of the people" and alleged that the BJP was troubled by the love he was getting. "Before Punjab (Assembly) elections, PM (Narendra Modi) said Kejriwal is a terrorist.

Home Minister (Amit Shah) set up an inquiry. What happened to it? Now, before the Gujarat and the MCD polls, they are saying Kejriwal is corrupt. If Kejriwal is a terrorist or is corrupt, arrest him, no?" Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi. "Kejriwal is neither a



terrorist nor corrupt. Kejriwal is 'janta ka laadla' (darling of the people). The BJP has a problem with him."

Earlier, AAP spokesperson Bhardwaj has called conman Suresh the star campaigner for the BJP after he

made explosive allegations against party chief Arvind Kejriwal in a new letter. Bhardwaj had said, "The way BJP has panicked due to the Gujarat Assembly and Delhi MCD polls, it is visible in their nervousness."

Kejriwal and the AAP have come in for fierce criticism ahead of elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Gujarat Assembly with BJP leaders calling it "the most corrupt party". The 250-ward Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) goes to polls on December 4 while counting will take place on December 7.

# Schools mull steps to increase attendance as primary classes reopen



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A view of Kartavya Path seen covered in thick layer of smog in New Delhi on Tuesday  
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Schools in the national Capital will reopen for primary classes from Wednesday and outdoor activities will be resumed for all classes as the air pollution in Delhi-NCR ameliorated over the last three days. The national Capital has witnessed a layer of smoky haze as its air quality deteriorated to the upper end of the "very poor" category on Tuesday due to calmer winds.

Anshu Mittal, Principal, MRG School, Rohini said they are planning to distribute a manual or written guide to teach students what types of foods, drinks and behaviour they should adopt to ameliorate the situation we are living in. "It serves both purposes.

First, it ensures a proper continuity in their education without any interruption, and it also channelises a conducive envi-

ronment in which there are no possibilities of health hazards.

"We have a proper medical treatment facility to take care of children if they face any discomfort or pain," she said. Sangeeta Hajela, Principal, DPS Indrapuram, said, "We have administered many steps to safeguard students.

Teachers encourage students to have a balanced diet with nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables to increase the stability and viability of the lungs and liver."

"Anti-pollution masks are being distributed to students. Air purifiers have been placed at strategic locations to purify the environment.

These steps will surely ensure a good attendance and safeguard the health of our students," she added.

The Delhi government on Monday decided to reopen schools which were closed for primary classes since Saturday even as environmentalists have warned against "knee jerk" reaction.

However, plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in the national capital will remain banned under stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

Data showed fFarm fires in Punjab dropped from 2,487 on Monday to 605 on Tuesday. Their share in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution dipped from 14 per cent on Monday to 9 per cent on Tuesday, according to data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and SAFAR, a forecasting agency under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

## Live stream lie-detector test on Kejriwal, Jain: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP upped the ante against the AAP supremo after jailed conman Suresh Chandrashekhar claimed that he had bribed the AAP leaders, demanding a polygraph lie detector test of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Satyendar Jain and jailed conman Suresh Chandrashekhar. The BJP also demanded that lie



detector test should be live streaming. Addressing a press conference, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, on Tuesday, demanded that Kejriwal should undergo the lie-detector test to prove that he was not involved in the Delhi liquor scam as alleged by Suresh.

He asked the Delhi chief minister whether he would keep silent on such senior allegations. Tiwari has demanded

that Satyendar Jain should be put in a neutral jail as soon as possible so that he cannot obstruct evidence. "Punjab elections were fought with money collected from liquor mafia and similar work was being done to recover money from people like Suresh Chandrashekhar for coming elections, which has now been exposed," he said. Meanwhile, Namo Cyber Yoddhas staged protest outside

AAP office in Delhi demanding sacking of AAP leaders Satyendra Jain and Kailash Gehlot and a lie detector test of Kejriwal. While protesting outside the AAP office, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said is Kejriwal says he is clean then he should prove it by going ahead with the lie detector test. Poonawalla further demanded sacking of Jain and Gehlot.

## Filed chargesheets in 40 of 98 UAPA cases: Police to HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has informed the Delhi High Court that out of the 98 total cases registered under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) from 2005 to August 7, 2022, they have investigated 83 and filed chargesheet in 40 within 90 days.

The police further informed the court that it transferred 15 out of the 98 cases to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Of the remaining 83 cases, courts decided 40 while 29 are pending trial and 14 are pending investigation by the police, according to the police status report. The data was submitted on the direction of the Delhi

High Court which was hearing a plea by a UAPA accused challenging a trial court order extending the 90-day deadline granted to the Delhi Police in the case against him.

Justices Mukta Gupta and Anish Dayal had in October asked the police to place on record the number of cases under the UAPA where it filed the charge sheet within the stipulated 90 days period.

The high court had also asked the police to disclose the details of instances where a charge sheet was filed after seeking an extension of the 90-day deadline.

Section 43 D (2) of the anti-terror law grants 90 days to the investigating agency to complete its probe and file the charge sheet.



Devotees visit the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, in New Delhi on Tuesday  
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

## Received over 15K resumes of aspirants for MCD polls: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

Delhi BJP has received recommendations and bi-data of over 15,000 probables for the forthcoming municipal polls. According to BJP leaders, selecting candidates for the MCD elections is proving to be a difficult task for the Delhi unit. As per a senior BJP leader, teams of observers collected feedback about probables from local BJP leaders during a two-day process.

The 250-ward Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) goes to polls on December 4 while counting will take place on December 7. Each team, comprising two central and Delhi unit members, visited each of the 14 districts on Monday and Tuesday to collect the names of probables with good reputations and high winnability factor, the leaders said.

Present and former MLAs of Delhi's 70 Assembly constituencies, presidents and general secretaries of 270 mandals (roughly as per ward boundaries) and 250 wards recommended the names of three probables each, said a senior leader of the BJP's Delhi unit associated with the shortlisting process.

Party leaders and workers aspiring to contest the elections are also submitting their bi-datas in large numbers at the BJP's Delhi unit office and to senior functionaries. "We have so far received over 15,000 applications through these channels and the number will rise further," said the senior leader. The nomination process

for the polls, which started on Monday, will conclude on November 14.

"We are trying to process as many applications as possible but it is proving to be a tough task due to the short time available to file the nominations," said another senior

Delhi unit leader. "It has been decided to shortlist three probable candidates from each ward. The shortlisted names will be discussed by the national leadership before the candidates' names are announced around November 12," said the leader.

## AAP directs MLAs to personally monitor Jansamvad campaign

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

The AAP on Tuesday directed all the party MLAs to personally monitor Jansamvad campaign and make public aware of BJP's motive of turning Delhi into a dumpster, ahead of the upcoming Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections.

The decisions and the directions were taken in a crucial meeting on Tuesday chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and State Covenor and Minister Gopal Rai. During the meeting, it was also decided to conduct more than 500 mass public dialogues every day across Delhi.

During the meeting, "AAP office-bearers were assigned responsibilities on various levels to prepare for elections on all 250 MCD seats.

The Blueprint of AAP's decentralised strategy and important issues regarding MCD were discussed at length during the meeting. Instructions have been given to all AAP MLAs to personally

monitor Jansamvad campaign, and make public aware of BJP's motive of turning Delhi into a dumpster," Sisodia said.

"Discussion was also held on the strategy of conducting more than 500 mass public dialogues every day across Delhi. Instructions have been given to all workers to connect with each and every resident of Delhi at the grassroots level and listen to their problems," he said.

"To prepare for MCD elections, AAP has launched the 'Kude Par Jansamvad' campaign today, November 8th. In this regard, MLAs have been directed to personally monitor the campaign.

The party officials will listen to people's garbage problems and discuss their solutions through Jansamvad," he said.

"People will be made aware of the BJP-ruled MCD's plans of turning Delhi into a dumpster. Instructions were also given to all workers to connect with each and every person of Delhi at the grass-root level," Sisodia said.

## LG nod to prosecute activists for insulting SC, ST during 2018 protest

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has sanctioned prosecution against activists of 'Youth Equality Foundation' and 'Aarakshan Virodhi Party' for insulting Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Constitution of India during a protest that was held in 2018.

Sources at Raj Niwas said that the L-G office has given sanction to prosecute Krishan Mohan Rai and Ashutosh Kumar, activists of 'Youth Equality Foundation' and 'Aarakshan Virodhi Party' for insulting Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the



Constitution of India during a protest on August 9, 2018. As per the sources in L-G office, these miscreants along with others had shouted slogans 'Aarakshan Murdabad', 'Sanvidhan Murdabad', 'SC/ST Act Murdabad', 'Ambedkar Murdabad', 'Chamar

Murdabad', etc. and torn and burnt copies of the Constitution in a protest against SC/ST Act Amendment Bill and reservations at Parliament Street.

"Saxena has granted prosecution under section 196 of the Code Of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to prosecute the accused persons in case FIR No. 75/2018 dated August 10, 2018, under section 3(U)SC/ST Punishments for offences atrocities Act, 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence), 505 (Statements conducing to public mischief), 120B (Punishment of criminal

conspiracy), 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) Indian Penal Code (IPC), Prevention of Insults to National Honours Act, 1971," they said.

"The initial FIR in this regard was filed on the complaint of Anil Tanwar, National In-charge of 'Akhil Bhartiya Bheem Sena' on August 9, 2018," sources said.

"The accused had also uploaded the videos of the protests on social media with the intention of promoting enmity amongst different groups, disturbing social harmony and breaching peace. Others involved in the case, against whom action was taken

include Abhishek Shukla, Srinivas Pandey, Santosh Shukla and Deepak Gaur. They were arrested and are out on bail given by the Delhi High Court," said sources.

Saxena in his sanction stated that he has perused the FIR, Charge sheet, relevant documents and other material placed on record and facts of the case at PS Parliament Street, New Delhi.

After the careful scrutiny of the evidence available, The L-G considered view that a prima facie case is made out against the accused Krishan Mohan Rai son of Inderjeet Rai and Ashutosh Kumar son of Nanheshwar Prasad.

## Delhi Metro introduces two eight-coach trains



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Metro on Tuesday introduced two eight-coach trains, converted from the existing fleet of six-carriage trains, for passenger services on its Red line to boost the carrying capacity on the old corridor.

The Red line connects the Rithala station in Delhi and the Shaheed Sthal (New Bus Adda) station in Ghaziabad.

"The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has introduced its first-ever set of two eight-coach trains, which have been converted from the existing fleet of 39 six-coach trains, for passenger services on the Red

Line (Line-1 — Rithala to Shaheed Sthal New Bus Adda) from today," it said in a statement. With this induction, all the trains on the line will be stopping near the far end of the platforms.

This head stopping (trains stopping near the end of the platform) will also be more convenient for the passengers waiting for the trains, officials said.

All the 78 additional coaches being added to these 39 trains on the Red line have been procured from Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEM). These coaches will increase the carrying capacity of the Red line (Line-1), which was extended up to the

Shaheed Sthal station in 2019 with a total length of nearly 34 kilometres.

The conversion of the six-coach trains into eight-coach trains on the Red line is being done in a graded manner to ensure that there is no impact on the regular passenger services and is likely to be completed by 2024, the statement said.

The Red line is the oldest and one of the most significant corridors of the DMRC network in terms of passenger utilisation (around 4.7 lakh per day at present) with four existing interchange stations — Welcome, Kashmere Gate, Inderlok and Netaji Subhas Place. Two more stations —

Pulbangash and Pitampura—on the line will also become interchange stations after the completion of the fourth phase, the statement said.

Last year, the conversion of all the six-coach trains into eight-coach trains on the Yellow line (Line-2 — Samaypur Badli to HUDA City Centre) and the Blue line (Line-3/4 — Dwarka Sector-21 to Noida Electronic City/Vaishali) was completed successfully by adding additional coaches to their remaining fleets of six-coach trains.

These lines, which were initially made operational under the first phase, were built on broad gauge, having the provision of running trains

of up to eight-coach formation.

The remaining corridors of the Delhi Metro network including the Airport Express line, which were constructed in the second and third phases, were built on standard gauge, having the provision of running trains of up to six-coach formation, the statement said.

The first six-coach train service on the Delhi Metro network was also introduced on the Red line in 2013.

The Delhi Metro currently has a fleet of 336 train sets comprising 176 six-coach trains, 138 eight-coach trains and 22 four-coach trains across all its corridors (excluding Rapid Metro, Gurugram and Noida Metro), the DMRC said.



# India, France to hold joint ocean mapping from today

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

Given the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean and China increasing its naval presence there, India and France will conduct joint ocean mapping and surveillance for two days starting Wednesday.

Moreover, Defence Minister of France Sebastian Lecornu is likely to hold talks with his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh in New Delhi late November.

The two Ministers will review bilateral defence ties between India and France, sources said here on Tuesday adding the visiting minister will also meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor(NSA)Ajit Doval. As regards joint mapping, the Indian Navy's Boeing P 8 I long range maritime reconnaissance aircraft and French Navy's Falcon 50 conducting will conduct the exercise in the Mozambique Channel,



Mauritius and South-West Indian Ocean. This is the second time this year two countries are carrying out mapping around French Union Island. The two countries will also review their efforts to deter piracy, drug trafficking and arms smuggling in the region.

Incidentally, the French defence minister's visit will take place after the culmination of the fortnight long 'Garuda' joint exercise between air forces of the two countries in Jodhpur this weekend and the joint mapping drill. Indian Air

Force chief V R Chaudhari on Tuesday flew in a Rafale fighter jet, while French Air chief General Stéphane Mille took off in an Indian Russian-origin Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft during 'Garuda VII' bilateral exercise.

The visiting French air force chief had met his Indian counterpart in New Delhi on Monday and discussed ways to further strengthen their bilateral ties. He also met Army chief General Manoj Pande and Navy Vice Chief S N Ghormade.

# Infiltration cases in J&K cut to 34 from 136 in 5 yrs

## 'Centre, UT took multi-pronged approach to contain cross-border infiltration'

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Claiming that the internal security situation remained under control during 2021, the Union Home Ministry in its annual report (2021-22) said that infiltration of terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced substantially from 136 in 2017 to just 34 (till November 30) in 2021.

Likewise, there was a marked decline in the number of infiltration bids during the last five years.

Citing the infiltration data, the Ministry said that the terrorists made 419 infiltration bids in 2017 followed by 328 such attempts in 2018, 216 in 2019, 99 in 2020 and only 73 in 2021 till November 30.

The net estimated infiltration was 136 in 2017, 143 in 2018, 138 in 2019, 51 in 2020 and 34 in 2021 till November 30, according to the annual report.

The Centre in tandem with the Jammu and Kashmir administration adopted a multi-pronged approach to contain cross-border infiltration,



the report said. This included strengthening of the border infrastructure, multi-tiered deployment along the International Border, Line of Control (LoC) and near the ever-changing infiltration routes, construction and maintenance of border fencing, it said. The efforts of the security

forces were further complemented by provision of improved technology, weapons and equipment, improved intelligence and operational coordination, installation of floodlight on the International Border and synergising intelligence flow to check infiltration and pro-active action against

terrorists within the Union territory, it noted.

Meanwhile, giving details on overall internal security scenario, the report said, with regard to terrorism in the hinterland of the country, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) or Naxal terrorism in certain areas and insurgency in the North

Eastern States, a marked improvement has been witnessed.

Explaining the action taken to control internal security in the country, the report said the Central government focused on capacity building of States police forces through "regular training in the area of intelligence collection, response to terror incidents and investigation" as they are first responders to any terrorist incident.

The annual report also said that the Central Government has declared 42 outfits as terrorist organisations and 31 individuals as terrorists so far.

The Ministry also actively participated in the Joint Working Group Meetings on Counter Terrorism with foreign countries and the law enforcement agencies to keep a close watch on the activities of fundamentalist organisations and groups, having bearing on the security, peace and public tranquility in the country and take action as per extant provisions of law, wherever necessary, the report added.

# CBI raids 7 premises in J&K SI job scam



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at seven locations in Jammu, Pathankot, Rewari and Karnal in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam in Jammu and Kashmir.

The searches were conducted at the premises of arrested mastermind Yatin Yadav and CRPF constable Surender Singh among others, officials said.

The CBI had taken over the investigation into the case on August 3 on a reference from

the Jammu and Kashmir government. The case relates to the leak of question paper for the examination through which 1,200 posts of sub-inspectors were to be filled by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB).

In this case, 13 accused including then Commandant of BSF, one ASI and two Constables of Jammu and Kashmir Police, one CRPF Constable, one former CRPF official and a teacher were earlier arrested.

A Rewari resident, Yatin Yadav, had allegedly leaked the question paper with the help of an employee of the printing press in Okhla.

Yadav allegedly used illicit services of touts based in Jammu and Kashmir, including

constables of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for luring candidates who were charged anything between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 30 lakh approximately for the paper, they said.

The candidates were allegedly taken to Karnal in Haryana in vehicles provided by CRPF constable Surender Singh and a question paper was provided to them at a hotel there, the CBI said.

The leaked question paper was also allegedly provided to the candidates in Jammu. Searches were also earlier conducted around 77 locations including the premises of the then Chairman and Controller of JKSSB. Cash to tune of Rs 61.79 lakh was recovered.

# SC upholds HC order against Andhra move to increase medical college fee to ₹24 lakh a year

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Education is not a business to earn profit and tuition fees shall always be affordable, the Supreme Court has said while upholding the Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing the state government's decision to enhance the tuition fee in medical colleges to Rs 24 lakh per annum.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Sudhanshu Dhulia imposed a cost of Rs 5 lakh on the petitioner, Narayana Medical College, and Andhra Pradesh to be deposited with the court registry within a period of six weeks.

"To enhance the fee to Rs 24 lakh per annum i.e., seven times more than the fee fixed earlier was not justifiable at all. Education is not the business to earn profit. The tuition fee shall always be afford-



able," the bench said. The top court's observation came while dismissing a plea filed by the college against an order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court which set aside the government's decision to enhance the tuition fee of MBBS students.

The high court had held that considering the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Admission and Fee Regulatory Committee (for Professional Courses offered in Private Un-Aided Professional Institutions) Rules, 2006, the fee cannot be enhanced/fixed without the recommendations/report of

the committee. The top court said several factors such as the location of the professional institution, nature of the professional course, cost of available infrastructure are required to be considered by the Admission and Fee Regulatory Committee while determining or reviewing the tuition fees.

It said the college management cannot be permitted to retain the amount recovered/collected pursuant to the illegal government order.

"In view of the above and for the reasons stated above both the appeals fail and the same deserve to be dismissed and are accordingly dismissed, however, with cost which is quantified at Rs 5 lakh to be equally paid by the appellant as well as the State of Andhra Pradesh to be deposited with the Registry of this Court within a period of six weeks," the bench said.



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi holds a trident during a public meeting, ahead of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections, at Haroli in Una district on Monday  
PTI Photo

# Javadekar, Ramesh appointed heads of Rajya Sabha's ethics, housing committees

BJP's chief whip in RS Bajpayee will chair panel on subordinate legislation

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Former Union Minister Prakash Javadekar and BJP MP C M Ramesh have been appointed as chairperson of Rajya Sabha's ethics and housing committees, respectively as Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar reconstituted several committees.

According to notifications issued by the Secretariat of the Upper House, BJD MP Sujet Kumar has been appointed as chairperson of Rajya Sabha's petitions committee, and DMK MP M Thambidurai of panel on Government assurances, while BJP MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa will chair the parliamentary panel on papers



laid on the table. BJP's chief whip in the Rajya Sabha Laxmikant Bajpayee will chair the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

In the reconstituted ethics committee chaired by Javadekar, TMC floor leader of Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh, BJD leader Sasmit Patra and YSR Congress leader Vijaysai Reddy are also among its members. Ramesh, BJP's key floor manager in the Upper House, will now chair the Rajya Sabha's housing committee, the notification said.

# Centre grants J&K 265 DNB PG medical seats

Health Ministry says move is in keeping with PM Modi's vision of 'Health for All'

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

With an aim to ensure better healthcare in the newly constituted Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre has granted 265 Diplomate of National Board (DNB) postgraduate medical seats to several Government hospitals across 20 districts of the UTs with the active contribution of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS).

The move is in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Health for All" aimed at improvement of healthcare delivery across the country, said a senior official from the Union Health



Ministry.

This would not only ensure benefits to the locals but also the medicos as they will get an opportunity of being trained in their own region. "Tapping this homegrown medical workforce would lead to an effective healthcare delivery system in the Union Territory," the official added.

The effort was taken on a mission mode with the vision of providing trained specialists in almost every district of J&K, said the official.

The Ministry along with NBEMS took a lead role and ensured that several postgraduate seats of NBEMS were

granted to various government hospitals of Jammu and Kashmir.

As a consequence, presently there exists more than 250 PG seats across 20 districts in phase 1 of the expansion plan. Two more PG seats will be granted in the second phase. Furthermore, 50per cent of the PG seats are reserved for local in-service doctors to provide them the opportunity for postgraduate training.

The locals of the region will be benefited as modern quality healthcare will become more affordable and accessible in almost all the districts. This in turn, would further enhance the quality of primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare.

For various medical entrance examinations, the Centre has increased the number of examination centres in the UT itself. This has ensured that local aspirant candidates do not have to travel to other States to appear for the entrance examinations.

## IN SHORTS

### 'INDIA HAS EXPERTISE IN MANGROVE RESTORATION'

**New Delhi:** India has demonstrated expertise in mangrove restoration for nearly five decades and can contribute to global knowledge base due to its experience, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav has said at launch of the 'Mangrove Alliance for Climate'. The UAE and Indonesia have launched the MAC on the sidelines of the UN climate summit COP27, to strengthen conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems worldwide. India, Australia, Japan, Spain and Sri Lanka have joined the alliance.

### 'EWS VERDICT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO FULL BENCH'

**New Delhi:** The CPI on Tuesday said the Supreme Court verdict on EWS quota has raised apprehensions and should be referred to a full bench for review. In a statement, the Left party said the judgment has brought to the forefront 'pertinent questions' about its impact on reservation for SC, ST and OBC in the absence of caste census, non-availability of data and criteria to determine the economically weaker sections of forward castes.

### AMDAR TO HELP IMPROVE FORECAST ACCURACY

**New Delhi:** The IMD may soon get additional sets of weather observations through AMDAR that can help improve forecast accuracy, particularly when early warning systems are proving to be important in view of increasing instances of extreme weather events.

### INDIAN PHYSICIAN GETS US' BAILEY K ASHFORD MEDAL

**New Delhi:** The world's largest scientific organisation in tropical medicine, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, has awarded the prestigious 2022 Bailey K Ashford Medal and 2022 Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (FASTMH) award to Indian physician-scientist Dr Subash Babu, who is Scientific Director of the ICER-India programme at the ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai.

# Modi, BJP senior leaders greet Advani on his 95th birthday

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior central ministers and BJP leaders on Tuesday greeted party patriarch L K Advani on his 95th birthday here at his residence.

Modi presented a bouquet of red flowers to the BJP veteran who welcomed him and other senior party leaders in the lawn of his 30, Prithviraj Road residence, where he has been staying since 2002. Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh were seen smiling and exchanging notes with the party veteran who looked quite healthy and cheerful.

Born in 1927 in Karachi, now part of Pakistan, Advani joined the RSS at a young age and later worked for Jana Sangh where he made a mark with his organisational abilities. He was a founding member of the BJP in 1980 and was



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others, meets veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani on the latter's birthday, in New Delhi, on Tuesday  
PTI Photo

its face along with former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for several decades. He held the post of Deputy

Prime Minister during the Vajpayee government from June 29, 2002 to May 22, 2004 and that of Home Minister

from 1998 to 2004.

He is also the BJP's longest serving president and the longest serving leader of oppo-

sition in the Lok Sabha. Advani was BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate in 2009 against the Congress nominee Dr

Manmohan Singh. Tweeting a photo of himself with Advani at the latter's residence, Modi said, "His contribution to India's growth is monumental.

He is respected all across India for his vision and intellect. His role in building and strengthening the BJP is unparalleled. I pray for his long and healthy life."

The Prime Minister was received by Advani's son and daughter.

Home Minister Amit Shah said Advani, with his relentless efforts, strengthened the party organisation across the country and also made invaluable contribution to the country's development while being part of the government. Shah wished him good health and a long life.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari called Advani a source of inspiration. Rajnath Singh said Advani has made a very

important contribution to the country, society and the party and is counted among the country's tallest personalities.

Paying rich tributes to the veteran who groomed a generation of young leaders, BJP president J P Nadda described him as a leading light of Indian politics and a guide to party leaders. His life dedicated to the nation and the party is a source of inspiration to them, he said.

A keen strategist, Advani's 'Rath Yatra' from Somnath, Gujarat to Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, in 1990 in support of building the Ram temple in Ayodhya at a site believed to be the birth place of Lord Ram activated a churning in the Indian politics and triggered the rise of the BJP which was restricted to only two Lok Sabha seats in 1984 to successive spell of power at the centre and thereafter, two successive majority Govt since 2014.



# Cong, LF to tie up for rural polls in Bengal?

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after an undeclared village-level alliance between the Left and the BJP routed the ruling Trinamool Congress in Nandakumar Baharampur Cooperative Credit Society elections in Nandakumar block — off Nandigram — in East Midnapore district, both the Congress and the Marxists have started thinking in terms of going back to alliance politics.

A joint panel of the village level BJP and Left leaders won 52 out of 63 seats leaving the TMC to a distant third place.

While TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that the Nandakumar polls --- though not an indicator of what the people of Bengal were thinking --- only proved the "secret alliance between the Ram and Wam (BJP and Left)" that had seen the saffron outfit win 77 seats in 2021 elections.

The Left outrightly rejected Ghosh's claim saying it was "mischievous to create division among the voters." A senior Left leader said that "in rural elections the often local issues work though the large scale



corruption that the people are seeing in the television may have had an impact in the elections." They denied any alliance with the saffron outfit.

However, when asked to comment on whether the Nandakumar had any hints for the Left and the Congress to think differently in the next year's panchayat elections CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty said rural polls are fought on local issues and the top Left leadership did not meddle much into that.

A senior Pradesh Congress leader too said that the tri-colour party had fought elections jointly with the Left in 2016 and in 2021 adding however that the party would take the final decision at appropriate moment.

On the complete rout of

the TMC in the Nandakumar cooperative society elections which can be taken as a sample survey for at least one Assembly seat the Left leadership said that the people want the Trinamool to go.

The Congress and the Left last contested jointly in 2021 Assembly polls that saw both Marxists and the tri-colour parties coming down to zero seats. While the Trinamool Congress won 212 seats the BJP bagged 77.

However subsequent polls post pandemic saw the Left doing better in many areas where they pushed the BJP to the third position.

"Panchayat elections are still some time away ... let us see what happens ... we don't say that any alliance with the Left is impossible," said a senior Congress leader from Murshidabad where the Congress has very recently formed a panchayat board with the Left after toppling the TMC in a no-confidence motion.

# We will transform transport infrastructure in HP: Thakur

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur addressed five huge public meetings in Ghumarwin, Jhanduta and Sadar Vidhan Sabhas of Bilaspur district in Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday.

Thakur stressed on road connectivity for the hilly people and said, "Connectivity is the biggest challenge. In the last years we worked to fill the pits of Congress's corruption. We worked tirelessly to provide connectivity to the people of Himachal Pradesh and succeeded in it. This time we have taken resolution in our Sankalp Patra of transforming the transport and infrastructure facilities of Himachal Pradesh. We will do it together with your support and blessings."

Talking about the ambitious 'Shakti' programme the Union minister said it will be implemented to develop infrastructure and transport around religious places in Himachal.

"Under 'Shakti', Rs 12,000 crore will be spent over a period of next 10 years. He said

that, the BJP's double engine government will ensure that every village in Himachal Pradesh is connected by a pucca road in the next 5 years," he said.

Thakur who is also a Lok Sabha MP from Hamirpur constituency in Himachal Pradesh said, "In terms of health infrastructure, mobile clinic vans will be doubled in every Vidhan Sabha so that people can get health facilities in far flung areas at ease."

Speaking of achievements Shri Thakur said, "In the last eight years, 12,000 kms of road have been built. Hamirpur is going to be the second district of Himachal after Una, which will be connected by broad gauge railway line. Three Vande Bharat trains were running in the country, and PM Modi gifted the fourth one to Himachal. Today India's most modern train has started operating in Himachal."

Criticising the Congress of being anti-development Thakur said, "Congress has done the work of snatching the rights of Bilaspur. We kept getting big projects approved from the Center but Congress kept shopping them. We gave



AIIMS projects worth Rs 1470 crore for Himachal, but Congress did not give us land for 4 years. In 2010, we brought Central University for the youth of Himachal, but the Congress kept producing administrative hurdles in it for 8 years. In 2012, we got Hydrocarbon Engineering College approved, Congress stopped it for 7 years. On the same lines, Congress did not give us land for four to four years for the medical college. In 2014, when we brought IIM, Congress stopped that too. "

Furthering the jibe on Congress party Thakur said, "We did the work of bringing and Congress did the work of stopping. We used to walk on the path of development and

these people used to protest.

Speaking on health & education in his parliamentary constituency Hamirpur, he said, "There was no big university, no medical college, no big hospital and no railway facilities in Hamirpur previously. We did the work of building the country's largest hospital and medical institute in AIIMS Bilaspur at a cost of Rs 1500 crore. We are the ones building a PGI hospital in Una at a cost of Rs 400 crore. A 300-bed hospital has been built in Hamirpur at a cost of about 350 crores. The Central University which was promised, earlier, when we got it approved, 280 crores was to be spent but now Rs 550 crores have already been received for it."

# Refer SC order on EWS quota to larger bench, says CPI(ML)

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Communist Party of India (ML) demanded that the 3-2 decision of the Supreme Court on 10 per cent reservation to economically weaker sections of the society be referred to a larger bench. The party said the decision was unfortunate and against the soul of the Indian Constitution.

In a statement, party's state secretary Sudhakar Yadav said the reservation system is based on backwardness in terms of social, educational and historical basis in the constitution of our country and not on the basis of economic status.

"We had opposed the EWS reservation when it was being implemented in the country and we are again registering our protest," he said.

Yadav said the annual income limit, which is Rs 8,000, was also whimsical. "The Union government is reducing the existing reservation percentage for the groups entitled as per the Indian constitution while making excuses," he alleged.

# Demonetisation move by 'PayPM' to help his billionaire friends to monopolise eco: Rahul

PTI ■ DELHI/NANDED

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over demonetisation, saying it was a deliberate move by "PayPM" to ensure that two-thirds of his billionaire friends could monopolize India's economy.

Speaking during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra later in the day, he also dubbed the November 2016 decision as an "attack" on farmers and small and medium businesses.

The Congress has often used 'PayCM' and 'PayPM' jibe at the BJP to allege corruption under its rule at the Centre and in states. It is a play on the digital payment platform PayTM. Gandhi's attack came on



the sixth anniversary of demonetisation. It was on this day in 2016 that Prime Minister Modi announced the decision to withdraw Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denomination notes with the stated aim of reducing corruption and black money.

"Demonetisation was a deliberate move by 'PayPM' to ensure 2-3 of his billionaire friends monopolise India's economy by finishing small & medium businesses," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

Later, speaking at Biloli in

Maharashtra's Nanded district during his Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress leader said demonetisation and the 'fauly' implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) wrecked the backbone of those who provide employment, that is, farmers and small-and-medium businesses.

"The fact is that note-ban was not a move for eliminating black money. It was an attack on small merchants, small and medium businesses and farmers. Every poor person is reeling under that impact even today," he said.

Speaking at the same gathering, Gandhi also alleged that education and healthcare systems are being privatised. The Modi government and the state government are handing over

the entire system to just "two-three people", he said.

The entire public sector is being privatised, the Congress leader claimed.

"Note-ban and GST have closed one road, privatisation has closed the other (for the youth)," he said while talking about unemployment in the country.

The Congress on Tuesday also demanded a white paper from the Modi government on demonetisation.

"The government failed in its objective to make India a digital, cashless economy as the currency with public stands at a new high of 30.88 lakh crores as of 21 October - almost 72% higher than 6 years ago," the Congress said in a tweet from its official Twitter handle.

# Chhattisgarh CM alleges scam into State-run civil supply corp under previous BJP Govt, seeks ED probe

PTI ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday wrote to the Enforcement Directorate seeking a probe alleging a "scam" into state-run Civil Supply Corporation and "irregularities" by chit fund firms which he claimed had taken place when Raman Singh-led BJP government was in power.

Baghel tweeted two letters he has written to the Director of the federal anti-money laundering agency and said if ED does not take up the investigation into the two "scams", the court will be approached.

Reacting sharply, Raman Singh asked why Bhupesh Baghel is afraid of the "truth", apparently referring to the



ED's action currently underway in the state.

The ED is probing a money laundering case linked to the alleged extortion of money from coal and mining transporters in Chhattisgarh and arrested four persons including a Chhattisgarh-cadre IAS officer so far.

In the letter seeking a probe into the Nagrik Apurti Nigam (NAN) or civil supply

corporation "scam", Baghel said the state's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had raided the Nigam's office and its officials and recovered cash and unearthed documents of disproportionate assets to the tune of crores.

A case was registered against 28 people. 16 of them got a clean chit in court later, he said.

"It was surprising that no initiative was taken by the ED to probe the scam as it generally takes quick action by registering cases even in 'small matters'."

He alleged Raman Singh ensured that no case was registered by the ED.

The ED had registered a case in connection with the "NAN scam" in 2019 but so far

there is no information regarding the progress of the probe, he stated.

"If no action/investigation is conducted by the ED within 15 days, then a petition will be filed in the court in this regard," he added.

In another letter claiming irregularities by chit fund companies, Baghel claimed that between 2009 and 2017, the then BJP government had organised employment fairs of chit fund companies in every district wherein the then CM Raman Singh and his cabinet colleagues and senior officials took part as guests.

Unscrupulous chit-fund firms ditched youths and duped innocent people to the tune of several crores through such fairs, he claimed.

# Akhilesh surrounded by sycophants: Shivpal

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party-Lohia president Shivpal Singh Yadav on Tuesday said that his nephew and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav is "surrounded by sycophants."

His comments assume significance as it comes amid speculation about thaw in their ties after the death of SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Talking to media persons at a private programme here, PSP-L chief said, "He (Akhilesh) is surrounded by sycophants who believe in mere flattering."

About contesting elections together with Samajwadi Party,



Singh said, "Our Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party is the real SP and there is no greedy person with us. We stay away from the greedy people."

Regarding the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat which fell vacant after the death of party founder Mulayam Singh on October 10, he said, "We are still thinking that we'll contest alone or with the SP. Whatever



decision will be taken will be in-front of everyone soon."

Bonding between Shivpal Singh and Akhilesh Yadav during rituals related to the SP patriarch's last rites, had triggered speculation about the "chacha-bhatija" (uncle and nephew) joining hands again.

On the candidature of grandson Tej Pratap from the Mainpuri seat, Shivpal said,

"Let the name be announced by the SP first and we'll see afterwards."

The PSP-L chief, however, maintained silence over the candidature of Aparna Yadav, Mulayam's younger daughter-in-law, from the seat. She is presently in the BJP.

Earlier, Shivpal was given a warm welcome in Gorakhpur by the party workers and office bearers.

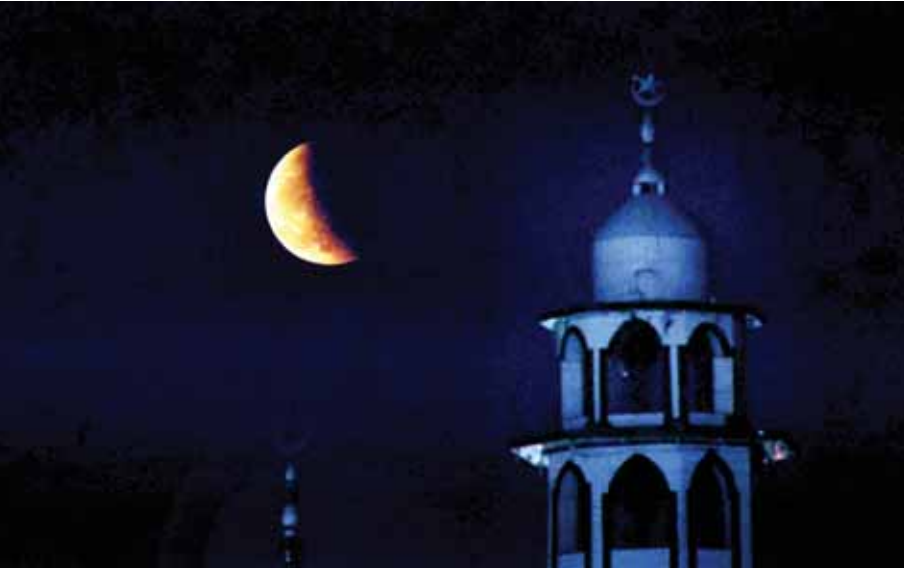
Shivpal and Akhilesh had come together during the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls in March to take on the BJP. But after the elections, the relationship saw a dip and they again parted ways.

There was a speculation that the uncle and nephew

would campaign for the SP candidate for the November 3 Gola Gokarannath bypoll, but this did not happen. Shivpal Singh was not in the SP list of star campaigners for the polls. SP lost the seat.

In the March assembly polls, though Shivpal was elected once again from his traditional Jaswant Nagar constituency on the SP's symbol, he was not called for the Samajwadi Party meeting following the elections.

Shivpal had supported the BJP candidate Droupadi Murmu in the Presidential election, and was seen in the company of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on many occasions.



Moon partially covered by the earth's shadow during lunar eclipse, in Patna on Tuesday.

(PTI)

# Sikh Gurus sacrificed everything to safeguard nation, says Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Sikh Gurus sacrificed everything to safeguard the nation and remained solely dedicated to 'selfless service' as they paved the way for protection of humanity even as their teachings serve as inspiration for generations.

Extending greetings to people on Guru Nanak Dev's 'Prakash Parv', the chief minister said, "Sikh Gurus spread the light of strength and faith wherever they went. Their lives and teachings inspire generations to remain selflessly dedicated to nation, 'dharma' and humanity."

Yogi added that such grand and fearless celebrations on auspicious occasions like these cannot take place at Guru Nanak Ji's holy place 'Nankana Sahib'. "We must learn from our mistakes in the past. History is not just a medium to study but it guides



us not to repeat blunders," Yogi said.

The chief minister further said that Sikh Gurus always stepped forward to protect humanity whenever there was unrest, women were not safe, and humanity and 'dharma' was in danger. "Their teachings awakened people and spread the light of humanity. Today when travelling is easy, we still face difficulties, but Guru

Nanak Dev Ji had paved the way for the welfare of humanity through religious preaching even by visiting places which were nearly impossible to reach," Yogi said.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia, Sardar Baldev Singh Aulakh, Dinesh Sharma and Rajeshwar Singh among others were also present on the occasion.

# Congress worker dies of heart attack during Yatra

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Tragedy struck the Congress' ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra on its 62nd day on Tuesday, as a 75-year-old Congress Seva Dal worker died of a cardiac arrest, while he was walking along with other party workers in the yatra in Nanded district of Maharashtra.

The Rahul Gandhi-led Yatra -- which had arrived at Degloor in Nanded district from Telangana state on Monday night to a rousing welcome from party workers and people --- was on its way Degloor and Atkali in Nanded district, when Congress Seva Dal general secretary Krishna Kumar Pandey collapsed after he suffered cardiac arrest.

Pandey, a native of Nagpur, was rushed to a local hospital where he was declared dead on admission.

When the Yatra began in the morning from Degloor where it had halted after its arrival from Telangana on Monday night, Pandey was holding the national tri-colour and walking with him and party veteran Digvijaya Singh

in the stretch between Degloor and Atkali.

The incident happened shortly after he handed the national tri-colour to another party worker and joined the yatra from behind.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that Pandey was holding the tri-colour and walking with him and party veteran Digvijaya Singh.

"On the 62nd morning of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Krishna Kumar Pandey, General Secretary of Seva Dal was holding the national flag and walking with @digvijaya. 28, & me. After a few minutes, as is the practice, he handed the flag to a colleague and moved back"

"Thereafter he collapsed and was taken in an ambulance to a hospital where most sadly he was declared dead. He was a staunch Congressman and used to take on the RSS in Nagpur. It is a most humbling moment for all the Yatris," Ramesh said.

Pandey's body was later taken from the hospital to Yatra halt site at Atkali village where the yatris including Rahul Gandhi and

Maharashtra Congress workers paid their last respects.

Wrapped in the party flag, Pandey's body was later handed over to his son to his son Sheelaj Pandey who is also taking part in the yatra.

Mourning the death of Pandey, Rahul Gandhi -- who is leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra -- said, "Krishna Kumar Pandey's dedication is inspiring. Pandey ji's demise is very sad for the entire Congress family. I express my deepest condolences to his loved ones. Today, he held the tricolor in his hands at the last moment during the journey. His dedication to the country will always inspire us."

"Pandey-ji was affectionately known as K K Pandey and he was an ardent Congress supporter. In Nagpur, he worked tirelessly for the party. He breathed his last holding the Tricolour," Ramesh said.

"As a mark of respect for Krishna Kumar Pandey, the second half of the yatra will pass through silently on Tuesday without the usual music system that follows," Ramesh added.

Maharashtra's former chief



minister Ashok Chavan also condoled Pandey's death, saying the party has lost a "staunch and loyal warrior".

Chavan said that the party intended to hold medical check-ups for all the senior citizens participating in the yatra. "Since many of the Yatris can not match the walking pace ofn Rahul Gandhi, we plan to hold medical check ups for senior citizens and people with people with comorbidities," the senior state Congress leader said.

Earlier in the day, Rahul visited Gurdwara Yaadgari Baba Zoravar Singh ji Fateh Singh ji on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti n "At the gurdwara, Gandhi prayed for

harmony and equality," the party tweeted.

During the yatra on Tuesday, Rahul was accompanied by senior state Congress leaders including former chief ministers Sushilkumar Shinde and Ashok Chavan, state party chief Nana Patole, and other leaders like Balasaheb Thorat, Manikrao Thakre and Naseem Khan.

Addressing a large crowd that gathered at Degloor to welcome the yatra on its after in Maharashtra from Telanganad, Rahul said that he would not stop 3,570-km Bharat Jodo Yatra -- from Kanyakumari to Kashmir -- till the national tri-colour is hoisted in Srinagar.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Dhankhar template

By quarreling with the state Govt and now also the media, Kerala Governor is diminishing himself

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan does not cover himself in glory by his incessant quarrels with the state Government, which is under the Communist Party of India (Marxist). And now he is fighting the media in the state, a section of which he denounces as the "cadre media." He didn't allow two journalists in a press briefing he addressed on Monday at a guest house. In response, journalists in Kerala on Tuesday held a protest march to the Raj Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram. Media protesting against a government is not unusual, but it certainly is against the Governor of a state. Not a day passes when Khan doesn't cross swords with the CPM Government. For the nth time, he claimed on Monday that the constitutional machinery has collapsed in the state. Evidently, that was normal—or, to be precise, the new normal after Jagdeep Dhankhar. The former West Bengal governor had confrontations with the Mamata Banerjee Government on a daily basis. It became an unedifying spectacle, but with good results—that is, for Dhankhar who was rewarded with the high office of Vice-President. But Khan did not stop with the routine condemnation of the Kerala Government. He also said, "I challenge them [the state Government] to go ahead and barge into Raj Bhavan. And attack me on the road. You cannot intimidate me like this." This is the language of a Hindi movie baddie (Himmat hai to saamne aa), not that of someone occupying the office of state Governor.

Khan was referring to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's claim that he (Khan) will have to face an uprising for not signing certain Bills and issuing show-cause notices to 11 vice-chancellors. While Governors not clearing Bills is not unprecedented, issuing show-cause notices to vice-chancellors is unheard of. To be sure, the Governor is the Chancellor of universities, including General universities, agricultural universities, technical universities, and medical universities. The Chancellor has the power to appoint vice-chancellors by setting up a search committee, recommend a panel of names from which final selection and appointments are made. The Chancellor also has the authority to grant leave or institute disciplinary action and award penalties. But there are also traditions and conventions that need to be respected; in fact, our democracy, patterned on the Westminster system, is predicated on following conventions. By dealing directly with vice-chancellors, Khan is setting a precedent, whereas as Governor is expected to follow precedents. If every Governor—and President—begins setting precedents, our system will become utterly chaotic. Khan must realise that, by his regular run-ins with the state Government, he is diminishing himself. So far, he has been known as a conscientious, liberal leader who had the gumption to take of the Muslim clergy and his own government in the mid-1980s. He should ensure that history doesn't remember him as a Governor who regularly needled the state Government.



Devotees during 553rd birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev, in Kanpur

# A much-awaited Diwali Gift

The apex court is now taking keen interest in matters of hate speech, it must thwart attempts to demonize minorities with venomous utterances

India's win over Pakistan in the recent Super-12 T20 World Cup match is being celebrated widely and is being treated as a Diwali Gift by team India to the nation and the Virat Kohli-Hardik Pandya duo is being credited for this heroic win. However, there is one more Diwali gift that we received recently from our Hon'ble Supreme Court when a two-judge bench comprising of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy while hearing a petition about the growing trend of hate speeches against Muslims, came down heavily on the police authorities and executive agencies of different States for their total inaction and directed them to register "Suo-Motto" complaints without paying heed to the perpetrator's religious identity [Writ Petition (Civil) 940 of 2022; Shaheen Abdulla vs. Union of India & Ors.].

But what makes "this instance" by the Hon'ble Supreme Court so special and noteworthy? The answer is threefold- Firstly, "the sheer seriousness" which is shown by the learned judges in acknowledging the problem of rapidly increasing hate speeches, particularly and continuously being propagated by members of the ruling party and their affiliated "so-called monks & sadhus". Secondly, the learned judges not only acknowledged the problem of hate speech but, while keeping the main petition pending, proceeded to give effective interim order by directing the nonchalant police authorities and executive agencies to register the "Suo Motto" complaint against the perpetrators without considering their religious identities, vide their speaking judicial order dated 21st October 2022. Thirdly, they invoked the deep-rooted & much-debated constitutional principles of "fraternity" & "secularism" to hold the executive accountable and also warned them of "contempt" in case of non-compliance with the said order. Another facet that makes this order a "plausible one" is that it focuses on real action and not mere judicial words, which could be left at the mercy of the executive's arbitrary interpretation. It



is perhaps for the first time in the past many months that the Hon'ble Apex Court has acknowledged and addressed this "issue" with such seriousness and even remarked that "religion" is being used to spread hatred and target communities.

It is not the first time that someone has approached the apex court with the grievance of growing cases of Hate Speech. The Apex Court is already examining matters about hate speech which were filed in the wake of venomous news broadcast against the Muslim community by news channels like Sudarshan News [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 956 of 2020; In Re UPSC Jihad], and also in the aftermath of so-called "Dharam Sansads" & Hindu Yuva Vahini Meetings" in different states (particularly BJP ruled), wherein inflammatory remarks and speeches were made and call to boycott and wipe out Muslims and other minority communities were made by right-wing political leaders and religious imposters like 'Yati Narsingananand Saraswati' and others [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 24 of 2022].

However, the fact of the matter is that neither any Judge from the apex Court nor concerned High Courts took Suo-Motto cognizance (despite

IT IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT SOMEONE HAS APPROACHED THE APEX COURT WITH THE GRIEVANCE OF GROWING CASES OF HATE SPEECH. THE APEX COURT IS ALREADY EXAMINING MATTERS ABOUT HATE SPEECH

having conferred with such powers by the Constitution) of the constant hate speeches, and nor any effective interim or permanent orders were passed by the concerned benches in the above mentioned batch matters despite the seriousness of the issues involved.

Fortunately, these matters are also now being heard and examined by the same bench comprising of Justices Joseph & Roy, wherein on the last date of hearing, i.e., 21st September 2022, the learned Judges took note of the recommendations made by the 267th report of the law commission of India to introduce more stringent provisions to tackle the menace of hate speeches and sought response from the Union of India. Especially, considering that fact there are already existing judgments like "Shakti Vahini, Tehseen S. Poonawalla, and Kodungallur Film Society," from the apex court which have laid guidelines to deal with the crime of hate speech. But, despite the said judgments in place, hate speeches are being made a day in and day out, and in fact, an effort has been made to normalize it by none other than people who are part of the power spectrum. Thus, under such peculiar circumstances, it would be interesting to see how the Hon'ble Supreme Court would

get its orders implemented through inactive or rather adamant executive agencies, which are presently acting as "puppets" in the hands of powerful political leaders.

At a point, when religious temperaments are high and political masters are using media and their socio-religious allies as a tool to spread hate against minorities, such judicial orders bring a sigh of relief. Further, such orders also remind us that the Hon'ble Supreme Court is called "sentinel on the quiver" (a watchful guardian of citizen's fundamental rights) for a reason and that reason is- when the citizens have no one to guard their rights, the constitutional courts come to their rescue. For that, it is only the constitutional courts that could stand up against the arbitrariness & inaction of the "mighty State and its machinery", as they (Courts) have been conferred with enough powers by our beloved Constitution. Thus, it is not only the Kohli-Pandya duo who have given us the joy of happiness and reasons to celebrate but also the Joseph-Roy (Justices) duo.

(The writers are practicing advocates at the Supreme Court of India. The views expressed are personal)

## COPing with climate

There is urgent need to install warning systems to check the loss of lives due to global warming

The COP 27 meeting is underway in Egypt. It is one of the most significant meets to arrest climate change. The COP stands for the conference of parties, which is a group of countries that are signatories to the UN climate agreement 1992. At the conference being held in Sharm El Sheikh from November 6 to 18, the old yet unresolved issue of financing the technologies and making them available to developing countries will be hotly debated. The developed countries who must take the blame for the rapid climate change are expected to push developing nations to adopt green technologies. It is difficult time to fight climate change though, as most countries are reeling under the Ukraine war which has spiked the energy cost and disrupted the flow of trade thereby reducing their capacity to earn. The less amount in their coffers means lesser resources and even lesser will to invest in green technologies which anyway doesn't come cheap.

The developing countries would like the developed nations to finance their fight against global warming and the transfer of technology that is needed to address climate change. So far the developed countries have shown reluctance to take the financial burden or transfer technology to the developing nations. Till the technology is made available the next best thing to mitigate the effects of rising temperatures is early warning systems. This is exactly what the Indian environment minister Bhupendra Patel pointed out while speaking at the UN Secretary-General High-Level Round Table. He made a valid point that the global pace of climate mitigation is not enough to contain the rate of climate change. And that there is an urgent

need to acknowledge the impact of natural disasters on the life of people in developing countries. With climate finance still scarce, early warning systems are a must to save people's lives from natural disasters. The losses are huge in the least developed countries that have no warning systems in place. On its part, India has done a decent job in this respect. It has early warning systems in place for such natural disasters thanks to its concerted efforts towards installing them in the most vulnerable areas which have contained the problem to a large extent. What will be the outcome of the COP27 would be known soon but the developed countries though under pressure due to the Ukraine war must not forget their larger responsibility to fight the problem which is largely their creation.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MONUMENTAL BLUNDER

Sir — November 8, 2022 marks the 6th anniversary of India's biggest economic blunder of demonetization committed by Narendra Modi's government, scrapping the Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes all of a sudden. The policy decision of his government to flush out black money turned out to be a colossal failure, and it stands belied till today. Late justifications about the real benefits of demonetization, ranging from a cashless economy to hitting terror networks have also proven to be far-fetched. True, in the last six years digital transactions have gone up markedly, but hardly enough to justify the demonetization.

Most economists in the country had argued that demonetization would not achieve the desired goals, and at the most it would only be a pinprick for the black money operators, for which causing a mass distress was totally unacceptable and inexcusable. Demonetization was a fiasco in achieving its stated objectives, apart from being a disaster for the people. No doubt, the Narendra Modi government will be defined by its ill-planned and ill-thought out demonetization of 2016 that caused immense problems and difficulties for the people of India.

Ranganathan | Chennai

GUJARAT HC ISSUES NOTICE TO STATE GOVT

Sir — The Gujarat High Court has rightly taken suo motu cognizance of the Morbi bridge collapse incident and issued strong notice to the Gujarat state government to submit a status report in the matter by November 14. The court division bench of Chief Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice Ashutosh Shastri issued notices to the Gujarat government through the chief secretary, state home department, and commissioner of municipalities, Morbi municipality, district collector, and State Human Rights Commission and relisted the matter on November 14.

### ERRING IS ALWAYS INHUMAN



In every match, in the T-20 World cup, a few umpiring blunders are taking place and that does not augur well for an ICC-sponsored tournament. Cricket is a team game where performance is the name of the game. Just like batting, bowling and fielding, umpiring also

The court sought a status report from the chief secretary and home secretary within the next few days when the matter comes up for hearing. On October 30, a suspension bridge collapsed in which 141 persons lost their lives and 150 were injured. The police arrested nine persons like two managers of the Orea Company limited, two booking clerks, three security guards, and two workers were detained on October 31. It is high time the Gujarat government must implement the court order and submitted its status report.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### POLITICAL KALEIDOSCOPE

Sir — The political arena stands out from the rest of the battlefields on account of its very quintessential indecision that prevails till the dying minute of the game and, in turn, keeps the lookers-on on the tenterhooks of curiosity for the outcome. 4 out of the 7 poll results announced in six states on Sunday, falling in the kitty of the ruling BJP, actually negate the anti-incumbency

factor even though the party is faced with the non-delivery of the poll goods including the much-hyped 'ache din', coupled by the high inflation, sky-high prices of the essential commodities, diesel, petrol, and gas cylinders and the job crunch to name. Interestingly, the BJP has retained its three seats and wrested one from the Congress only to have a telling toll on the Congress' ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra spearheaded by Mr Rahul Gandhi across 12 states and 2 UTIs. However, the by elections are not necessarily indicative of a certain public perception of the parties and their leaders.

Anyway, the results of the upcoming assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh and Gujrat might clear in significant measures the ambiguity over the public mood ahead of the 2024 final of the Lok Sabha polls. Let's wait and watch what next scene comes in the political kaleidoscope.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

The BJP has unleashed central forces to destabilise a democratically elected Jharkhand government. I am not afraid of ED and CBI.

Jharkhand chief minister — Hemant Soren

Our march will resume from the same [point] in Wazirabad where I and 11 others were shot, and where

Moazzam was martyred

Former Pakistan Prime Minister — Imran Khan

She (Aalia's daughter) is too small right now, just born today. So, hard to say right now but she is very cute...She is ekdum (totally) first class. Everything is fine.

Actor — Neetu Kapoor

(On the semifinal vs England) The key for us will be to adjust to the conditions as quickly as possible. It will be a great contest. It is going to be a high-pressure game.

Indian captain — Rohit Sharma

I'll remember every hug, every expression of love from the people of Telangana. Thank you...Our Yatra will carry forward your die-hard spirit - to fight injustice & protect harmony.

Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi



FIRST COLUMN

COP27 MUST DELIVER ON CREDIBLE ACTION

Financing to mitigate carbon emissions must be top priority



KOTA SRIRAJ

The Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh is witnessing high profile climate discussions among 120 world leaders as part of the 27th Conference of Parties (COP) hosted by Egypt. The deliberations starting on 6th of November will continue over the next two weeks and endeavour to hammer out a consensus on how to rein in the runaway rise in global temperatures.

However, since the very first COP meeting held in Berlin in 1995 to till date these climate meetings have come to signify more of discussions than actual action directed towards mitigating climate change. As a result there is a 50:50 chance of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5 °C above the pre-industrial levels for at least one of the next five years, according to a new climate update issued by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The 1.5°C figure is not some random statistic. It is rather an indicator of the point at which climate impacts will become increasingly harmful for people and the entire planet. The latest State of the Global Climate Report 2022 released by WMO as a backdrop to the COP27 meeting, ominously reflects this unfolding spectre.



The call for credible action has assumed startling forms this year with ultra-aggressive climate activists adopting daring methods to draw global attention towards climate action. From throwing soup on Vincent Van Gogh paintings to blocking private jets from taking off at the Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, the Greenpeace and Extinction Rebellion members have upped the publicity ante this year.

This year's COP conclave cannot get away with mere deliberations and paper pushing but will have to go beyond spoken words and tread on delicate issues such as compensating vulnerable and poor countries that are exposed to the vagaries of climate change. The inclusion of compensation is a welcome departure. Action on last year's pledges made at the Glasgow COP such as drastically dial down thermal power generation, making systematic protocols to stop deforestation by 2030 and to adopt implement strategies to cut methane emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 must be seen.

An ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has meant turbulent times for energy prices and this coupled with bitter tensions between US and China, the world's largest emitters, mean progress at COP27 could be agonisingly slow. Given this reality, the COP27 could try and focus on evolving an innovative financing program and mechanism to direct much-needed resources to the developing world.

Besides, the wealthy nations could take this opportunity to create much needed financing mechanisms for highly vulnerable nations such as Africa which are staring at frequent climate disasters.

India on its part must aim for clear takeaways from COP27. This must include tangible and proven climate finance models, high-end technology transfers and capacity building initiatives. If the Indian government succeeds in achieving this, it will help reduce carbon emissions besides minimising the impact felt from the climate crisis in India. India must also realise that the wealthy nations have extracted their economic progress by compromising the environment and now the consequences of the same are set to be reaped by the developing nations.

This year's COP27 must emerge as a global platform for India to ensure lateral climate collaboration with other climate impacted nations to present a unified front and take the due from wealthy nations in the form of climate compensation and other assistance. This will put India firmly on the course to uniting the world in the fight against climate change.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

# Book that opens new vistas for young girls

## Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 Tales of Extraordinary Women is inspiring the new generation

Every night, before she goes to bed, Tara, all of five and a half years of age, has a ritual with her parents, Neha and Saumitra. They change into pyjamas, set up their bed and then prop open their copy of *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 Tales of Extraordinary Women*. Tara will go on to read bedtime stories about 100 women whose stories have broadened horizons for other women all over the world.

Today, I've been invited over to also be a part of this cozy reading session. Together, they go through this book almost every night - scanning and re-scanning their most beloved stories. Tara isn't the only girl growing up on this staple diet of a vivid imaginations of everything women can do - today, the book has not only sold more than a million copies worldwide, it has also been translated into 47 languages, and is now a part of a franchise that includes its second part, and an equally strong variant for young boys.

"The best thing about the book: all the stories are bite-sized," says Saumitra, a linguist and an entrepreneur. Each story is only one page long, with an accompanying illustration of every character. Tara's favourite story is Mary Kom. It is both relatable and exciting for her.

"We discuss one story each night, then watch a video about the icon in the story, and then Tara has a bunch of questions which we try to discuss with her," says Neha, an entrepreneur and political scientist. The book has been recommended to the young parents by their friends' and they themselves have recommended the book to several other friends.

Although published by Penguin, a well-known publication house, the story of the making of the book is just as interesting as the book itself. To quote co-authors Elena Favalli and Francesca Cavallo, this book is also special because of "the record-breaking amount of money we raised through crowdfunding (more than one million dollars! Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls is the most funded original book in the history of crowdfunding), the astonishing number of backers from more than 70 countries, and the privilege of working with dozens of unbelievably talented female artists from all over the world".

The book has inspired parents, who want to instill a culture of progressive reading, to buy and read books that reimagine the world for their daughters. The written form of the book - reimagined creative fiction of real life stories - is an interesting take on three of the most predominant literature styles that cater to young girls - biography, fairy tales and graphic novels. Stories which start with 'Once Upon a Time' open a possibility for a young reader's mind to imagine stories of achievements already real-



WOVEN THROUGH NARRATIVES OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF ACHIEVEMENT, THIS BOOK WILL DEMAND ADULTS TO THINK THROUGH DIFFICULT QUESTIONS OF GENDER, NATIONS, RACE, DISCRIMINATION, INEQUALITY, LOVE, GENDERED EXPRESSION, MARRIAGE AND DEATH WITH THEIR YOUNGER READING PARTNERS

(The author is a development worker from Maharashtra: Charkha Features)



ized in real life.

In the end, the book also has a small template for writing their own stories and drawing their own portraits, a format which encourages a young mind to think of possibilities of everything they can do! When I started reading this book to Ruhi, my niece, who has just turned six, I realized that this book made difficult conversations inescapable.

"What does rebel mean?" she asked us. My father: "A trouble-maker?" My mother dismissed him and said, "No, it's someone who stands up for herself and everything she believes in." Undoubtedly, the word 'rebel' itself makes it okay for girls to not be "good girls" all the time - a pressure that has literally cut off most of the dreams up to my generation. As we thumbed through the book, Ruhi had questions. Not just one, but a hundred.

Woven through narratives of different kinds of achievement, not just competitive ones, this book will demand adults to think through difficult questions of gender, nations, race, discrimination, inequality, love, gendered expression, marriage and death with their younger reading partners. Good. Instead of avoiding these realities, helping young girls articulate them will help girls overcome them.

This book has become a thoughtful gift for women to pass on to their nieces and nephews. A

31-year-old Anandita Ghosh, a researcher and activist, said: "I've gifted these books to my nieces, one who was two years old and the other one was five. The beauty of the book is that it makes you wonder - even as adults, we're so set in our ideas and ways. But reading with children is different. No one can ask the sort of questions that young minds do - the book is best enjoyed in conversation with children, they compel you to think."

The book is not just about singular journeys that women take up - it often has interesting non-female allies. Alfonsina Strada, an Italian cyclist, set a world record that was unbeaten for 26 years. Her parents thought that she would stop cycling after marriage. But her partner extended support by gifting her a cycle as their wedding gift. It's not all praises though - stories of 'iconic' women in the book, are also stories of women who have taken unjust decisions as leaders - while Margaret Thatcher has been praised for being Britain's first female Prime Minister, who made it against all odds, she was also responsible for neo-imperial policies that unleashed unprecedented inequality in the world.

Similarly, the book has been criticised for touting Aung San Suu Kyi as a Burmese icon. For Suu Kyi has also maintained a purposeful silence on the genocide of Rohingya Muslims.

However, the book breaks a harsh reality in a gentle manner to its readers - inequalities exist, but their boundaries can and have been broken.

Saumitra is reading about the first African-American astronaut, Mae C Jemison to Tara. How does one explain 'race' to such a young mind? "Tara is at an age where she's able to connect dots. When she reads about Hilary Clinton and how only boys were allowed to be presidents, and two nights after about Manal Al-Sharif, who is fighting against Saudi Arabia, which only allows men to drive, she understands that rules aren't the same for everyone."

But after reading the stories of women who have broken the rules, Tara also takes stands for herself amongst her cousins and classmates. As a reader, parents must also have difficult conversations around what achievements of rebellion could look like - a lot of times achievements also operate at more private, individual, self, household level - whether it is about leaving an unequal marriage, or deciding to heal oneself, or standing by a loved one, or just pursuing excellence for oneself and for no other reason - achievements need to be reimagined. This book is a gentle prod in that direction, but adult readers also need to go that extra mile to make younger minds reimagine rebellion and bravery.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

CONGRESS FAILED AS OPPOSITION PARTY. TRS WILL REPLACE IT — FORMER MP, TRS BOIANAPALLI VINOD KUMAR



NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE BJP IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CONGRESS — CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY JAIRAM RAMESH



# Situation may force Russia to opt for ceasefire

## Shortage of weapons, defence equipment, manpower and missiles is a big setback to Russia

Russia has acknowledged for the first time that it doesn't have enough equipment for mobilised soldiers in its war against Ukraine, especially the missiles. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on October 26 that there are issues with equipment for the hundreds of thousands of men being sent to fight in Ukraine under President Vladimir Putin's partial mobilisation decree.

Ukrainian servicemen checked their weapons at a position on the frontline in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region, on October 24, 2022, amid Russian invasion of Ukraine. Peskov said a newly-formed council created by Putin is working on resolving problems with equipment. "Vigorous measures taken to



PK VASUDEVA

(The author is a retired professor of international trade)

rectify the situation are already yielding the first positive results," he said.

Putin on October 25 held the first official meeting of his coordinating council for military supply and logistics. It was created on October 21, and seeks to ensure that his military has adequate supplies in the war. According to the Kremlin's website, the council was established "to meet any needs that arise during the course of the special military operation". That includes supplies and repair of armament, military and special equipment, materials, medical and sanitary services, maintenance and other activities, and logistics, according to Russian media.

Putin appointed Russian Prime Minister Mikhail

Mishustin as the council's head, while Dmitry Grigorenko, a deputy prime minister and chief of the government staff, and Manturov, will act as Mishustin's deputies. The council is expected to report to Putin weekly.

Putin said on October 14 that his "partial mobilisation" was nearly complete, and that 222,000 troops had been drafted so far. Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on September 21 that Russia would be targeting 300,000 reservists and ex-military personnel with "certain military specialties and relevant experience". Alexander Štupun, spokesperson for the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, said on October 7 that Putin's troops are struggling to obtain equipment and

armor. "There are significant problems with the material support of the mobilization measures carried out by the military leadership of the Russian Federation. Thus, at the beginning of October, of the 8,000 [mobilized] persons staying at the base of the Novosibirsk Higher Command School, no more than half were provided with military uniforms," Štupun said.

The Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) said that it intercepted a Russian soldier's phone conversation in which he complained about a lack of equipment and weapons, while videos on Russian social networks have shown conscripted men with rusty weapons. The shortage of missiles is a crippling problem for Russia,

though could soon be solved by the expected delivery of short-to-medium-range missiles from Iran. The Russian Iskander missiles are not being regularly manufactured by Russia because of its serious involvement in the war against Ukraine.

The Iskander short-range ballistic missile system was developed in the 1980s and has been in use by the Russian military since. The missile system is capable of firing a number of conventional warheads and has been used during the Ukraine conflict to fire cluster munitions. It is also capable of firing nuclear warheads. Missiles launched by the system can travel up to 500 km.

Iskander missiles can be launched in 16 minutes from a mobile launcher, and a sec-

ond missile can be launched within less than a minute. A dwindling supply of these rockets will make it significantly harder for Russia to continue its campaign of missile strikes on civilian infrastructure in major cities across Ukraine.

Ukrainian Air Force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat described how the Russian military has changed its targets to minimize the loss of any remaining missiles. "The enemy is facing severe shortages of Iskander missiles. They've already used up their core stocks," Ihnat said. "We see that the enemy is no longer interested in military targets, in troops or other strategic sites," said Ihnat, adding that Russia is also turning to North Korea for more missiles.

Intelligence directorate chief Kyrylo Budanov and Ukrainian Pravda revealed that just 13 per cent of Russia's Iskander missiles were left. "About 13 per cent remains for Iskanders, about 43 per cent for Kalibr-PL, Kalibr-NK missiles, and about 45 per cent for Kh-101 and Kh-555 missiles. It is generally very dangerous to fall below 30 per cent, because it already goes to NZ [intact reserve]," Budanov said.

Iran reportedly promised to send surface-to-surface missiles to Iran, as well as more drones earlier this month. A deal is understood to have been agreed on October 6. Shortage of weapons, defence equipment, manpower and missiles is a big setback to Russia that may force Putin to declare ceasefire in Ukraine.



# Zelenskyy: Talks with Russia possible on Ukraine's terms

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's president has hinted at the possibility of peace talks with Russia, a shift from his earlier refusal to negotiate with President Vladimir Putin that came on the eve of crucial elections in the United States.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged the international community late Monday to "force Russia into real peace talks" and listed his usual conditions for dialogue: the return of all of Ukraine's occupied lands, compensation for damage caused by the war and the prosecution of war crimes.

That is a change in rhetoric at least from a man who signed a decree in late September stating "the impossibility of holding talks" with Putin. But since his preconditions appear to be non-starters for Moscow, it's hard to see how that would advance any talks.

Western weapons and aid have been key to Ukraine's ability to fight off Russia's invasion, which some initially expected would more easily roll through the country. But US midterm elections Tuesday will define the amount and the shape of Washington's future political and financial support for Ukraine.

If Republicans win control of Congress, it could become more difficult for President Joe Biden's administration to push forward large packages of military and other aid for Ukraine.

Russia and Ukraine held



several rounds of talks in Belarus and Turkey early on in the war, which is now nearing its nine-month mark. The talks stalled after the last meeting of the delegations in Istanbul in March yielded no results.

Zelenskyy said Monday that Kyiv has "repeatedly proposed (talks) and to which we always received crazy Russian responses with new terrorist attacks, shelling or blackmail".

But he has more recently refused to negotiate with Putin - itself a change in tactic after he repeatedly called for a personal meeting with the Russian

leader. The Kremlin brushed off any such meeting.

Zelenskyy listed conditions for the dialogue to begin, including the "restoration of (Ukraine's) territorial integrity...Compensation for all war damage, punishment for every war criminal and guarantees that it will not happen again".

Russia, meanwhile, resumed calls for talks after Ukraine's successful counteroffensive in the east and the south of the country began in September, but Ukraine has been rejecting the possibility ever since.

Russia's deputy foreign minister, Andrei Rudenko, stressed on Tuesday that Moscow is not setting any conditions for the resumption of talks with Ukraine and accused Kyiv of lacking "good will".

"This is their choice, we have always declared our readiness for such negotiations," Rudenko said.

Ukraine's presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak insisted in a tweet Monday that "Ukraine has never refused to negotiate," but first, Russia needs to withdraw its troops from the country.

# N Korea slams US for raising alleged arms supply to Russia

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Tuesday accused the United States of cooking up a "plot-breeding story" on its alleged arms transfer to Russia, arguing it has never sent artillery shells to Moscow.

Last week, National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby accused North Korea of covertly supplying a "significant number" of the ammunition to Russia.

He said the United States believes North Korea was trying to obscure the transfer route by making it appear the weapons were being sent to countries in the Middle East or North Africa.

"We regard such moves of the US as part of its hostile attempt to tarnish the image of (North Korea) in the international arena," an unidentified vice director at the ministry's military foreign affairs office said in a statement carried by state media.

"We once again make clear that we have never had arms dealings' with Russia and that we have no plan to do so in the future," the vice director said.

In September, US officials confirmed a newly downgraded US intelligence finding that Russia was in the process of purchasing millions of rockets and artillery shells from North Korea.

North Korea later dismissed that report, calling on Washington to stop making "reckless remarks" and to "keep its mouth shut".

On November 2, Kirby said the US has "an idea" of which



country or countries the North may funnel the weapons through but wouldn't specify. He said the North Korean shipments are "not going to change the course of the war", citing Western efforts to resupply the Ukrainian military.

Slapped by international sanctions and export controls, Russia in August bought Iranian-made drones that US officials said had technical problems. For Russia, experts say North Korea is likely another good option for its ammunition supply, because the North keeps a significant stockpile of shells, many of them copies of Soviet-era ones.

Even as most of Europe and the West has pulled away, North Korea has pushed to boost relations with Russia, blaming the

US for the crisis and decrying the West's "hegemonic policy" as justifying military action by Russia in Ukraine to protect itself.

In July, North Korea became the only nation aside from Russia and Syria to recognise the Donetsk and Luhansk territories as independent.

The North Korean government has also hinted it is interested in sending construction workers to help rebuild pro-Russia breakaway regions in Ukraine's east.

North Korea's possible arms supply to Russia would be a violation of UN resolutions that ban the North from trading weapons with other countries. But it's unlikely for North Korea to receive fresh sanctions for that because of a division at the UN

Security Council over America's confrontations with Russia regarding its war in Ukraine and its separate strategic competitions with China.

Earlier this year, Russia and China already vetoed a US-led attempt to toughen sanctions on North Korea over its series of ballistic missile tests that are banned by multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

Some observers say North Korea has also been using the Russian aggression in Ukraine as a window to ramp up weapons testing activity and dial up pressure on the United States and South Korea.

Last week, the North test-fired dozens of missiles in response to large-scale US-South Korea aerial drills that Pyongyang views as a rehearsal for a potential invasion.

In a separate statement published on Tuesday by state media, a senior North Korean diplomat criticised UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' recent condemnation of North Korea's missile launch barrage, calling him a "mouth-piece" of the US government.

"The UN secretary general is echoing what the White House and the State Department say as if he were their mouth-piece, which is deplorable," said Kim Son Gyong, vice minister for international organisations at the North Korean Foreign Ministry.

Kim said that Guterres' "unfair and prejudiced behaviour" has contributed to the worsening tensions in the region.



## German aid group: 89 migrants allowed to disembark in Italy

AP ■ ROME

A German humanitarian aid group said its ship docked in southern Italy early on Tuesday and disembarked 89 people rescued at sea, ending one migrant rescue saga as others continue under Italy's new hard-right government.

Mission Lifeline posted videos on social media of the 25-metre (80-foot) Rise Above freighter docking in Reggio Calabria and said the "odyssey of 89 passengers and nine crew members on board seems to be over".

In a subsequent post it said all 89 were allowed to disembark.

The group had waited at sea for days for Italy to assign it a port after it entered Italian waters over the weekend without consent because of rough seas. Six of the original 95 people were evacuated at sea for medical reasons.

Italy has refused to assign migrant rescue ships with a

port of safety as the new far-right-led government of Premier Giorgia Meloni takes a hard line with nongovernmental organisations operating in the central Mediterranean.

Instead, it has been instructing them to ports, where authorities allow only vulnerable people to disembark.

Italian authorities insist the boats must then return to international waters with those not deemed vulnerable and that the countries whose flag the ships fly take the migrants in.

Two NGO-run boats are docked in Catania, in Sicily, one with 35 people that Italy won't allow to disembark, the other with 214 people. Both ships are refusing to leave, saying that under international law all people rescued at sea are vulnerable and entitled to a safe port.

A fourth ship, the Ocean Viking operated by SOS Mediterranee, remains in international waters off Sicily with 234 rescued people.

## Bulgarian border policeman shot dead at border with Turkey

AP ■ SOFIA (BULGARIA)

A Bulgarian police officer has been shot dead at the border with Turkey, the interior minister said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred at 8.30 pm on Monday, when an unidentified person shot at a border police officer and a serviceman who were patrolling a stretch of the border near the village of Golyam Derwent, minister Ivan Demerdzhiev said.

The police officer died on the spot while the serviceman was not hurt. Additional border patrols were dispatched to the scene, but the shooter was not captured and is believed to be on Turkish territory.

The minister told reporters



at the scene that he had received assurances from Turkey that the shooter will be found. He added that border patrols will start using another type of weapon but did not elaborate.

"The patrols are facing an unprecedented refugee surge every day. Last night's case was an extreme act of aggression," Demerdzhiev said, adding that the Turkish side should take an

active approach. "I asked the same from Europol and the European Commission," said Demerdzhiev adding that this case was the first of its kind.

Bulgaria has deployed 350 troops and 40 army vehicles along its southern border with Turkey to help border police deal with a growing migrant influx. The troops will conduct joint patrols along the 259-kilometre (161-mile) border with Turkey.

The Balkan country is located on a major route for migrants from the Middle East and Afghanistan to Europe. Only a small number of them plan to stay in the EU's poorest member, using Bulgaria instead as a transit corridor on their way westward.

## Air show seeks to position China as global competitor

AP ■ BEIJING

China is displaying its latest generation fighter jets and civilian aircraft this week as it looks to carve a larger role for itself in the global arms trade and compete with Boeing and Airbus.

China is currently the world's fourth-largest arms exporter and an expanding domestic industry has allowed itself to cut off former dependence on Russia. With heavy state backing, it now competes to sell drones, warplanes and missile defence systems, as well as its staple Cold War-era ground weapons and ammunition. Military aircraft on display starting on Tuesday include the



J-20 stealth fighter and YU-20 aerial tanker. The air show in the southern city of Zhuhai comes as Russia's war on Ukraine has reduced stocks to the point that the United States has accused North Korea of supplying Soviet-era ammunition such as artillery shells to replenish Russian stockpiles.

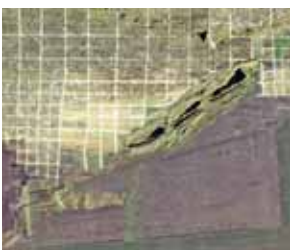
Between 2017 and 2021, China made up 4.6 per cent of total global arms exports, plac-

ing it fourth behind the US, Russia and France, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

The bulk of its exports went to Pakistan, a long-time ally that shares a mutual rival in the other regional giant, India.

On the civilian side, state airplane maker The Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China plans 15-minute display flights of its C919 jet that it hopes will compete with Boeing's 737 and the Airbus A320.

The project is long overdue and reportedly over budget, while a drastic reduction in air travel due to China's strict anti-COVID-19 policies have delayed plans for domestic carriers to add the planes to their fleets.



## Ukraine: Photos show cemetery expansion near occupied city

AP ■ DUBAI

Satellite photos analysed Tuesday show a rapid expansion of a cemetery in southern Ukraine in the months after Russian forces seized the port city of Mariupol.

The images from Planet Labs PBC and analysed by The Associated Press highlight the changes in the cemetery in Staryi Krym, an occupied town located northwest of the city. Comparing images from March 24, when Mariupol was under attack by the Russians, to one taken Oct. 14, months after the city's fall, shows significant growth to the cemetery's southern fringes.

An area of some 1.1 square kilometers (less than half a square mile) appears to have been freshly dug over that period in the cemetery's southwestern corner. Another area of just over half a square kilometer was dug in the southeast corner.

It remains unclear how many people were buried in the cemetery during the roughly 7-month period.

The Center for Information Resilience, a London-based non-profit that specialises in digital investigations and has monitored the Staryi Krym cemetery, estimated that more than 4,600 graves have been dug since the beginning of Russia's war in Ukraine.



## Swedish PM seeks to win Turkish support for NATO membership

AP ■ ANKARA

Sweden's new prime minister, Ulf Kristersson, is meeting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday in a bid to clinch Turkish approval for his country's bid to join NATO.

Sweden and Finland abandoned their longstanding policies of military nonalignment and applied for membership in the military alliance after Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February, fearing that Russian President Vladimir Putin might target them next.

But Turkey, which joined NATO in 1952, has been holding off on endorsing their bids, accusing Sweden — and to a lesser degree Finland — of ignoring Ankara's security concerns.

Erdogan's government is pressing the two countries to crack down on individuals it considers terrorists, including supporters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party and people suspected of orchestrating a failed 2016 coup in Turkey.

Turkey also has called for the lifting of an arms embargo imposed following its 2019 incursion into northern Syria to combat Kurdish militants. Sweden last month said it would lift the embargo, a step seen as aiming to secure Ankara's approval.

Kristersson is scheduled to

hold talks with Erdogan at the Turkish presidential palace complex following an official welcoming ceremony.

Ahead of his visit, Kristersson wrote on Facebook on Monday that "we will do significantly more in Sweden through new legislation that provides completely new opportunities to stop participation in terrorist organisations."

Sweden would also support NATO's counter-terrorism fund to support the alliance's ability to fight terrorism, Kristersson wrote.

All 30 NATO member countries must officially ratify the accession protocol for Finland and Sweden to join the alliance. Only the parliaments of Turkey and Hungary have yet to do so.

Last week, the NATO Secretary-General travelled to Turkey and urged the country to set aside its reservations over Finland and Sweden, insisting that the Nordic neighbours had done enough to satisfy Ankara's concerns.

Turkish officials have said the two countries would join only after Turkey's demands, agreed in a joint memorandum, are fulfilled. The 10-article memorandum was unveiled ahead of a NATO summit in June after Turkey had threatened for weeks to veto Sweden and Finland's applications.

## Dogs gifted by Kim Jong Un at centre of South Korean row

AP ■ SEOUL

A pair of dogs gifted by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in 2018 are now marred in a South Korean political row, with the country's former president blaming his conservative successor for a lack of financial support as he gave the animals up.

Moon Jae-in, a liberal who left office in May, received the two white "Pungsan" hunting dogs — a breed known to be indigenous to North Korea — from Kim following their peace summit in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang in September 2018.

The dogs are officially considered state property, but Moon took the pair and one of their seven offspring home after he



left office.

The move was made possible by a change of law in March that allowed presidential gifts to be managed outside of the Presidential Archives if they were animals or plants.

But Moon's office on Monday said he decided he could no longer raise the three dogs because the current government of President Yoon Suk Yeol was refusing to cover the costs for the animals' food and veterinary care.

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said that the dogs were returned to the government on Tuesday and that the parent dogs originally sent from Kim were being examined at a veterinary hospital in the city of Daegu.

## Residents clash with Chinese authorities over Covid rules

AP ■ BEIJING

Police in northeastern China said that seven people have been arrested following a clash between residents and authorities enforcing COVID-19 quarantine restrictions.

The violence comes as China reports new cases nationwide, with 2,230 cases reported Tuesday in the southern manufacturing and technology hub of Guangzhou.

While the numbers remain relatively low, China has relentlessly pursued its strict "zero-COVID" policy of quarantines, lockdowns and daily or near-daily compulsory testing.

A news release from the police department in the Shandong city of Linyi said public security would take strong measures against those



who "illegally violated the legal rights of personal protection of citizens."

Anti-pandemic measures have prompted backlashes across the country, forming a rarely seen challenge to Communist Party authority.

It wasn't immediately clear who was arrested after the clash. News of the arrests appeared on social media Tuesday morn-

ing, but were erased by the country's censors before noon.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has made "zero-COVID" a hallmark of his administration, which gained a boost last month after he was granted a third five-year term in power and promoted loyalists to top positions.

Those include the former party leader of Shanghai, where a draconian lockdown over the summer led to food shortages, confrontations with authorities and severe disruptions to global supply chains that have grown dependent on Chinese manufacturing and shipping.

While the rest of the world has mostly opened up, China has taken only highly cautious minor steps, with its borders still largely closed and officials under heavy pressure to enforce restrictions.

## Imran's assassination bid: Police in Pak's Punjab finally register FIR

AP ■ LAHORE

Police in Pakistan's Punjab province on Tuesday registered an FIR in the assassination attempt on former Prime Minister Imran Khan, days after the incident, and named the assailant who was taken into custody as the prime accused in the case.

The move comes after the Supreme Court on Monday ordered the provincial government to file an FIR in the assassination bid on Khan within 24 hours.

The FIR named the assailant, Naveed Mohammad Basheer, as the prime accused.

However, it does not mention the names of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and a senior Pakistan Army official Major General



Faisal Naseer, three people who Khan had accused of hatching a plot to assassinate him.

"We are going to challenge the FIR in the apex court," a senior leader of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party Fawad Chaudhry said.

The delay in getting a case registered in Punjab province, which has PTI at the helm, has raised eyebrows.







# Jury still out on DeMo efficacy after 6 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The jury is still out on the decision to demonetise high value currency notes on November 8, 2016, with the government claiming it has helped greater formalisation of the economy while critics saying it has failed to curb black money and reduce dependence on cash.

On November 8, six years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the demonetisation of old ₹1,000 and ₹500 banknotes and one of the key objectives of the unprecedented decision was to promote digital payments and curb black money, besides eliminating terror funding.

As per a Reserve Bank data, currency with the public has jumped to a new high of ₹30.88 lakh crore on October 21, indicating that cash usage is still substantial even six years after the demonetisation move.

At ₹30.88 lakh crore, the currency with the public is 71.84 per cent higher than the level for the fortnight ended November 4, 2016. On November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the decision to withdraw ₹500 and ₹1,000 denomination notes with the ultimate aim of reducing corruption and black money in the economy.

The State Bank of India in



a research report said the share of Currency In Circulation (CIC) in payment systems has been declining from 88 per cent in fiscal 2015-16 to 20 per cent in 2021-22 and is estimated to go down further to 11.15 per cent in 2026-27.

Consequently, the digital transactions' share is continuously increasing from 11.26 per cent in 2015-16 to 80.4 per cent in 2021-22 and is expected to touch 88 per cent in 2026-27, SBI report had said.

Criticising the Modi government's demonetisation decision, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in a tweet said demonetisation was promised to free the country of black money.

"But it destroyed businesses and ruined jobs. 6 years after the 'masterstroke' the cash

available in public is 72% higher than that in 2016. PM is yet to acknowledge this epic failure that led to fall of economy," he said.

According to Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA said none of these objectives has been achieved.

"It is not surprising because the logic behind the move (cash is the cause of black money), the design of the move (without recognising the crucial role of cash in the informal economy that sustains around 85 per cent of the population) and the implementation (sudden and extreme without knowledge of and preparation by the public agencies and banks) were all completely flawed," she said.

## Coal stock at thermal power plants at 25.6 MT in Oct: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The closing stock of coal at domestic thermal power plants as on October 31 was 25.6 million tonnes (MT) -- the highest-ever in the month of October except for FY'21, the government said on Tuesday.

The supply of coal to the power sector is regularly being supervised by the coal ministry in close coordination with the ministries of power and railways.

The domestic coal supply to the power sector is 12 per cent more than the same period of last year, which is the highest ever supply in the first seven months of any fiscal.

With an aim to scale up production capacity, the coal ministry has recently put 141 new coal blocks on auction for commercial mining, the coal ministry said in a statement.

The ministry is closely coordinating with states and central ministries concerned to put into operation mines auctioned earlier.



The government is also taking steps to augment rail connectivity infrastructure for all major mines under PM-GatiShakti to ensure faster evacuation of coal. The coal ministry is committed to ensure adequate availability of the dry fuel to the power sector, it added.

Many states faced power outages due to shortage of coal in the summer season this year.

However, the coal ministry had said the "power crisis" happened mainly on account of the sharp decline in electricity generation from different fuel sources and not due to the non-availability of domestic coal.

The government had attributed the low coal stocks at power plants to several factors such as heightened power demand due to the boom in the economy post-Covid, early arrival of summer, rise in price of gas and imported coal, and sharp fall in electricity generation by coastal thermal power plants.

## 'Need good quality cotton seeds to boost productivity'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To increase India's cotton productivity, supply of good quality seeds is the need of the hour and requires some concrete action from related ministries on a war footing, Union Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

He also stressed the need to introduce advanced technologies related to high-yielding cotton seeds and innovative agronomy, such as high-density planting systems, to enhance the productivity of cotton.

Goyal called upon the textile industry to self-regulate towards branding and certifying Indian cotton 'Kasturi' and assured that the government will support the initiative with funds matching the industry contribution.

The textiles minister held the third interactive meeting with the Textile Advisory Group (TAG) on Monday.

He also emphasised the strengthening testing facility needed to conform to Kasturi standards, DNA testing and traceability.

Goyal assured that adequate modern testing facilities would be created through the Bureau of Indian Standards and Textile Research Associations. He appreciated the action taken by the industry and its nominated body to work on the quality, traceability and branding of Kasturi Cotton.

## SBI report says banks inadequately pricing risks as they scurry to garner deposits and lend more



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Amidst liquidity tightening and a decade high credit growth of over 18 per cent and deposit growth falling way behind, a report has warned that banks are not adequately pricing their risks from both asset and liabilities sides.

Liquidity crunch is primarily because the Reserve Bank has been sucking out funds from the system as it fights to tame inflation which has been much above its band of 4 per cent for the past 10 months of the year.

This has prompted the RBI to frontload its inflation fight by increasing the policy rates by 190 basis points to pre-pandemic levels since the war on Ukraine began.

The average net durable liquidity injected into the bank-

ing system in April 2022 was Rs 8.3 lakh crore, which is nearly a third of that now at ₹3 lakh crore. Atop this, the government has spent a large part of its cash balances in the Diwali week, and as a result the net LAF (liquidity adjust facility) in the system, which was hitherto negative, has improved of late. Bonus payments by the government and the private sector also helped.

Even as the banking system has moved closer to a calibrated liquidity coupled with higher signaling rates, one thing has still not changed is that credit risks are not getting adequately priced in, even as credit demand is at a decade high and liquidity remains significantly downsized, argues Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic adviser at the State Bank of India, in a report.

## 'Rate hikes unlikely to impact asset quality of home loan portfolios'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The ongoing rate hikes are unlikely to impact repayments by home loan borrowers despite an increase in the monthly instalments, a rating agency said on Tuesday.

Mortgage lenders have limited headroom to extend the loan tenures given the fact that the prime home loan segment already has long tenures, and a further extension in loan tenures will lead to overall tenures extending beyond the working life of the borrower, rating agency Icrs said.

As a result, equated monthly instalments (EMIs) will go up by 12-21 per cent for prime home loans, while the same will go up by 8-13 per cent in the case of the affordable home loan segment, its sector head for financial sector ratings



Manushree Saggarr said.

"While there is an expectation of a further increase in interest rates, lenders have limited headroom to increase loan tenures; thus, EMIs would have to be revised upwards. However, this is unlikely to impact the HFCs asset quality indicators significantly," Saggarr said.

Even with revised EMIs, the fixed obligation to income ratio (FOIR) is expected to increase by less than 10 percentage points and hence remain manageable, she added.

## Public good enablers to drive India's next digital revolution: BankBazaar.Com CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Public good enablers like digilocker, account aggregator system and video e-KYC will drive India's next digital revolution as the country sits on a mammoth volume of 50 billion digital transactions, according to BankBazaar.Com founder CEO Adhil Shetty.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently spoke about the digital revolution in India and that the country has reached 50 billion digital transactions in 2022.

This is three times of what it is in the US and UK, and this is built on the digital public good platforms such as UPI, RuPay and Aadhaar across the digital payment revolution, Shetty said in an interaction.

"The point BankBazaar wants to make is there is another revolution happening and the world will recognise it in one or two years from now.



And that's going to be the next digital revolution which will be driven by Gen 2 digital public good. The Gen 2 digital public good are digilocker, account aggregator, and video eKYC etc," Shetty said.

Stating the numbers, he said there are as many as 128 million (12.8 crore) registered users on digilocker in India today and 400 document types that are integrated. So if you multiply it, technically there are 5 billion (500 crore) e-documents that can be submitted through digilocker.

"Now this is a game

changer for credit (in the country). With respect to account aggregator, the big change happened after the finance minister asked banks to onboard the system earlier this year.

According to Shetty, one billion (100 crore) bank accounts are currently available on the Account Aggregator (AA) system.

While the digital payment revolution is led by UPI, the digital credit revolution which, in a way, is tougher as different people get different credit and the loan amount is also completely different. So, what is required here is data.

Digilocker among one of the things can facilitate data sharing, he said, adding it needs to be strengthened.

"We need to integrate Form 26AS, ePAN from income tax. Currently those integrations are not there in digilocker and also the EPFO related documents are not there in digilocker.

## GCPL Q2 net profit falls 25% to ₹359 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

FMCG major Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) on Tuesday reported a decline of 25.06 per cent in its consolidated net profit at ₹358.86 crore for the second quarter ended September.

It had posted a net profit of ₹478.89 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, GCPL said in a regulatory filing.

The revenue from the sale of products of the Godrej group's FMCG arm was up 7 per cent at ₹3,364.45 crore during the quarter under review, as against ₹3,143.61 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal.

GCPL's total expenses were 14.41 per cent up at ₹2,951.38 crore in the September quarter. It was reported at ₹2,579.45 crore last year.

"Our overall EBITDA declined by 15 per cent driven by consumption of high cost



inventory, upfront marketing investments and a weak performance in our Indonesia and Latin America & SAARC businesses. PAT without exceptional items and one-off declined by 21 per cent," GCPL Managing Director and CEO Sudhir Sitapati said.

The company's India revenue was up 8 per cent to ₹1,985.03 crore in the September quarter from ₹1,838.14 crore in the preceding year.

"From a category perspective, in India, we saw continued momentum in Personal Care, which grew by 18 per cent. Home Care grew by 2 per cent," he said.

## MRF Q2 net dips 32% to ₹130 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tyre maker MRF on Tuesday said its consolidated net profit declined by 32 per cent to ₹130 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, on account of higher expenses.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹190 crore in the July-September quarter of the previous fiscal.

Revenue from operations, however, rose to ₹5,826 crore for the second quarter, as compared to ₹4,908 crore in the year-ago period. MRF Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

The total expenses of the company rose to ₹5,730 crore during the September quarter, up 21 per cent from ₹4,741 crore in the corresponding quarter of last fiscal.

The company's board has declared an interim dividend of ₹3 per share (30 per cent) for the financial year ending March 31, 2023, it added.

## Mahindra Group joins hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support women's empowerment in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra group has inked a memorandum of understanding with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support women's economic empowerment in India.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Mumbai-based diversified group said the two-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) marks a significant step towards achieving its environmental, social and governance (ESG) commitment of impacting one million women annually from 2026.

The partnership will work in the area of gender equality, focused on programmes enabling women's economic empowerment targeted towards underprivileged



women.

The scope will entail both organisations collaborating on joint programmes and with key stakeholders such as the government, institutions, NGOs, corporates, etc.

"This partnership is core to our Rise philosophy of driving positive change in the lives of our communities. Together, we will create a collaborative platform that will provide holistic solutions to underprivileged women across the country leveraging the power of technology," Mahindra Group Managing Director & CEO

Anish Shah said.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation India Country Office Director Hari Menon said the tie-up will help in accelerating the progress towards India's national vision for gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

"It is exciting to see the ambitious goals of this partnership towards increasing women's workforce participation and building greater empowerment in the economy and in society," he added.

Under the MoU, both organisations will work jointly to undertake research and analysis, implement programmes and measure outcomes, focused on advancing women's empowerment.

## IIFCL hopes to bring down NPAs to sub-2.5% level by March 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) expects its net non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio to drop below 2.5 per cent by the end of March 2023 with the help of aggressive recoveries and resolution cases being pursued by the state-owned entity.

"The company closed last financial year with net NPAs of 3.65 per cent and we hope to bring it down to sub-2.5 per cent by the end of the current financial year," IIFCL Managing Director P R Jaishankar told PTI in an interview.

He said the net NPA was close to double digits at 9.75 per cent at the end of March 2020, while gross NPAs stood at



19.70 per cent.

Aggressive recovery and resolution strategy pursued by IIFCL helped it bring down NPAs significantly in a short span of time, he noted.

With regard to gross NPAs, he said, the company expects it to reduce to around 8 per cent by the end of March 2023.

The percentage of 'A' and above rated assets increased from 35-40 per cent (March 2020) to about 65 per cent (March 2022).

With improvement in various parameters, Jaishankar said the institution has transformed itself from being the last mile lender to a preferred financier.

IIFCL is focusing on financing greenfield projects of national significance, he said.

Such projects include Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (Jewar airport), Navi Mumbai International Airport, Mopa Airport in Goa, SJVN Green Energy Ltd and PNC Meerut Haridwar Highways Pvt Ltd. So far, the state-owned infrastructure financing firm has sanctioned around 650 projects with a total outlay of ₹11.5 lakh crore and out of them, 500 are public-private partnership projects.

## Birla Corporation posts ₹56 crore loss in Q2

PTI ■ KOLKATA

MP Birla group flagship company Birla Corporation Ltd (BCL) posted a loss of ₹56 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal against a net profit of ₹86 crore in the same period previous financial year.

Revenue of the company increased 19.3 per cent at ₹2042 crore during the second quarter as compared to ₹1711 crore in the previous similar period, a statement by the pri-

marily cement manufacturing firm said on Tuesday.

The company said that the profitability of BCL during the second quarter was impaired by rising power and fuel costs which could not be passed on to the consumers.

EBITDA, a measure of underlying profitability, of the company in the current second quarter declined 51.6 per cent to ₹136 crore from ₹281 crore in the similar previous period of 2021-22.

## Suzuki Motor Q2 operating profit jumps two-fold on improved sales

PTI ■ NEW DELHI | TOKYO

Japanese auto major Suzuki Motor Corporation on Tuesday reported a two-fold year-on-year increase in operating profit at 89.8 billion yen (around ₹5,000 crore) in the second quarter ended September 30, 2022.

Net sales in the period under review stood at 1,154.1 billion yen (around ₹64,000 crore), an increase of 39.3 per cent over 828.2 billion yen in



the same period last year.

The company attributed the rise in operating profit to sales volume growth across markets, including India, which offset the impact of higher raw material prices. Suzuki said its automobile sales across

markets for the April-September period stood at 14.63 lakh units as compared to 12.55 lakh units in the same period last year. On the business outlook for the rest of the year, the automaker noted:

"While there is no change in our perception that the risk of global recession is increasing, we have revised the forecast upward to reflect the progress of the first half of the fiscal year and the review of unit sales and the weak yen."

## Goa int'l airport unveils new logo

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Goa Airport on Tuesday unveiled its new bold logo which is inspired by the sun, sand, palm trees, sea, sky, earth and fun that define Goa.

According to the statement released by the Goa Airport, as a prominent representation of the company, people, and brand, the new logo is playful, optimistic and smart.

Inspired by the sun, sand, palm trees, sea, sky, earth and fun which define Goa, the logo for New Goa Airport has incorporated each of these attributes.

## Greenply Q2 net down 26% to ₹23.6 crore

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Leading plywood maker Greenply Industries Limited on Tuesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹23.6 crore for the second quarter ended September 2022, a decline of 26 per cent over the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The company's profit suffered due to a challenging macro environment and rising timber prices, a company official said.

The company for the quarter under review posted a revenue of ₹494.7 crore from operations, a 14 per cent jump over the corresponding period revenue of ₹432.4 crore.

Adjusted core EBITDA (Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) margin remained almost flat at ₹52.9 crore during the quarter.



# IPL will become world's biggest sporting league: Dhumal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New IPL chairman Arun Dhumal sees cricket's premier T20 tournament becoming the biggest sporting league in the world in the next five years and says the board also has a clear vision for Women's IPL.

Dhumal talked about his long term plans for the IPL, why there can't be more than 10 teams and why the BCCI will stick to its long-time stance on not allowing the Indian players to take part in overseas leagues.

IPL has become the second most valued sporting league globally in terms of per match value after the media rights for the 2023-2027 cycle fetched a staggering Rs 48,390 crore.

Though it has a much shorter window compared to football leagues like EPL or the NFL in the United States, the IPL is likely to have a two and half month exclusive window comprising a maximum of 94 games with 10 teams.

Dhumal said constant innovation is the need of the hour and there is no reason why IPL can't become the biggest sporting league worldwide.

"The IPL will be much bigger than what it is and will be the number one sports league in the world," Dhumal said when asked about how the BCCI plans to raise the bar for the crown jewel of Indian cricket.

Fans have contributed most to what the IPL has become and Dhumal said plans are in place to substantially improve their viewing experience.

"We are definitely looking at various innovations that can be brought to make it more fan friend-



ly. For those who are watching it on Tv and those who are experiencing at the stadium, we want them to have a better experience.

"If we can make the IPL schedule well in advance, people from all around the world can plan their travel accordingly. It should be a value for money experience for the fans," he said.

## 10 TEAMS ONLY

The BCCI mopped up over ₹12000 crore by adding two new

teams to the competition but it is highly unlikely that the number will go beyond 10, said the IPL boss.

A total number of 74 games were held this season and in the new cycle, the number of matches could go up to 94 with existing teams.

"Teams will stay at 10 only. If you increase that, it becomes difficult to have the tournament in one go. We are looking at 74 games to begin with for the first two seasons, then 84 and if things permit

may be 94 in the fifth year of the media rights cycle, that itself would make it a long enough event," said Dhumal.

"We can't compare ourselves to football and other sporting leagues around the world as the requirement in cricket is totally different. You can't play on the same pitches for six months."

## NO OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION

The mushrooming T20 leagues around the world has put pressure

on the BCCI to release its sought after players for overseas tournaments. The IPL owners have bought all six teams in the all new South Africa league and understandably want some Indian presence in the competition.

Referring to both contract and non-contracted India players, Dhumal said the BCCI has no plans to change its existing policy of preserving its players amid a hectic calendar.

"This in principle is the deci-

sion of BCCI that our contracted players can't go and play for other leagues. As it is there is so much of cricket happening. Keeping in mind their overall well-being that decision has been taken. As of now we stick to that decision.

"Even the non contracted ones are aspiring to play for India," he said.

However, the BCCI is very much open to IPL teams' long-standing request to take the tournament overseas by staging a few

exhibition games.

"With the Indian diaspora all across the globe, we would want to increase the reach of this tournament further but it has to be right-ly timed. That is very important. We will evaluate and when the time is right we will take it overseas.

"The international FTP is so tight that player availability needs to be looked at before taking a call on that," he said before wishing the two new leagues in South Africa and UAE the "very best".

## 'WOMEN'S IPL'

The inaugural WIPL will be held in March next year with five teams but sale of teams has not been conducted yet. There is plenty of interest to buy teams and there is possibility that they operate out of smaller centres in India.

"The way we are planning for this Women's IPL is that we will have new set of fans joining the game. There are lot of female fans who have added to the IPL fan base and this tournament will only add to that and many more would want to take up the sport as a profession. That was the idea behind announcing equal pay (for women India cricketers).

"Fans should make it to the stadium in large numbers whether we have the WIPL in rural areas or main city centres. We will evaluate that and take a call soon," he said.

On revenue projection for the tournament, Dhumal added: "We are creating a new property and it has to be world class. We are not really bothered about the numbers.

"We are working on making it one of the best women's cricket tournament in the world. What we did in the IPL, we want to do something similar with WIPL."

# Garcia seals WTA Finals victory

AP ■ FORT WORTH

France's Caroline Garcia scored the biggest victory of her career with a straight sets defeat of Aryna Sabalenka to win the season-ending WTA Finals on Monday.

Garcia relied on a superb service game to overpower her Belarusian opponent 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 at Fort Worth, Texas.

The 29-year-old from Lyon is only the second French player to win the WTA title after Amelie Mauresmo in 2005.

With both sixth-seeded Garcia and seventh-seeded Sabalenka serving beautifully throughout, Monday's final was settled by the finest of margins.

Garcia seized the initiative in the first set tie-break after both women had held to get it 6-6.

Remarkably, neither player conceded a break point during a hard-fought first set.

But the question of who would blink first was answered in the breaker as Sabalenka's composure suddenly deserted her.

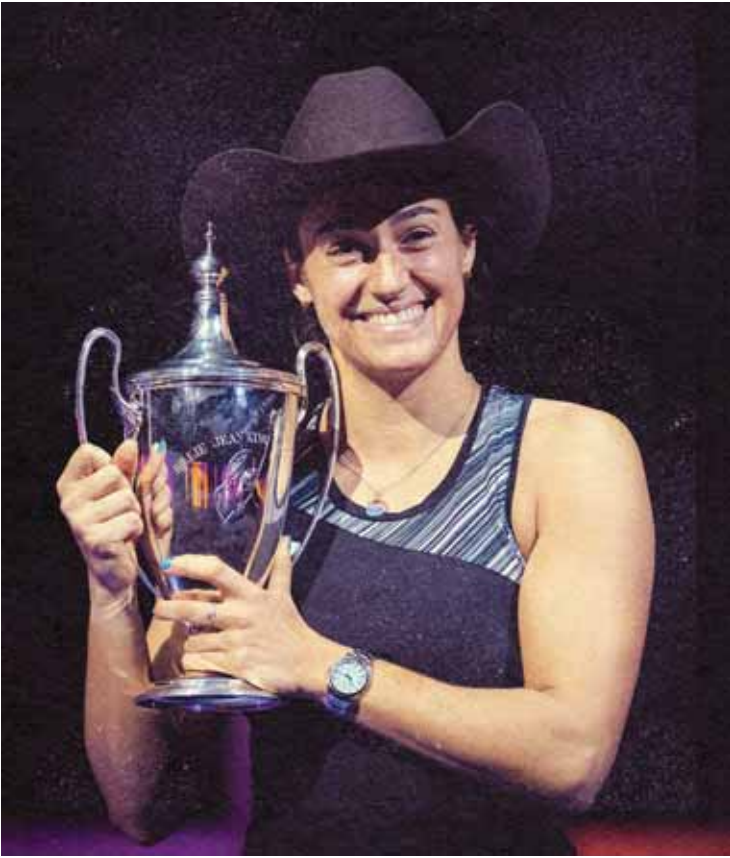
A wayward Sabalenka backhand return plopped into the net to give Garcia a 4/2 lead in the tie-break.

On the next point, Sabalenka double-faulted to hand the Frenchwoman a 5/2 lead.

Garcia brought up four set points with an ace for a 6/2 lead.

Although Sabalenka recovered to win the next two points, she double-faulted again to hand Garcia the set.

A clearly rattled Sabalenka was soon in trouble in the second set, suffering a break on the first game after



Garcia drilled a winner up the line.

That break proved decisive as Garcia never looked like surrendering the initiative, holding for the remainder of the set before serving for the match at 5-4.

She earned her first match point

when Sabalenka yanked a backhand return wide for a 40-30 lead.

Although Sabalenka saved that match point with a backhand down the line, Garcia regained match point with a booming serve before converting on the next point.

## Gauff eyes redemption at Billie Jean King Cup

AP ■ GLASGOW

Coco Gauff has her sights set on an uplifting end to the season as the teenage star prepares to lead the US challenge at the Billie Jean King Cup Finals this week.

Billed as the world cup of women's tennis, the tournament starts on Tuesday in Glasgow and runs until November 13.

Formerly known as the Fed Cup, the 12-team finals comprise four groups of three countries, with each winner advancing to the semi-finals. Each group tie at the Emirates Arena consists of two singles matches and one doubles.

World number four Gauff will drive the US bid, alongside world number three Jessica Pegula, in a tournament that comes at the perfect time for the youngster.

The 18-year-old reached her first Grand Slam final at the French Open this year, continuing a remarkable rise that started in 2019 when she burst onto the scene with a run to the Wimbledon fourth round aged just 15.

Gauff, beaten by Iga Swiatek in the Roland Garros final, this year became the youngest player to qualify for the WTA Finals in singles since Maria Sharapova in 2005.

But she suffered a rare dip when she lost all six of her singles and



doubles matches in Texas, leaving her grateful to have a chance to finish the year on a high in Glasgow.

"It's probably the worst week of the year for me. I never lost so much so fast," Gauff said. "Going to BJK Cup I think will be better -- I have a team and team-mates who are ready to play.

"I'm kind of grateful I have that tournament because it would be an awful way to end the year on this."

Poland will be without French Open and US Open champion Swiatek after the world number one opted not to play due to the tournament's proximity to the WTA Finals.

"The situation is not safe for our health and could cause injury," she said.



## Real defeat leaves Barca on top

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid lost their first La Liga game of the season, going down 3-2 at city-rivals Rayo Vallecano on Monday to leave Barcelona two points clear at the top.

Rayo took an early lead in a see-saw game before Real went 2-1 ahead. Rayo equalised before half-time before winning the match with a twice-taken penalty from Oscar Trejo in the 67th minute.

After 13 matches, Barcelona are top on 34 points to Real Madrid's 32.

Playing without Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, Real Madrid faced a tough opponent in a sold-out stadium in the working class suburb of Vallecas.

Santiago Comesana put the

home side ahead to raucous scenes after just five minutes before two goals in the space of four minutes turned the match Madrid's way.

First Luka Modric levelled from the penalty spot in the 37th minute before Eder Militao fired Carlo Ancelotti's previously unbeaten side into the lead.

It was not to last, however, as Rayo were level at the break with Alvaro Garcia getting the better of a goalmouth scramble and snapping a shot through a sea of legs.

In a bad tempered and hotly-disputed game Real's Belgian goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois saved a penalty from Trejo on 67 minutes but was adjudged to have moved early.

Trejo showed no nerves converting the retaken spot-kick.

## Eriksen named in Denmark squad for WC

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Manchester United midfielder Christian Eriksen, who suffered a cardiac arrest during Euro 2020, was one of 21 players named by Kasper Hjulmand on Monday in Denmark's World Cup squad, with the coach set to name the remaining five players in the coming days.

The full list must be presented by next Monday at the latest, the day before the team leaves for Qatar.

"There are 10 to 12 players competing for the last places," said Hjulmand.

"A lot can happen. It's uncertain, but it's the right way to go. There are two games left for many players, and things could change."

Eriksen spent eight months out of the game after collapsing in Denmark's opening game of the European Championships against Finland in Copenhagen on June 12 last year, remaining lifeless for long minutes.

Regulars such as captain Simon Kjaer are on the list although there is no place yet for Leicester defender Jannik Vestergaard and Leipzig striker Yussuf Poulsen.

In Group D, Denmark begin their World Cup on November 22 against Tunisia, before meeting France, the defending champions, and Australia.

Tenth in the FIFA world rankings, Denmark has been among the countries most critical of the holding of the World Cup in Qatar.



## PRELIMINARY SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Kasper Schmeichel, Oliver Christensen

**Defenders:** Daniel Wass, Rasmus Nissen Kristensen, Jens Stryger Larsen, Joakim Maehle, Andreas Christensen, Simon Kjaer, Joachim Andersen, Victor Nelsson

**Midfielders:** Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, Thomas Delaney, Christian Eriksen, Mathias Jensen

**Forwards:** Mikkel Damsgaard, Andreas Skov Olsen, Jesper Lindstrom, Martin Braithwaite, Kasper Dolberg, Jonas Wind, Andreas Cornelius

## Lakshya reaches career-best sixth rank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen on Tuesday jumped two spots to achieve a career-best sixth in the latest BWF World Rankings.

The 21-year-old from Almora, who has been in sensational form this season, has 76,424 points from 25 tournaments.

Newly-crowned French Open champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also climbed one spot to return to their career best ranking of seven in men's doubles.

Women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand and mixed doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto also moved up to achieve their career-high rankings of 23 and 28 respectively.

While Treasa and Gayatri jumped five places, Tanisha and Ishaan improved two spots in the latest chart.

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu also moved up a place to become world number five.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain and Shiva Thapa will spearhead the Indian challenge as 12 pugilists from the country aim to seal their berth in the Asian Boxing Championships finals in Amman, Jordan here from Wednesday.

The semi-final bouts for the women's category will begin on Wednesday and will be followed by the men's last-four contests on Thursday.

The Tokyo Olympic Bronze medallist Lovlina (75kg), who is contesting in this weight category at an international tournament for the first time, will take on Seong Suyeon of the Korea in her semi-final bout.

Alongside Lovlina, the 2022 world championships Bronze medallist Parveen (63kg) will be up against Uranbileg Shinetsetseg of Mongolia while competition debutant Preeti (57kg) will be involved in a tough match-up against the Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Irie Sena of Japan.

The other four women in semi-final action will be Alfiya Pathan



(81+kg), Saweety (81kg), Ankushita Boro (75kg), and Minakshi (52kg).

In the men's category, Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) who became the most decorated Asian champion after ensuring his sixth medal in the competition will face two-time Asian Championships medallist Bakhodur Usmonov of

Tajikistan.

Two-time Commonwealth Bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) will go head to head against the 2021 world championships silver medallist Serik Temirzhanov of Kazakhstan.

The other three men in semi-final action will be Narender (92+kg), Sumit (75kg), and Govind Kumar Sahani (48kg).

Narender (92+kg) dominated his way to the semis by comfortably defeating Iman Ramezanpourdelavar of Iran with a unanimous 5:0 verdict late on Monday night. India's total medal count of 12 in this year's edition of the tournament is the third highest among all competing nations.

The women pugilists of the country have secured seven medals which ranks them second in the standings among all nations while the men's total tally of five medals places them joint third alongside Jordan and Mongolia in their respective rankings.

The final of the tournament for the women's category will take place on Friday and the men's final bouts will be conducted on Saturday.



# You're about to see something very special from Babar: Hayden

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Pakistan team mentor Matthew Hayden has backed his under-fire skipper Babar Azam to produce "something very special" in the knockout stages of the T20 World Cup.

The fourth-highest run-scorer in T20Is since the last World Cup, Babar has failed to fire in the ongoing showpiece, with a 33-ball 25 against Bangladesh being his best in the last five matches.

"...Don't be surprised whatsoever if you don't see some fireworks because very special players don't often stay down for long," Hayden said during the pre-match press conference ahead of Wednesday's semifinal against New Zealand.

"There's no question that Babar has been under some adversity. That will make him not only an even greater player...You can't continue to keep on punching out hundreds and 50s and strike rates of 140-plus.

"There's got to be moments in time where there's a lull. And as we all know about the weather, once there's a lull, there's often a storm that follows. So look out, rest of the world, because I think you're about to see something very special from Babar."

Pakistan were staring at an exit after losing to India and Zimbabwe, but Netherlands' shocking win over South Africa opened up the door and they beat Bangladesh in their final Super 12 match to seal the semifinal spot.

"It has been a rollercoaster ride but I wouldn't have it any other way, because the last World Cup we went into the semi-final undefeated, and Australia pipped us," Hayden said.

"So, yeah, there's ups and downs in



this tournament, but I really believe yet with our best game, which is a huge threat to our opposition.

"The way the middle order has stepped up to the plate has been excellent

and those fast bowlers, man, there's four of them and they come at great pace."

Babar and his opening partner Mohammad Rizwan have struggled at the top but Hayden was impressed with how

## With access shots and innovation, Surya becomes a threat: Hayden



PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian batting great Matthew Hayden believes T20 cricket is not always about power and subcontinental players such as Suryakumar Yadav demonstrated that they can pose a threat with "access shots" and "innovation".

The power-hitters from teams such as Australia, England and West Indies have dominated the shortest format but Hayden gave the example of the rampag-

ing Suryakumar to drive his point that it is more about finding a tricky balance.

"The power game in T20 cricket is still being explored because there is a mixture," the former Australian opener said.

"I think the subcontinental players, when you look at the tournament so far, guys like Suryakumar Yadav who are playing beautifully through that middle to late stage, with a competency of all areas of the ground, with access shots, innovation, they become threats."

"I think New Zealand had some really destructive players, you can be put under pressure with the bat...They've also got a terrific bowling attack, a well-balanced bowling attack. Good mixture of

experience," the 51-year-old said.

"I even played against Tim Southee, that goes to show you how much experience that team has got... Lockie Ferguson has great pace, lots of experience in T20 cricket as well, so poses good threats. And they've got good off-pace bowling as well.

"I think like New Zealand sport, in general, they really punch above their weight. They believe they can win this tournament and they've got the potential to do that. So lots of threats to our camp, no question."

Meanwhile, New Zealand captain Kane Williamson spoke about the SCG track that has behaved differently in their previous two outings, and called the Pakistan pace attack "outstanding".

"It's kind of interesting, the first game we played here, the wicket was a very good one," Williamson said on the eve of the semifinal.

"And then the second time we played here it had changed. And sometimes you can take perhaps what you were expecting the wicket to be like in the first game and think it would behave in the same way, which it didn't."

As far as Pakistan's bowling is concerned, he said, "They've got an outstanding pace attack. Like I mentioned, they've been playing really good cricket. They've got very experienced players on their side, who are match-winners. So, that's a real strength for them."

Seeking their maiden World Cup title, New Zealand made it to the final of the T20 World Cup last year, won the inaugural World Test Championships, and also played the 2019 (50-over) World Cup final in which they suffered a heartbreaking loss to England, the result being decided on boundary count-back rule.

# Kohli has earned right to be never written off: Stokes



PTI ■ ADELAIDE

England all-rounder Ben Stokes is hopeful that his bowling attack can contain the rampaging Suryakumar Yadav in the T20 World Cup semi-final against India even though his shots have forced him to scratch his head in awe.

He was also lavish in his praise for Indian legend Virat Kohli, who he thinks has "earned the right to be never written off".

England's top all-rounder is cautiously optimistic about his team's chances in the big semi-final on Thursday.

"Suryakumar obviously came in and set the world alight. He is a fantastic player and plays some shots where you sort of just scratching the head sometimes.

"He is in great form, but hopefully, we can try and shut him down and not

allow him to get on one of his rampages," Stokes, who has been impressive with the ball, told reporters.

Talking about Kohli, with whom Stokes has shared a healthy rivalry over the years, the Durham man was at his wits end that a player of that stature could be written off so easily after a downward spiral.

"I think with Virat he could have four unbelievable years like he had, and then have a not so loud couple of months and then for some reason plays like that and gets written off, we have got no idea why. I think he has earned the right to never be written off."

As far as Kohli is concerned, his numbers speak for itself, said Stokes.

"You don't produce the numbers and produce the innings that he (Kohli) does in all three formats and it's fine. We as

## Rohit gets hit on arm during training but no serious injury caused

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

The Indian cricket team survived a scare ahead of the T20 World Cup semifinal against England as skipper Rohit Sharma sustained a powerful blow on his forearm during training on Tuesday, but it did not turn out to be a serious injury.

Rohit was undergoing usual practice drills as he faced team's throwdown expert S Raghunath at the Adelaide Oval when a short ball jumped off the length area and hit his right forearm.

The captain, who was attempting a pull shot and missed the ball, was visibly in pain. After applying ice pack on the injured arm and resting for a while, Rohit resumed his training.

Team sources said the skipper is doing fine and should play the semifinal against England on Thursday.

"He didn't feel much discomfort when he batted for the second time. CT scan or x-ray might not be needed. Also we have one day in the



middle which is also optional session. It doesn't look serious as of now," a source said.

Rohit looked desolate and in considerable pain when he was watching the training session from a distance, sitting on an ice box, after being hit. Mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton was seen talking to him for a considerable amount of time.

Rohit resumed his training after some time but throwdown experts were told not to go full throttle as he mostly played defensive shots to check if his movements were okay.

players and people who play against him a lot, we never take anything he has done in the game before into the game we have got here," said Stokes.

### 'STRONG INDIAN TEAM'

Stokes admitted that England have reached the semi-finals without "playing their best cricket" so far but on a big day, against a good Indian team, that wouldn't be the case.

"I think the way we have managed to get through not playing our best cricket so far and now we find ourselves here. So obviously it's exciting.

"But we know we need to get this game done on Thursday, against a very strong Indian team which no one will ever take lightly," Stokes put things as they are.

"This is because of the team they are

and the players that they have in their squad. But we like to focus more on our squad and not think too much about them."

In fact, he also didn't want to read too much into opposition skipper Rohit Sharma's lean run with the bat.

"The likes of Rohit, they are world-class players. You can't take (assume) anything from what he has performed in the previous game because you have seen him do it many a time (in big games).

"He is one of the best to play the game, especially in this format. We won't be taking him lightly at all."

When asked if spin will play a big role in Adelaide under floodlights, Stokes was non-committal.

"I am pretty sure it will but how big a role, I don't know."

# Australia recall Harris for West Indies Tests

AP ■ SYDNEY

Opening batsman Marcus Harris was on Tuesday recalled to Australia's Test squad for two clashes against the West Indies, while Travis Head retained his place despite poor recent form.

Harris featured in last year's successful Ashes campaign against England but was axed and overlooked for Australia's Test trip to Sri Lanka in July with Usman Khawaja preferred as David Warner's opening partner.

Khawaja is again expected to open with Harris as back-up in a slimmed-down 13-man squad.

"Marcus Harris regains his place after continuing to perform for Gloucestershire in the English county competition and a strong start to the Sheffield Shield season," said chairman of selectors George Bailey.

Head keeps his place despite poor form in Australia's domestic Sheffield Shield competition with the top six -- Warner, Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Head and Cameron Green -- unchanged.

The squad is smaller than ones in recent years when Covid-19 protocols were in place, with fast bowlers Michael Neser and Jhye Richardson, and leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson missing out.

"After some larger squads for the sub-continent tours over the winter, we have returned to a very similar squad to that which performed strongly last summer in comprehensively winning the Ashes," said Bailey.

Before that, Australia host three ODIs against England in Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne on November 17, 19 and 22 respectively where Pat Cummins will be captain for the first time after Aaron Finch



## Three-member committee to probe Gunathilaka incident

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A three-member panel will probe the alleged sexual assault by Sri Lankan batter Danushka Gunathilaka during the T20 World Cup in Australia, the country's cricket board said on Tuesday.

The probe panel comprising retired High Court judge Justice Sisira Ratnayake, attorney Niroshana Perera and attorney Asela Rekawa will also investigate various other alleged incidents involving the reigning Asia Cup

winners during their stay in Australia, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) stated.

"Upon submission of the said report by the panel, the Executive Committee of Sri Lanka Cricket will take stern disciplinary action against the players and or officials if proved guilty of any wrongdoing or negligence when carrying out official duties," SLC said. The panel will seek an immediate explanation from the team manager pertaining to Gunathilaka's conduct and other incidents.

retired from the 50-over format.

Nine of the Test squad will face England, meaning they will play the West Indies with no recent red-ball experience.

**Test squad:** Pat Cummins (capt), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon,

Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, David Warner

**ODI team:** Pat Cummins (capt), Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner, Adam Zampa

# Qadir, Chanderpaul, Edwards in ICC Hall of Fame

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan iconic spinner Abdul Qadir, West Indies batting legend Shivnarine Chanderpaul and England's multiple-time Women's World Cup winning captain Charlotte Edwards have become the latest additions to the ICC Hall of Fame.

The trio were inducted following a voting process that included the existing Hall of Famers, media representatives plus senior executives from FICA and the ICC, the world cricket body said on Tuesday.

"It is a very big honour for the family to hear of this news, we see it as a huge achievement, and one that my father would be very proud of if he was still with us today," said Usman Qadir, son of Abdul and current Pakistan international.



A pioneer in wrist-spin techniques which is still relevant, Qadir, who died three years ago, played 67 Tests and 104 ODIs and took 236 and 132 wickets respectively in his 13-year career span.

Following his retirement, he mentored fellow country-

men Mushtaq Ahmed, Danish Kaneria and Shahid Afridi, as well as Australia's Shane Warne and South Africa's Imran Tahir.

Eighth on the list of all time Test runs, Chanderpaul holds the record of seven half-centuries in consecutive Test innings.

# Delhi Capitals set to release Shardul, Seifert, K S Bharat among others

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals are set to release five players including Shardul Thakur, K S Bharat and New Zealander Tim Seifert ahead of the player retention deadline on November 15.

The other two likely to be released are Mandeep Singh and Andhra opener Ashwin Hebbar.

Thakur, who was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 10.75 crore, had taken 15 wickets in 14 games in the 2022 edition but leaked close to 10 runs per over. With the bat, he scored 120 runs at an average of 10.81 and a strike rate of 137.93.

Delhi Capitals wanted to trade him to other teams but that deal could not go through. Considering that he comes with a high price tag, the franchise is set to release him



ahead of the mini auction in December.

"Shardul is a premium all-rounder but his price tag was

an issue. The others who are set to be released are Hebbar, Mandeep, Seifert and Bharat," an IPL source said.

## Doeschate returns as KKR fielding coach

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former Netherlands skipper Ryan Ten Doeschate will be back at Kolkata Knight Riders as team's fielding coach, the IPL team announced on Tuesday.

The 42-year-old was part of KKR's title-winning campaign in 2012 and 2014. He will succeed James Foster who has now been promoted as the team's assistant coach.

"Tendo played an important role as a player from 2011-14 and in the two championships the KKR won in 2012 & 2014 and has been a genuine supporter of KKR all these years. These two appointments strengthens the support staff under the leadership of Head Coach Chandu Pandit," Venky Mysore, CEO of KKR, was quoted as saying in a release.