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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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## G20 echoes Modi's 'It is not era of war' on Ukraine crisis

PIONEER NEWS  
SERVICE/AGENCIES ■  
NEW DELHI/BALI, INDONESIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal regarding the Ukraine conflict that "today's era must not be of war" resonated in the joint declaration or communiqué issued after the G-20 summit on Wednesday.

World leaders, including the Indian Prime Minister, also called for an immediate end to the ongoing war and favoured dialogue and diplomacy to resolve all issues. The communiqué was issued after the two-day summit in Bali, Indonesia. The conclave discussed the Russian military action in Ukraine and its adverse impact on fuel, food and fertilisers supply chains.

India played a key role in the successful negotiations of the outcome document, said Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, adding India's approach was very "constructive, cooperative, and in that consensus building", across the whole range of issues, which were negotiated in the outcome document.

"Naturally, the outcome document was being negotiated in a particular global context and that global context did find mention in the outcome document also during negotiations, and there I would say the Prime Minister's message that this is not the era of war, and the best way to return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy, to resolve the conflict resonated very deeply across all the delegations and helped bridge the gap across different parties and contributed to the successful outcome of the document."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden exchange greetings during an event at the Taman Hutan Raya Ngurah Rai Mangrove Forest, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, in Bali on Wednesday

In a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in September on the sidelines of the SCO in Uzbekistan, Modi had given a message to him that "today's era is not of war." The communiqué said, "The peaceful resolution of conflicts, efforts to address crises, as well as diplomacy and dialogue, are vital. Today's era must not be of war."

India played a key and critical role in bringing con-

sensus among all countries on the communiqué, people familiar with the matter said.

India worked in partnership with all developing countries and emerging markets to draft the final statement and the preamble to the statement, officials said. India emerged as a leader, solution provider and consensus builder through its positive and constructive approach, they added.

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## Sunak OK's job visa scheme for Indian youths

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday green lit a new youth mobility partnership scheme that will offer 3,000 visas to 18-30-year-old degree-educated Indians every year to live and work in the UK for up to two years.

The reciprocal scheme, which will also involve British nationals living and working in India, was signed as part of the UK-India Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP) last year and will now be formally launched in early 2023.

The scheme was launched by Sunak as part of the UK's Indo-Pacific focus at the G20 Summit in Bali, where he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to confirm the new bespoke route and which Downing Street said makes India the first visa-national country to benefit from such a scheme.

"I know first-hand the incredible value of the deep cultural and historic ties we have with India," said Sunak, UK's first Indian-origin PM.

"I am pleased that even more of India's brightest young people will now have the opportunity to experience all that life in the UK has to offer — and vice-versa — making

our economies and societies richer," he said.

The launch of the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme is dubbed a "significant moment" for the bilateral relationship and the UK's wider commitment to forging stronger links with the Indo-Pacific to strengthen both Indian and British economies.

It is also seen as an effort to propel the ongoing free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations, which are now expected to run until at least March next year.

Downing Street says such an FTA will be the first deal of its kind India has made with a European country and would build on the UK-India trading relationship worth GBP 24 billion annually.

The UK has more links with India than almost any country in the Indo-Pacific region as nearly a quarter of all international students in the UK are from India and Indian investment into the UK supports 95,000 jobs across the UK, it pointed out. "In parallel to the mobility partnership with India, we are also strengthening our ability to remove immigration offenders," Downing Street said.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Court's nod for lie test on Shraddha's butcher

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Wednesday got the Saket Court's nod to conduct a narco analysis, or lie detector test, of accused Aftab Amin Poonawalla following several discrepancies in his statement in connection with killing his live-in partner Shraddha Madan Walker and chopping her body into 35 pieces before dumping them in the forests of South Delhi's Chhatarpur.

A Delhi Police team on Wednesday again visited the rented house where the crime happened and "also spoke to the landlady" following which the rent agreement with the accused was seized.

The development comes after the Delhi Police approached the court earlier in the morning seeking permission for the test saying that he was not cooperating in the investigation and there're several discrepancies in Aftab's statements.

"Following his arrest on November 12, Aftab is not providing correct information about Shraddha's mobile and the weapon he used to kill her. At times he says he disposed of the mobile in Maharashtra and sometimes says he had dropped the phone somewhere in Delhi," sources said.

*Continued on Page 2*



## Digital proofs gave Aftab away: Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Preliminary investigation revealed Aftab Amin Poonawalla, who was arrested on Saturday for brutally killing his live-in partner Shraddha Madan Walker in South Delhi's Chhatarpur area, had removed most of the physical evidence of the murder. The police cracked the case with the help of digital evidence.

A screenshot of the chat between Shraddha and Aftab surfaced and it showed that on the day she was murdered she was active on social media till evening.

It was also revealed that Aftab did not tell his landlord

about her even though they stayed together at an apartment in Vasai near Mumbai.

Sources said the biggest breakthrough the police got was the bank statement of the couple's account which showed a transaction of ₹54,000 from Shraddha's net banking app to Aftab's account on May 26.

The transaction exposed Aftab's lies in which he had earlier said Shraddha was unreachable after May 22 and he did not come in contact with her. The location of the bank transfer that took place on May 26 also turned out to be the Mehrauli police station area.

*Continued on Page 2*

## BASIC slams rich nations for reneging on climate pledge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the rich nations mostly remain mute spectators when it comes to taking action to curb climate change impact, the BASIC group comprising Brazil, South Africa, China, and India slammed their "double standards" at the ongoing UN climate summit in Egypt.

The group said that the developed nations have backtracked on their commitment to provide finance to develop-

ing countries to fight climate change and have increased consumption and production of fossil fuels instead.

"BASIC countries are gravely concerned that developed countries are still not showing leadership or responding with a matching progression of effort. There has been backtracking on finance and mitigation commitments and pledges by developed countries," the four countries said in a joint statement.

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A demonstrator participates in a 'die-in' advocating for the 1.5 degree warming goal to survive at the COP27 UN Climate Summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on Wednesday

## CAPSULE

## SISODIA'S AIDE TURNS APPROVER IN SCAM CASE

**New Delhi:** Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is staring at more troubles as Dinesh Arora, his close aide and an accused in the Delhi's Excise Policy scam case, has become an approver in the matter. A Delhi court on Wednesday allowed the move of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)'s move to make him an approver in the matter. **P3**

## MASKS NO LONGER MUST FOR FLIERS

**New Delhi:** The Civil Aviation Ministry on Wednesday said the use of masks is not compulsory during air travel but passengers should preferably use them amid the declining number of coronavirus cases. Till now, the use of masks or face covers while travelling on flights was mandatory. **P4**

## MINOR RAPES 10-YR-OLD GIRL IN FRIEND'S GUARD

**Guna:** Two minor boys have been detained over alleged rape of a 10-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, a police official said on Wednesday. The incident occurred at a village under Chachoda police station limits on Tuesday, said police. According to a complaint filed by the victim's family, the minor girl was raped by one of the minor boys when she was grazing buffaloes near her village, while the other accused stood guard.

## Maken quits as Raj incharge week after Pilot's ultimatum

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The political crisis for the Congress in Rajasthan does not seem to fade away with senior leader Ajay Maken quitting as the party's State in-charge a week after former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot gave an ultimatum to the newly-elected party chief Mallikarjun Kharge to resolve the protracted crisis in the State.

Sources within the party said as Kharge is in the process of resolving the long-pending stalemate, Maken has decided to make an honourable exit.

The development also comes ahead of the Bharat Jodo Yatra entering Rajasthan in the first week of December.

In his resignation letter, Maken said it is "imperative to have a new in-charge as soon



as possible" as the Bharat Jodo Yatra is coming to Rajasthan early next month and there is a bypoll on December 4.

Maken had failed to convene a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party in September amid a rebellion by MLAs.

In a letter to party president Kharge, Maken cited the developments of September 25 and asked the party chief to appoint someone in place of him, sources said on Wednesday.

Maken and Kharge had gone to Jaipur as central observers for holding a meet-

ing of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in September amid charges and counter-charges by both factions in favour of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot.

The CLP meeting could not take place, but some MLAs considered loyal to the Chief Minister, held a separate meeting at the residence of State Minister Shanti Dhariwal, who opposed Pilot as Gehlot's successor in Rajasthan.

At that time, Maken had failed to convene a meeting of MLAs to pass a one-line resolution to authorise the Congress president to appoint a new leader in Rajasthan.

Gehlot had apologised publicly later for failing to get the resolution passed and opted out of the race for the Congress president after meeting then party chief Sonia Gandhi.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Kathua rapist-killer to go on trial as adult: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that one Shubam Sangra, one of the four accused persons in the sensational Kathua rape and murder case, was not a juvenile at the time of the offence and now can be tried afresh as an adult.

The SC viewed that medical opinion regarding the age of an accused cannot be "brushed aside". "Medical opinion regarding age in absence of any other conclusive evidence should be considered to determine the age range of the accused... Whether medical evidence can be relied upon or not depends on the value of evidence. Thus, order passed by CJM Kathua is set aside and thus the accused is held not to be a juvenile at the

time of crime," a bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and JB Pardiwala said.

The eight-year-old minor nomadic girl was kidnapped on January 10, 2018 and was raped in captivity in a small village temple after being kept sedated for four days. She was later bludgeoned to death. The top court, on February 7, 2020, had stayed the proceedings against Sangra before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB).

Senior advocate PS Patwalia, appearing for the J&K administration, had said the high court had on October 11, 2019, wrongly affirmed the trial court order of March 27, 2018, without appreciating that the date of birth recorded in the municipal and school records are contradictory to each other.

*Continued on Page 2*

## AAP MLA's relative held over bribe for MCD ticket

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Anti Corruption Branch has arrested three persons, including Model Town AAP MLA Akhilesh Pati Tripathi's brother-in-law, his personal assistant, and another associate, for allegedly demanding ₹90 lakh for giving a party worker's wife a ticket to contest in the MCD elections.

The ACB identified the arrested persons as Om Singh, Shiv Shankar Pandey and Prince Raghuvanshi. Om is reportedly Tripathi's brother-in-law while Pandey is his personal assistant, according to the ACB. The complainant, identified as Gopal Khari, alleged he had paid a bribe of ₹35 lakh on behalf of his wife Shobha, but

she did not get a ticket in the end. The ACR laid the trap when the trio were about to return the money.

Reacting on the issue, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said "tickets are not sold in the AAP".

"Tickets are not sold in AAP. Someone paid money for a ticket and money was taken... but the ticket was not sold. It makes it clear that no tickets are sold in AAP, I want an unbiased investigation in the matter..." Sisodia told reporters.

According to a complaint filed before the ACB, Khari, who claimed to be associated with the AAP as an active worker since 2014, approached the ACB with the complaint.

*Continued on Page 2*

## AAP Surat pick quits race over 'anti-Guj' slur; party blames BJP for withdrawal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

AAP's Surat East Assembly seat candidate Kanchan Jariwala withdrew his nomination on Wednesday, with the AAP alleging that the ruling BJP pressured him to do so. The BJP rejected the charge. Jariwala said he withdrew his nomination by listening to his conscience after the people of his constituency labelled him "anti-national" and "anti-Gujarat" for fighting the poll from the AAP ticket. **P5**

## Qatar to add World Cup flights' emissions in carbon footprint

AP ■ DOHA

World Cup host nation Qatar said it will count emissions produced from daily flights ferrying fans during the tournament between the Gulf emirates toward the event's overall carbon footprint.

Qatar claims the month-long tournament kicking off Sunday will be "carbon neutral," but environmental experts have questioned how rigorous its plan to count and offset all the event's emissions is.

There had been questions in recent months when airlines including Qatar Airways and FlyDubai said they would increase the number of daily flights between Doha and near-



by Gulf cities to transport thousands of fans spending the night outside Qatar.

The host nation is smaller than the US state of Connecticut and does not have enough hotel rooms to accommodate the tournament's more than 1.2 million expected fans.

Qatar's Environment Minister Sheikh Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed bin Ali Al

Thani told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the emissions of the daily flights would be counted.

Speaking in Egypt at the UN climate conference, Sheikh Faleh said he was certain Qatar would "lead the standard" in achieving a climate-friendly sporting event.

Qatar is one of the world's top exporters of liquefied natural gas. Last year, it outlined a national climate change action plan aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent by 2030.

Sheikh Faleh told delegates at the COP27 meeting that Qatar would continue "working to translate these ambitions to facts."



# Rly OK’s new fence to stop cattle crashes

1,000-km-long boundary wall to be erected in next 6 months

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the recurring cattle-hit incidents involving trains, the Indian Railways has approved a new design for boundary walls adjacent the rail tracks. To begin with, a total length of 1000 kilometre will be “installed” in the next six months. The boundary walls will come up in sections of its network where maximum cases of cattle being run over by

trains are recorded. Cattle runovers can cause serious damage to trains, derailment and delay them.

Announcing the major enhancement of rail infrastructure, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said the national transporter is working seriously on the issue of building the boundary walls. “We are looking at two different designs. While we have approved one, which is a sturdy wall, over the next five to six months, we plan to build 1,000 km of such walls across sections to determine if the design works,” Vaishnaw said.

According to official data, cattle runovers affected 200 trains in the first nine days of October. As many as 4,000



trains have been affected so far this year.

With more than 6,500 of the 26,000 cattle run cases in 2020-21, North Central Railway is one of the worst affected zones. It covers 3,000

km of tracks and hosts parts of Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors. It includes divisions like Agra, Jhansi and Prayagraj, and is the gateway for trains from the east to reach the northern parts of

India.

The stretches identified for building boundary walls include sections in North Central Railways and Northern Railways -- in the Jhansi Division between Virangana Lakshmibai-Gwalior section, Prayagraj Division between Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay-Prayagraj section, Moradabad Division between Alam Nagar and Shahjehanpur, Lucknow Division between Alam Nagar and Lucknow.

The Northern Railways zone recorded the highest number of cattle run over cases -- nearly 6,800 -- across divisions of Moradabad and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Firozpur in Punjab, Ambala in Haryana, and Delhi in 2022, official data said.

Vaishnaw stated that conventional boundary walls will not be able to solve the problem of cattle run over but will end up affecting villagers around the area. The Minister, however, did not give any information on the material that will be used for building the boundary walls to make them sturdy enough to not only keep the cattle away from railway tracks but also protect them from human intervention.

Recently, the nose of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express train, which was launched on October 1, was damaged owing to three cattle runovers in the first nine days of the month and since then the train has been affected on three occasions.

## Digital proofs...

**From Page 1**  
During the investigation, it was also found that the accused kept Shraddha's Instagram account updated for a month (til June) after killing her, in order “to preempt doubts about her well-being and keep her alive in the eyes of her family and friends.” He even talked to her friend on Shraddha's Instagram account. When the police found out the location of Shraddha's phone, it turned out to be in Delhi's Mehrauli police station area.

A chat on social media shows that the victim Shraddha had sent a text to her friend. “Dude, I've got the news. I got super busy with something,” Shraddha text her friend on May 18, the day she was murdered, around 4.34 pm. Her friend replied, “What's the news” but Shraddha went silent after that and did not reply to the message sent around 6:29 pm

However, her friend sent her a message on social media on September 24 and asked about her whereabouts and safety. “Where the hell are you? Are you safe,” the friend asked.

According to norms, all tenants living in rented accommodation must be named in the rent agreement. However, Aftab did not make his girlfriend Shraddha a co-tenant despite living together at a flat in Regal CHSL Everyshrine City housing society in Vasai of Palghar district.

During the investigation, it was also revealed that the accused had visited his parent's place Unique Park Housing Society in Vasai around 15 days back in Vasai of Palghar district of Maharashtra to help the family shift.

Police said blood stains were discovered in the kitchen of the accused flat in Chhatarpur. The blood samples have been sent to be tested in order to determine whose blood it is. The victim's father is expected to be called by the police for DNA testing, and blood and bone samples from the recovered body parts will be sent to Forensic Light Source (FLS) for matching. After that, a DNA test will be conducted.

Aaftab is accused of strangling his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar and chopping her body into 35 pieces. He then stored her body in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence in South Delhi's Mehrauli before dumping them across the city over several days, police said on Monday.

## Bihar to increase women representation in State Police to 35%, says CM Nitish

PTI ■ PATNA

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday said the Bihar Government will soon increase the representation of women in the State Police force to 35 per cent.

Kumar said at present the representation of women in Bihar Police is around 27-28 per cent. “The representation of women in state police is almost 28 per cent in Bihar. The increased presence of women in the state's police force has not only empowered women but also made the constabulary more efficient and effective. Now, the state government will increase their (women) representation to 35 per cent”, Kumar said during an event organised by the state Home department to distribute appointment letters to 10,459 new recruits of Bihar Police.

The chief minister said the overall appointment process in police force need to be accel-



Newly appointed police personnel click a selfie during their appointment letters distribution function, at Gandhi Maidan in Patna on Wednesday

PTI

erated. He said against the target of 1.5 lakh recruitments, only 1.08 lakh appointments have been made in Bihar Police.

The CM asked the Home department officials to work fast in the direction of deploying 160 to 170 police personnel for every one lakh population in the State.

## Court’s...

**From Page 1**  
Sources said the court accepted the Delhi Police plea in this regard and the order is expected soon. A psychiatrist will also accompany the police team during the narco test.

The test involves injecting a drug that causes the person to enter into various stages of anesthesia, which induces a hypnotic stage that makes the person less inhibited and more likely to divulge information, which would usually not be revealed in the conscious state. Sources said when Aftab was first called for questioning, he told the investigators the victim had left the house on May 22.

The police said it wants to unearth the complete truth of the case and the information about the weapon and Shraddha's mobile through the “narco analysis test” or a lie detector test.

Police teams are looking for more evidence in the house. The weapon of offence, which has been missing since Aftab's arrest, is also being searched for, said sources. Police have recovered 13 body parts, believed to be of the woman,

from different areas which will be sent for DNA analysis.

According to the police official, one of victim Shradaha Walkar's friends Laxman, who alerted her father, will be asked to join the investigation.

According to sources, Aftab told the police that he had made up his mind to kill his girlfriend more than a week before the murder. “More than a week before the murder (May 18), I had made up my mind to kill Shraddha. Even on that day, Shraddha and I had a fight. I was determined to kill her when she suddenly became emotional and started crying. So I held back for later,” sources quoted Aaftab as saying in his confession. Aaftab said his partner had trust issues because of which she would often get angry, leading to frequent quarrels.

“I often had to talk to someone over the phone. However, she would doubt my commitment to the relationship every time she caught me speaking over on the phone. She used to get very angry,” Aftab is reported to have told the Delhi Police. Police said on further investigation, it was learned that the couple had a fight on May 18 during which Aaftab killed Shraddha.

## AAP MLA's relative held over bribe...

From Page 1

Khari had met Model Town MLA Tripathi last Wednesday with a request to secure a councillor ticket from the AAP for his wife for Ward No. 69 in Kamla Nagar. Tripathi had demanded Rs 90 lakh for it, following which Khari had paid Rs 35 lakh to him. He also gave Rs 20 lakh to AAP MLA Rajesh Gupta on Tripathi's insistence.

Khari had told Tripathi that the remaining amount would be paid by him after getting the ticket. But on Sunday, Khari didn't find his wife's name in the list of contesting councillors released by the AAP as the ticket from his ward was given to some other person.

Later, Tripathi's brother-in-law, Om Singh, contacted Khari and assured him that the ticket would be given to him in the next election. Singh also offered to return the bribe amount.

After due verification, a

team was constituted under the supervision of ACP Rajender Kumar. The team laid a trap at Khari's residence where accused Om Singh and his associates Pandey alias Vishal Pandey and Raghuvanshi were caught red-handed in the presence of independent witnesses when they came to return Rs 33 lakhs out of total Rs 35 lakh received by them on behalf of Tripathi on the intervening night of November 15 and November 16.

A case has been registered under section 7/13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act and 171 (E) of the IPC against the trio. Pandey is the personal assistant of Tripathi.

The complainant has submitted audio and video recordings of his alleged dealings during payment and return of the bribe amount. An investigation is on to unearth the whole case and to collect evidence, it added.

## NCR-PULSE

### KEJRIWAL FAILED TO CLEAN YAMUNA IN 8 YRS: BJP

**New Delhi:** The BJP on Wednesday attacked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for his “inaction” on the Yamuna cleaning and air pollution fronts despite “making promises” before every election. Despite being Delhi Chief Minister for 8 years Kejriwal has failed to clean the Yamuna while with the efforts of the Centre and Delhi LG, a 3 Km stretch of the river has now been cleaned in just 3.5 months, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said.

### ABSCONDING CRIMINAL NABBED

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested a 35-year-old Mewat-based alleged criminal who had been absconding since 2016, officials said on Wednesday. Accused Jafrou, who was declared “Proclaimed Offender” in a murder case, was held in Mewat region, they said, adding that some locals also resisted his arrest.

### COURT TO PRONOUNCE ORDER ON JAIN'S BAIL TODAY

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court will pronounce on Thursday the order on the bail applications of AAP leader Satyendar Jain and two others in a money laundering case. Special Judge Vikas Dhull, who was scheduled to pronounce the order on Wednesday, adjourned the matter, saying the order was not ready.

### SPARSH GLOBAL SCHOOL LAUNCHED IN GREATER NOIDA

**Greater Noida:** Sparsh Group, a well-diversified business house of India, has made education an important part of its portfolio and already made its presence felt in K-12 and Higher education segment. The Sparsh Group has more than 6,000 students who are being exposed to the world's best education under its various brands of K-12 and higher education and now launched its premium Sparsh Global School in Greater Noida (w) region to add more fervour in its educational journey.

### LASYAAYAN HOLDS RAGANGA FESTIVAL IN DELHI

**New Delhi:** LASYAAYAN held ‘Raganga Festival’ at the auditorium of Shri Ram Centre, in the national Capital for promotion and propagation of Odissi dance as development of cultural heritage of Odisha and other classical dance forms of India. It has felicitated renowned Guru Dr Pitambar Biswal, Odissi Exponent with LASYANGA AWARD for his immense contribution towards promotion of dance culture in Guru Deb Prasad Das Gharana style.

### SACHIN. AYUSHMANN TO ATTEND UNICEF FUTSAL MATCH

**New Delhi:** Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, Regional Ambassador for UNICEF South Asia, and Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana, UNICEF Celebrity Advocate, UNICEF India will be present at the symbolic “Futsal match” on Friday where children from nine States will play to highlight sports for inclusion. Several Parliamentarians are amongst the host of personalities to be present during the week long celebrations of Child Rights Week to champion inclusion for every child through sports. “World Children's Day is UNICEF's Global Day of Action for children, by children and with children. Sports promotes participation, breaks gender stereotypes and social barriers and is a powerful tool to inclusion and equality. Sports can play a catalytic role in changing social norms, providing a pathway for girls to realize their dreams and aspirations,” said Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF Representative to India.

## G20 echoes Modi’s ‘It...

From Page 1

“It is essential to uphold international law and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability. This includes defending all the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and adhering to international humanitarian law,” the G-20 countries said.

It said the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible, in an apparent reference to Moscow's reported indication that it could use the nuclear option.

“The meeting was held under challenging circumstances, as the war in Ukraine continues and its impacts are felt by countries beyond Europe. Members expressed deep concerns about the humanitarian crisis, economic and financial impacts of the war, and called for an end to the

war as soon as possible,” the communique said.

It said many member countries condemned the war as unprovoked and unjustifiable, and a violation of international law.

“Few members expressed that G20 should be faithful to its own mandate and ensure the discussions focus on economic impacts and take a comprehensive and balanced approach. Some members expressed concerns about the economic consequences of sanctions,” it added.

Since the Ukraine conflict began in February, Modi spoke to Putin as well as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a number of times. In a phone conversation with Zelenskyy on October 4, Modi said there can be “no military solution” and that India is ready to contribute to any peace efforts.

## Maken quits as Raj Cong chief week after Pilot’s...

From Page 1

The party had issued show-cause notices to MLAs Dharmendra Rathore, Shanti Dhariwal and Mahesh Joshi, who is the chief whip of the party in the assembly.

The party has not taken any action on the notices though the MLAs have responded to the charges against them. The three MLAs are considered important for the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

“Wedded to the ideology of Congress for the last three generations and being in active Congress politics for over 40 years, I will always remain an ardent follower of Rahul, whom I trust and have faith in beyond words,” Maken stated.

According to the sources, Maken stated that he wants to concentrate in Delhi through trade unions and NGOs. He also intends to raise the issues of air pollution and fight for the rights of street vendors, slum dwellers and residents of unauthorised colonies, for whom he has made specific valuable contributions as a minister earlier, the sources said.

## Kathua rapist-killer to go on trial...

From Page 1

He had said that despite the notice to the “minor” accused issued by the apex court on January 6, 2020 on the administration's appeal, the JJB has continued its proceedings against the accused, treating him as a juvenile. Patwalia had contended that the accused, then treated as juvenile, was one of the main conspirators of the entire incident and kidnapped, gang-raped and murdered the victim. The J&K administration had said the medical board constituted by the high court by its order of February 21, 2018 had opined that the accused was aged between 19 and 23 years at the time of offence.

The top court on May 7, 2018 had transferred the trial of the case from Kathua in Jammu to Pathankot in Punjab and ordered for day-to-day trial after some lawyers prevented the Crime Branch officials from filing a charge sheet in the sensational case.

## Sunak OK’s job visa...

From Page 1

“A landmark memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the UK and India in May 2021 aimed at increasing mobility between our countries, returning those with no right to be in the UK and India respectively and sharing best practice on organised immigration crime,” Downing Street added.

On the wider Indo-Pacific focus, Sunak is set to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Indonesia - the largest gathering of global leaders in the region since before the coronavirus pandemic.

“The Indo-Pacific is increasingly crucial for our security and our prosperity. It is teeming with dynamic and fast-growing economies, and the next decade will be defined by what happens in this region,” said Sunak, ahead of that meeting.

Downing Street said the UK PM will encourage China to use its place on the global stage responsibly to resolve geopolitical tensions, ensure regional stability and play its part in tackling the devastating global impact of the war in Ukraine.

It confirmed that work is underway on an update to last year's Integrated Review of the country's foreign policy priorities to take account of “Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the evolving challenges posed by China”.

Meanwhile, as part of that Integrated Review, the UK reiterated its commitment to build the “broadest presence” in the Indo-Pacific of any European country.



# AAP's dirty politics of graft exposed, say Cong, BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition BJP and the Congress sought to corner the AAP on Wednesday, accusing it of selling tickets for the forthcoming civic polls, citing the arrest of the brother-in-law of party MLA Akhilesh Tripathi by the Anti-Corruption Branch, for allegedly demanding Rs 90 lakh for a party worker's wife to contest elections.

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that the dirty politics of corruption being done by the AAP was once again exposed by the arrest of the Model Town MLA. "The AAP is deeply involved in corruption with jailed Minister Jain operating from prison, while Excise Minister Manish Sisodia, the kingpin of the liquor scam is roaming free."

"It was shocking that an AAP worker, who was associated with the party since 2014, gave Rs 35 lakh to Akhilesh Tripathi and Rs 20 lakh to another AAP MLA, Rajesh Gupta, for a MCD ticket for his wife, yet the party worker's wife did not get the ticket," said Kumar.

BJP's IT department in-charge Amit Malviya tweeted, "Arvind Kejriwal's MLAs are selling tickets for MCD elec-



tions. 3 people have been arrested so far. AAP MLAs are doing what Kejriwal and cohorts do. So no surprise there. But the question is what percentage of money collected is being sent to Kejriwal?"

After the arrest of Tripathi's brother-in-law Om Singh and his two associates Shiv Shankar Pandey and Prince Raghuvanshi, State BJP president Adesh Gupta said that Kejriwal's hollow politics has been exposed.

"AAP MLA Tripathi's brother-in-law was caught red handed with a huge cash amount of Rs.33 lakh. Delhi CM often used to accuse BJP of politics with money, but today

it has been proved that Kejriwal himself is selling corporation ward tickets in each kiosk," alleged Gupta.

"Delhi CM should immediately expel MLAs Akhileshpati Tripathi and Rajesh Gupta from his party," Gupta demanded.

BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri said the party had sold its tickets for the municipal polls for Rs 70 to 90 lakh and in the future more layers of this horse-trading will be revealed.

"Before 2015, Kejriwal made tall claims about removing corrupt MLAs from the party. Now the big question arises, what action will Delhi CM take against the AAP MLA

from Model Town?" Bidhuri asked.

Taking a dig at the AAP, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said, "Kejriwal's Ministers and prominent leaders are behind bars for corruption. On the other hand they chant slogans of putting a full stop to graft for seeking votes in the elections."

BJP leader Harish Khurana said that in the past 75 years it's the first time that any Delhi Government Minister is serving jail time and MLAs are also being arrested on corruption charges. "Kejriwal has really made a difference in the politics of the country," said Khurana.

# Vasant Kunj water crisis created by BJP, says AAP

Will stage protest if Govt doesn't ensure water supply in 48 hours, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Water supply to parts of south Delhi's Vasant Kunj area continued to remain impacted for the seventh day on Wednesday, even as Delhi Jal Board (DJB) teams were busy attempting to locate the fault in the line that led to the disruption. The issue took a political turn with the BJP and the AAP blaming each other on the supply's disruption on Wednesday.

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said that the DJB's investigation revealed that the water crisis in Vasant Kunj was artificially manufactured by the BJP by rupturing the local water pipeline.

The AAP leader said that it has turned out that the residents of Vasant Kunj were victims of the BJP's political vendetta. Bhardwaj added that it was impossible to guard thousands of pipelines across Delhi and that the BJP had no idea of the problems residents had to face.



would stage a protest if the Government does not ensure water supply in 48 hours.

"Kejriwal used to say before coming to power that he will give water to Delhi for 24 hours and also people will get rid of tanker mafia, but the reality is that earlier the number of tankers in Delhi was 892, which has increased to 1,204 in eight years of Kejriwal's rule," said Ramesh Bidhuri, BJP MP.

Bidhuri said, "Water is being sold openly for money in industries, factories and homes. A tanker owner committed suicide in Sangam Vihar, due to which one of Kejriwal's MLA Prakash Jarwal has also gone to jail. People are suffering from cancer, liver and other serious stomach related diseases by drinking contaminated and poisonous water."

Bidhuri alleged that no new treatment plant has been set up in the last eight years while the consumption of water which was earlier 900 MGD has now become 1,300 MGD.

Despite this, no steps have been taken by the Government. Neither Kishaun, nor Renuka Dam, nor any work has been done to increase water supply through the rainy well. The Kejriwal Government's plan to increase the availability of water by digging pits on the banks of the Yamuna has also been shelved.

Court allows CBI's plea to make Sisodia aide approver in Excise Policy scam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In fresh trouble for Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, a city court on Wednesday allowed the CBI's plea to make his close aide and businessman Dinesh Arora, an accused considered close to him, an approver in the excise policy case.

Special Judge MK Nagpal passed the order while allowing pardon to Arora in the case, a court source said.

During the hearing, Arora had told the court he was ready to make "true disclosure voluntarily" and expressed the desire to turn an approver.

The development comes days ahead of the assembly elections in Gujarat and the polls to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi where Sisodia's AAP and the BJP are locked in a bitter contest.

The court had earlier granted anticipatory bail to Arora after the CBI didn't oppose his petition.

The premier investigative agency, in its reply to the anticipatory bail plea had stated that Arora had joined the probe and disclosed certain facts which were vital for the investigation and hence, "the CBI has no objection if the anticipatory bail is granted to the applicant by this court."

DCW issues notice to Delhi Police seeking status of CCTVs' installation



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has issued notice to Delhi police seeking status of installation of CCTV cameras in police stations and police chowkis.

The Supreme Court had directed all states and Union territories in 2020 to ensure that CCTV cameras, with night vision and audio recording are installed in every police station of the country.

The panel has issued notices to DCPs of all districts in this regard. In case the cameras are not there, the commission has asked for a timeline for their installation. The Commission has also sought information on non-functional CCTV cameras and steps being taken by Delhi Police to repair them.

The DCW has asked the duration for which the recording of CCTV cameras is stored. The Commission has sought similar details of installation of CCTV cameras in police chowkis which are attached with police stations.

The Commission has asked Delhi Police about any pending request made by police stations to install CCTV cameras and current status of the same.

The apex court had directed that CCTV cameras should be installed at all entry and exit points, main gate of the police station, all lock-ups, all corridors, lobby/the reception area, all verandas/outhouses, Inspector's room, Sub Inspector's room, areas outside the lock-up room, station hall, in front of the police station compound, outside (not inside) washrooms/toilets, the duty officer's room, and back part of the police station.

# SEC spikes 1,115 of 2,585 nominations filed for MCD polls

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

Out of 2,585 nominations filed for the MCD polls, 1,404 were found valid while 1,115 were rejected during scrutiny by the State Election Commission (SEC) on Wednesday. As per SEC data 96 nominations were still pending scrutiny which was expected to be completed late at night.

Data showed that BJP's 252 nominations were found valid and 388 were rejected.

"A total of 728 candidates from the AAP submitted papers, out of which 255 were approved by the SEC, while 459 were refused and 14 were pending to go through the review," sources said.

As many as 152 BSP candidates enrolled, out of which 134 were valid and 12 were rejected, while six were pending, they said. "On November



14, out of total 405 candidates from the Congress who filed nominations, 243 were validated, 148 were rejected and 14 were pending for scrutiny," said sources.

"From the CPI(M-L), six candidates have filed nomination out of which five were found valid and one rejected. Total nine nominations were filed by the CPM from which six were approved and three were rejected," sources said. "The NCP enrolled 35 can-

didates, out of which 27 were valid and six were rejected and two were still under scrutiny. Four nominations were approved and one was rejected, out of the total five nominations submitted from All India Forward Bloc," stated sources.

"Papers of 22 candidates were received from the AIMIM out of which 15 were validated but seven were rejected. From the CPI there were five candidates, out of which four were approved, one got rejected by the SEC," they informed.

"From the Indian Union Muslim League two people have applied for enrollment out of which one has been given permission and the other was rejected. Papers of 31 candidates were received from the JD(U), of which 24 were validated, 7 were denied approval," they said.

"One nomination each was received from LJP (Ram Vilas) and the SP. Both got permission to contest the polls," they said. The papers of six candidates were received from the RLD, of which four were approved and two rejected.

A total of 523 Independents filed nominations out of which 430 were found valid, 80 got rejected and 13 are pending scrutiny. The date of scrutiny of the nominations by the SEC was November 16.

Giving the information on the common grounds of rejection of nomination papers, a senior official said that candidates who have incomplete Nomination forms, proposers incomplete, missing affidavits, multiple nominations, covering candidates, non submission of valid caste certificate, invalid form A/B were rejected.

# BJP files plaint in police against own legal cell man

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP has filed a police complaint against a member of its legal cell, Hari Om Gupta, for filing nomination for the MCD polls by allegedly stealing a letter for symbol allocation for the Chandni Chowk ward, party leaders said on Wednesday.

Gupta and his wife Surekha Gupta, a former councillor from Chandni Chowk, were suspended from the party for six years on the directions of Delhi BJP president Adesh

Gupta, said separate letters issued by Delhi BJP general secretary

Harsh Malhotra. Gupta, however, told PTI that the allegation against him was false and that he had filed his nomination after a nod from the party.

"Why would I do such a thing and steal the symbol? I filed the nomination papers from Chandni Chowk after getting a nod from a senior Delhi BJP functionary," he claimed. A senior office bearer of the Delhi BJP associated with allocation of symbols to official candidates for the

MCD polls said extra copies of letterheads signed by the party president had come. One such copy was "stolen", which was used by Gupta, he claimed.

The BJP has fielded Ravinder Kaptan as its candidate from the Chandni Chowk ward. A complaint was filed by the party for registration of an FIR in the matter at the IP Estate police station, said a senior Delhi BJP leader.

Voting for 250 wards of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will happen on December 4. Counting of votes will be held on December 7.

# L-G okays post of investigation director in Lokayukta's office

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has cleared a proposal for creating post of director (investigation) to help the anti-graft body Lokayukta's investigation requirements.

The office of Lokayukta in Delhi was "severely crippled" since its inception due to lack of staff for various purposes, including investigation and routine work, sources in the Administrative Reforms Department said.

The body mandated to look into complaints of corruption by public functionaries, has been without an investigation in-charge, apart from support staff like assistant and peon.

"Taking cognizance into the matter, Saxena has cleared the Lokayukta proposal for



creation of the post of director (investigation), with sufficient seniority to head its investigative wing, apart from creating posts of assistants and peons necessary for its daily functioning," said a senior Delhi government officer.

Earlier, while clearing annual report of Lokayukta for tabling in Delhi Assembly, Saxena had advised the chief minister to address the needs of an ombudsman. The

sources said that the Lokayukta in their successive reports have been underlining that "there are several hurdles and hindrances in the smooth and efficient functioning of the Lokayukta."

Informing about the reason why the Lokayukta is falling behind in discharge its functions, they said that there is lack of financial autonomy and sufficient staff, which are a sine quo non for the proper functioning of the office of the Lokayukta.

Sources added that the Lokayukta had time and again pointed out that "most importantly the Lokayukta in Delhi is not provided with any investigating agency and a single man posted as Assistant Director (Investigation) is the only means of investigation available with the Delhi Lokayukta."



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the State's stall at the 41st India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi on Wednesday, Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

# Delhi University plans to raise fee for PhD thesis evaluation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University plans to raise the fee for PhD thesis evaluation by over Rs 2,500 for all students. The thesis submission fee, which was earlier Rs 5,000 for students with a fellowship, is likely to surge to Rs 7,500 — a 50 per cent hike. For students without a fellowship, the fees are likely to rise over 80 per cent from Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,500.

A university official, however, said the fees would now also include the charges for the thesis submission and provisional certificates. He claimed that earlier, the students had to pay for thesis submission and provisional certificates at a later



stage. The new rules would combine all the fees as a one-time payment. Defending the hike, Dean of Examinations DS Rawat said it was not a substantial increase and added that the entire system was

being shifted online. "Earlier, students had to pay 500 for a thesis submission certificate and provisional certificate. That is now being increased to Rs 750 each and will be submitted along with the thesis submis-

sion fee," Rawat said. "Moreover, the thesis submission fee is only being increased by Rs 1,000, which is not a substantial increase. The entire process is being made smoother and the students will benefit from it," he added.

A resolution in this regard will be presented in the upcoming Academic Council meeting on November 22. Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh exercised his 'emergency power' and approved the revision of the honorarium for thesis evaluation in October.

The remuneration of thesis evaluation for Indian examiners is expected to be increased from Rs 1,500 to Rs 5,000 while that for foreign

examiners will go up from Rs 1,500 to Rs 8,126.33 (USD 100). The remuneration to conduct viva-voce for Indian examiners will be raised from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 and that for foreign examiners will be hiked from Rs 1,000 to Rs 4,063.16 (USD 50). An Academic Council member, however, has decried the hike as unreasonable.

Naveen Gaur said the university must first provide a reason before raising the fees. "They should first tell why the fee is being hiked as it is a public-funded university. They should tell whether they asked for money from the government first before increasing the fees for students," Gaur said.

# Academic council of DU to discuss four year undergraduate syllabus on Nov 22

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

To discuss the syllabus for the second semester of the four-year undergraduate programmes (UG) based on the UG Curriculum Framework, the Academic Council of Delhi University (DU) will meet on November 22.

Resolutions in this regard were put forward by the varsity's standing committee during its last meeting on October 12. The resolutions will come up

for approval at the meeting of the Academic Council. The Academic Council will discuss the syllabi of 100 UG courses, including BA Business Economics (Hons), BA Multi-Media and Mass Communication (Hons), BSc Electronic Science (Hons) and BSc Microbiology (Hons).

If approved by the Academic Council, the matter will be taken up by varsity's Executive Council, its top decision-making body. The uni-

versity had approved only the first-year syllabi earlier this year. A new curriculum has been implemented from the 2022-23 academic year after the Executive Council, in February, approved an Undergraduate Curriculum Framework-2022, as formulated by a National Education Policy cell. First-semester classes began on November 2 and will end in March. Classes for the second semester will begin in March and run till July.



# PM holds bilateral talks with France, UK, German leaders



Photo by PTI

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/BALI, INDONESIA**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday held bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, with world leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and discussed the Ukraine conflict and its impact on food, fertilizers and fuel supply chains. Cooperation in the fields of defence, nuclear energy and trade and economy also came up for discussions during the talks.

He had held similar parleys on Tuesday with US President Joe Biden besides shaking hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping at a dinner for the first time since the face-offs took place more than two years between the armies of India and China in Eastern Ladakh. The handshake was described by India as an exchange of pleasantries. In the backdrop of some delay in firming up a Free

Trade Agreement between India and United Kingdom, Modi and Sunak discussed issues relating to trade, mobility, defence and security.

It was the first meeting between the two leaders after the Indian-origin leader assumed office as the British prime minister few weeks ago. After the meeting, Modi said India attaches great importance to robust India-UK ties. "Was great to meet PM @RishiSunak in Bali. India attaches great importance to robust India-UK ties."

"We discussed ways to increase commercial linkages, raise the scope of security cooperation in context of India's defence reforms and make people-to-people ties even stronger," he tweeted. Sunak tweeted: "United by friendship. ek mj'buut dostii".

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the two leaders expressed satisfaction at the state of the wide-ranging India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and progress on the 'Roadmap 2030' for future relations. An official statement from British High Commission in New

Delhi said the two leaders looked forward to the agreement of a UK-India free trade deal, which has the potential to unlock investment and increase jobs in both our countries, as well as expanding our deep cultural links.

The UK is currently negotiating the trade pact with and if agreed, it will be the first deal of its kind India has made with a European country.

"The trade deal would build on the UK-India trading relationship, already worth 24 billion pound, and allow the UK to seize the opportunities presented by India's growing economy," the British statement said.

Modi's talks with the French President held over a working lunch were "fruitful" with a focus on ramping up cooperation in areas of defence, nuclear energy, trade and food security. Modi said close India-France ties are a "force of great global good".

"As always, an excellent meeting with President @EmmanuelMacron. We had in-depth discussions on various issues including boosting cooperation in defence, nuclear

energy and food security. Close India-France ties are a force of great global good," Modi tweeted. On his part, Macron tweeted that both sides share the same agenda for peace and that France will work on it under India's upcoming G20 Presidency. In his interaction with Chancellor Scholz, India and Germany examined ways to expand bilateral economic engagement and defence collaboration.

This is the third time that Modi and Scholz have met this year. The Prime Minister's Office described the talks as "fruitful". Modi also met Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and explored ways to work more closely in sectors like energy, defence, culture and in boosting climate change.

## Modi gifts traditional items of Gujarat, HP to G-20 leaders

**New Delhi:** Artworks and traditional items representing the rich heritage of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh were Prime Minister Narendra Modi's choice of presents to world leaders during the G-20 summit in Bali.

Officials said Modi presented Joe Biden with Kangra miniature paintings, which portray 'Shringar Rasa', and his UK counterpart Rishi Sunak with 'Mata Ni Pachedi', a handmade Gujarat textile meant to be an offering in temples housing the Mother Goddess.

The prime minister gifted 'Pithora', a ritualistic tribal folk art by Rathwa artisans from Chhota Udaipur in Gujarat, to Australian leader Anthony Albanese while his present to his Italian Prime Minister was a (scarf), they said. **PTI**

# India assumes G-20 presidency

Modi: World grappling with geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown, rising food & energy prices

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/BALI, INDONESIA**

As India assumes charge of presidency of the G-20 grouping in December, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the principle of 'data for development' will be an integral part of the theme of India's presidency. Making this observation after the Indonesian President handed over the presidency to the Prime Minister in Bali, Modi also said, "India takes charge of G-20 when the world is grappling with geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown, rising food and energy prices." The two-day G-20 summit in Bali ended on Wednesday.

The Prime Minister said India's G20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented. In the next one year, it will be our endeavour that G20 works as a global prime mover to give impetus to collective action, he said.

"Proper use of digital technologies can become a force multiplier in the decades-long global fight against poverty. Digital solutions can be helpful in the fight against climate change as we saw in examples of remote-working and paperless offices during Covid," the Prime Minister said.

The digital transformation should not be confined to a small part of the human race and its greater benefits will be realised only when digital access becomes truly inclusive, he added.



Photo by PTI

He said, "Together with every country's efforts, we can make the G20 summit a catalyst for global welfare." The next summit will be held in New Delhi on September 9-10. The Prime Minister said it was a matter of pride for every Indian citizen after the country gets Presidency of the G-20.

He said India will organise G-20 meetings in different states and cities of the country and stressed the point that we have to keep women-led development a priority in the G20 agenda.

Modi also pointed out that there is a huge digital divide at the international level but when it comes to India, we are making digital access public. "India has developed digital

public goods whose basic architecture has in-built democratic principles," he said.

"Citizens of most developing countries of the world do not have any kind of digital identity. Only 50 countries have digital payment systems.

Can we take a pledge together that in the next ten years we will bring digital transformation in the life of every human being, so that no person in the world will be deprived of the benefits of digital technology," Modi said.

On the issue of environment, the Prime Minister said the sense of ownership over natural resources is giving rise to conflict today, and has become the main cause of the plight of the environment. For

the safe future of the planet, the sense of trusteeship is the solution. LiFE i.e. 'Lifestyle for Environment' campaign can make a big contribution to this. Its purpose is to make sustainable lifestyles a mass movement.

The need today is that the benefits of development are universal and all-inclusive, he said adding without peace and security, our future generations will not be able to take advantage of economic growth or technological innovation.

The G-20 has to convey a strong message in favour of peace and harmony. All these priorities are fully embodied in the theme of India's G-20 Chairmanship – "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

## Mask in flight suggested but not mandatory, says Ministry

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The use of masks is not compulsory during air travel but passengers should preferably use them amid the declining number of coronavirus cases, the civil aviation ministry said on Wednesday. It also said that any specific reference to fine/penal action need not be announced as part of the in-flight announcements.

Till now, the use of masks or face covers while travelling on flights was mandatory. In a communication to the scheduled airlines, the ministry said the latest decision has been taken in line with the government's policy of a graded approach to COVID-19 management response.

"... The in-flight announcements henceforth may only mention that in view of the threat posed by COVID-19, all passengers should preferably use mask/face covers," the communication said. The total number of active coronavirus cases in the country accounted was only 0.02 per cent of the total infections and the recovery rate increased to 98.79 per cent, according to the latest official data. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4.41,28,580 and the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

# BJP: Have already completed social engineering in Karnataka

## Eye on polls, BJP continuing yatra covering 100 constituencies out of 224

**DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI**

As a tough triangular contest awaits in Karnataka in another six months, the BJP has claimed it has already completed its "social engineering" in the southern state and the Congress would not be allowed to have the 2013 advantage when both Narendra Modi and BS Yediyurappa were not present in the electoral scene for the party.

In an election, which is expected to be keenly fought by the ruling BJP, the challenger Congress and the JDS, which seeks to be a kingmaker, the moves to draw major castes and communities to its side are on with the BJP already continuing with the 'Jana Sankalpa Yatra' covering 100 constituencies out of the total 224 with Chief Minister Basavraj Bommai leading it along with senior Lingayat leader and former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa. It is a counter to 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' of the



Congress which has sought to pep up a 'united' party campaign and sought to pushback its 'infighting'. The JD (S) had in 2018 contested in alliance with AIMIM, this time round seeks to contest all seats by itself.

The BJP which is certain to go to election under the leadership of Bommai, will be heavily baking on the pull of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Yediyurappa with the latter given a place in the party's central parliamentary board, the BJP's highest decision making body.

"We have completed our social engineering and are addressing demands of all social and underprivileged groups in Karnataka. We are sure to repeat UP, Uttarakhand and Assam in the state... BJP will win at least 128 seats in the new assembly," BJP's Karnataka leader MG Mahesh told *The Pioneer*. Mahesh, who is also the chief spokesperson of the party, said the Congress is

making a false claim of "shifting" of Lingayat votes and insisted that the opposition party was on a decline while the BJP was "on the upswing in Karnataka under Modi, Yediyurappa and Bommai combination."

Asked about the Veershaiva Panchamasali subsect of Lingayats not happy with their demand for the OBC category, Mahesh said, "soon the issue would be resolved".

Panchamasalis are demanding changing their position from 3B category to 2A within the Other Backward Class (OBC) list. They are asking the Bommai government to decide on the community's demand for reservations under the OBC category for government jobs and education to be legible for 15 per cent jobs reservation instead of the current 5 per cent quota.

The Bommai government has said it will take a decision on including the Panchamasali Lingayat under 2A OBC quota based on the report of Karnataka Backward Classes Commission.

BJP leaders insist that the "Congress will now not have the advantage of absence of Yediyurappa in Karnataka for the and Modi at the Centre in 2013". "The BJP would be voted to power as people see

the double-engine government would continue the development work in the state".

After the 'Jan Sankalpa Yatra' that would conclude in December the party would start in January another major yatra across all constituencies until before the polling and scale up its campaign with all central leaders, they said.

In the larger social engineering of the BJP, the state leaders point-out the reservation quota for SC/ST increased by the Bommai government from 15 to 17 per cent and 3 to 7 per cent respectively. Interestingly, the additional quota will end up providing 56 percent reservation, much more than the SC promulgated cap of 50 per cent. The SC/ST population in Karnataka constitutes one-fourth of the total population.

Besides, BJP leaders also referred to the benefits given by the Bommai government to the Kurba community – the third largest after Lingayat and Vokkaliga "by allocating Rs 350 crore for providing 20 goats and sheep to the community members".

Asked about a "generation next" akin to Gujarat in denying tickets to the sitting Karnataka MLAs, a senior BJP leader requesting anonymity said "BJP is bold enough to take change".

## I&B Minister cautions against clickbait headlines, fake news

**New Delhi:** Striking a word of caution against clickbait headlines and fake news, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday said media must not allow the space for responsible, fair and balanced journalism be occupied by others.

Addressing a function to celebrate the National Press Day, Thakur urged the media to reflect and self-introspect on how to immunise itself from the "virus of infodemic" that continued to inflict malicious dis-

information on societies across geographies. "It is extremely regrettable that a prominent digital media platform was recently found to be indulging in malicious disinformation to target our Government," minister said addressing function organised by Press Council of India. "The regret is all more that this was done with no regard for what it does to India's image and nation's prestige," Thakur said, noting that democracies across world were seized of problem of weaponised disinformation. **PTI**

## SC asks Nagpur civic body to set up appropriate feeding points for strays

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the Bombay High Court's order saying those interested in protection and welfare of stray dogs, including feeding them in Nagpur, must adopt or put them up in dog shelter homes and bear expenses for their maintenance.

The apex court directed the Nagpur Municipal Corporation to take steps for the general public to feed stray dogs at appropriate locations, demarcated and identified by them. "You cannot insist that people who want to feed them must adopt them," the court observed orally during the hearing. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and JK Maheshwari also asked the

public to ensure no nuisance is caused by feeding the stray dogs. The bench said till the next date of hearing no coercive steps should be taken in pursuance of the October 20 order of the High Court, which had ordered imposition of penalty of Rs 200 for every breach.

The apex court was hearing petitions challenging the HC order which said no citizen of Nagpur and areas surrounding it shall feed or make any attempt to feed stray dogs in public places, gardens, etc.

The top court asked the municipal corporation and Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to file their responses as also take stand on the directions given in the October 20 order. **PNS**

## INSHORTS

### SC TO CENTRE, IAF: GIVE PENSION TO SSC OFFICERS

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre and the Indian Air Force to consider granting Permanent Commission (PC) to 32 retired women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers based on their suitability with the purpose of giving them pensionary benefits.

### SC REVIEWS LOWER COURT'S POWER TO SUMMON

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday began examining issue whether a lower court has power to summon additional accused even after having decided a criminal case against others involved.

### 21 LAKH PENSIONERS USE DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATE

**New Delhi:** Over 21 lakh Central Government pensioners have used digital life certificate (DLC) facility, the Centre said on Wednesday. The biometric-enabled digital service does away with the requirement for pensioners of the central or state governments or any other government organisation to submit their physical life certificate every November in order to ensure continuity of their pension.

### SC TO HEAR PIL ON DECISION TO SET UP DELIMITATION PANEL

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court said on Wednesday it will hear on November 29 a plea challenging the Government's decision to constitute a delimitation commission for redrawing the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the ground that it violated constitutional provisions.

# 40% of cancers, cardio-vascular diseases directly linked to tobacco use: ICMR

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**



is a very high probability that s/he will remain tobacco free for rest of his life. "Several countries have now increased the minimum age of sale of tobacco products to 21 years.

Increasing minimum legal age for sale of tobacco products from 18 years to 21 years and banning smoking area/point of sale advertisements by amending COTPA 2003, is crucial to protect youth from tobacco." As per the Indian Council of Medical Research, the number of Indians suffering from can-

cer is likely to experience a rise of about 29.8 million in 2025 from 26.7 million in 2022.

Tobacco use is a prominent risk factor for 6 to 8 leading causes of death. Almost 40% of the Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including cancers, cardio-vascular diseases and lung disorders are directly attributable to tobacco use. In its report, "Cancer Care Plan & Management: Prevention, Diagnosis, Research & Affordability of Cancer Treatment", the parliamentary panel too has observed that in India, tobacco use in different forms, accounts for nearly 50% of all cancers. These are called tobacco related cancers, so these cancers are preventable. "There is an urgent need to disincen-

tivize consumption of tobacco in the country, the Committee accordingly recommends government to formulate effective policies on tobacco control as well ensure teen-population do not fall to tobacco addiction," the report said.

Welcoming the report observation, Bhavna B Mukhopadhyay, Chief Executive, Voluntary Health Association of India said, "the consumption of tobacco products has a huge adverse impact on health of children, youth and public at large. The unrestricted and attractive advertisement of tobacco products attracts innocent minds, who are not aware of adverse consequences of consuming these addictive products.

# Meet against terror funding on Nov 18

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Abuse of dark net, crypto currency and misuse of social media for terrorist financing, and creation of effective multilateral approach in identification and mitigation of threats will be part of the agenda of two-day international conference No Money for Terror (NMFT) beginning here on Friday.

The agenda also includes an effective legislative framework to facilitate internet service providers/social media platforms to work towards their monitoring, control and correction.

"Terrorists and extremists have improvised on technologies like crypto-currency and crowdfunding by customising them to suit their requirements. The Dark Web brings

together professional hackers and those terrorists seeking to crowd source or transfer funds and the same will be part of the agenda of the NMFT," an official said.

The use of gold trade through shell companies is also likely to come up during the meet, the officials said, adding, the anonymous, and decentralised and the often untraceable nature of terror financing through various means poses a serious challenge.

The week control mechanisms of social media platforms and their misuse by Terrorists and Extremist Groups for raising funds have been regularly highlighted at various forums. However, an effective multilateral and multi-stakeholder approach can help in the identification

and mitigation of threats of emerging terror-financing mechanisms.

Recent years have witnessed a combination of crypto-currencies, the dark web, crowd funding and the absence of regulatory environments supporting funding for terrorists and extremist groups.

They have also misused non-profit and non-government organisations as front structures for financing their activities, officials said.

Noting that threats by terrorism and extremism have become more diverse in contemporary times and have been exacerbated by the extremists and jihadists claiming political socio-cultural motivations /legitimacy for their insidious actions, the sources in the law enforcing agencies said that there is an

urgent need to choke terrorist financing from all the sources.

The meet comes in the backdrop of insurgent groups worldwide engaging in sectarian conflicts based on ethnic-nationalist and communal lines, the officials said.

A substantial number of terrorist attacks continue to be perpetrated by local actors against local targets (state machinery) aimed at achieving local objectives even though there has been a shift in the power dynamics of certain groups.

The meet also aims to enhance coordination between various countries to facilitate inclusion and regulation of the private sector as well as the extension of technical assistance to smaller financial institutions so as to curb terrorist financing, officials added.



# AAP pick quits poll over anti-Guj slur, party blames BJP; EC orders action

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Wednesday asked the Gujarat chief electoral officer to inquire and take action “as warranted” after the Aam Aadmi Party alleged that its Surat (East) candidate was abducted and coerced by the BJP to withdraw from the poll fray.

A four-member delegation of AAP led by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia met the Commission officials this evening and handed over a representation after holding a protest outside the EC office here. The BJP rejected the allegations with Union Minister Anurag Thakur accusing the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party of making false claims as a “cover-up” for the charges of corruption it was facing.

Sisodia alleged AAP candidate from Surat (East) Kanchan Jariwala was forced to withdraw his nomination and abducted at the behest of the BJP which “feared” defeat on the seat in the Gujarat assembly election.

The Delhi deputy chief minister demanded that the election process in the constituency be put on hold till an impartial inquiry is held into

the matter.

An EC spokesperson said AAP’s representation has been sent to the CEO in Gujarat to inquire and take “action as warranted”.

Sisodia claimed that Jariwala was still “missing” and his life was in danger.

However, Surat city BJP president Niranjan Zanzmera refuted the allegations and said the AAP should “take care of its own house.”

Jariwala also issued a video statement in which he purportedly said he withdrew his nomination without any pressure and had followed his conscience after the people of his constituency labelled him “anti-national” and “anti-Gujarat” for contesting the election from AAP. The AAP representation urged the poll panel not to accept Jariwala’s application for withdrawal of the nomination, claiming it was obtained under “threat and coercion”.

Pressing for an inquiry, Sisodia demanded that if the BJP is found complicit, the election in the assembly seat should be rescheduled.

“The BJP first tried to get the nomination rejected by putting frivolous objections and tried to influence the proposers of the candidate by



Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia with supporters raises slogans during a protest outside the Election Commission of India's office, at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi on Wednesday

threat and coercion to back-track their signatures on the nomination papers of AAP candidate,” Sisodia alleged while speaking to reporters.

The returning officer of Surat (East), “in all his fairness”, rejected the objections raised and accepted the nomination of AAP’s Jariwala, he said.

“But the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not stop there and went on to threaten Kanchan Jariwala and also his family,” he charged.

Sisodia claimed the police

personnel then took Jariwala to the nomination centre “under their protection” for the withdrawal of his nomination.

“It is not only a misuse of the police machinery but against the essence of free and fair elections. This is a horrific story and a blot on the election system that threatens to tear apart the democratic fabric of the country,” Sisodia charged, urging the poll panel to take notice of the “grave situation” and order an inquiry into the entire episode.

In his representation to the EC, Sisodia also shared a Twitter link to a video clip of the purported incident that he claimed was shot by “the local person present there”.

“The BJP leadership has taken him (Jariwala) to an undisclosed location. His mobile phones continue to remain switched off,” Sisodia claimed. BJP leader Anurag Thakur said AAP had earlier claimed about missing MLAs in Delhi, but their legislators were found “enjoying a movie, having a meal and ice cream”.

“Those who once agitated against corruption are now neck deep in corruption,” he said.

“I am not aware of the details in this particular case, but if you take a look at their earlier statements, they were found to be fake. They make such statements only to remain in the headlines and hide their corruption,” Thakur said.

Earlier at a press conference here, Sisodia claimed Jariwala had been missing along with his family members since Tuesday, adding that the last time the AAP candidate was seen at the Election Commission’s office in Surat during scrutiny of his nomination papers.

# PM carried domestic politics abroad, broke tradition: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Wednesday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying it has long been a tradition that PMs do not carry their domestic politics and prejudices to Indian audiences abroad but this convention was broken after May 2014 with the latest example being in Indonesia.

The Opposition party’s attack came a day after Modi, while addressing the Indian diaspora in Indonesia, asserted that there is a “huge difference” between pre- and post-2014 India.

The prime minister said the country is now moving ahead at an “unprecedented speed and scale” as he showcased the achievements of his term in power to the diaspora in Indonesia.

Attacking Modi, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter, “It’s long been a tradition that our PMs do not carry their domestic politics, prejudices & partisanship to Indian audiences abroad. This healthy convention was broken after May 2014, the latest example being in Indonesia where FekuMaster

once again showed his self-obsession.” In his remarks at the diaspora event in Bali, where he attended the G20 Summit, Modi had said, “The huge difference between pre- and post-2014 India is that of speed and scale.” “Today, India is moving ahead at an unprecedented speed and scale,” he had said, adding that India now builds the biggest statues and the biggest stadiums.

The Modi-led BJP government was voted to power in

2014. The ruling BJP again swept back to power in the 2019 general elections.

Though Modi was indirectly referring to the term of his government at the Centre, he stopped short of naming previous governments, or any particular political party.

“We don’t dream small anymore. Since 2014, we have opened more than 320 million bank accounts. More than the population of USA,” he had said.

# No difference in condition of roads in Maha and Bihar, Jairam takes dig at Centre



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with supporters during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Washim district on Wednesday

PTI

# New policy to establish UP as hub of religious, eco-tourism cleared

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To foster the State’s religious potential and also establish the State as the hub of religious and spiritual tourism in the country, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Wednesday gave its approval to the New Tourism Policy.

The state, under the policy, will develop separate religious circuits. As per the vision, the places associated with Lord Ram will be developed as the Ramayana Circuit and religious places associated with Lord Krishna as Krishna Circuit.

Urban Development Minister AK Sharma, while giving details of the new tourism policy and development of new areas, said that Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Bithoor and other places of significance during the Ramayana period would be included in the Ramayana circuit.

Similarly, Mathura, Vrindavan, Gokul, Govardhan, Barsana, Nandgaon, and Baldev will be included in the

Krishna circuit. The Buddhist circuit will include Kapilvastu, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Kaushambi, Shravasti, Ramgram and other places,” Sharma said.

He said that to promote wildlife and eco-tourism, sanctuary and forest reserve would be developed. “Places endowed with natural beauty and with ecotourism potential will be identified and developed. At the same time, it is proposed to increase tourist-friendly facilities while developing areas related to wildlife,” he said.

Mahabharata circuit has also been envisaged. In this, places like Hastinapur, Kampilya, Echhatra, Barnawa, Mathura, Kaushambi, Gonda, Lakshagriha have been selected.

Similarly, the Shaktipeeth circuit will also be developed. It will extend from Vindhayavasinii Devi, Ashtabhujia to Devipatan, Naimisharanya, Maa Lalita Devi, Maa Jwala Devi, Shakumbhari Devi from

Saharanpur to Shivani Devi, Chitrakoot and Sheetla Mata in Mau.

To boost spiritual tourism in the state, Gorakhpur, Balrampur, Mathura, Sant Ravidas Sthal, Maa Parameshwari Devi, Azamgarh, Bighu Ashram of Ballia, Bateshwar of Agra, Hanuman Dham in Shahjahanpur have been included.

A Sufi Kabir circuit will also be developed along the same lines. In this, it is proposed to be extended from Amethi, Maghar, Sant Kabir Nagar to Kabirdas’ karmahoomi Lahartara in Varanasi.

The Jain circuit will also be extended from Deogarh, Hastinapur to Parshwanath, Digambar Jain temple, Ramnagar.

In an innovative move, the government will also develop craft circuits. The districts famous for handicrafts will be developed. A proposal has been passed to construct a craft circuit by including all such districts.

# BJP fields Shivpal’s aide from Mainpuri to upset SP apple cart

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party has disrupted the smooth run of Samajwadi Party in the Mainpuri bypoll by fielding Raghuraj Singh Shakya, a close aide of Shivpal Singh Yadav, the estranged uncle of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Raghuraj Singh Shakya, on Wednesday, filed his nomination papers for the December 5 bypoll to the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh. Before filing the nomination papers, the BJP candidate visited the ‘samadhi’ of Mulayam Singh Yadav at his native village Saifai to offer floral tributes.

The BJP had on Tuesday named Shakya, a former Member of Parliament, as its candidate to take on SP candidate Dimple Yadav on the seat considered as the stronghold of the SP. Dimple Yadav is the wife of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

The by-election in Mainpuri has been necessitated due to the death of SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief



Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, UP BJP chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, Union minister BL Verma, BJP state general secretary Ashwani Tyagi, among others were present during the filing of nomination by Shakya.

Shakya was once a close associate of Shivpal Yadav, but he quit his Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) to join the BJP earlier this year. He was earlier in the SP and sided with Shivpal Yadav after the latter formed his party in April, 2017. Addressing a large gathering after the filing of the nomination papers, Keshav Prasad Maurya claimed that people would vote for the saf-

from party in huge numbers and the party would snatch the seat from the SP.

He said BJP’s central leadership, after a long deliberation, had decided to field Shakya. He also assured the people that all illegal encroachments would be removed and ‘goondagiri’ (hooliganism) would have no place in Mainpuri once the BJP candidate was elected from the seat. On the SP naming Shivpal Singh Yadav as its star campaigner on the seat, Maurya exuded confidence that the BJP would register a thumping victory.

Stressing that the Mainpuri seat was important for the BJP, Maurya said the party would create a record by winning the seat with the help of sustained efforts of the party workers.

“Kamal (BJP’s party symbol lotus) khilega and the BJP will win with record votes,” he said, adding that Akhilesh Yadav cannot be Mulayam Singh Yadav as he only wants to take the benefit of his father’s legacy “but all his efforts will go in vain as people know him.”

# BJP’s concern for Pasmanda Muslims just eyewash: Maya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Wednesday accused Bharatiya Janata Party and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh of deceiving Pasmanda Muslims after they organised a sammelan for members of the community.

Mayawati said the concern shown by BJP and RSS for Pasmanda Muslims was a “new deceit” as their outlook towards the community was well known. She alleged that the BJP treated the Muslims and down-trodden community as like they were treated during the Congress regime.

In a tweet on Wednesday, Mayawati said, “The concern of the BJP and RSS towards the Pasmanda Muslim community is a new deceit. Their thinking, intention and outlook towards the community is not hidden from anyone. The BJP held a Labharthi Sammelan, attended by Pasmanda Muslims, last week ahead of the by-elections to the assembly constituency in Rampur.

“The result of the BJP’s negative outlook towards the Muslim community is that even under their government, they are still as poor and backward as in Congress rule,” Mayawati said in another tweet.



A spot-billed duck swims in the Ana Sagar Lake in Ajmer on Wednesday

PTI

# FIR against Suwendu Adhikari for jibe at TMC tribal Minister

**TMC dares BJP to seek apology akin to Didi’s ‘sorry’ for her Min’s remarks against Prez**

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid controversy over Bengal minister Akhil Giri’s disparaging remarks against President Droupadi Murmu, another State minister, Birbaha Hansda on Wednesday lodged an FIR against Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari for using uncouth words against her.

Hansda a Santhali actor-turned-politician too is a woman and a representative of

the Adivasi community — like Murmu.

In her FIR lodged at Jhargram Police Station, Birbaha — a Minister of State for Forest and Consumer Affairs — said that she had felt insulted by the comments made against her by the State Opposition Leader.

While speaking to journalists had referred to TMC MLA Debnath Hansda and minister Birbaha Hansda saying “they are just children and they remain under my shoe.” The video of Adhikari’s remarks was shared by the TMC on social media.

Apparently Adhikari’s remarks gave a chance to the Trinamool Congress to launch

a counter attack on the Akhil Giri issue. While offering an apology and distancing itself from what Giri had said about Murmu, the Bengal ruling outfit asked “if the President Murmu is a tribal and a woman then Birbaha Hansda too is a tribal woman ... if what Giri has said is deplorable then Adhikari’s remarks are also equally condemnable.”

Earlier Trinamool Congress second in command Abhihek Banerjee challenged the BJP leadership to “show the courage of seeking apology for what their Leader of Opposition in Bengal has said about another tribal woman and a minister which is also a constitutional post.”

# Football fever in Kerala; players’ cut-outs spill over in districts

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The quadrennial World Cup Football Championship is hardly one week away and Kerala, as usual, is in a state of frenzy. The football fever has gripped the entire Malabar region (districts of Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod) though the event is happening thousands of miles away in Qatar. The National Highway stretching from Kasaragod to Thrissur is dotted with larger-than-life size cut outs of players like Messie, Ronaldo and Neymar. Though India does not figure anywhere near the World Cup competition, the truth is that the average

soccer lover in the State are well versed about the strong and weak points of all the nations that figure in the final round of the month long tournament.

But what about our own country which once boasted (in the 1960s and 1970s) of some of the best players in Asia and had teams which were household names in soccer loving States, Forget about P K Banerjee, Chuni Gosway, Mewalal, Jarnail Singh, Peter Thangaraj or Ahmed Khan. The late 1960s and early 1970s gave us football magician Inder Singh who immortalized teams like Leaders Club Jallandhar, and JCT Phagwara, the mercurial Magan Singh Rajvi (of

Rajasthan Armed Constabulary, Bikaner) and his brother Chain Singh, Shyam Thapa, the dancing player Ranjith Thapa (of Mafatlal Sports Club), Marto Gracious (Tata Sports Club) and stars like Bir Bahadur, Malappuram Azeez, Ahmed Khan and Manjit Singh.

India were the gold medalists in the first Asian Games and had finished fourth in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Since then football got stagnated in the country as those who headed the All India Football Federation had other interests. “We had tournaments ranging from Santhosh Trophy National Championship and enough all India tournaments. The Durand Cup in



New Delhi is the third oldest football tournament in the world and the oldest in Asia. Is it being held new?” asks Magan Singh Rajvi, who led India in many international tournaments in 1970s. Magan singh (74) is coaching young boys and

girls in his native town of Bikaner as the AIFF had turned a blind eye towards his achievements.

He said there were dozens of all India tournaments as well as many popular teams in the 1970s. “The Indian Super League has not done anything good for football in the country. There are no players in India who could inspire and encourage youngsters to take up the game,” said Magan Singh whose son had represented the Railways soccer team.

Equally sad is T K Chathunni, a contemporary of Magan Singh. Chathunni had represented the Army teams before moving over to teams like Vasco and Salgaonkar in

Goa and Orkay Mills in Mumbai. He had coached teams like Churchill Brothers and was a regular player in the national squad. “The Indian Soccer League has literally spoiled the game as what we see is not football but some kind of carnival,” said Chathunni who moved over to his native town of Chalakkudi after helping Manohar Parrikar, the late Goa Chief Minister, to make soccer the State Game of the Konkani region.

Both Chathunni and Magan Singh asked whether the Santhosh Trophy championship was being held at all. “We should have more and more tournaments and that alone would encourage youngsters

to take up the game. In the 1970s when there were no sports TV channels, each tournament in Kerala drew a daily crowd of 40,000. People will patronize the game once the tournaments are back and the local lads don the boots,” said Chathunni.

For an average Indian, world cup championship and European Nations Cup are shows to be enjoyed in TV like the action-packed Hollywood movies starring Clint Eastwood, Marlan Brando or Charles Bronson! India’s FIFA Ranking as on October 2022 was 106. “We have miles and miles to travel before reaching the gateway to the World Cup,” said Magan Singh.



# Show evidence

The petitioner in the SC has to provide evidence to prove that mass forced conversions are taking place

The Supreme Court's remarks on forced religious conversions are relevant. A Bench of Justices MR Shah and Hima Kohli said, "The issue with respect to the alleged conversion of religion, if it is found to be correct and true, is a very serious issue which may ultimately affect the security of the nation as well as the freedom of religion and conscience of the citizens... Therefore, it is better that the Union government may make their stand clear and file counter on what steps can be taken by Union and/or others to curb such forced conversion, maybe by force, allurements or fraudulent means." It was responding to a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay seeking directions to the Central and state governments to check religious conversions. Upadhyay had earlier petitioned the apex court to enforce restraints on freebies. On the issue of conversions, he had urged the Delhi High Court earlier this year. However, his arguments didn't seem to have cut much ice in the high court. The Bench of Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva and Tushar Rao Gedela sought evidence from Upadhyay to justify his claim that laws need to be framed to prohibit religious conversions, which he failed to provide. "There is nothing, no documentation, not one instance given by you [Upadhyay]. This will require a detailed examination," the court said. "Where are the statistics? How many conversions happened? Who is converted? You say mass conversion is happening, where is the number?"

Upadhyay responded by saying that he had social media data to support his contention. The court summarily rejected this: "Social media is no data." Upadhyay said he would provide evidence from newspaper reports, but the high court reportedly said that it was a settled position in law that newspapers, and social media, cannot be relied on as facts. Unsurprisingly, the court refused to issue notice to the Govt as it wanted to first satisfy itself about the genuineness of the petition. The SC, however, was more sympathetic to Upadhyay's cause, as it directed the Centre to step in and make "very serious and sincere efforts" to tackle the issue. Upadhyay can be successful if he is able to give credible evidence of mass forced religious conversions. This will be a big boost to the right wing which has been clamouring against forced conversions, especially of converting Hindus to Christianity and Islam. Christian missionaries are particularly accused of converting poor Hindus using coercion or inducement. However, facts don't support this, for Christian population in India declined from 2.6 per cent in 1971 to 2.3 per cent in 2011. Further, there are hardly any media reports to suggest such conversions. Against this backdrop, we wonder how Upadhyay would be able to substantiate his claims. Just because the apex court has been sympathetic to him so far doesn't mean that it would ignore facts.



A President's Body Guard performs a stunt after the President's Polo Cup exhibition match, in New Delhi

## 8bn & counting

World population reaches 8 billion people; India expected to surpass China soon

The world population is now 8 billion people according to the United Nations. India and China are the two most populous countries in the world. Though India is at number two but is likely to surpass China soon according to the UN estimates. It is interesting to note that the global population has more than tripled since 1950. The reason for the population explosion has been the drop in the mortality rate. The life expectancy has increased due to decline in infant mortality and better health care and availability of treatment against epidemics. The world population, however is now growing at its slowest rate since 1950 as couples have fewer children. Although the headcount is larger than it has ever been, the world population is now growing at its slowest rate since 1950. The population is expected to peak at 10.4 billion in the 2080s and remain at the level into the 2100s, according to the U.N. projections. People in the least developed nations, however, died about seven years earlier than the global average due to high levels of infants mortality, wars and the HIV.

You like it or not humanity is now bursting at seams. It is hard to say if it is good news or bad. Most would take it as an alarm when too many humans walk the earth and consume more, deplete its natural reserves and effect climate change. Their demands and needs on the planet's limited resources is fast making it inhabitable. On the other side of the spectrum are the scientists backed by an equally convincing argument that there is no dearth of resources on the planet but we need to take care of it. As Mahatma Gandhi once said that mother earth has enough for everyone's need but not for anyone's greed. Indeed it is all about managing the resources and replenishing it back to the planet what we take from it. An over-consumerist lifestyle and human greed to own and exploit to the maximum anything is perhaps the biggest reason for all the problems we have at hand. It is not that there are no solutions but the world leaders continue to ignore them and keep plundering the natural resources leading to irreparable loss. For instance the melting cap of the North Pole or spread of wastelands, increasing deserts or rising sea levels and accompanied storms all can be attributed to human interference. We have to be more thoughtful about using resources and adapt a sustainable lifestyle to be here for a long time.

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# Time to adapt to climate change

Climate change is a reality we can't wish away, so the most prudent approach is to be prepared for its debilitating effects

The anomalous bouts of incessant rain in Delhi in late September and early October, the heavy rains that destroyed so many Durga Puja plans in Bihar and Bengal, the downpours that caused Bangalore to go under, and in the near abroad the unprecedented floods in Pakistan and the unusual draught in China – all have a common underlying theme. If these events have not got you wondering it is time you got out of the cave you reside in.

The last few months have presented the ramifications of climate change up front and centre and the frequency of draughts, disruptive floods, and heat waves are going to increase dramatically. Climate change is now the buzzword amongst governments, think tanks, and even large corporations. There are numerous talk shops, from the COPs to G20 to UN programs, making promises to arrest global climate change. Amidst the claim and commitments, it is time to do a reality check.

The biggest gap it seems is between the commitments made for climate finance and technology and their actual delivery. The historical polluters and carbon emitters - Canada, the US, and much of Western Europe, are far from delivering on their promise of finance and technology to support climate change strategies in the less developed countries. The primary global goal in the fight against climate change is to limit the rise in world average temperatures to less than 1.5-degree celsius above that of the pre-industrialisation era. This goal is almost surely going to be breached and we are all being woolly-headed by not recognising that.

It is high time that nations, especially those in the global south, come to terms with this reality. While they should continue to push and shove for the rich nations to make good their commitments and offer greater concessions it will be prudent for them to make their plans. This begets important questions about how nations like India are going



to cope with the almost inevitable breach of the 1.5-degree Celsius cap. How are the developing countries going to adapt and how are small nations going to manage?

To take charge of the situation governments will need to create robust climate adaptation plans. Adaptation is the state or the process of changing to suit a new or expected situation – in this case, the potential impact of climate change over the next few years. While there are climate change strategies for various parts of India, unfortunately, there is no distinct adaptation strategy. There are some passing mentions such as in the Mumbai Climate Action Plan. India needs to put its citizens at the centre of its climate adaptation plans. After all, India has a cultural history of environment-friendly traditions and recycling has old roots in our society.

We need to recognize that awareness of climate change amongst the masses is quite limited. Climate change is a complex idea and can be very scientific and data-oriented making it daunting for lay citizens. India needs to simplify climate communication and launch a nationwide campaign to educate the masses. It is this awareness that will shape how people respond to climate change, understand its

NATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH, HAVE COME TO TERMS WITH THIS REALITY. WHILE THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO PUSH AND SHOVE FOR THE RICH NATIONS TO MAKE GOOD THEIR COMMITMENTS AND OFFER GREATER CONCESSIONS

risks, and supports behaviours around relevant solutions. Government policies will also have greater purchases if citizens know the imminent risks of climate change.

The government-led adaptation strategies will help reduce the state's infrastructure's vulnerability to climate change for instance strengthening the stormwater drainage network will guard against excessive rain and subsequent flooding. Government should involve common people in its climate adaptation strategy. The citizen-centric approach will often have adaptation and mitigation plans go hand in hand. India should develop guidelines for lay citizens to incorporate potential extreme weather in their daily lives. Can we make behaviour shifts to adapt to climate change?

For instance, can climate-resilient housing plans, especially low-income housing, be put together? We can have simple 'how to do' norms for solar energy for our homes or for that matter even rainwater harvesting. Solar panels can generate electricity for home use and solar water heaters on rooftops not only reduce electricity consumption but also provide shade. Recharging groundwater and local water bodies helps create water sources and also

encourages the greening of the environment. Can farmers be taught about the utility of sturdier seeds capable of handling abnormally higher temperatures or unusual rains?

We should educate people about the concept of passive cooling so that it can be incorporated into our current and prospective homes. There needs to be a campaign to help create kitchen and terrace gardens. Can the housing societies be incentivized to green any unused space in the neighbourhood. Can the know-how of efficient composting of food waste at home be shared widely? We should make it a habit to reuse water drained from water purifiers. We could use the adverse situation to skill people and generate employment for the marginalized and communities most vulnerable to climate change. These small but important changes in our habits and behavior are going to go a long way in our ability to manage changes that are surely underway. With the COP27 underway in Egypt, it is hoped that the tall promises made are actualized else UNFCCC and the COP process will lead to a loss of its credibility.

(The author is a public policy advisor. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MURDER IN THE CAPITAL

Sir — At a time when chilling details of the murder of a woman in Delhi, allegedly by her live-in partner, continue to pour in, news of another horrific killing has come to light, this time from Madhya Pradesh. A man allegedly killed a woman by slitting her throat, shared a video with the victim's body on social media and even dared to police to catch him. The incident took place a week ago but the police are yet to arrest Abhijit Patidar, who claims to have killed 25-year-old Shipra Jharia.

Her blood-smeared body was recovered from one of the rooms of Mekhla Resort in Jabalpur. In the video, the man says "Bewafai nahi karne ka (don't be unfaithful)". He then lifts a blanket to reveal a woman lying in bed with her throat slit. In another posted, Abhijit identified himself as a trader from Patna and claimed that the woman had an affair with his business partner. With this all is not well in India as the crime rate against the women.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### DEATH OF A TELUGU STAR

Sir — The demise of the Telugu Cinema Superstar, Ghattamaneni Siva Rama Krishna Murthy is an irreparable loss to the film industry. This legendary actor, director, producer, writer was credited for his incredible performances in 350 films.

Known for his good-nature, courageous decisions and a man with no enemies, he earned everlasting fame for his landmark movies like Alluri Seetharama Raju and many more. The Golden Era ends as a true legend rests in eternal peace, but he will always remain in our hearts forever.

Ramala Divya | Hyderabad

### FORCED RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS

Sir — Responding to the Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's contention that religious conversion is rampant in tribal areas, the Supreme Court has asked him to step in. The Supreme Court has viewed the forced conversion indig-

## GREAT GALA GRAND G-20



This G20 summit is particularly special because India will hold the presidency of the G-20 summit from December 1, 2022 for a

one-year period, and the presidency handover will take place during the summit in Bali. The G20 is a forum of the 20 most advanced economies that represent 85% of the global GDP, 75% of global trade and 66% of the world population.

G20 Sherpas are in the midst of several rounds of talks on a Joint Communique, which has, according to sources, run into trouble over paragraphs that deal with the Russian war in Ukraine and the Western sanctions against Russia that have led to food and energy shortages. The U.S. supports India's G20 presidency and the meeting focused on the ongoing efforts to expand partnership and mitigate the effects of Russia's war on Ukraine.

CK Ramani | Trichy

nantly. The court has expressed its anguish that the forced conversion is a threat to national security. Conversion, forced or spontaneous, will change the true demographic character of the nation as a whole. For example if one person changes his faith from religion A to B, then the loss of 1 to A and gain of 1 to B results in the difference of 2 between A and B.

When mass conversion takes place the gulf between two religions widens by twice the number of converted persons. The point to drive home is that the demographic character changes from time to time not only by births and deaths but by conversions, forced or spontaneous. Infiltration from border countries and no action taken to deport the illegal immigrants have been compounding the problem of change of demographic character. Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand have passed anti-conversion laws. Anti-conversion law should be passed at the central level and this should be brought into concurrent list so that this law shall be made applicable in every nook and corner of the country. Anti-conversion

law passed in some states cannot be as effective as anti-conversion law passed by the central government. Because some states may not be interested to pass the anti-conversion law. Not just some states are opposed to the anti-conversion laws, there are some political parties also that are opposed to the anti-conversion law.

Political interest rather than national interest that dictates the mind of the political parties in passing or not passing anti-conversion laws. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are falling prey to the designs of the people working hard in promoting conversion racket. Conversion of SCs and STs into other faith is creating a new caste with 'Dalit' as prefix. The converted persons would not like to abandon 'Dalit' as prefix to the new community to which they cross over. Because they want to enjoy the benefits available to the Dalit community. Therefore it is better for the dalits to remain where they are and enjoy the benefits bequeathed to them by the governments.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

This is not the first time that it is a triangular contest... The fight is between Congress and BJP.



Union Home Minister — Amit Shah

I do not think there is any imminent attempt by China to invade Taiwan. There need not be a new cold war. Xi Jinping is willing to compromise on certain key issues.

US President — Joe Biden

We both are scarred but I want our lives to take another chance



Actor — Shalin Bhanot

You can't be England. They are batting heavy, you are bowling heavy. England play a fearless attacking brand of cricket because they have 10 batters but you don't even have four.

Former Pakistan cricketer — Salman Butt

Time and power determine who is a terrorist or a freedom fighter, but time will judge us as innocent, even if we bear the blame for being terrorists.



Convicted for Rajiv Gandhi's assassination — Ravichandran



FIRST COLUMN

SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR IS HEALING HUMANITY

Art of Living is giving healing touches to bruised people amid ongoing wars

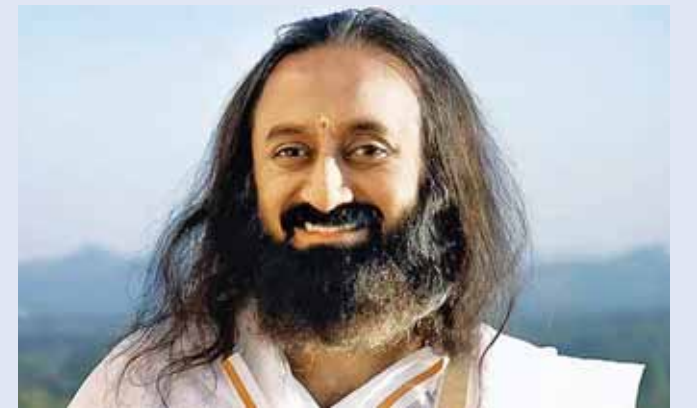


MAWAHIB AL SHAIBANI

Twelve years old Ibrahim was in the backyard when the Daesh shot two of his brothers dead in front of him in Syria. Ibrahim escaped ISIS, but the memory of the incident left him traumatized and sleepless.

He began to look forward to a few minutes of meditative silence with his Art of Living teacher. In an act of fateful irony, Ibrahim learned lessons of peace in the heart of century's deadliest conflict. The teacher shares another incident of an 11-year-old child, who was entrusted with the job of carrying weapons during the conflict. "He would draw Kalashnikovs when asked to remember favorite things and happy moments." Sri Sri Ravi Shankar-founded The Art of Living is working on a war footing to heal the trauma of over 5000 such children who have been a casualty of hate and violence for years.

Recently, Sri Sri received the Gandhi Peace Pilgrim prize at Martin Luther King Jr. Center in November this year for 'his outstanding service and contribution to humanity...' Few know that in September 2016, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar organized a forgiveness meeting between FARC leaders and the families of 12 deputies who were kidnapped, held captive and killed by the FARC. There had been a 52-year-old bloody conflict between the FARC rebels and Columbian government claiming 250,000 lives on both sides. At the end of the meeting, in a solemn gesture, the former guerrillas and family of the slain deputies held each other's hands together and prayed.



In 2014, Sri Sri was one of the very few global leaders to draw attention to the Yezidi genocide and send help, rescuing and rehabilitating almost 2500 Yezidi women captured by the ISIS. Sri Sri's philosophy is based on spiritual humanism, which draws people across identities, religious and cultural lines to him.

When tension in Iraq soared in 2008, Sri Sri met leaders on all sides (Shia, Sunni and Kurds among others). Peace observers say, he is one of the very few world leaders to have been able to do that, at the time. FARC rebel leader Ivan Marquez said, "His teachings are essential to achieve stable and long lasting peace."

Last year, Sri Sri launched the worldwide 'I Stand for Peace' campaign as a response to the ubiquitous helplessness felt by people in the post-pandemic world-braving the consequences of several global conflicts, upended economic order, the dark and lingering mental health impact of the pandemic.

"People come together when there is a crisis, when they feel threatened or when they are wise. I have a question - can people not come together for something that is positive, something that can create harmony within society?" Sri Sri asked in his address at the UN.

From saving and rejuvenating 70 rivers/tributaries that existed only on papers; to reaching out to communities living under fear of conflict and violence, to starting nationwide campaign against the menace of drugs; feeding millions during the pandemic, running daily meditations and trauma relief workshops for millions; providing medicines; rehabilitating and changing the lives of eight lakh prison inmates across the globe, Sri Sri has worked tirelessly to alleviate human suffering.

In July this year, Sri Sri was decorated with Suriname's highest civilian honor, the Grand Cordon - honorary order of the yellow star but to me, his true award is the smiles on the face of millions of his followers, whose lives he has changed, lives that breathe easier, some of whom have survived the worst human experiences-rapes, war, abuses, blasts, drought, depression, natural disasters.

*(The author is Country Director, The Art of Living, Middle-East)*

# Climate tech in focus at Israel's COP 27 stall



NAOR GILON

For the first time ever, there is an Israeli pavilion at the annual climate summit, being held at Sharm El Sheikh, to focus on climate innovation and solutions

This year, 2022, is the year when it became clear to us all that we are in the midst of a powerful climate crisis that is only getting worse. Widespread floods in Pakistan displaced tens of millions from their homes and flooded about a third of the country. Devastating hurricanes hit the East Coast of the US and the Caribbean, wreaking havoc on a massive scale. Severe droughts dried up great rivers in Europe and China. This is only a partial list of the major disasters which UN experts have told us time and time again, are only likely to increase as we continue to emit greenhouse gases.

Presently, world leaders, government representatives, experts, representatives of the private sector and civil society, academics, opinion shapers, and policy formulators have come together at the COP 27 annual climate conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, to discuss ways to prevent the climate crisis. Success of the conference is of the utmost importance. So too is the advancement of all the issues it will focus on, such as the continuation of global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adoption of a global goal for adaptation and adjustment to the climate crisis, increasing climate financing and progress on the topic of "loss and damage," as well as advancing cooperation in the exchange of knowledge and experience.

Israel, located in an arid region and facing chronic water shortages, high temperatures, and a difficult environment for agricultural development, has had to invent creative solutions. Through decades of knowledge and experience, it has found practical solutions to climate challenges, which Israel wishes to share and collaborate on in order to bring about their implementation.

These solutions involve areas that are essential to handling the climate crisis, such as efficiency of water resources and creation of new water sources, drought-resistant agriculture and precision agriculture, invention of animal protein substitutes and sustainable crops, energy efficiency and energy storage, restoration and preservation of forests in arid areas, circular economy, and the production of new materials that are climate and environment-friendly.

Hundreds of startups in Israel are creating technologies that answer many of today's environmental challenges, such as pollution, drought, habitat loss and the need to develop alternative sources of energy. Israeli innovators are pioneering solutions for harnessing clean hydrogen energy from algae, revolutionising pesticides for sustainability, keeping food fresher longer and much more.

Many ideas also come from an active and aware civil society, which contributes to the climate-environmental discourse and activities, ideas that often are then integrated into government action.

Israel is famous for "making the desert bloom" by developing advanced technolo-



ISRAEL, LOCATED IN AN ARID REGION AND FACING CHRONIC WATER SHORTAGES, HIGH TEMPERATURES, AND A DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, HAS HAD TO INVENT CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. THROUGH DECADES OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, IT HAS FOUND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHALLENGES

*(The author is Ambassador of Israel to India)*



gies in the fields of irrigation, water desalination, cloud seeding, combating desertification, and wastewater recycling. For many decades, Israel has successfully overcome harsh climatic conditions and knows how to maximise resources in an arid environment. Now that many countries face the need to adapt to climate change, Israel finds itself in a unique position to provide both expertise and technology.

To pursue sustainable development, MASHAV—Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, is engaged in different projects all over the world, including India. Two experts—an Agriculture Attache and a Water Attache—are posted in India who are closely working with the federal and state governments in the field of agriculture and water.

The model of cooperation that India and Israel have built over the years is called the Indo-Israeli Agricultural Project (IAP), which is the largest Israeli agriculture project in the world. Under this project, we have 29 fully-active Indo-Israeli Centers of Excellence across India. These centres implement Israeli agro-techniques tailored to local conditions and provide training to Indian farmers. MASHAV also brings Israeli experts to India and trains the trainers of these centres throughout the year.

Water security is another significant aspect of our partnership with India. The importance of this partnership can be understood from the fact that India is the only country wherein Israel has the position of a Water Attache to help share Israeli best practices and technologies for advancements in India's water management sector.

Both Governments have a

memorandum of understanding or MoU on cooperation in water resource management and development signed in 2016 wherein they have identified various projects under the Indo-Israeli cooperation. Presently we have a flagship water project underway in Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh, to make 25 villages of the region water sustainable with the existing infrastructure. Green energy is another sector where we are proud to deepen our cooperation. Israel joined the India-led International Solar Alliance during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Israel in October 2021.

The I2U2 Group, established by Israel, India, the UAE, and the United States, has announced two key projects in India, in the fields of food security and clean energy. The I2U2 partners agreed to cooperate to mobilise private sector capital and expertise to help modernise infrastructure, decarbonise industries, improve public health, and promote the development of green technologies. In turn, these projects will greatly benefit the people of India.

Further evidence of Israel's desire to share information is the establishment, for the first time, of an Israeli pavilion at the COP conference. The pavilion will focus on climate innovation and solutions, and dozens of events aimed at creating international and regional cooperation in the Middle East will be held. We understand that regional and international cooperation is critical to dealing with the climate crisis; therefore, our goal is that every event at the Israeli pavilion will create a long-term partnership and process. The participation of an especially large and high-ranking Israeli delegation is also expected. The delegation will include repre-

sentatives from all the sectors that must be harnessed in order to deal with the climate crisis: government, civil society, the private sector, local government, academia, and more.

In order to overcome the climate crisis, humanity needs practical, applicable solutions to build climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that can be implemented on a local as well as a global scale. These solutions should help meet global mitigation goals and reinforce resilience among countries and communities that are already affected, as well as assist in the implementation of the UN's sustainable development goals—the SDGs.

International cooperation in the field of climate innovation also provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen the economy for the benefit of all, create new jobs, and advance human prosperity, while preserving nature, the climate and ecological diversity.

Israel's climate innovation can help the entire world develop the capabilities it needs to adapt to the climate crisis and build resilience.

Israel is eager to contribute its share of experience, as well as to learn from the experience of others. Israel and India can lead the way for sustainable development to establish tailor-made and state-of-the-art solutions for the developing world, in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

We all have an important part to play in preventing the climate crisis. Israel hopes that the Sharm el-Sheikh conference will be a great success and mark a positive turning point in the future of humanity. You are invited to come and see us at the Israeli pavilion at COP 27 in the Sharm el-Sheikh conference!

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI URGED VLADIMIR PUTIN AND UKRANIAN PRESIDENT FOR A CEASEFIRE AND THEN EVACUATED THE INDIA NATIONALS. — BJP PRESIDENT JP NADDA



A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE EVACUATED. IT IS WRONG TO SPECULATE THAT BOMBINGS WERE CEASED AT THOSE PLACES WHERE WE WERE COORDINATING. — MEA SPOKESPERSON ARINDAM BAGCHI

# Gujarat: Poll expenses rise, satta becomes active

It is said that the candidates themselves sometimes participate in satta to boost their popularity

The Gujarat Assembly elections may cost about Rs 1,000 crore to the nation in direct expenses by the Election Commission and political parties. The expenses would be about 250 per cent more than 2017, as per Election Commission decision to allow candidates to spend more to match inflationary costs.

The election expenses give a boost to the local economy, with the sale various kinds of bunnings, flags, other gifts to voters, photographs of leaders and provide a number of services from vehicles, audio systems and other facilities for holding small and big meetings.

Another interesting aspect is the betting at the



SHIVAJI SARKAR

*(The author is a policy analyst)*

satta bazar. It involves thousands of crores of investment. Actual expenses would be known after the polls but it is certain that the EC would spend Rs 450 crore in conducting the two-phase elections. The state government allocated Rs 387 crore in the annual budget for 2022-23 for election expenses based on costs estimated by the chief electoral officer for the 2022 Assembly elections. The 2017 Assembly elections were supposed to cost Rs 250 crore, but the actual expenses were Rs 326 crore. Similar to this, in 2012, Rs 175 crore were estimated, but the actual expenses exceeded the estimated amount.

Expenses could go up due to the increase in the cost of remuneration to the elec-

tion staff, increased logistics and vehicle costs, increased number of booths and polling stations. In 2012, a candidate could spend Rs 16 lakh. It has now been raised to Rs 40 lakh. So, on an average if there are three candidates from three major parties -- the BJP, Congress and the AAP -- the candidate expenses would accrue to Rs 218.4 crore for 182 seats. But in many constituencies, there are various smaller regional and state parties which too would be contesting. So the total expenses can be over Rs 400 crore.

The parties get funds from the electoral bonds and donations. In 2017, the central BJP collected Rs 160.7 crore and the Gujarat unit Rs 88.5 crore. The expenses

shown to EC were Rs 115.02 crore by the central party and the state party spent Rs 15.84 crore. There were expenses of Rs 76.24 lakh on top leaders, including three visits of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, for other leaders Rs 35.64 lakh was spent.

The central Congress party collected Rs 49.1 crore in 2017 and the state unit Rs 20.1 crore. The spending figures were Rs 12.4 crore by the central party and Rs 7.6 crore by the state unit.

BJP vice-president Gordhan Zadaphia has demanded that the expenses to be incurred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's poll rallies in Gujarat be added to the party's expenditure, while Congress sought more transparency

in the poll process during their meetings with Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar during his visit to the state. In many cases, these are added to the expenses of the candidates.

The Congress central headquarters spent Rs 6.05 crore on travel expenses of star campaigners and visits of senior leaders such as Rahul Gandhi, Manmohan Singh, Ashok Gehlot and others.

The BJP spent 2.5 times more than its immediate rival. A major expense was on publicity. Overall, the BJP spent Rs 45.6 crore on media and advertisements, while the Congress spent Rs 8.68 crore. The BJP spent Rs 13.01 crore on procuring publicity materials such as hoardings, flags, arches, banners, stick-

ers and so on compared to Congress' Rs 1.30-crore.

These expenses were for the 45-day period or less during the elections. Actual campaigning in various modes began much earlier. For the ruling party the state government expenses are not reflected.

Since this time prices of every commodity have increased many times, it is expected that the overall expenses by political parties would double. Easily, the total expenses would surpass Rs 1000 crore in Gujarat.

An interesting aspect is that the satta bazar the betting on candidates' fate. Though it has now become a national phenomenon, in Gujarat the state elections

evoke special interest. The Phalodi-based satta bazar takes keen interest in the fate of each of the candidates. It is said that the candidates themselves sometimes participate in satta to boost their popularity and improve their chances of winning polls. Presently, the satta is throwing its support for the BJP.

The bookies have become active and are expecting a turnover of Rs 40,000 to 50,000 crore.

Apart from official expenses there would be about a moderate portion of the expenses that would possibly not be in white. But that is how elections are. Finally, the expenses may go beyond the normal assessments, which are also likely to jump up.



# G20 for peaceful end of Russia-Ukraine war

PTI ■ BALI

The G20's Bali Declaration on Wednesday acknowledged differences among members on the Russia-Ukraine war but stressed that it was essential to adhere to international law, including protection of civilians caught in conflicts.

The members of the grouping made it clear that they were against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and sought "peaceful resolution of conflicts."

But the "G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration" also reflected the contentious debate that went into drafting it, with Indonesian President Joko Widodo acknowledging this at his press conference at the end of the two-day summit here.

"Today's era must not be of war," the declaration said, echoing the remark made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the margins of the SCO



summit in September.

Talking to reporters, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said the Indian delegation, guided by Prime Minister Modi, played a key role in bringing about the "consensus".

As the summit ended, India took over G20 presidency for the coming year with Modi promising an "inclusive" and "ambitious" agenda for the group that includes the world's major economies.

Reflecting the divisions

within the G20, the Bali Declaration said the member nations "reiterated our national positions" as expressed at the UN Security Council and the General Assembly.

"Most" members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine, it said but noted that there were "other views and assessments" of the situation.

The declaration welcomed the Turkey and UN-brokered Black Sea Grain Initiative that secured a Russia Guarantee to

allow the export of Ukrainian grain, but is lapsing in the next few days. Russia is now seeking concessions from the West to let the deal continue.

Though the section on the war was the toughest for the delegations to draft, the 52-para declaration covered a range of issues, from climate change to corruption, and from Covid vaccination to imparting computer skills to women. But some of them too indirectly referred to the impact of war.

"We are deeply concerned by the challenges to global food security exacerbated by current conflicts and tensions," it said, committing itself to taking urgent action to "save lives, prevent hunger and malnutrition".

It pushed for "sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems and supply chains."

Indonesian President Widodo acknowledged that there had been apprehension over whether the members would even agree to a common document.

# Missile strike wasn't Russian attack, say Poland, NATO

AP ■ PRZEWODOW (POLAND)

NATO member Poland and the head of the military alliance both said Wednesday there is "no indication" that a missile that came down in Polish farmland, killing two people, was an intentional attack, and that air defences in neighbouring Ukraine likely launched the Soviet-era projectile to fend off a Russian assault that savaged its power grid.

"Ukraine's defence was launching their missiles in various directions and it is highly probable that one of these missiles unfortunately fell on Polish territory," said Polish President Andrzej Duda. "There is nothing, absolutely nothing, to suggest that it was an intentional attack on Poland."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, at a meeting of the 30-nation military alliance in Brussels, echoed the preliminary Polish findings, saying: "We have no indication that this was the result of a deliberate attack."

The initial assessments of Tuesday's deadly missile landing appeared to dial back the likelihood that the incident would trigger another major escalation in the nearly 9-month Russian invasion of Ukraine.

If Russia had deliberately targeted Poland, it could have risked drawing NATO into the conflict.



Still, Stoltenberg and others laid over-all but not specific blame on Russian President Vladimir Putin's war.

"This is not Ukraine's fault. Russia bears ultimate responsibility," Stoltenberg said.

Before the Polish and NATO assessments, US President Joe Biden had said it was "unlikely" that Russia fired the missile but added: "I'm going to make sure we find out exactly what happened."

Three US officials said preliminary assessments suggested it was fired by Ukrainian forces at an incoming Russian one. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to discuss the matter publicly.

That assessment and Biden's comments at the Group of 20 summit in Indonesia contradicted information earlier Tuesday from a senior US intelligence official who told The Associated Press that Russian missiles crossed into Poland.

Former Soviet-bloc country Ukraine maintains stocks of Soviet- and Russian-made weaponry, including air-defence missiles, and has also seized many more Russian weapons while beating back the Kremlin's invasion forces.

Ukrainian air defences worked furiously against the Russian assault Tuesday on power generation and transmission facilities, including in Ukraine's western region that borders Poland. Ukraine's military said 77 of the more than 90 missiles fired were brought down, along with 11 drones.

The Kremlin on Wednesday denounced Poland's and other countries' initial response to the missile landing and, in rare praise for a US leader, hailed Biden's "restrained, much more professional reaction."

"We have witnessed another hysterical, frenzied, Russophobic reaction that was not based on any real data," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. He added that "immediately, all experts realised that it could not have been a missile linked to the Russian armed forces."

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Notice is hereby given that my client Nitin Kumar Sharma is in process to purchase the Property bearing No. A-15,Area Measuring 90 Sq. Yds. out of Khalsa No. 2, Situated at Village Meerpur Turk, in the abadi of Block E, Gali No. 6, Khajpuri Khase, Karawal Nagar Road, Ilalqua Shahdara, Delhi-110094 from Virmla Devi alias Bimla Devi (owners by virtue of sale deed dated 13.08.2021, document no. 1960)  
 All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/ registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.  
**Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)**  
 Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb. U.P. Mob. 9810063351

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 It is publically notified that the Duplex House No.- 05, Block-HD, Sec-135, Noida, U.P., has been allotted in the name of Smt. Gunjan Gang W/o Shri Manoj Gang R/o Flat No 127, Ankur Apartment, I.P Extension, Patparganj, New Delhi-110092, has sold the said house, on the basis of GPA and Agreement to Sell to the following persons: A.G.P.A was executed in favour of Smt. Alka Srivastava W/o Shri Arvind Kumar Srivastava R/o House No.- 37, Pocket-H, Shopping Complex, Santa Vihar, New Delhi-110076, on 09.05.2011, which is duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Noida Vide Book No.- 14 Volume No 1918, on pages 353 to 364, at Document No 717 on dated 09.05.2011 and Agreement to sell was registered in the name of Arvind Kumar Srivastava S/o Late Shri S.C. Srivastava R/o H. No.- 37, Pocket-H, Shopping Complex, Santa Vihar, New Delhi-110076 which is duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Noida, Vide Book No. 14, Volume No 3345, on pages 319 to 372, at Document No 5117 dated 09.05.2011. So with the help of this notice it is informed that the transfer of the above house goes in favour of Virral Kumar Mishra S/o Shri Gangra Prasad Mishra & Smt. Sanchya Mishra W/o Shri Vinay Kumar Mishra both R/o Duplex House No.- 72, Block-HD, Sec-135, Noida, Distt Gaziabad Gzb. U.P.  
 If any person has have any objection he/she may submit his/her objection in the Housing Department of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the publication of this notice. When the 15 days of the Notice period are over then no claim shall be excepted in future.

**छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल**  
 पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002  
 Email add- hoceeb@gmail.com

**// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //**  
 भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स राह स्टोन सप्लायर्स, (पार्टनर- श्री हरीश शाह, श्रीमाभा डोलोमाईट मार्टिन), ग्राम-धीराभाडा, तहसील-बिल्हा, जिला-बिलासपुर स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 25, 26/2, 27, 28, 29/1, 29/2 एवं 29/3, कुल क्षेत्रफल- 3.653 हेक्टेयर में प्रस्तावित डोलोमाईट (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता- 1,50,000 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बामत्त छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त प्रस्तावित परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/सुझाव/टीका-टिप्पणी इस अधिसूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, बिलासपुर के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक: 19/12/2022 को 11-00 बजे शासकीय हाई स्कूल परिसर, ग्राम-धीराभाडा, तहसील-बिल्हा, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के ऑफिस मेमोर्डम F No. 22-25/2000-IA,III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन कराया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।  
 ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथासंशोधित) के प्रावधानों के अनुसार ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यालकसार की प्रतिलिपि (हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी में) एवं हमकी सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) जन सामान्य के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु कार्यालय कलेक्टर बिलासपुर, कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत बिलासपुर, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), कार्यालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.) बिल्हा, जिला-बिलासपुर, महाप्रबंधक, कार्यालय, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र बिलासपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यापार विभाग पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय पार्क के पास, बिलासपुर, सारपंच / सचिव कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत-धीराभाडा, मोहडा, बुटेना, मुक, मेडुपार (छोटा), चेण्डीडीह, हिरि, हरदी, झल्फा, अटारी, तहसील-बिल्हा, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.), डाक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, वायु विंग, जोरबाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, मुख्य वन संरक्षक, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नॉर्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।  
**हस्ता/- सदस्य सचिव**  
 छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,  
 नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल**  
 पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //**  
 भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14/09/2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स व्ही.ए.पी. इस्पात प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, ग्राम-मुडुपार एवं रमपुरा, तहसील-नवागढ़, जिला-बेमेतरा (छ.ग.) में Greenfield project for production of Sponge Iron - 2,31,000 TPA, Mild Steel Billets - 2,32,848 TPA, Rolled Steel Products through Hot Charging and through Reheating Furnace - 2,25,863 TPA (1,71,144 TPA through Hot Charging & 54,719 TPA through Billet Reheating Furnace), Captive Power Plant- 25 MW (16 MW through WHRB and 9 MW through AFBC), Silico Manganese - 36,000 TPA and / or Ferro Manganese - 46,000 TPA and / or Ferro Silico - 20,000 TPA and / or Pig Iron - 63,000 TPA from 9 MVA x 2 Nos SAIF and Fly Ash Bricks - 36,700 TPA के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बामत्त छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव / विचार / टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक: 22/12/2022 को समय प्रातः 11-00 बजे, स्थान ग्राम-मुडुपार स्थित भूमि खसरा नं.-384, 385, 156, 155/2, 155/6,158/2, 162/3, 396/1, 396/3, ग्राम-मुडुपार, तहसील-नवागढ़, जिला-बेमेतरा (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि :-  
 1. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।  
 2. लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।  
 3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।  
 4. कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।  
 ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितम्बर 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यालय सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डाक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़, कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला-बेमेतरा, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, जिला-बेमेतरा, महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जिला-बेमेतरा, सारपंच / सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत, मुडुपार, जिला-बेमेतरा, सारपंच / सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत, रमपुरा, जिला-बेमेतरा, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर में रखी गई है।  
**हस्ता/- सदस्य सचिव**  
 छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,  
 नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

# Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov leaves G20 Summit in Bali early

PTI ■ BALI

Russian foreign minister Sergy Lavrov, who was representing President Vladimir Putin, left Bali on Wednesday, a day ahead of the scheduled conclusion of the G20 Summit held amid the economic challenges triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war.

Lavrov took the flight home apparently hours after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky virtually addressed the leaders on Tuesday, repeatedly referring to them as the G19 and calling for the war to end "justly".

It is not clear if Lavrov's exit – confirmed by host Indonesia – had anything to do with Zelensky's speech. The working sessions of the Group of 20 are not open to reporters, but the Zelensky address is available on Ukrainian media sites.

There were unconfirmed reports earlier that Lavrov was ill and visited a Bali hospital for a medical check-up before the two-day summit began on Tuesday. Russia denied the reports.

With hours to go before the end of the summit, there was speculation that the joint com-



munique would clearly name Russia as the aggressor or would simply seek an end to the war.

In his address on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a return to the path of "ceasefire and diplomacy" to resolve the raging Ukraine conflict.

He also opposed any restrictions on the supply of energy, amid the West's call against the procurement of discounted Russian oil and gas.

There is no official word

from Moscow so far, but Lavrov's early exit could signal Russia's opposition to criticism over its military action in Ukraine.

It could also make things easier for host Indonesia. There were reports that western leaders did not want to be in the same frame as Lavrov when the G20 group photo was taken.

According to the unofficial transcript of Zelensky's speech, the Ukrainian leader said he wanted the "destructive war" to

end in a just manner "on the basis of the UN Charter and international law".

"Russia must reaffirm the territorial integrity of Ukraine within the framework of the relevant resolution of the UN General Assembly and the applicable international legally binding documents," he reportedly said.

Peace is a global value, Zelensky said.

"That, which is important for every person in the world. I am confident that it is likewise for each of you, leaders of the G-19," he said.

The Ukrainian leaders wanted "joint efforts" reflected in the outcome of the summit. The annual G20 Summit opened here on Tuesday.

The G20 members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union.

India has included Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the UAE as guest countries during its presidency.



# EU to train up to 15K Ukrainian soldiers

IANAS ■ BRUSSELS

The Council of the European Union (EU) has announced the launch of a special military mission to support Ukraine in the ongoing war with Russia.

The European Union Military Assistance Mission (EUMAM) has a non-executive mandate to provide training to up to 15,000 Ukrainian army personnel in multiple locations among EU member states,

Xinhua news agency quoted the Council as saying.

It also announced it has adopted a 16 million euro assistance measure under the European Peace Facility (EPF) to support capacity building for the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

This assistance measure will last for 24 months.

To date, EU assistance for Ukraine under the EPF amounts to more than 3.1 billion euros.

# Same-sex marriage faces Senate test with GOP votes uncertain

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Staring down the prospect of divided government in the next Congress, Senate Democrats are moving forward with legislation this week to protect same sex and interracial marriages. It's a vote that's "as personal as it gets," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said.

Schumer is holding a test vote on the bill Wednesday, betting that at least 10 Republicans will vote with all 50 Democrats to move forward with the legislation to ensure that same-sex and interracial marriages are legally recognised nationwide.

The bill has gained steady momentum since the Supreme Court's June decision that overturned Roe v. Wade and the federal right to an abortion.

An opinion at that time from Justice Clarence Thomas suggested that an earlier high court decision protecting same-sex marriage could also come under threat.

If the Senate votes to move forward with the legislation, a final vote could come as soon as this week, or by the end of the month, while Democrats still control the House. Republicans are on the verge of winning the House majority and would be unlikely to take up the issue next year.

"I firmly believe that passing bipartisan marriage protections would be one of the more significant accomplishments in what's already been a significantly productive Congress," Schumer said on the Senate floor.

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"I firmly believe that passing bipartisan marriage protections would be one of the more significant accomplishments in what's already been a significantly productive Congress," Schumer said on the Senate



floor. "It will do so much good for so many people who want nothing more than to live their lives without the fear of discrimination."

Congress has been moving

to protect same-sex marriage as support from the general public — and from Republicans in particular — has sharply grown in recent years, as the Supreme Court's 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision legalized gay marriage nationwide. Recent polling has found more than two-thirds of the public supports same-sex unions.

Still, it's not yet certain whether Democrats have the 10 GOP votes they need to overcome a filibuster on Wednesday and get a bill through the 50-50 Senate. So far, at least three Republicans have said they will vote for the legislation and are working with Democrats to pass it: Maine Sen. Susan Collins, North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis and Ohio Sen. Rob Portman.

# UVA cancels upcoming game in wake of shooting that killed 3

AP ■ CHARLOTTESVILLE(US)

The University of Virginia has cancelled a home football game scheduled for Saturday in the wake of a shooting that left three players dead and another wounded.

The school announced on Wednesday it would not play the game against No. 23 Coastal Carolina.

A former player is accused of opening fire Sunday night in a bus returning from a field trip, killing three team members and wounding a fourth, according to authorities.



The players killed in the shooting have been identified as Lavel Davis Jr., Devin Chandler and D'Sean Perry. Running back Mike Hollins was in stable condition on Monday after being wounded, his mother said. Another student who wasn't a football

player was also wounded.

The University of Virginia student accused of killing three members of the football team and wounding two other students in an on-campus shooting was due in court Wednesday morning for his first hearing.

University officials and police have said Christopher Darnell Jones Jr., 22, joined a group of about two dozen others on a field trip Sunday from the Charlottesville campus to see a play in the nation's capital, about 120 miles (195 kilometres) away.

# Kenya's Prez dismisses suggestions of unlimited terms

AP ■ NAIROBI (KENYA)

Kenyan President William Ruto urged lawmakers not to remove presidential terms limits from the country's constitution, dismissing comments by a legislator that there should be no such limits on a capable leader. Kenya's constitution says a president can only serve for two terms, and many Kenyans have been eager to hear Ruto's position since talk of removing term limits started last week.



# US, others hold joint naval drills amid China concerns

AP ■ BEIJING

US, Japanese, Australian and Canadian warships are currently staging extensive joint drills in Japanese and international waters, the US Navy said on Wednesday.

Without mentioning China directly, the 7th Fleet said the two-week biennial "Keen Sword" exercises include scenarios designed to "challenge the critical capabilities required to support the defense of Japan and stability of the Indo-Pacific region."

Growing Chinese assertiveness is seen by the US and its allies as the key military challenge in the region.

The drills also come as heads of the Group of 20 leading economies were meeting in Indonesia, among other high-profile regional forums.

The G-20 gathering allowed the first face-to-face meeting between US President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping since Biden took office, leading to hopes of a start of a reduction of tensions that have lately spiked over trade, technology and



Taiwan.

The drills include extensive anti-submarine warfare drills, and the guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold fired its 5-inch gun on Sunday as part of live-firing exercises, the 7th fleet said in a statement. Three Japanese destroyers, two Canadian frigates and one Australian destroyer also took part, it said.

Participation by the Australian and Canadian navies this year helped "enhance readiness and interoperability to support the security interests of allies and partners in the region,"

it said.

"Regional security is a team effort now more than ever," Cmdr. Marcus Seeger, commanding officer of the Benfold, said in the statement.

"We share a sense of collective resolve. The first wave of crisis response will share the same allies present in this year's Keen Sword."

China has the world's largest navy by number of ships, which it has been using to assert its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea, a crucial route for global trade.

China has eschewed formal alliances but has taken part in some multinational drills on a very limited level. It has established its first overseas base in the Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti and is believed to be working with Cambodia on establishing another such facility facing the Gulf of Thailand. Both countries have denied the allegation.

China has also signed a security agreement with Solomon Islands, raising concerns that Chinese forces will gain a foothold in the South Pacific.

Mutual exchanges between China and the US have been especially tricky for reasons including deep mutual suspicion and Washington's support for Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

China reacts strongly when the US sails naval ships close to Chinese-held islands in the South China Sea, many of which Beijing has equipped with landing strips and other military facilities.

# Trump announces 2024 presidential run

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump, who tried to overturn the outcome of the 2020 US election and deeply polarised the country, has announced that he will run for the White House in 2024, as he launched a blistering attack on President Joe Biden's domestic and foreign policies which he claimed have made America a "failing nation."

Trump's long-awaited campaign is a remarkable turn for any former president, much less one who made history as the first to be impeached twice and whose term ended with his supporters violently storming the US Capitol in a deadly bid to halt the peaceful transition of power on January 6 last year.

Vowing to defeat the "radical" Democrats led by President Biden whom he described as the "face of the left-wing", the former US president made the announcement at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida on Tuesday, a week after midterm elections in which Republicans failed to win as many seats in Congress as they had hoped for.

"In order to make America great and glorious again, I am tonight announcing that I will run for President of the United



States. This will be our campaign altogether," Trump, 76, told his cheering supporters.

"I am your voice," he said, asserting that he will ensure that President Biden, a Democrat, is not re-elected in 2024.

Shortly before making the announcement from his resort in Florida, in front of some 400 invited guests, Trump, filed the necessary paperwork with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). "I am running because I believe the world has not yet seen the true glory of what this nation can be. We have not reached that pinnacle, believe it or not," he said.

"America's comeback starts right now," he said, adding that, "We have to save our country." "But now we are a nation in decline. We are a failing nation. For millions of Americans, the past two years under Joe Biden have been a time of pain, hardship, anxiety and despair," Trump said.

# Lanka to implement suspended FTA pact with Singapore

IANAS ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday directed to implement the suspended Singapore-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA) immediately.

President Wickremesinghe made the instructions during a discussion with officials related to foreign policy, trade, legal and other areas.

"The existing problems in this regard were discussed at length and the President highlighted the need to provide quick solutions to all the existing problems," President's Media Division said in a statement.

In September, Wickremesinghe who met Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in Tokyo on the sidelines of a state funeral for the slain PM Shinzo Abe had assured that 2018 pact signed when he was the Prime Minister would be revived.

Penned in January 2018, the free-trade pact between the two island nation was suspended due to severe



objections from Sri Lanka's opposition parties, trade unions and other professional bodies.

In May 2021, Sri Lanka tried to revive it with a number of amendments but it was not successful.

Signed on January 23 after 18 months of negotiations between the two countries, Sri Lanka-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (SL-SFTA) was considered a 'giant leap' in terms of implementation and laying down of a marker that Sri Lanka was moving into a new era of international trade.

# Step up efforts to effectively combat money laundering, terrorism financing, G20 tells world community

PTI ■ BALI

The G20 countries on Wednesday asked the world community to step up their efforts to effectively combat money laundering and terrorism financing as the grouping reaffirmed its commitment to delivering the strategic priorities of the FATF and its regional bodies to lead global action to respond to these threats.

A joint declaration issued at the end of the two-day G20 summit here said that the grouping encourages all members to strengthen collaboration to adopt and effectively implement the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards.

"We recognise the need for the international community to step up their efforts to effectively combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing," the declaration said.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the



integrity of the international financial system.

The G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to delivering the strategic priorities of Paris-based FATF and its FATF Style Regional Bodies

(FSRBs) to lead global action to respond to these threats, the declaration added.

"We welcome the initiative by the FATF to promote implementation of international standards on virtual assets, in par-

ticular the "travel rule", and transparency of beneficial ownership, and acknowledge their role in the fight against systemic corruption and environmental crimes, which gravely impact economies and societies," it

said.

It supported the ongoing work of the FATF to enhance global efforts to seize criminal proceeds and return funds to victims and states in line with domestic frameworks.

"We encourage all G20 members to strengthen collaboration to adopt and effectively implement the FATF standards," the declaration added.

Indonesia on Wednesday handed over the G20 presidency to India for the coming year at the Bali summit here with Prime Minister Narendra Modi terming it a matter of pride for every Indian citizen.

The G20 comprises 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the USA and the European Union (EU).

Together, they account for over 80 per cent of the global GDP, 75 per cent of international trade and two-thirds of the world population.

**Public Notice**

General Public is hereby informed that as per the Order of Hon'ble National Anti-Profitteering Authority(NAA) Dt. 19.07.2022, in the matter of Smt. Sunita Malhotra and others V/s. M/s Godrej Properties Limited & M/s Magic Info Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Case No. 37/2022, (Project: Godrej Summit, Sector 104, Gurugram, Haryana), an amount of Rs. 4.59,286/- has disbursed towards benefit of ITC along with Interest in favor of eligible Home Buyers as per the details below:

Name of Builder / Supplier- Magic Info Solutions Private Limited.

Address: D-13, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

Project: 'Godrej Summit'

Location: Sector 104, Gurugram, Haryana.

Amount of Profitteering: Rs. 4,59,286/-

Detailed NAA order is available on [www.naa.gov.in](http://www.naa.gov.in), eligible home buyers (As per the Order of Hon'ble National Anti- Profitteering Authority (NAA) Dt. 19.07.2022) may also contact: SGST Commissioner, Ward-98, Yyapar Bhawan, IP Estate, Delhi-110002 CGST Commissioner, Range-166, GST Delhi East, Division Nehru Place: New Delhi-110019

**S/d For Magic Info Solutions Private Limited.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these vehicle owners are informed to come to the company's office and claim the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise, all these vehicles will be scrapped in the next three days.

DL9CL2468,	DL4C00048,	DLSSM6141,
DL4CM4377,	DLSSM8297,	DL7SAD0745,
DL3CBJ6516,	DL7SAA3746,	DLSSJ6960,
DL2FCU0050,	DL2SK1842,	DL2CAN7880,
HR26G98029,	DL7SAB3044,	DL2CAH1889,
DL8CL7755,	DL5SP3685,	CHSNO-49659,
RJ19UC1089,	DL9SS0204,	DL5SB7168,
HR51X0880,	DL3SAW2813,	DEW5160,
DL4CAH0511,	DL7SN6596,	DL7SAU3669,
DL2FT0786,	DL5SV2422,	DL7SAU6948,
DL8CM4549,	DBS9910,	DL6S12941,
DL2FCZ0030,	DBE4060,	DL1TC0076,
DL2FBC0002,	DL9SJ2512,	DL7SAG6716,
DL7FAD0040,	DBH3451,	DAH4005,
DL2F0049,	DL5SH8860,	DL4SD6155,
HR20T5912,	DL7SA9537,	DAD8849,
RJ14CL0004,	DL3SG0497,	DAD7955,
DL4CS9172,	DL5SD3399,	DL7SAO4602,
HR26AL2574,	DL6SX9048,	DL6SC3919,
UP25N6511,	DL7SAR3296,	DL7SJ9447,
HR26AJ5774,	DL7SA4590,	DL7SGA089,
DL4CG3524,	DL7SA0701,	DL7SL5338,
DL4SL5354,	AR018750,	DL3SP1954,
DL5CF0214,	DL7SAJ8460,	DL3FA50043,
DL6SE0888,	UP14AE1829,	DL7SZ8346,
PB10CA8148,	DL4SAR5566,	DL3SAG0227,
DL4CMC1323,	DL5SH1954,	DL7SAY9774,
DL6CM1585,	DBZ8559,	DL5SA1730,
DL4CA8896,	DL7SAP2140,	DL7SAK3793,
DL4SU9211,	DL7SAD4549,	UP14V9065,
DL2FDU0005,	DL6SA3297,	DL7SAP2523,
NOREG33,	DL7SF7763,	DL5ST4490,
DL4CAG2676,	UMW4197,	DL7SW8683,
DL8CN7665,	DL7SX5121,	DL7SAX5588,
DL7CAK6000,	GA02B2488,	DL3SAJ4416,
DL4CAE5572,	DL5SE6073,	DL3SAH6900,
DL3CBJ3465,	DL5SM0975,	UP16E6327,
DL7CB5994,	DL5SL7206,	DL3CAD6354,
DL8CM8038,	DL5ST3407,	DL3CND1263,
DL4CND0142,	DL5SX2231,	DL3CAD8651,
DL2CAA1043,	DL5SP6945,	DL3CAW1769,
DL8CH4871,	DL5SS2075,	DL3CAK3270,
DL2FGM0111,	DL7SAK7196,	DL7CE5062,
DL4CNE9088,	DL5SV7392,	UK07DH8218,
DH1C1016,	DL7SF7712,	DL7CHZ159,
UP32DU4423,	DL4ST0461,	DL7SAE0736,
DL4SC93764,	DL7SZ7468,	DL9CP9156,
DL8SAB4823,	DL7SD6716,	CHSNO733269,
DL2SP6500,	DL9SH1444,	AP28AW2627,
DL9CF9256,	DL2SD8845,	CHSNO287464,
DL3CAP7526,	DL7SAD9998,	RJ2SD01053,
HP72C1989,	UP14AM2918,	DL7SAQ4135,
DH05166,	AP28AN1497,	CHSNO424375,
DL1LD9007,	DL7SAJ9204,	DL7SAE7513,
DL8CMB4821,	DL7SAG204,	DL7SAU6866,
DL2CAC3102,	JKF7412,	DL3SAK8627,
DL3FW7777,	DDN1495,	AP09AU0487,
DL5SAB2832,	UPR85C1002,	DL1SP9264,
DL3CAL0530,	DL7SAE8330,	DL2FEG0099,
DL2CQ2727,	DL1SE6211,	MM4H3AF0010,
DL2CZ4697,	DL5SH2616,	

# Israel deploys remote-controlled robotic guns in West Bank

AP ■ AL-AROUB REFUGEE CAMP (WEST BANK)

In two volatile spots in the occupied West Bank, Israel has installed robotic weapons that can fire tear gas, stun grenades and sponge-tipped bullets at Palestinian protesters.

The weapons, perched over a crowded Palestinian refugee camp and in a flashpoint West Bank city, use artificial intelligence to track targets. Israel says the technology saves lives — both Israeli and Palestinian. But critics see another step toward a dystopian reality in which Israel fine-tunes its open-ended occupation of the Palestinians while keeping its soldiers out of harm's way.

The new weapon comes at a time of heightened tensions in the occupied West Bank, where unrest has risen sharply during what has been the deadliest year since 2006. The victory by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-line alliance, which includes an extreme right-wing party with close ties to the settler movement, has raised concerns of more violence.



# Man hurt in blast after bomb he wanted to plant in election rally explodes accidentally: Police

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A person was injured when a low-intensity bomb, which he was planning to plant at an election rally in Nepal's Bhojpur district scheduled to be attended by CPN-Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, accidentally exploded, police said.

The incident happened in pauvadung rural municipality of the district and some 40 meter away from the venue when the person belonging to the CPN-Maoists Biplav faction was carrying the bomb in tiffin box and it suddenly exploded on its own, causing him minor injuries.

"A small bomb exploded in Bhojpur district during an election rally. The person injured was the one carrying it and he got injured when it accidentally exploded before he could plant it. He was a cadre of the CPN-Maoists Biplav faction," police said.

Police said the explosion took place before top leaders, including Prachanda, had arrived at the election rally venue. Following the incident, police took the person in its custody for further investigation, said the police.

# Peking University locked down as Covid virus cases grow

AP ■ BEIJING

Chinese authorities locked down a major university in Beijing on Wednesday after finding one COVID-19 case as they stick to a "zero-COVID" approach despite growing public discontent.

Peking University students and faculty were not allowed to leave the

grounds unless necessary and classes were moved online on one campus through Friday, a university notice said.

Beijing reported more than 350 new cases in the latest 24-hour period, a small fraction of its 21-million population but enough to trigger localised lockdowns and quarantines under China's "zero-COVID" strategy.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE**  
**THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD (R&B)**  
**JAMMU-KATHUA CIRCLE JAMMU**  
**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**e-NIT No. SEJ/18 of 2022-23 Dated 11-10-2022**  
**Fresh 2nd time e-NIT No. SEJ/25 of 2022-23 Dated 28-10-2022**  
**Fresh 3rd Time e-NIT No. SEJ/29 of 2022-23 Dated 11-11-2022**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on percentage rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K/CPWD / BRO/ Railways/ MES and other State/ Central Government for the work mentioned below:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Construction of 30 Mtr. Span RCC Pre-cast Bridge in Km 2nd on Taryad Pathwar Road (Under CAPEX).	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II, Jammu	259.50	6000/-	519000/- (2% of the Advertised Cost)	18 Months	(1400 Hrs) on or after 19-11-2022	"A" Class

Position of AAA = **Accorded**

Position of T/S = **Accorded**

The Bidding documents Consist of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	From 12.11.2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18.11.2022, 1800 Hrs to 18.11.2022, 1800 Hrs
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	15.11.2022 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Jammu-Samba-Kathua Circle, Jammu
4.	Bid submission Start Date	12.11.2022 From 1800 Hrs
5.	Bid Submission End Date	18.11.2022 up to 1800 Hrs
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	19.11.2022 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Jammu-Samba-Kathua Circle, Jammu
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of challan through Treasury indicating the name of work and e-NIT No. favouring Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Jammu-Samba-Kathua Circle, Jammu by crediting to 0059-PWD (Revenue) issued after issuance of e-NIT No. & Date uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt issued after the advertisement of e-NIT. The date on challan should be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date.

**Sd/-**  
**(Er. K.S. Nathyal)**  
**Superintending Engineer,**  
**PWD (R&B) Circle Samba- Kathua- Jammu**

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
N.I.T. No.	32A-22-23-W-2 Dated 15.11.2022
1	Name of work with its location: A) Provision of covering/Roofing shed on LHS No. 6,9,20,21,22A,24,29,34,50,54,57,64,64,69,129,&130 along with provision of sump well retaining wall & cleaning of existing sump well, boring, hump, water proofing & unpaved approach to be paved in the section of ADEN/SMQL under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/II/DLI

2	Approx. Cost of work 32A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
3	Earnest Money 32A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
4	Completion period of Work 32A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
5	Cost of tender on cash/by post	As per IREPS Notice
6	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	27.12.2022 to 10.01.2023 upto 15:00 hrs Opening of tender 10.01.2023 at 15:00 hrs. on
7	Similar nature of Work 32A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
8	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No. NIT-32A-22-23-W-2 Dated. 15.11.2022 3055/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)	
N.I.T. No.	30(A,B,C,D,E,F) Dated 15.11.2022
1	Name of work with its location
A)	Augmentation incapacity by replacement of old wamout platform surface coping and water booth etc. at DSA& SBB station under ADEN/GZB
B)	Upgradation/additional facilities of separate ladies toilet, 50000 liter SMC Panel water tank, new bore hole, water supply & sewerage line, additional road, class room & academic building, development of shed & proper boundary wall etc. in P.way training institute at GZB.
C)	Provision of rainwater harvesting system for conservation of rainwater at Electric Training Centre Ghaziabad
D)	Augmentation/Up gradation of LC civil infrastructure works in the section of SSEW/SMQL under ADEN/SMQL
E)	Construction, Repairing and Renovation of Hostel Rooms and staff vehicle parking at ETC/GZB
F)	Augmentation in capacity of LHS by one time cleaning of 76 nos. LHS under ADEN/SMQL

2	Approx. Cost of work 30(A,B,C,D,E,F)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
3	Earnest Money 30(A,B,C,D,E,F)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
4	Completion period of Work 30(A,B,C,D,E,F)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
5	Cost of tender on cash/by post	As per IREPS Notice
6	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	29.11.2022 to 13.12.2022 upto 15:00 hrs Opening of tender 13.12.2022 at 15:00 hrs. on
7	Similar nature of Work 30(A,B,C,D,E,F)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
8	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be used etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

NIT -30(A,B,C,D,E,F)-22-23-W-2 Dated : 15.11.2022 3056/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



# LIC to sell Reliance Capital's debt to ARC

Upsets lenders, bidders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Days ahead of the deadline to submit binding bids, LIC's move to sell its ₹3,400 crore secured principal debt of cash-strapped Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL) to an asset reconstruction company (ARC) has irked its lenders and bidders.

The last date for submitting binding bids for Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL) and its subsidiaries is November 28.

LIC is conducting a Swiss Challenge process to invite bids from Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to sell its exposure in RCL, sources said, adding prospective bidders will be asked to better the offer.

However, the sources said, Asset Care and Reconstruction Enterprise will have the first right to match the counteroffer.

The last date to submit the bids is November 25, while the deadline for submission of binding bids for RCL is November 28.

According to the sources, the Committee of Creditors (CoC) of RCL are upset as to why LIC has initiated a parallel process to sell its debt so close to the bids submission deadline.

LIC is a member of the CoC and this attempt to finalise a transaction 3 days before the



binding bids deadline has upset the other members and bidders, the sources noted.

RCL had offered two options to all the bidders. Under the first option, companies could bid for Reliance Capital Ltd, including its eight subsidiaries or clusters. The second option gave the bidders the freedom to bid for its subsidiaries individually or in a combination.

RCL has eight businesses that are on the block. These include general insurance, life insurance, health insurance, securities business and asset reconstruction, among others.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had on November 29 last year superseded the board of RCL in view of payment defaults and serious governance issues.

The RBI appointed Nageswara Rao Y as the administrator in relation to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of the firm.

Reliance Capital is the third large non-banking financial company (NBFC) against which the central bank has initiated bankruptcy proceedings under the IBC.

The other two were Srei Group NBFC and Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL). The RBI subsequently filed an application for initiation of CIRP against the company at the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

In February this year, the RBI-appointed administrator invited expressions of interest for the sale of Reliance Capital.

# Sensex settles at fresh life-time high; Nifty ekes out marginal gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices ended the trade in the positive territory on Wednesday, with the BSE Sensex closing at its fresh life-time high of 61,980.72, helped by buying in banking counters.

After facing highs and lows during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally ended 107.73 points or 0.17 per cent higher at 61,980.72. During the day, the index hit its 52-week high of 62,052.57, higher by 179.58 points.

The broader NSE Nifty ended marginally higher by 6.25 points or 0.03 per cent to 18,409.65.

From the Sensex pack, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Dr Reddy's, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major winners.

Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement and IndusInd Bank were among the major laggards. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower, while Tokyo ended higher.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly lower in the afternoon session. Wall Street had ended in the positive territory on Tuesday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.28 per cent higher at USD 94.12 per barrel.



Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth ₹221.32 crore on Tuesday, as per exchange data.

"As the domestic market has started to trade around the all-time high levels, it is trending indecisively following the recent geopolitical tensions and weak performance by global counterparts.

Although domestic macro-economic indicators and FII inflows are favourable, given the high valuations, domestic markets can behave cautious in the short to medium-term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.66 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.34 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, bankex climbed 0.47 per cent, industrials advanced 0.37 per cent, capital goods 0.36 per cent, teck 0.30 per cent, and IT 0.20 per cent.

# Sebi Settlement Scheme II on illiquid option cases: Strong response so far

To end on November 21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi's settlement scheme on illiquid option cases will be open for another five days till Monday and it has received a strong response with over 7,000 entities already applied under this by paying the settlement amount, sources said on Wednesday.

The scheme provides an opportunity for the entities who have executed reversal trades in the illiquid stock options segment of BSE between April 1, 2014, to September 30, 2015, and against whom enforcement action initiated by Sebi is pending, to settle the case.

The settlement scheme 2022 that commenced on August 22 will end on November 21.

The present scheme has been made easier as the entities can apply online instead of submission of physical papers. The scheme was also made attractive so that many entities could avail the same. Most of the entities can settle their proceedings by paying only ₹1 lakh as a settlement amount.

According to the sources, more than 7,000 entities have already applied under the Settlement Scheme by paying the settlement amount.

The advantage of partici-



pation in the scheme is that entities are not subjected to further quasi-judicial proceedings on the same matter. The settlement is also done without admission of guilt.

"The scheme is highly beneficial for an entity against whom enforcement action is pending. It not only saves time and costs for the entity but also the entity does not get a stigma of a monetary penalty after the proceedings," said a securities market lawyer.

In the course of its investigation, Sebi found that entities entered into reversal trades with each other on the same day at different prices, thereby shifting gains from one to the other.

The regulator observed that over 14,000 entities had indulged in reversal trades in options, which were illiquid. It further alleged that these trades were non-genuine in nature and created a false and misleading appearance of trading and amounted to misuse of the stock exchange platform and

accordingly, initiated adjudication proceedings against these entities.

In market parlance, trades in which a person buys a particular stock and sells it back to the same person are referred to as reversal trades.

In May, the Securities Appellate Tribunal opined that Sebi should reconsider and seriously give a thought to coming out with a fresh scheme under settlement Regulations. Such a scheme can be a one-time scheme for this class of person. Following this, Sebi brought out the new settlement scheme.

This is not the first time the regulator has given the chance to these entities to settle the case. In 2020, Sebi provided a one-time settlement scheme for the entities. Initially, the scheme was available from August 1 to October 31, 2020, but later extended till December 31, 2020, in view of the large-scale disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

# Coal India aims at 50 mt sales via e-auction in 2nd half of FY23

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Coal India is targeting 50 million tonne sales through the e-auction route in the second half of the current fiscal, a top company official said on Wednesday.

The coal behemoth had sold around 30 million tonne via e-auction in the first six months of the 2022-23 financial year.

"We are targeting another 50 million tonne in e-auction sales for the year," Coal India Chairman Pramod Agrawal said on the sidelines of Global Mining Summit 2022, organised by CII here.

Coal India's e-auction sales were at 108 million tonne in 2021-22.

In the July-September quarter of the current fiscal, the miner had sold 10.36 million tonne of coal via e-auction, and



the average realisation was Rs 6,061 per tonne.

The Maharatna PSU sold 141 million tonne of the dry fuel through the fuel supply agreement in the three months that ended on September 30, 2022 with an average realisation of ₹1,413 per tonne.

During the programme, Agrawal said the Kolkata-headquartered company has been focused on evacuation and sustainability.

Production will not be a problem but evacuation will be a challenge, he said.

# Mining critical for India's growth, Govt support needed, say industry captains

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The mineral and mining sector will be critical for India's development agenda going forward as the country aims at a multi-fold growth in GDP, industry captains said on Wednesday.

The government has to incentivise, offer regulatory flexibility and deregulate critical mineral mining to boost the sector, CII National committee on mining chairman and Vedanta group CEO Sunil Duggal said.

Speaking at the IMME and Global Mining Summit 2022 here, Coal India Chairman Pramod Agrawal said India has to grow and the mining sector is "critical for the growth".

"The government is aiming at doubling the sector's contribution to GDP to five per cent



by 2030 from 2-2.5 per cent now," he said, while emphasising on productivity with sustainability, greater use of mechanisation and digitisation.

Duggal said the mining industry "needs incentives in exploration to attract new generation companies into this".

He also called for a timeline for environmental and forest clearances in mining, and to resolve land acquisition issues, besides deregulation of mining of critical minerals.

Duggal claimed that the low exploration and mining has resulted in importing USD 86 billion in 2021, which will swell to USD 280 billion by 2030.

# Medanta operator Global Health shares jump over 24 pc in debut trade

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Global Health, which operates hospitals under the Medanta brand, ended over 24 per cent higher on Wednesday, the first day of trade, against the issue price of ₹336.

The company's stock made its market debut at ₹398.15, rallying 18.49 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 26.45 per cent to ₹424.90. The stock later ended at ₹415.65 apiece, higher by 23.70 per cent. On the NSE, it listed at ₹401, a jump of 19.34 per cent and settled at ₹417.30 apiece, higher by 24.19 per cent.

The company commanded a market valuation of ₹11,147.10 crore on the BSE.

On volume terms, 22.55 lakh shares of the firm were traded on the BSE and 4.93 crore shares on the NSE during the day.

# Rupee falls 35 paise to close at 81.26 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 35 paise to close at 81.26 against the US dollar on Wednesday on disappointing trade data and foreign fund outflows.

Forex traders said a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.41 and later witnessed an intraday high of 81.23 and a low of 81.58 during the session.

The domestic unit finally settled at 81.26 against the American currency, registering a fall of 35 paise over its last close.

On Tuesday, the rupee appreciated 37 paise to close at 80.91 against the US dollar.

"The Indian rupee depreciated on risk aversion in glob-



al markets and weak Asian currencies. Disappointing macro-economic data from FII outflows also weighed on Rupee," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

"The Indian Rupee weakened on Wednesday on dollar demand from importers and weakness in Asian currencies. A decline in USD/INR forward premiums also made it attractive for importers to hedge, leading to more dollar outflows," said Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

# Gold gains ₹320; silver drops ₹125

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose by ₹320 to ₹53,449

per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday in line with firm global trend and depreciation in the rupee, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹53,129 per 10 grams. Silver, however, dropped ₹125 to ₹62,682 per kg.

The rupee depreciated 66 paise to 81.57 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday, tracking the strength of the American currency in the overseas market and a muted trend in domestic equities.

"Better domestic physical demand, a weaker rupee and higher international prices supported domestic gold prices," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.

# Kotak Mahindra Bank cuts 1-year MCLR rate by 20 bps, hikes for other tenors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Private sector Kotak Mahindra Bank has revised upward its marginal cost of funds based lending rate for different tenors but reduced the benchmark one-year tenor rate by 20 basis points.

The MCLR (marginal cost of funds based lending rate) linked loan rates for the benchmark one-year tenor, which is used by banks to price most of consumer loans such as auto, home and personal, has been cut to 8.55 per cent from 8.75 per cent.

# FPIs investment in Indian equities rises 8 pc q-o-q to USD 566 bn in Sep qtr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After declining for three consecutive quarters, the value of FPI investment in Indian equities rose 8 per cent quarter-on-quarter to \$566 billion in the July-September period, according to a Morningstar report on Wednesday.

A fast-changing global macroeconomic landscape, sentiments and opportunities that the Indian equity markets have to offer impacted the direction of flows by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). Through the quarter, the value of the FPI holdings domestic equities surged by 8 per cent to \$566 billion from \$523 billion recorded in the previous quarter.

Further, the value of such investment was \$612 billion in the March quarter and 654 billion in the quarter ended December 2021, as per the report. During the quarter ended September 2021, the value of FPI investments in Indian equities was \$667 billion. Consequently, foreign investors' contribution to Indian equity market capitalisation also grew marginally during the quarter under review to 16.97 per cent from 16.95 per cent for the three months ended June 2022.

# Lufthansa Cargo resumes freighter services from Hyderabad Int'l Airport

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Lufthansa Cargo has recently resumed its scheduled freighter services from Hyderabad International Airport.

Lufthansa Cargo resumed freighter operations after more than a year and will be operating Boeing 777 freighter aircraft connecting Frankfurt M u m b a i - H y d e r a b a d - Frankfurt, a release from GMR Hyderabad International Airport said on Wednesday.

The Lufthansa freighter service resumption would boost cargo connections and benefit the pharmaceutical companies in Hyderabad reaching out to the growing



markets in Europe and United States, it said.

In the pre-Covid times, Lufthansa Cargo's annual export load was approximately 6,500 metric tonne and 1,500 metric tonne of imports during financial year 2019-20. This freighter service will once again provide seamless international connectivity and reinforce strong trade links with Europe and the United States, it said.

In addition to Lufthansa Cargo, SpiceXpress, the cargo wing of SpiceJet, has also

recently started its freighter service from Hyderabad to Hanoi (Vietnam).

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited CEO Pradeep Panicker said, "The resumption of Lufthansa freighter services from Hyderabad Airport is bound to boost cargo services enabling better connectivity and flexibility linking the markets in the United States and Europe."

"We are also happy that SpiceXpress has started operating to Hanoi. With normalcy returning post-Covid, we are in the process to add new cargo routes globally and hope to see many other freighter services shortly," the CEO said as quoted by the release.

# Passenger vehicle sales could hit over 38 lakh units in FY23: Tata Motors MD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle sales in India could hit a record of over 38 lakh units in FY23 but the strong growth momentum is not expected to carry over to 2023-24 with pent-up demand already been released, according to Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Managing Director Shailesh Chandra.

There could be a moderation on offtake of passenger vehicles (PVs) in the third quarter of the ongoing fiscal and picking up again in the



fourth quarter, but the growth rate in FY24 would also depend on the impact of new set of regulations such as BS VI phase II and new safety regulations kicking in next year, he told analysts.

The first half of FY23 was very strong for the PV industry with "nearly 1.9 million vehicles", said Chandra who is also the Managing Director of Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd.

"Typically you would see a 48:52 kind of a ratio between H1 and H2. This time, you're going to see nearly 50:50 kind of a ratio. So, it's going to be a very strong year, highest-ever industry volume is what we are going to witness in this financial year, possibly going up to 3.8 million-plus," he said.

# Bikaji Foods shares settle nearly 6% higher in debut trade

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Bikaji Foods International Ltd ended the day nearly 6 per cent higher on its market debut on Wednesday against the issue price of ₹300.

The stock listed at ₹ 321.15, reflecting a gain of 7 per cent against the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 11.66 per cent to ₹335. The stock finally settled at ₹ 317.45, higher by 5.81 per cent.

At the NSE, shares of the firm debuted at ₹322.80, climb-

ing 7.6 per cent and later ended at ₹317.50, a gain of 5.83 per cent.

The company commanded a market valuation of ₹7,920.69 crore on the BSE.

In traded volume terms, 20.96 lakh shares of the firm were traded at the BSE and over 2.74 crore at the NSE during the day.

The initial public offering (IPO) of Bikaji Foods International was subscribed 26.67 times last week.

The ₹881.22-crore IPO had a price range of ₹285-300 a share.

# TVS Supply Chain Solutions renews contract with UK-based Dennis Eagle

PTI ■ CHENNAI

TVS Supply Chain Solutions has renewed its contract with United Kingdom headquartered Dennis Eagle Ltd, thereby adding value to its aftermarket service, the city-based company said on Wednesday.

The integrated supply chain solutions provider said it would renew the business deal with Dennis Eagle Ltd for a period of five years with effect from July 1, 2023.

Dennis Eagle is engaged in the design and manufacture of



refuse collection vehicle in the United Kingdom and the over 16 years of business relationship highlights TVS Supply Chain Solutions' result-oriented delivery model.

The renewal of the contract would continue to add value in the aftermarket service and supply of spare parts to Dennis Eagle, a company statement

said here.

"Our strong relationship with Dennis Eagle, over the last 16 years, and the extension of this contract demonstrates our commitment to aligning with our customer's business needs through operational efficiency, and a collaboration based approach," TVS Supply Chain Solutions managing director Ravi Viswanathan said.

"We believe our capabilities and the use of cutting edge technology have helped us in deepening our relationship with our customers as we continue to deliver value," he said.



## Supporters 'right' to boycott WC: Van Gaal



AP ■ DOHA

Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal on Wednesday said that supporters boycotting the World Cup in Qatar were "right to do that" but hoped his team would do enough to persuade fans at home to watch them on television.

"I think they are right because they believe in that, so no problem with that," Van Gaal said before the Dutch side trained for the first time since arriving in Qatar.

"I hope that we play so fantastic that at the end of the tournament when we play the final they shall look on television and see how good we are."

Some fans, particularly in Europe, have pledged to boycott this year's World Cup, which starts on Sunday, as Qatar's treatment of migrant workers, women and the LGBTQ community has come under the spotlight.

The Dutch FA recently criticised FIFA president Gianni Infantino's call to focus on the football during the tournament and on Thursday the Netherlands squad are due to meet with migrant workers in the Qatari capital.

Veteran Dutch coach Van

Gaal hit out at world football's governing body earlier this year, calling its decision to award Qatar the World Cup "ridiculous".

"I think you have to play in football countries. (They have) more experience with everything," he said on Wednesday.

However, he added: "We mustn't forget that there is a completely different culture here in Qatar. We could also look at our own culture and see if things are really that great at home."

"But also (you have) to assimilate that country in another way, that they are a driver, and this is also a small country," added Van Gaal, who has experience of visiting Qatar for training camps when coach of Bayern Munich more than a decade ago.

"Now my family and my friends are having a lot of difficulty to find a place so that is also a remark, but the organisation, and the pitches and everything, the facilities. These are very good."

Van Gaal, 71, who will step down after the World Cup, is preparing his side to face Senegal in their opening match in Doha on Monday.

They will also face hosts Qatar and Ecuador in Group A.

## MESSI'S ARGENTINA & FRANCE JET TO WC



AP ■ DOHA

Argentine superstar Lionel Messi was due to jet into Qatar on Wednesday hoping to crown his glorious career by lifting the World Cup trophy as defending champions France also prepared to join the party.

Messi, 35, has a sackful of trophies but the tournament in Qatar is likely to be his final chance to equal the achievement of fellow Argentine great Diego Maradona, a winner in 1986.

Two-time champions Argentina are playing a friendly against Abu Dhabi on Wednesday, hoping to extend their unbeaten run to 36 matches.

But Paris Saint-Germain forward Messi is cautious about the team's chances in Qatar, even

though they are among the favourites.

"We are very excited," the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner said in an interview with CONMEBOL, the South American football federation.

"We have a very nice group that is very eager, but we think about going little by little. We know that World Cup groups are not easy."

Argentina launch their campaign against Saudi Arabia on November 22, with Mexico and Poland also in their group.

Coach Lionel Scaloni has tried to reduce the pressure on his team, who ended a 28-year trophy drought at last year's Copa America and are ranked third in the world.

"We're conscious what foot-

ball represents for Argentina but it's sport and that's why we have to step on the pitch and do our own thing," he said.

"We have to come out and play the way we know how to. And then there are a lot of unknowns."

### CHAMPIONS ARRIVE

France were also due to arrive in Doha on Wednesday, seeking to become the first team to retain the World Cup since Brazil in 1962.

Ten members of the 2018 title-winning squad return, including captain Hugo Lloris, Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann.

But the defending champions, grouped with Australia, Denmark and Tunisia, are with-

out first-choice midfield pair Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kante.

Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, who has missed a series of games for Real Madrid this season because of injury, is set for his first World Cup appearance since 2014.

England and the Netherlands became the first European heavyweights to touch down in Qatar on Tuesday.

England supporters from India outnumbered fans from England nearly 10 to one as Gareth Southgate's team rolled into their World Cup base.

As the team bus pulled up at their hotel, drums were beaten and horns blasted by Indian fans proudly wearing England shirts and carrying England flags.



## Bale '100 per cent fit'

AP ■ DOHA

Gareth Bale has declared himself 100 per cent fit for the World Cup in Qatar as Wales prepare for their first appearance at the finals in 64 years.

The 33-year-old has played just half an hour of football since completing his first 90 minutes for more than a year in Wales' Nations League defeat to Poland in September.

Bale revealed he was not fully fit after coming off the bench to score a crucial late goal in Los Angeles FC's MLS Cup final triumph over Philadelphia Union on November 5.

But the former Real Madrid forward said he was "100 per cent fit and ready to go" ahead of Wales' departure to Qatar.

Asked if he could play three 90-minute games against the United States, Iran and

England in nine days, Bale replied: "Yeah, no problem."

"I'm fully fit and ready to go. If I need to play three 90s, I'll play three 90s."

"It's been difficult, mentally more than anything. I guess for everybody, the last three or four weeks, it's been difficult, even hearing stories of players going down and knowing they're going to miss the World Cup."

Rob Page's men launch their campaign against the USA on November 21 before playing Iran four days later.

They will complete their group fixtures against England on November 29.

"On paper we have the hardest group in the World Cup (the only one with all four sides in the top 20 of the FIFA rankings) and we're just doing the best planning possible to give us the best chance of winning," he said.

## LLORIS WILL NOT WEAR AT WC ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ARMBAND

AP ■ DOHA

France skipper Hugo Lloris has confirmed that he will not join other European national team captains in wearing an anti-discrimination armband during the World Cup in Qatar.

Lloris had previously refused to say if he would participate in the initiative to support the season-long OneLove campaign to promote inclusion, which features an armband with a multi-coloured heart.

"I have been quite clear about this and I don't want to add anything else," Lloris said.

He said he wanted to "show respect" to host nation Qatar, whose treatment of migrant workers as well as women and the LGBTQ community have come under the spotlight in the build-up to the tournament.

"When we welcome foreign visitors to France we often would like them to respect our rules and our culture. I will do the same when I go to Qatar," he said.

His comments echoed those made by French Football Federation President Noel Le Graet, who has opposed the initiative.

Lloris was missing due to injury when



Manchester United defender Raphael Varane wore the multi-coloured armband in a UEFA Nations League match against Denmark in September. At the time, Varane called it "an honour".

The initiative was announced in

September, with Lloris and England's Harry Kane among the captains of 10 European nations who were expected to wear the armband in Qatar, where homosexuality is illegal.

However, world football's governing body FIFA has not given its backing to the initiative.

France begin their defence of the World Cup trophy against Australia next Tuesday before also playing Denmark and Tunisia.

Their preparations for the tournament have been hit by injuries, with RB Leipzig star Christopher Nkunku the latest to withdraw.

Nkunku suffered a knee injury on Tuesday in France's last training session before departing for Qatar and has been replaced in the squad by Eintracht Frankfurt's Randal Kolo Muani.

Key midfield duo Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kante had already been ruled out.

"We are missing two players who have been important for us in recent years but there are young players coming through and if they are in the squad it is because they deserve to be there," Lloris said.

## Deepak, Vanshaj off to flying start at Youth World Boxing C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asian youth medallists Deepak and Vanshaj made winning starts to their campaigns on the opening day of the IBA Youth men's and women's World Boxing Championships in La Nucia, Spain.

After Vishwanath Suresh opened India's campaign with an impressive win earlier in the day, Deepak (75kg) came out all guns blazing and took just over a minute to beat his Albanian opponent Useid Nika with the 'Referee Stops Contest' verdict.

Vanshaj, on the other hand, also began in similar fashion and looked in complete control against Uzbekistan's Boltaev Shavkatjon in the 63.5kg opening round match.

His dominating display throughout the contest made



all five judges vote in his favour as he registered a resounding 5-0 win.

Haryana boys Vanshaj and Deepak had clinched gold and bronze medals respectively in the ASBC Asian Youth Boxing Championships, held in Jordan earlier this year.

## UK, Ireland Euro 2028 bid announces 14 candidate venues

AP ■ LONDON

A joint bid by the five national associations of the United Kingdom and Ireland to host the 2028 European Championship published a shortlist of 14 venues for the tournament on Wednesday.

The British and Irish bid is the favourite to win hosting rights in September 2023 after abandoning plans to run for the 2030 World Cup.

Russia, whose national team and clubs are currently banned from UEFA competition due to the war in Ukraine, and Turkey are the other competing bids for Euro 2028.

Wembley, which hosted the Euro 2020 final, is among three London stadia, also including the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and West Ham's London Stadium.

Manchester United's Old Trafford, Manchester City's Etihad Stadium, Villa Park in Birmingham, Newcastle's St. James' Park, the Stadium of Light in Sunderland and Everton's new ground, which is still in construction, are the other proposed English venues.

Hamden Park in Glasgow, Cardiff's Principality Stadium, Casement Park in Belfast and two stadiums in Dublin, Lansdowne Road and Croke Park, represent the other four national associations.

The shortlist will be cut to 10 venues for the final bid submission in April 2023.

England and Scotland hosted 12 games during last year's delayed Euro 2020, which took place across 11 countries.

## Nadal out of ATP Finals after loss

AP ■ TURIN

Rafael Nadal's error-strewn performance saw him eliminated from the ATP Finals, missing out once again on adding one of the few major trophies still missing from his glittering list of titles.

The top-seeded Nadal lost 6-3, 6-4 to tournament debutant Felix Auger-Aliassime to leave him with two straight group-stage defeats in Turin on Tuesday. That result coupled with a victory for third-seeded Casper Ruud over Taylor Fritz in the later match meant a swift exit for Nadal.

Ruud became the first player to book a spot in the semifinals.

It also meant that Carlos Alcaraz is guaranteed to end the year ranked No. 1 and the Spanish player will travel to Turin to attend a special ceremony on Wednesday.

The 36-year-old Nadal has now lost four straight matches for only the second time in his career, following defeats at the US Open and Paris. After starting the season by winning the Australian Open and French Open to take his tally of Grand Slam titles to a record 22, Nadal has played just eight singles matches since having to withdraw from the Wimbledon semifinals with an injury.

"Couple of positive things. I was able to play two tournaments in the past three weeks. That's the positive thing, something that I was not able to do for a while," Nadal said.

"I don't think I forgot how to play tennis, how to be strong enough mentally. I just need to recover all these positive feelings and all this confidence and all this strong mentality that I need to be at the level that I want to be."

"I don't know if I going to reach that level again. But what I don't have any doubt is that I (am) going to die for it."

Nadal was beaten by eighth-seeded Fritz of the United States in their opening match on Sunday.

The fifth-seeded Auger-Aliassime also lost his opener, to Ruud, and so Tuesday's match was crucial to both players' hopes of staying in the tournament.

"I wasn't sure If I would be here one day or if I could only dream of it," said Auger-



Aliassime of his first victory over Nadal in three attempts.

"The age difference is huge, and it proves what a champion he is and what an example because he is still here at 36, battling against guys in their young 20s. He is a great champion and has a great attitude."

Nadal has never won the ATP Finals title in 10 attempts. He finished runner-up in 2010 and 2013.

Nadal needed Fritz to beat Ruud in two sets to have any chance of reaching the semifinals and that hope was dashed when the Norwegian won 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (6).

## No Chinese tournaments listed yet on WTA's 2023 schedule

AP ■ ST. PETERSBURG

The WTA Tour released its schedule for 2023 through the US Open in September, with no tournaments slated for China yet.

The women's tennis tour's announcement of its provisional event dates, released on Tuesday, said: "Details of the remaining section of the calendar will be communicated in due course."

The season-ending WTA Finals are supposed to be held in Shenzhen, China, through 2030, but were not held at all in 2020 because of the COVID-19

pandemic, then were moved to Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2021, and to Fort Worth, Texas, this year.

In an interview with The Associated Press two weeks ago, tour CEO Steve Simon said he does not know where that event will be played in 2023, promising a decision "no later than the end of the first quarter of next year."

"We hope that that's where we're going to be," he said about Shenzhen, "but, obviously, we have some issues to resolve."

He named two issues: Peng Shuai's situation and lingering COVID-19 restrictions.



A year ago, the WTA suspended all of its tournaments in China because of concerns about the safety of Peng, a Grand Slam doubles champion who accused

## Meltwater Champions Tour Finals: Praggnanandhaa, Erigaisi lose again

PTI ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa went down to Dutch GM Anish Giri 2.5-3.5 in the second round of the Meltwater Champions Tour Finals here on Wednesday.

The other Indian in the fray -- Arjun Erigaisi was outclassed by world No.1 Magnus Carlsen 2.5-0.5.

Praggnanandhaa was in superb form, winning the first two games to take a commanding lead before letting his opponent off the hook. The Indian GM won the opening game in 33 moves and wore down the Dutchman in the next and

looked set for an easy win.

However, the 28-year Giri hit back brilliantly to win games three and four to force a tie-break. He continued the winning streak to take the first of the blitz tie-break games and drew the next to dash Pragg's hopes.

Meanwhile, Erigaisi, who had posted his first-ever win over Carlsen in the Aimag Rapid tournament last month, was outplayed by the Norwegian ace.

Carlsen won the first game in 75 moves and then held on for a draw in 86 moves. He secured a 41-move victory in the third to seal a 2.5-0.5 win.

## India continues golden run at 15th Asian airgun meet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's pistol shooters continued their golden run, sweeping all the four gold medals on offer for the second day running in the 15th Asian Airgun Championship in Daegu, Korea on Wednesday.

With two more days remaining, India's gold count has now gone up to 21.

The day's first medal event, the 10m air pistol women, saw an all-India title clash, where Rhythm Sangwan prevailed over Palak 16-8 to clinch her second international gold of the year.

Rhythm had won the event at the Cairo World Cup stage earlier this year.



That was followed by yet another all-India contest, in the 10m air pistol women junior event, where Manu Bhaker pipped Esha Singh 17-15 in the gold medal match. It was a see-saw battle in the truest sense

between two champion shooters, with the lead changing hands after almost every single-shot series.

It was then the turn of the men as Shiva Narwal, Naveen and Vijayveer Sidhu triumphed over Lee Daemyung, Mok Jin Mun and Park Daehun of Korea 16-14, in the 10m air pistol team men final.

The junior men were not to be left behind as the troika of Sagar Dangi, Samrat Rana and Varun Tomar annihilated Uzbekistan's Mukhammad Kamalov, Nuriddin Nuriddinov and Ilkhombek Obidjonov 16-2 in the 10m air pistol team junior event, the final event of the day.



# ROADMAP FOR 2024 T20 WC STARTS NOW: PANDYA

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Stand-in T20I skipper Hardik Pandya on Wednesday said the road map for 2024 T20 World Cup starts now, adding that going forward a lot of players will be given chances to stake their claim in the side.

India's 2022 T20 World Cup hopes ended with a 10-wicket defeat against eventual champions England in the semifinals.

Pandya, who will be leading India in the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, starting Friday, said the team needs to overcome from their World Cup failure.

"Yes, we all know there is disappointment of the World Cup but we are professionals and we need to cope with it. How we cope with our success we cope up with our failures and move forward and look forward to get better rectify our mistakes," Pandya told reporters.

The next T20 World Cup will be played in 2024 in the West Indies and United States and the Indian squad is expected to undergo a major transition in the next two years with the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma among others being gradually eased out of the set up.

"Yes, the next T20 WC is almost two years so we have time (to unearth new talent). A lot of cricket will be played and a lot of people will get enough chances.

"The road map starts from now. But it's too fresh right now. We have a lot of time so



we will sit down and have conversations on those grounds," Pandya said.

"Right now it's making sure that the boys enjoy playing here. We will talk about the future later," he added.

The white-ball tour of New Zealand that includes three T20Is and as many ODIs will

not feature Kohli, Rohit, opener KL Rahul, keeper-batter Dinesh Karthik and veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin as all have been rested as part of "workload management of players".

In their absence, the likes of Shubman Gill, Umran Malik, Ishan Kishan and Sanju

Samson have been given a chance and Pandya says it will be an important series for them in the grand scheme of things.

"The main boys are not here but the same time the talent which the guys who are already here, they have also been playing for one and-a-

half, two years now," he said.

"They have had ample chances and enough time in international cricket to express themselves and show what they have. Very excited for them, new bunch of guys, new energy and excitement.

"Every series is important. You can't play an international game thinking its not important. Yes World Cup is there but that's a different format, it's 50 overs.

"But it is an important series for a lot of boys who if they eventually do well here will be able to put a strong case going forward."

## 'DON'T NEED TO PROVE'

In a scathing column after the semifinal loss, former England captain Michael Vaughan wrote that India has achieved absolutely nothing since winning the ODI World Cup at home in 2011 and has been the most under-performing white-ball team in the history. Asked about Vaughan's remarks, the all-rounder said, "I don't think we need to prove anything to anyone.

"Obviously when you don't do well, people will have their opinion, which we respect. I understand people have different point of views," Pandya said.

"Being at the international level, I don't think we need to prove anything to anyone. It's a sport, you keep trying to get better and eventually when the result is supposed to happen it will happen."

"There are things we need to work on, going forward we will rectify and work on it," he added.



## Comparing Arshdeep to Akram will put him under pressure: Rhodes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former South African star Fiontj Rhodes feels Arshdeep Singh has grown tremendously as a cricketer and has great potential but comparing him to the great Wasim Akram will put him under pressure.

The 23-year-old left-arm India pacer was one of the positives of India's T20 World Cup campaign that ended with a semifinal defeat to eventual champions England.

Arshdeep, with his ability to swing the ball both ways ended up as the team's leading wicket-taker, claiming 10 scalps from six games at an economy of 7.80.

"I think that's putting him under a lot of pressure, to compare him to the great Wasim Akram, the sultan of swing," Rhodes said.

"Arsheep has certainly grown in the last two years and that's been the case with the

Indian fast bowlers. You look at a Bumrah and his progression was so so quick and Arshdeep has done the same, he is a young fast bowler, willing to learn and listen and he puts in the hard yards.

"He does swing the ball and has been a revelation at the death. He's great in the power-play, has got good control and he can come around the wicket like Wasim Akram effectively," he added. Rhodes, who worked with Arshdeep during his stint as IPL side Punjab Kings' fielding coach, feels the youngster has great potential.

"He's someone who has great potential and possibility of having a fantastic career. But you start to compare players to the ones who played before them, that puts them under unnecessary pressure. He wants to be the best Arshdeep Singh."

After disappointments in back-to-back T20 World Cups,

the Indian team is expected to go undergo a transition with senior players making way for youngsters.

Asked who are some of the young players the BCCI should invest in, Rhodes said, "The current crop that is in New Zealand is a fairly young team and there are some great players in the line up.

"And because of the success of the IPL you certainly have an amazing platform to showcase their skill."

For India's three-match T20I series in New Zealand, starting on Friday, the likes of Shubman Gill, Umran Malik, Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson have been given a chance as senior players have been rested.

"You look at the T20 squad selected just after the T20 World Cup, that gives a good indication of the ability of some of the players. It's a strong line up without the senior players."



## Suryakumar retains top spot in T20 batting rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav has retained his top position in the ICC men's T20I batting rankings issued on Wednesday, following his stellar performance in the just-concluded T20 World Cup in Australia.

Suryakumar became the No.1 T20I batter after a superb showing in the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup, where he smashed three fifties in five innings.

That performance helped him to achieve a career-best rating of 869 points. Although his rating dropped to 859 after his dismissal for 14 in the semi-final against England, Suryakumar has managed to hold on to his position at the top.

The 32-year-old amassed 239 runs during the World Cup at an outstanding average and strike-rate of 59.75 and 189.68 respectively, and also finished as the third highest run-scorer in the event.

England's Alex Hales, who smashed an unbeaten 86 from 47 deliveries in the semifinal against India, made a big jump,

climbing 22 places up to No. 12.

Other batters in the top five other than Suryakumar and Babar are Mohammad Rizwan, Devon Conway and Aiden Markram.

Both Rizwan and Markram have managed to hold on to their second and fifth positions respectively, whereas Conway dropped down to fourth after losing his third spot to Babar.

In the bowling charts, Adil Rashid has been the biggest gainer after his extraordinary performances in the semifinal against India and the final against Pakistan.

Rashid registered figures of 1/20 and 2/22 in the two matches respectively, gaining five spots to move up to No. 3.

His compatriot Sam Curran also gained two spots to move to No. 5, after a Player of the Match performance of 3/12 in the final against Pakistan. Wanindu Hasaranga continues to remain the top-ranked bowler, followed by Rashid Khan.

In the all-rounders' rankings, Shakib Al Hasan, Mohammad Nabi and Hardik Pandya continue to occupy the top three spots respectively.

## Oz have point to prove against world champions Eng

AP ■ ADELAIDE

New skipper Pat Cummins on Wednesday admitted that Australia have a point to prove after their failure at the T20 World Cup, with champions England in their sights in a one-day series this week.

Australia went into the World Cup as defending champions but failed to go beyond the group phase, in contrast to Jos Buttler's men who powered to the title with a gripping win against Pakistan on Sunday.

"Yeah, I think you always have a point to prove, especially playing here in Australia," said Test captain Cummins, who will lead the one-day team for the first time on Thursday after Aaron Finch's retirement from the 50-over game.

"We want to win every series we play, we probably expect that.

"The core of this squad was part of that T20 side so ... it's a different format, but we probably didn't play as well as we know we can and this gives us an opportunity straight away to play against the best."

They face England in three one-dayers, starting in Adelaide before moving to Sydney on Saturday and then Melbourne three days later, the scene of England's five-wicket victory over Pakistan.

The win made Buttler's team the first dual white-ball champions, holding both the 50- and 20-over titles.

"They might be a little bit short on sleep, but they're a class side," said Cummins, who has overcome a bout of gastro and will be fit to play.

"They're riding high. They obviously had a great T20 campaign and they will be strong."

Australia head into the series with a near full-strength side apart from Glenn Maxwell, who broke his leg in a freak accident at a birthday party at the weekend.

With Finch no longer in the team, Travis Head has been recalled to open with David Warner.

Head has a strong record as an ODI opener, scoring nearly 600 runs from 15 innings including a century in Pakistan in March. But he hasn't made a sizeable score so far this summer.



"I actually feel like I've trained really, really well in the last couple of months," said Head.

"I know it hasn't flowed into the games as yet, but that's the beauty of it — I know it's just around the corner."

Eight members from England's successful T20 World Cup squad have remained in Australia for the one-day series, including Buttler and player-of-the-tournament Sam Curran, as they kick-start a year-long build-up to defending their 50-over title in India.

They also boast Sam Billings, Jason Roy and James Vince, who are regulars in Australia's Big Bash League and familiar with local conditions. But Ben Stokes, England's hero in the T20 World Cup final, will play no part after recently calling time on his ODI career.

"For me, and for the other guys who haven't been around the squad in the last month or so, it's a huge opportunity to stake a claim and get back into more prominent roles in that side," said wicketkeeper-batsman Billings. "We know Australia are going to be a phenomenal outfit, they always are in terms of their depth in home conditions."

## Indians face tough draw at Asian Cup TT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Table tennis legend Achantha Sharath Kamal and top-ranked Indian G Sathiyan will have their task cut out as they face a tough draw at the ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup Tournament beginning Thursday in Bangkok.

World No. 44 Sharath kamal, who is set to receive the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, will run into Chinese Taipei's Chuang Chih-Yuan, ranked No. 16, while world No. 39 Sathiyan will open against 26th-ranked Yukiya Uda from Japan.

World No. 44, Manika Batra will be the lone Indian woman competitor in the \$200,000 prize money event and she will be up against Chinese Chen Xingtong,



ranked world No. 7 and seeded No. 3, in the opening round at the Hua Mak Indoor Stadium.

The men's and women's singles event of the 33rd edition of the event, held in a direct knockout format for the first time, has the top 16 Asian players, including No. 1 seed Wang Chuqin and Lin Gaoyuan from China, seeded No. 3 and two strong Japanese contenders in No. 2 seed Tomokazu Harimoto and Yukiya Uda.

Both Sathiyan and Sharath achieved sixth positions — so far their best finish — in the 2019 edition in Yokohama and the 2015 edition in Jaipur, respectively.

Sharath has been in good form this year, having claimed three gold medals in the Commonwealth Games, while Sathiyan too was part of the gold-medal winning men's team in Birmingham, where he also picked up a silver in men's doubles and bronze in singles.

## Sharath Kamal becomes first Indian to be elected in ITTF's Athletes' Commission



ence of a mere 8.83 per cent votes polled from their continents — Asia and Europe — respectively.

Talking of the international honour, Sharath, a multiple Commonwealth Games medalist, felt humbled and happy to know that he got the highest number of votes from Asia, ahead of other candidates from the continent.

Liu Shiwen, elected from the female quota, is the other Asian on the Commission, but the Chinese managed only 153 votes.

"I am bowled over and humbled by the recognition. I thank the whole of Asia and all the voters for showering such affection with faith and the CoA (Committee of Administrators) for forwarding my name to ITTF," said Sharath in a release issued by Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

Besides the eight athletes, two para-athletes will also serve the four-year term.

Sharath will be honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, the country's highest sports recognition, later this month.

The 40-year-old is also the vice-chairman of the Athletes' Commission of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). He is one of the 10 eminent athletes elected a couple of days ago to the national Olympic body that goes to polls next month.

## Sports Ministry funds Vinesh Phogat's training camp in Bulgaria

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry has approved Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat's high altitude training under former Olympic silver medallist Serafim Barzakov in Belmeken, Bulgaria.

Three-time Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Phogat, accompanied by her physio Ashwini Patil, is training in Belmeken, which is a high altitude training area situated approximately 2600m above sea level.

The 19-day international camp, which began on November 7, is also expected to have other top wrestlers such as Bilyana Dudova (2021 World



Championship Gold medallist) and Evelina Nikolova (2020 Olympic Bronze medallist).

The ministry said Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) "would cover Vinesh and her physio's flight, accommodation, local travel, and food costs among others".

"TOPS will also provide her an out-of-pocket allowance of USD 50 per day for any other expense she might incur," it said.

Under TOPS, the ministry will also financially assist Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang Punia in taking part in the Bill Farrell International Wrestling Championship, which will be held in New York from November 18-19.

"The competition would give Bajrang a chance to compete against some of the prominent and upcoming wrestlers in the USA, who were one of the best Wrestling nations in Men's freestyle events at the recently concluded 2022 World Wrestling Championships."

## Anwasha enters Australian Open 2nd round; Sameer, Simran-Ritika withdraw

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Anwasha Gowda made a winning start to her women's singles campaign to be the lone Indian survivor at the Australian Open Super 300 tournament here on Wednesday.

The 14-year-old from Delhi, who won four junior international titles out of the six finals that she reached this year, beat Pitchaya Elysia Viravong 21-9, 21-11 in 21 minutes.

She will face Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei in the second round.

Goh had accounted for another Indian Tanya Hemanth, beating her 21-15, 21-16 in just over half an hour.

Gowda had won the Iberdrola Spanish Junior



Internationals, Faroe Games Junior International, Fz Forza Stockholm Junior and Amot Israel Junior this year, besides reaching the finals at Junior International events in Bulgaria and Denmark.

Top Indian Sameer Verma, who had failed to complete his opening match against Jonatan Christie at Hylo Open earlier this month due to an injury, has pulled out of the tournament.

Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker have also pulled out of the event.

Women's doubles pair of Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda went down 16-21, 14-21 to Chinese Taipei's Lee Chia Hsin and Teng Chun Hsun to bow out of the competition.