

**OPINION 6**  
RIGHTS AND DUTIES  
ARE INTERRELATED

**WORLD 9**  
BRAZIL HOLDS HISTORIC ELECTION  
WITH LULA AGAINST BOLSONARO

**MONEY 10**  
INFLATION MAY FALL TO 5.2 %  
NEXT FISCAL ON NORMAL RAIN: RBI

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MANCHESTER  
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11 SPORT

## 125 die as tear gas sets off rush at soccer match

Tragedy struck Indonesia after cops fired gas shells to stop fan violence

AP ■ MALANG (INDONESIA)

Panic and a chaotic run for exits after police fired tear gas at an Indonesian soccer match to drive away fans upset with their team's loss left at least 125 dead, most of whom were trampled upon or suffocated, making it one of the deadliest sports events in the world. Attention immediately focused on the police use of tear gas, and witnesses described police beat them with sticks and shields before shooting canisters directly into the crowds.

The president of FIFA called the deaths at the stadium "a dark day for all involved in football and a tragedy beyond comprehension," while President Joko Widodo ordered an investigation of security procedures. While FIFA has no control over domestic games, it has advised against the use of tear gas at soccer stadiums.

Violence broke out after the game ended Saturday evening with host Arema FC of



Security officers detain a fan during a clash between supporters of two Indonesian soccer teams at Kanjuruhan Stadium in Malang on Saturday. Panic following police actions left 125 dead, mostly trampled to death, police said on Sunday. AP/PTI

East Java's Malang city losing to Persebaya of Surabaya 3-2.

Disappointed with their team's loss, thousands of supporters of Arema, known as "Aremania," reacted by throwing bottles and other objects at players and soccer officials. Witnesses said fans flooded the Kanjuruhan Stadium pitch and demanded that Arema management explain why, after 23 years of undefeated home matches against rival Persebaya, this one ended in a loss. The violence spread out-

side the stadium where at least five police vehicles were toppled and set ablaze.

Riot police responded by firing tear gas, including toward the stadium's stands, causing panic among the crowd. Spectator Ahmad Fatoni said police had started beating the fans with sticks and shields, and they fought back.

"Officers fired tear gas directly at spectators in the stands, forcing us to run toward the exit," he said.

"Many victims fell because of shortness of breath and difficulty seeing due to tear gas and were trampled."

He said he climbed the roof of the stands and only came down when the situation calmed down.

Others suffocated and were trampled as hundreds of people ran to the exit to avoid the tear gas. In the chaos, 34 died at the stadium, including two officers, and some reports include children among the casualties.

## 20 cr Indians still below poverty line: Hosabale

RSS leader raises issues of poverty, inequality that Opp has been flaying Govt with

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Sunday flagged concerns over "poverty, unemployment and rising inequality in the country", the very issues that have repeatedly been raised by the Opposition parties to attack the Central Government.

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch on the theme of 'Self-reliance' — Svavlamban ka Shankhnaad, Hosabale pointed out that the "demon of poverty" was staring people hard in the face saying, "Twenty crore people are still below the poverty line."

Last week, Hosabale also released a book 'Snakes in Ganga: Breaking India 2.0', which slammed the NITI Aayog for allegedly sharing data with the Davos-based World Economic Forum (WEF) and "undermining" India's economic interests.

Interestingly, while speaking at a programme organised by Bharat Vikas Parishad, an RSS-inspired organisation, Union Surface Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, too, spoke in the same vein four



days ago. The unambiguous mention of "rising inequality" in the country by the top RSS leader has come at a time when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, during his ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' across the country, has repeatedly highlighted the same issues.

"Poverty is standing like a demon in front of us. It is important that we slay this demon. That 20 crore people are still below the poverty line should make us very sad.

As many as 23 crore people have less than ₹375 income per day. There are four crore unemployed people in the country", said the RSS leader.

"A large part of the country still does not have access to clean water and nutritious food. Civil strife and a poor level of education is also a reason for poverty. That is why a New Education Policy has been ushered in. Even climate change is a reason for poverty. And at places the inefficiency of the

Government is a reason for poverty", he said quoting figures provided by the United Nations.

According to Hosabale, the idea that only urban spaces will have jobs has emptied villages and turned urban lives into hell. Hosabale further said, "During the Covid-19, we learnt that there is a possibility of generating jobs at the rural level according to local needs and using local talent. That is why the Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan was launched.

"We do not need just all-India schemes, but also local schemes. It can be done in the field of agriculture, skill development, marketing etc. We can revive cottage industries. Similarly, in the field of medicine, a lot of Ayurvedic medicines can be manufactured at the local level. We need to find people interested in self-employment and entrepreneurship."

Hosabale said it was important to rejuvenate local talent, which he said the nation was losing because of "modern" economic policies. He stressed that skill training could not be merely urban-centric and tech-based. "We need to create an environment for entrepreneurship. The society also needs to understand that all work is important and must get equal respect. If a gardener is not getting respect for his work, nobody will want to do that work. We need to change mindsets," he said while referring to the need for creating more jobs.

### CAPSULE

#### MARS ORBITER ON LAST LEG: ISRO SOURCES

Bengaluru: India's Mars Orbiter craft has run out of propellant and its battery drained beyond the safe limit, fuelling speculation that the country's maiden interplanetary mission 'Mangalyaan' may have finally completed its long innings. Sources in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) told PTI, "The link has been lost."

#### MOOSEWALA CASE ACCUSED ESCAPES

Chandigarh: Gangster Deepak Tinu, one of the accused in the Sidhu Moosewala murder case, escaped from police custody in Punjab's Mansa district, official sources said on Sunday. A manhunt has been launched to nab Tinu, who escaped on Saturday night when he was brought on a production warrant from Goindwal Sahib jail in another case by the Mansa police, they said.

#### 'WIND MAN' OF INDIA TULSI TANTI DEAD

New Delhi: Suzlon Energy founder Tulsi Tanti, one of the pioneers of the wind energy business and known as India's 'wind man', died of cardiac arrest at 64 on Saturday night. He was a globally renowned expert on clean energy.

#### BIHAR FARM MINISTER QUITTS NITISH GOVT

Patna: Bihar Agriculture Minister Sudhakar Singh, who often embarrassed the Nitish Kumar Government by his outspokenness, tendered his resignation, his father and State RJD chief Jagadanand Singh said on Sunday.

## 'Can't ditch 102 MLAs who saved my Govt in 2020'

Gehlot targets Pilot, says Raj MLAs got agitated over new CM's name

PTI ■ JAIPUR

In a veiled attack on party leader Sachin Pilot, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said it was important to know why there was resentment among MLAs over the name of a new Chief Minister in the State. He also asserted that he cannot ditch the 102 MLAs who had saved his Government during the political crisis in 2020 and, therefore, he apologised to Sonia Gandhi. Targeting the MLAs who had revolted against him in 2020, he said they were hand-in-glove with the BJP. "Some of our MLAs



met Amit Shah, Dharmendra Pradhan and other BJP leaders. Amit Shah was offering sweets to our MLAs. So, how can I forget those 102 MLAs who saved the Congress Government," he said without naming anyone.

Several MLAs loyal to Gehlot, who was seen as the frontrunner for the post of the Congress national president, had last week submitted resignation letters over a possible move to appoint Pilot as the next Chief Minister. Gehlot



later announced that he will not contest the Congress presidential polls as he took moral responsibility for the political crisis in his State.

Referring to the crisis, he said 80-90 per cent MLAs switch sides when a new Chief Minister is going to be appointed but this did not happen in Rajasthan.

"It was a new case in Rajasthan where the MLAs got agitated just in the name of the new Chief Minister," Gehlot said without naming Pilot.

## Sonia to join K'taka leg of Bharat yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi will take part in the Bharat Jodo Yatra on October 6 in its ongoing Karnataka leg. Earlier, Sonia along with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was to join the padyatra in September. However, they party had to defer it due to the Rajasthan political crisis.

The yatra will pass through the BJP-ruled Karnataka for 21 days covering 511 km in the State. The padyatra began on September 7 from Kanyakumari and entered Karnataka on Friday after passing through Tamil Nadu and Kerala with an outpouring of support and enthusiasm in the two States.



## Social media shy CBI makes debut on Twitter, Instagram

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social media shy, the CBI has finally made appearances on Twitter and Instagram ahead of the upcoming Interpol General Assembly in which 195 countries are likely to take part. The agency created its accounts on both platforms with user ID CBI\_CIO for the three-day 90th General Assembly starting October 18 here, officials said.

In its visual symbolism, the logo for INTERPOL's 90th General Assembly, being held in New Delhi from 18th-21st October, 2022, has at its center the 'Konark wheel'.

"InterpolIndia," the agency's Twitter handle said in its opening message.

"When deciphered in terms of INTERPOL's commitment and engagement, the 'Konark Wheel' in this logo serves to inspire INTERPOL's 24x7 functioning and is encircled by

three-leaved spherical elements in colours of India's national flag #InterpolIndia .

"The three encircling spherical elements signify the creation of international bonds through INTERPOL, steadfast commitment towards the preservation of security globally and the achievement of law enforcement goals," it said in two subsequent tweets.

Unlike sister organisations like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had kept social media at an arm's length, sticking to the age-old practice of issuing press releases for sharing information.

The General Assembly will focus on cybercrime, financial crimes and Child Sexual Abuse Material peddled on the Internet among other issues, they said. Having already organised a General Assembly

in 1997, India was given an out-of-turn chance to organise the event through a vote on the eve of the 75th anniversary of its Independence.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had made a proposal in this regard to Interpol Secretary General Jurgen Stock, who called on the Minister during his visit to India.

The General Assembly is Interpol's supreme governing body, comprising representatives from each of the 195 member countries which meet annually. Each member country may be represented by one or several delegates who are typically Ministers, chiefs of police, heads of their Interpol National Central Bureaus and senior Ministry officials, they said. India, which joined the organisation in 1949, is one of the oldest members of The International Criminal Police Organization, known as Interpol.

## Bullet shot from ground hits man in plane mid-air

AGENCY ■ NEW DELHI

A passenger onboard a Myanmar National Airlines flight got injured after a bullet that was shot from the ground hit him mid-air after piercing through the aircraft's fuselage. The passenger was rushed to a hospital after the plane landed in Myanmar's Loikaw.

According to British news agency The Sun, the aircraft was flying at an altitude of 3,500 feet and around four miles north of the airport. Following the incident, the Myanmar National Airlines' office in Loikaw announced that all flights to the city have been cancelled indefinitely.

Myanmar's military Government has accused rebel forces in the State of Kayah of firing at the aircraft. However, rebel groups denied the allegation.

## Lust for money leads to human sacrifice in Delhi

Two men slit the throat of 6 year old boy to gain prosperity

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a case of human sacrifice, two men allegedly slit the throat of a six-year-old boy in the early hours of Sunday in a slum area near the under-construction building of CRPF headquarters in South Delhi's Lodhi colony. The men sacrificed the child to propitiate the deity (Bhole Baba) on Shashti (the sixth night of Durga Puja). The police said they have arrested the accused persons and also seized a kitchen knife.

The accused have been identified as Vijay Kumar and Amar Kumar, both natives of

Bihar. Police said the duo was under the influence of drugs while committing the crime.

Vijay and Amar have confessed to the crime and told the police they killed the boy to gain "prosperity".

The accused and the boy's parents were working as construction labourers and living in the same slum, police said.

According to Chandan Chowdhary, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, at around 10:30 pm on Saturday, the accused called him to their place and killed him by first attacking on his head and then slitting his throat.

The police registered a case under Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). "During interrogation, the duo told the police they got an illusion that 'Lord Shiva' asked them for the sacrifice of a

child. When they found the said child, they took him inside their shanty and murdered him by slitting his throat with a kitchen knife," said a senior police official. The weapon of offence has been recovered and both the accused have been arrested.

"We were all celebrating. The women were singing bhajans and doing puja while we were going to a temple. My son was playing with his friends. After 10.30 pm, he was going back to the shed when the accused pulled him in. We searched for him everywhere. Later, I found blood coming out of their house. I went in and found them pushing my son's body under a cot. I screamed for help... We came to Delhi around four-five weeks ago. Our family never fought with anyone. Why did they kill my son?" wept his inconsolable father.

## REMEMBERING THE MAHATMA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary at Raj Ghat on Sunday. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

## Say 'Vande Mataram' not 'hello' on phone: Maha Govt to staff

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a strange diktat of sorts, the Maharashtra Government on Sunday made it mandatory for all employees working in Government and semi-Government institutions to greet people with "Vande Mataram" instead of saying "hello" while receiving telephone or mobile phone calls from citizens or Government officials. The Government Resolution (GR) issued by the General Administration department stated that the implementation of the mandate for the Government employees would start on October 2, the birth anniversary of the Maharashtra Government as part of the Amrit Mahotsav.

Among other things, the GR stated that officials should also create awareness among

the people who come to meet them and use "Vande Mataram" as a greeting. "The word 'hello' is an imitation of the Western culture and just a "greeting without any specific meaning and does not evoke any affection," the resolution read. The decision has invoked interesting reactions from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress.

The NCP termed the "decision" as the "infringement of the Right to Freedom of Speech and also imposition of a particular mindset. "Vande Mataram invokes a sense of pride and a feeling of patriotism. Forcing Indians to say it is not right, especially when they are asking their staff to say Vande Mataram even when they use their private telephones," NCP's national spokesperson Clyde Crasto said.

# In Dharamshala, CM dedicates, lay foundation stones of Rs 195 cr developmental projects

PNS ■ DHARAMSHALA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Sunday dedicated and laid foundation stones of developmental projects worth Rs 195.38 crore in Dharamshala assembly segment, besides launching Kangra Police's Satyanishta App.

free bus shelter, Rs. 6.85 crore warehouse for Electronic Voting and VVPAT Machines, Rs. 3.55 crore 50-metre bridge over Bhanag khud on Dharamshala-Yol-Palampur-Chadhigar road, Rs. 8.50 crore science block of government degree college Dharamshala and Rs. 67 lakh environment garden.

area, Rs. 1.91 crore Shri Chamunda Mata temple and Rs. 1.56 crore science block of Government Girls Senior Secondary School Dharamshala.

former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversaries and garlanded the statues at Gandhi Vatika. He said Mahatma Gandhi was harbinger of peace and non violence. He planted a sapling of Tulsi also.

# One year of Lakhimpur Kheri: Farmers to stop trains for 3 hrs at 24 places in Punjab today

PNS ■ FEROEZPUR

Thousands of farmers, under the banner of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC), will stop the trains at total 24 places across Punjab on Monday from 12 noon to 3 pm to register their protests in inaction in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, besides other demands.

line at 24 places in the areas of Muksar, Mansa, Barnala, Sangrur, Malerkotla, Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib and Ropar. The effigy burning protests will also be held against the Center and the Punjab Government, besides paying floral tributes to the martyrs, they said.

should be punished," they said. The statement further stated that the notification of Power Distribution Act-2022 should also be cancelled, the Central and Punjab Government should make a law to guarantee the purchase of 23 crops, free tools should be given for stubble management or Rs 7,000 per acre should be given, otherwise farmers are forced to set their fields on fire.

# Jimpa reiterates commitment to make state healthy & clean

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/HOSHIARPUR

Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation Minister Brahm Shanker Jimpa on Sunday reiterated the State Government's firm commitment to make state healthy and clean. Jimpa, presiding over the state-level function to mark Swachh Bharat Diwas along with Punjab Vidhan Sabha's Deputy Speaker Jai Krishna Singh Rori, said that under 'My Village, My Responsibility' campaign, as many as 23 village panchayats, which have done exemplary work for management of solid waste, have been felicitated.

# Haryana CM pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, Shastri

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday paid rich tributes to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversary.

ed by various diseases, and health treatments cost a significant expenditure. The cost of health services may be reduced, and the body will continue to function well if cleanliness is fully embraced in daily life.

# Haryana clinches first gold in weightlifting in 36th National Games

Chandigarh: Haryana on Sunday clinched the first gold medal in weightlifting competition in the ongoing 36th national games.

Likewise, three best performing villages under ODF plus film competition too have been honoured, he said adding that 15 districts, which have done remarkable work under 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme, too have been honoured.

# "Walk for Wildlife Trekking" organized in Chandigarh

Chandigarh: To sensitize and generate awareness among the masses for the protection and conservation of wildlife, nature and natural resources, UT Department of Forests and Wildlife, Chandigarh, on Sunday organized "Walk for Wildlife Trekking" during ongoing wildlife week.

The Chief Minister said that the high and ideal thoughts of both the great men, Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, will always pave our way. Let us continue to strive for the public good in the nation and the state by drawing motivation from their lives.

Chandigarh: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, the UT Administration has organized a series of events across the state.

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# BRIEFS

## HP GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO GANDHI, SHASTRI ON THEIR BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Sunday paid floral tribute to the 'Father of Nation' Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary at his statue at The Ridge Shimla. The Governor also paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at CTO Chowk on his birth anniversary.

## SANDHWAN MADE SURPRISE VISITS TO DIFFERENT MARKETS TO REVIEW PADDY PROCUREMENT

Chandigarh: Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan on Sunday made a surprise visit to various grain markets of the Malwa belt and reviewed paddy procurement process. He instructed the officials to ensure smooth and efficient procurement. After visiting the grain markets, Sandhwan expressed satisfaction over the procurement arrangements and ordered to resolve any problem wherever it appeared.

## HAYER CONGRATULATES NATIONAL GAMES MEDAL WINNERS

Chandigarh: Punjab Sports Minister Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer on Sunday congratulated the state's three gold medalists in the ongoing 36th National Games at Gujarat — Vijayveer Singh Sidhu for winning gold medal in shooting 10 m air pistol, Udaivir Singh for winning gold in Epee individual category of fencing, and Jasvir Kaur for winning gold in weightlifting 64 kg category. Punjab has, so far, won a total of 23 medals with five golds, 11 silver, and seven bronze medals.

## HP GOVERNOR HONOURS SEHB SOCIETY'S FIELD WORKERS ON SWACHH BHARAT DIWAS

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Sunday felicitated the field workers of SEHB Society through 'Maitri Society for All Kind' on the occasion of Swachh Bharat Diwas organized on the birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Bhavan and also distributed heaters to them. The Governor said that these efforts of 'Maitri' were inspirations for others. Other social organizations should also come forward in these activities, he said while appreciating the initiative of 'Maitri' for adopting about 158 TB patients in Shimla under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

## MCC TO WORK TOWARDS ACHIEVING A SPOT IN TOP 5 IN SARVEKSHAN-2023: PUROHIT

Chandigarh: Congratulating the Mayor, Commissioner, councilors, team of officers and citizens of the City Beautiful for securing 12th position in Swachh Sarvekshan survey conducted by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in which country's 4354 cities participated, Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Banwarilal Purohit on Sunday asked the concerned office bearers to work towards achieving a spot in top five in Sarvekshan-2023.

## INT'L DAY FOR OLDER PEOPLE CELEBRATED IN CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh: UT Election Department, Chandigarh, on Sunday celebrated 'International Day for Older People' by facilitating the city's centurion voters while visiting their homes. Presently, there are five centurion citizens residing in the city who have been voting for a long time. The concerned BLOs visited the houses of centurion voters and delivered a letter containing the messages of the Chief Election Commissioner. A special camp was also organized at Senior Citizen Home, Sector 15, and Sector 43 where senior citizens were felicitated with an appreciation letter and their contribution in casting their vote during election time.

## CITY MAYOR HANDS OVER 'PINK MRF' AT SECTOR 25 TO WOMEN TEAM

Chandigarh: To commemorate Gandhi Jayanti, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh on Sunday dedicated a material recovery facility (MRF)-cum-garbage transfer station completely to women. Mayor Sarbjit Kaur Dhillon handed over the operations of the MRF of Sector 25 to the 'women team' and named the centre as "Pink MRF". It is the first of its kind in the country where only women workers will operate. It is also the first unit of MCC to have only female workers. The pink workforce includes 20 helpers, DEOs, and security guards. The helpers were drawn from those who were earlier working as rag pickers. They will now perform the duty of segregating dry waste on conveyer belt.



**Canara Bank** BARNALA (3976) BRANCH  
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**Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the Canara Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to borrower(s)/guarantor(s), on the date mentioned hereunder, calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective demand notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice & Liability	Date of Symbolic Possession	Amount Outstanding
M/s Lotex Infrastructure Services, Raikot Road, Near Main Chowk Sanghera Tehsil Barnala-148101, Mr. Jagjeet Singh S/o Mr. Balwinder Singh, Raikot Road, Near Main Chowk Sanghera Tehsil Barnala-148101, Mr. Gurinder Singh S/o Mr. Balwinder Singh, Raikot Road, Near Main Chowk Sanghera Tehsil Barnala-148101, Mr. Balwinder Singh S/o Mr. Gurdev Singh, Raikot Road, Near Main Chowk Sanghera Tehsil Barnala-148101	1). Residential House building comprised in 17 Marlas bearing Khata no. 972/1400 Khasra no. 1332/1(0-17) situated within the revenue limits of Village Sanghera C which now falls within the MC limits of Barnala and is near Punjab National Bank Baba Sain Bhagat Chowk Sanghera Barnala in the name of Mr. Balwinder Singh S/o Mr. Gurdev Singh vide deed bearing no. 5067 dated 21-03-2016 which is bounded as under: Sides - Particulars- East: Raikot Barnala Road, West: Sukhdev Singh, North: Barnala Road, South: Jagirs Singh 2). Property measuring 1034.44 Sq Yards comprised in 4 Plots bearing Plot no.48 (land measuring 8.75 Marlas being 35/1444 share of 18K-01M), Plot no. 49 (land measuring 8.50 Marlas being 17/722 share of 18K-01M), plot no. 50 (land measuring 8.50 Marlas being 17/722 share of 18K-01M) & plot no. 51 (land measuring 8.50 Marlas being 17/722 share of 18K-01M) & plot no. 1141/1517 Khasra no. 3177/3(2-6-3), 8/1 (3-12), 13/2 (3-6), 3/3(1-9), 8/3(3-11) situated within revenue limits of Sanghera - A now falls within Municipal Limits of Barnala and is at Rahul Enclave Raikot Road Barnala in the name of Mr. Balwinder Singh S/o Mr. Gurdev Singh vide 4 Sale deeds bearing no. 4920 & 4921 dated 20-03-2014 and 3804 & 3805 dated 11-01-2016 which is bounded as under- Boundaries are for whole property of 1034.44 Sq Yards Sides/Particulars East Street wide 50' West Plot no. 47 North Plot no. 52 South Street wide 45'	04.07.2022	30.09.2022	Rs.61,28,081.57/- together with further expenses and interest w.e.f. 01.07.2022 minus recovery if any

DATE: 03.10.2022 PLACE: BARNALA AUTHORIZED OFFICER, CANARA BANK

# Review meeting of crop residue management initiatives at Chd today

Punjab, Haryana, UP, NCT of Delhi to participate

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A review meeting of the crop residue management initiatives by the state of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and the NCT of Delhi will be held at Chandigarh on Monday.

During the meeting, the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities being carried out in these states by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs) for the crop residue management (CRM) scheme will be reviewed.

The Additional Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, will chair the meeting at Regional Institute of Cooperative Management (RICM), Sector-32, Chandigarh at 3 pm. Before this, Dr Abhilaksh Likhli will attend a farm demonstration on crop residue management at Haralpur village in Kharar tehsil of SAS Nagar (Mohali) district in Punjab, and interact with the farmers in the morning. Sharing the information, the spokesperson said that the objectives of the Crop Residue Management Scheme includes protecting environment from air pollution and preventing loss of nutrients and soil micro-organisms caused by burning of crop residue.

# Classifieds

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rupinder Rani W/o Late Vinod Kumar Bhatnagar Rank SCPO, No. 106408N, R/o H.No. 712, Mohalla Dera sahib Manimajra, declare that my name is wrongly mentioned as Rupinder Bhatnagar in my husband Indian Navy Service records. My Correct name is Rupinder Rani.

I, Boota Singh S/o Mohtam Singh R/o Vill: Lehra Rohi Teh-Zira (Ferozepur) 142047, Pb, India, changed my name from Buta Singh to Boota Singh.

I, Inderpreet Kaur W/O Hardarshan Singh 225/4b 2.No Division, Ghass Mandi, Patiala 147001 Punjab India Have Changed My Name Indupreet Kaur To Inderpreet Kaur.

I, Baljit Singh Kaler S/o Maan Singh R/o Vpo. Sehbazpura (Ludhiana) changed my name to Baljit Singh.

I, Jasvinder Singh Mutiar S/o Surjit Singh R/O Muktsar Road Kotkapura (Faridkot) changed my name to Jasvinder Singh Mutiar.

I, Anita Rani W/o Sanjeev Kumar R/o Vill: Mehar Singh Wala Teh-Zira (Ferozepur) Pb, India, changed my name to Anita.

I, Harmit Singh S/o Amar Singh. R/o B-22/198, Mohabat Nagar Kapurthala Punjab Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Harmit Singh To Malkit Singh. Please Note.

I, Vidya w/o Sohan Singh R/O Jaffarpur tahsil nawanshahr distt SBS Nagar have changed my Name to Vidya Devi

I, Yadvinder S/O Thakur Singh R/O Vpo Bhagoran, Tehsil Nawanshahr Distt S.B.S Nagar ( Punjab ) Have Changed name Yadvinder to Yadvinder Singh

I, Bhagdin S/o Charagdeen R/O Vill. Kang Kalan, Tehsil Shahkot, Distt. Jalandhar-144629, Punjab have changed my name from Bhagdin to Bhagdeen.

I, Gurmeet Kaur W/o Sukhdev Singh R/o Vill. Jalal Nangal, Po.Tahli, Teh.Dasuya, Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Name From Gurmeet Kaur To Kaur Gurmeet.

I, Krishna Goel S/o Ashish goel R/o H.No 189/5 Urban Estate Karnal declared change my name from Krishna Goel to Krishna Goel and in future my name is Krishna Goel.

I, Neetu Saini W/o Ramesh Saini R/o H.No 571 Sec-7 Kamal declared change my name from Neetu to Neetu Saini and in future my name is Neetu Saini.

I, Vijay Shree Yadav Spouse of No. 14672334Y NK Surendra Singh Yadav R/O Silarpur, Naghori, Neemrana, Distt. Alwar, Raj. Have changed my DOB from 17.07.1986 To 04.03.1986 Vide affidavit No. BF-276689, Dt. 27.09.2022 Sub Divisional Magistrate Neemrana (Alwar) Rajasthan.

I, No.4279312X Rank Hav Bibhisan Nayak S/o Paramananda Nayak at present 12 Bihar, Tibri Cantt. Gurdaspur c/o 56 APO Punjab, India have changed name of my son from Manish Kumar to Manoj Kumar Nayak due to erroneously recorded in my service record.

I, No.4279312X Rank Hav Bibhisan Nayak S/o Paramananda Nayak at present 12 Bihar, Tibri Cantt. Gurdaspur c/o 56 APO Punjab, India have changed name of my son from Manish Kumar to Manoj Kumar Nayak due to erroneously recorded in my service record.

I, Saleem Mohd S/o Khushi Mohammad, Vill Dugri, Tehsil and Distt. Malerkotla, have changed my name to Saleem Mohammad.

I, Roshan Lal S/o Rehtu Ram, H.No. 227, Preet Colony, Lohgarh, Zirakpur (SAS Nagar), have changed my name from Roshan Lal to Roshan Lal Chawla.

I, Amit Kumar S/o Sh. Manmohan Singh R/o H. No. 85/9, Dehri Mohalla, Rohtak have changed my name to Amit Pruthi.

I, Lahwinder Kaur W/O Balwant Singh R/O Vpo. Loham (Ferozepur) Have Changed My Name From Lahwinder Kaur To Lakhwinder Kaur. All Concerned Note.

I, Gurmail Singh Dhandal S/O Basant Singh R/O Vpo. Sadda Singh Wala, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Gurmail Singh.

I, Navdeep Kaur Sandhu W/O Harpreet Singh R/O Vpo. Korewala Kalan, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Navdeep Kaur.

I, Jasvir Kaur W/O Sukhmander Singh R/O Preet Nagar, Nigaha Road, Moga, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Jasvir Kaur Gill.

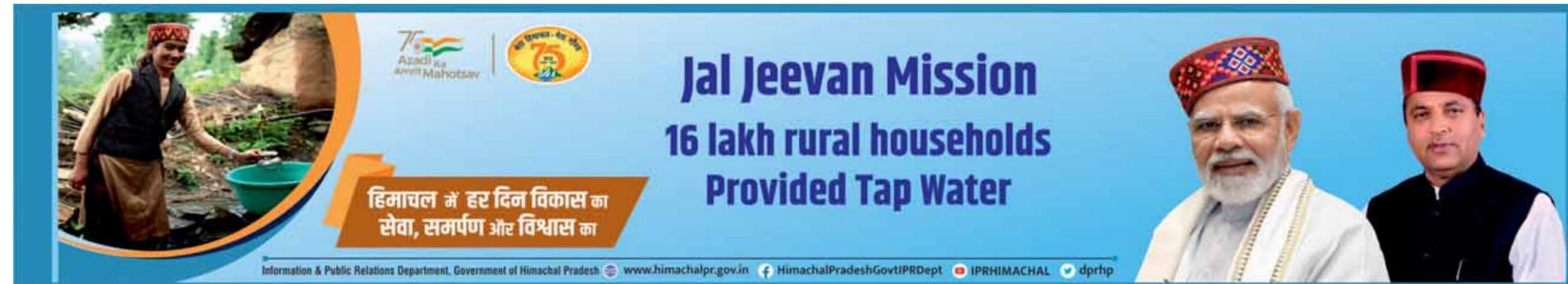
I, Jagdeep Singh S/O Nahar Singh R/O Vpo. Chupkiti, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Jagdeep Singh Dhalwal.

I, Ojager Singh S/O Saroop Singh R/O Patti Jangir Vpo. Charik Tehsil & District Moga Punjab 142001 Have Changed My Name From Ojager Singh To Ujagar Singh.

I, Amandeep Kaur W/O Jaspreet Singh Khiva R/O Vpo. Panjgrain Kalan, Distt. Faridkot, Have Changed My Name To Amandeep Kaur Khiva.

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## Key accused in Moosewala case escaped from police custody; Mansa CIA in-charge sacked

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Gangster Deepak Tinu — a close aide of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and one of the key accused in Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala's murder case — escaped from the Mansa Police's Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) custody in Punjab. Left red faced, the Punjab police dismissed the CIA in-charge and arrested him.

Facing several cases including murder and extortion in various states, Tinu was allegedly involved in the planning of Sidhu Moosewala's murder. Punjab police had brought him on transit remand from Delhi's Tihar Jail on July 4 in the matter.

This is the second time that Deepak Tinu, among the 24 accused who have been charge-sheeted in the Sidhu Moosewala murder case, has fled from the police custody. Earlier in 2017, Tinu had escaped with the help of another gangster and his aide from Haryana after throwing pepper spray in the eyes of a police official. In December the same year, he was arrested by Bhiwani police from Bengaluru.

The state Director General of Punjab (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said that the FIR has been registered against the errant police official with CIA in-charge apprehended and suspended. "He has been dismissed from service under Article 311. No laxity will be tolerated," he added.

Notably, Tinu escaped from the Mansa CIA custody on Saturday night, at around 11 pm, when he was brought on a production warrant from Goindwal Sahib jail in Tarn

Taran district in another case. DGP said that the search operation has been launched. "The police teams have fanned out and operation for re-arresting the accused launched," he added.

An FIR under sections 222 (intentional omission to apprehend on the part of public servant bound to apprehend person under sentence or lawfully committed), 224 (resistance or obstruction by a person to his lawful apprehension) 225-A (omission to apprehend, or suffering of escape, on part of public servant...), and 120-B (Punishment of criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against the errant police officials.

Tinu is also said to be a close aide of gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, the prime

accused in Sidhu Moosewala murder case. It has also been learnt that he had remained lodged with them in different jails.

Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, was killed in Mansa district on May 29 when he was on his way to Jawahar Ke village in a jeep with his friend and a cousin. His vehicle was waylaid and bullets were sprayed on him by six shooters.

After the killing, Goldy Brar, a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, claimed responsibility for the murder. Tinu is among 24 accused who have been charge-sheeted in the murder case.

Bathinda range's Inspector General Mukhwinder Singh Chhina said that the police is working on the case. "The police teams are on the job and will catch him soon," he said

while talking with the reporters.

Punjab Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force, led by AIG Gurmeet Chauhan, has been rushed to Mansa to nab him. The Police of neighbour-

ing states, including Rajasthan and Haryana, have been also been put on alert.

DGP Yadav said that a possible hide-out was raided by the police in Sirsa, Haryana, on Sunday.

## OPPOSITION ATTACKS MANN FOR HIS 'GARBA' IN GUJARAT

The incident has prompted the Opposition parties in Punjab to attack the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led State Government, especially on the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for busy campaigning in poll-bound Gujarat.

The Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha and senior Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa, took to Twitter to attack the Chief Minister for playing 'garba' in Gujarat ignoring his state. "Gangster Deepak Tinu, a key suspect who was hauled in for interrogation in the case of Sidhu Moosewala, managed to escape from Mansa Police's custody in a cinematic manner while the CM of Punjab is busy performing 'Garba' in Gujarat," he tweeted.

Hitting out at the police for its "negligence", Bajwa said: "This is the height of Punjab Police and Administration's carelessness and negligence. Such errors and security breaches are inexcusable. If they are incapable of handling hardcore detained criminals, then God save the common man."

Akali MP from Bathinda and former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal also tweeted, "While Pb CM @BhagwantMann is busy dancing Garba in Gujarat, Sidhu Moosewala killer Deepak Tinu escapes from police custody after being allowed use of phones & taken out without handcuffs in a private car late at night. No wonder there is Gangster Raj under @AAPunjab."

Former Minister and Congress MLA from Jalandhar Cantt Pargat Singh said: "This reflects poorly on @PunjabPoliceInd and AAP Govt. Meanwhile, an unconcerned CM @BhagwantMann is busy playing Garba in Gujarat."

Gangster Deepak who was caught in the Sidhu Moosewala murder case escaped from Mansa police custody last night. This reflects poorly on @PunjabPoliceInd and AAP Govt. Meanwhile an unconcerned CM @BhagwantMann is busy playing Garba in Gujarat.

Punjab BJP general secretary Subhash Sharma, in a tweet in Hindi, said: "Deepak Tinu, accused in the Sidhu Moosewala murder case and associate of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, escaping from the custody of CIA staff in Mansa is extremely worrying. Chief Minister and Home Minister are busy in political tours (for Gujarat elections), Punjab is suffering."

## Punjab police busts ISI backed drone-based KTF terror module; two operatives held

Both were assigned by Canada-based terrorist-gangster to retrieve weapon consignment

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/RUPNAGAR

Serving a major blow to the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) backed drone-based Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) terror-module, the Rupnagar Police have apprehended its two operatives from Chamkaur Sahib area.

Sharing the details, the state Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Sunday said that the terror module is being operated by Canada-based terrorist or gangster Arshdeep Singh alias Arsh Dala, who is a close associate of KTF's Canada-based chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Those arrested have been identified as Veeja Singh Gagan alias Gaggi of Chand Nava village in Moga; and Ranjodh Singh alias Jyoti of Ganji Gulab Singh Wala village in Moga. The Police have also recovered two illicit weapons including a .22 bore revolver and .32 bore pistol along with 21 live cartridges from their possession.

The development came four days after the Ferozepur Police had recovered one sophisticated AK-47 assault rifle, along with two magazines

and 60 live cartridges, from a pinpointed location at the paddy fields of Arifke village in Ferozepur. Investigations revealed that the consignment was dropped using a drone on the directions of terrorist-gangster Arsh Dala, and was intended to be retrieved by Veeja Singh and Ranjodh Singh from Arifke village.

DGP Yadav said that after the recovery of the weapons from Ferozepur, an intelligence-led operation was launched across the State to nab the accused persons, and on a reliable inputs, Rupnagar Police have managed to arrest both the accused persons from Chamkaur Sahib area during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

"During preliminary investigations, arrested persons have confessed that they had gone to Arifke village to retrieve this consignment on directions of

terrorist-gangster Arsh Dala but couldn't find it, and later, it was recovered by the Ferozepur Police on the information of a field owner," said the DGP.

He added, "Both the accused have also confessed to having received few drone-based weapon consignments to further deliver them at specific locations as directed by Canada-based terrorist-gangster Arsh Dala, which was further to be used for major target killings to disturb communal harmony of the state."

Rupnagar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sandeep Garg said that further investigations are on and more arrests are expected soon.

Meanwhile, an FIR, dated October 2, 2022, has been registered under section 153A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 25 of the Arms Act at Police Station Chamkaur Sahib.

## PROCESS IS ON TO EXTRADITE GANGSTER ARSH DALA: DGP

Meanwhile, the state police chief Gaurav Yadav said that the process is on to extradite Arsh Dala from Canada and soon he will be brought to India.

Notably, the Red Corner Notice against Arsh Dala has already been issued in May 2022.

DGP said that Canada-based Arsh Dala, a native of Dala village in Moga, is a notorious gangster-turned-terrorist involved in various criminal activities in Punjab and abroad, and is most wanted by the Punjab Police. His involvement had also emerged in various targeted killings that took place in the border state of Punjab, besides, in cases of supplying militant hardware including RDX, IEDs, AK-47, and other arms and ammunition to modules in the state after getting them imported from Pakistan.

## Wanted drug smuggler escaped from hospital

PNS ■ PATIALA

In another case of police laxity, Punjab's one of most-wanted drug smuggler Amrik Singh escaped from Patiala's Government Rajindra Hospital on Saturday evening.

Amrik, considered a vital link between cross-border heroin network and local drug dealers, was brought to the hospital by the jail officials.

As per arrangements, two jail officials were to be on duty, but only one was present in the hospital when Amrik escaped. The local police was not informed by the jail officials about bringing such a notorious criminal to hospital.

Involved in drug smuggling since 2004, Amrik belonged to Dedhna village in Patiala. He was facing at least seven cases under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Narcotic Drugs Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act, and the Arms Act.

The officials said that a preliminary enquiry has been ordered against the two jail officials who accompanied him.

## First in north India, Super ECBC compliant building to be constructed in Mohali

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To promote energy conservation and showcase the energy efficiency in the buildings, Punjab Government has decided to construct a super Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) compliant building in SAS Nagar (Mohali).

Revealing this, the state New and Renewable Energy Sources Minister Aman Arora on Sunday said that Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Department has allocated a dedicated land of

1500 square meters to Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) for construction of Super ECBC building at Mohali's Sector-65 to showcase the energy efficiency in the buildings.

This building will be constructed within next two years for operation, said the Minister, adding that it would be one such kind of model building showcasing the super-efficient technologies integrating with passive design features to be constructed as first building in North India.

The state's Additional

Chief Secretary (New and Renewable Energy Sources) A Venu Prasad apprised that the demonstration super ECBC compliant building will contain all state-of-the-art technologies and this building will be served as model building for all the stakeholders, students, and general public for awareness in the State.

The design and construction cost of the proposed Super Energy Efficient Building will be borne by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), he added.

PPEDA Chief Executive

Dr Sumeet Jarangal said that H&UD has allocated this land under public institutional infrastructure in Mohali's Sector-65 near Punjab Mandi Bhawan of around 1500 square meters as a role model for stimulating such practices in more government buildings to showcase energy efficiency in the State of Punjab.

Notably, PEDA is Punjab Government's designated agency to coordinate and enforce the Energy Conservation Act-2001 in the state under the guidelines of BEE, Union Ministry of Power.

## Punjab among top five states in the country, first in north zone

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab has secured fifth position in the recently announced Swachata Sarvekshan-2022 among all the states of the country having more than 100 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Besides, Punjab has emerged as the top state in the northern zone, which is a matter of pride for the State and an inspiration for the rest of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)," said the Minister.

Sharing the information, the state's Local Government

Minister Dr Inderbir Singh Nijjar on Sunday said that the awards were given by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. "The competition takes place among all the states of the country having more than 100 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Punjab has got the first position in the northern zone, which is a matter of pride for the State and an inspiration for the rest of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)," said the Minister.

Congratulating the management, officials, and employees of the Local Government Department for the achievement, Dr Nijjar said that last year, Punjab had stood seventh and had improved its position to fifth this year.

"During the Swachata Sarvekshan, Punjab has scored 2935 points across the country. According to the population of the city, Moonak, Nawanshahar, and Gobindgarh have got the first rank as clean cities. In addition, Ghagga, Baretta, Bhikhi, Dasuya, Kurali, Nangal, and Fazilka were also honoured with awards in the cleanliness survey ceremony," he said.

Dr Nijjar said that the Punjab Government is fully working to provide a clean environment to the people of the state. As a result, it has won an award in the cleanliness survey by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Punjab Government.

At the same time, the Minister also appealed to other Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) that they should also take inspiration from their counterparts that have secured the position. Apart from this, he also appealed to the people of the State to cooperate with the Government in keeping their surroundings clean so that in the future, it will help to bring Punjab to the first position in the cleanliness survey across the country.

## SWACHATA SARVEKSHAN AWARD

## Haryana ranked second in country rural ranking; Bhiwani first in survey

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

On the basis of Swachh Sarvekshan Grameen-2022, ODF sustainability for total sanitation, and excellent implementation of various components of ODF plus, Haryana secured the second position in the country under the category of states having a population of more than 30 lakhs.

Haryana Development and Panchayats Minister Devender Singh Babli on Sunday received the award from the President Draupadi Murmu in a programme organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The Government official spokesperson said that Haryana is constantly touching a new paradigm of progress under the leadership of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Due to his visionary approach and strenuous efforts, the State

Government is touching new heights of progress.

Babli said that state's every department is committed to take the State to the highest progress by adopting innovative working procedures and implementing schemes. Special focus is being given to accelerate development growth in rural areas along with uplifting their lifestyle.

He said that along with the officers of the Development and Panchayats Department, Swachhta Sainik, Education Department, Women and Child Development Department, and other social institutions played a key role in supporting to achieve this remarkable target. They have played a major role in generating awareness regarding the Swachhta campaign with a special focus on the rural areas in collaboration with the government.

The Minister said that from September 17 — the birthday of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to October 2 — the birthday of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Swachhta Pakhwada is celebrated every year across the country. During the same period, district-level 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' programme was also run in the state.

Under this, cleanliness campaigns were conducted in every village and people were made aware about not using single-use plastic and keeping their surroundings clean through awareness march, prabhat pheris, signature campaigns, community support, and other means.

He said that the fact that the Bhiwani district ranked top in the nation's overall rural cleanliness survey indicates that both government and the rural public are very concerned

about maintaining cleanliness. He informed that in 22 villages of Bhiwani district, rain and dirty water have been managed by making special structures. Along with this, 24 ponds are being renovated and beautified under the Mission Amrit Sarovar project in different villages of the district.

He said that the geographical conditions of Haryana are different in every district. The government and administration are doing a commendable job. Understanding their responsibility toward the environment, people also have to contribute significantly in keeping their surroundings clean. He added that we all have to adopt a technique for proper disposal of our household garbage which is the need of the hour. Haryana Government is planning to collect garbage from every household in villages on the lines of cities.

## Punjab Police busts inter-state drug cartel; Haryana-resident held with 2.51L pharma opioids

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/FATEHGARH SAHIB

Fatehgarh Sahib Police has busted an inter-state pharmaceutical drug cartel with the arrest of a Haryana-resident after recovering 2.51 lakh Pharma opioids from his possession.

Sharing details, the state's Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Anti-Gangster Task Force-cum-Ropar Range Gurpreet Singh Bhullar on Sunday said that the arrested accused has been identified as Ranjit Goswami, resident of Batra Colony in Haryana's Sonapat.

The Police have recovered 2.37 lakh tablets of Alprazolam and 14,400 of the Pyeevon Spas capsules from his KIA car, in which he was smuggling drugs from Haryana, he added. "This is the third such

inter-state pharmaceutical drug racket busted by the Fatehgarh Sahib district Police in less than three months. Earlier, Fatehgarh Sahib Police had

Fatehgarh Sahib senior superintendent of Police (SSP) Dr Ravjot Grewal said that during preliminary investigations, it has come to light that the

**Police have recovered 2.37 lakh tablets of Alprazolam and 14,400 of the Pyeevon Spas capsules**

arrested accused is into the transport business in Delhi and Amritsar. "The accused has confessed that he has been supplying pharma opioids in Punjab for the last few years and most of his customers are in Moga and Ludhiana," he said.

She said that the police have procured three days police remand of the accused person after producing him in the court and further investigations are on.

Meanwhile, FIR has been registered under section 22(c) of the NDPS Act at Police Station Fatehgarh Sahib.

# Told Tharoor to have consensus candidate, but he rejected: Kharge

‘Cong prez poll family matter, we have to stay united today, tomorrow’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Tipped to be the next Congress president, senior party leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday revealed he suggested to his opponent Shashi Tharoor that it would be better to have a consensus candidate which the latter has rejected.

“I said Ok. When a candidate decides to contest, how I can stop him? So, he is fighting and he is my younger brother. It is a family matter and we have to stay united today and tomorrow,” Kharge asserted at a Press conference called by him at his residence to launch his campaign for the party’s presidential polls.

He added he was fighting the polls as a Congress worker who has served the party for 55 years instead of a Dalit leader. There is no G-23 camp now and all those leaders want to fight unitedly against the RSS-BJP and therefore are supporting him, he said.

Several dissident leaders such as Bhupinder Hooda, Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari, and Prithviraj Chavan who had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi in 2020 for



Congress party presidential candidate Mallikarjun Kharge with party leaders Deependar Singh Hooda, Syed Naseer Hussain and Gourav Vallabh addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Sunday

large-scale organisational reform, have put their weight behind Kharge by becoming his proposers instead of backing Tharoor who was a prominent member of the grouping.

Kharge said if he becomes the party chief, he will consult the Gandhi family and other senior leaders and implement the good things suggested by them, even as he rejected claims that he was the “official candidate” backed by the Gandhis.

Kharge said all senior leaders and youth leaders urged him to contest the polls as no member of the Gandhi family — Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra — wanted to become the party chief.

“All my colleagues told me to fight the party president poll

and are committed to extending support to him,” he said.

Kharge asserted that he had not entered the poll fray to oppose anyone but to strengthen the Congress through his views and to take forward the party ideology. He said that in line with the ‘one person, one post’ principle of the party, he resigned as Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha on the day he filed the nomination.

Kharge asserted that working for a party is not a part-time job but full-time work, elaborating his political journey of struggles and successes.

Asked about Tharoor’s remarks that Kharge is a candidate of continuity and status quo, Kharge said, “Tharoor may have his views...The status quo and reforms he talks of will be decided by the 9,300-odd

delegates, after that, a committee will be formed (Congress Working Committee). The committee as a whole will decide all policy matters that will be formulated by consensus and we will implement that.”

“It will not be done by one person. For me, the keyword is ‘Hum (We)’ instead of ‘main (Me)’. We will decide together and wherever there are shortcomings, we will take action,” he said. Kharge said senior leaders urged him to contest in view of the pressing issues facing the country such as unemployment, rising inflation, widening gap between the rich and the poor, and the BJP not fulfilling any of its promises.

Rejecting claims that he was the official candidate and the BJP’s criticism that the

Gandhi family will wield real power, Kharge said the BJP always tries to undermine the Congress.

“When did BJP have elections, do they have an election authority? How many delegates do they have? Who elected J P Nadda? Have their presidents been elected in polls? In Congress, we have election authority, delegates, voting power, and candidates in the fray. Still, they (BJP) are saying the election is not happening, the Gandhi family is controlling,” he said.

Kharge said the Gandhi family has sacrificed a lot for this country and pointed out that Sonia Gandhi did not even want to join politics and was persuaded on the pretext that the country needs her services and she strengthened the party.

“For 10 years, we were in government. Did she try to become PM, or were efforts made to make Rahul Gandhi PM? Her sacrifice for the party is very big. Rahul Gandhi is undertaking the Bharat Jodo Yatra not just for the party but is fighting against unemployment, and to bring unity among people. I will consult them and other senior leaders, but that does not mean that I did not learn anything in 50 years,” he said.

“I will consult the Gandhi family and will take good things from them and also implement and inculcate them,” he said.

He also said he was not fighting the polls as a Dalit leader but as a Congress worker who has served the party for 55 years. Kharge and Tharoor were left in the fray in the Congress presidential poll after former Jharkhand minister K N Tripathi’s nomination was rejected on Saturday.

# FRAUD ON JUDICIARY IN CUSTODY BATTLE SC seeks CBI report over bringing back Kenyan citizen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taking serious note of the “fraud” played upon it by a Kenyan citizen of Indian origin in a custody battle, the Supreme Court has sought a report from the CBI about the steps taken by it to secure his presence and ensure the transfer of custody of his minor son to his estranged wife here.

The top court also directed the Registrar of Assurances of Rajkot to give details about the rights and interests, if any, held by any other person in two properties of the convicted contemnor Perry Kansagra by October 8 so that it may proceed with their attachment.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and P S Narasimha, on July 11, had convicted Kansagra of its contempt for playing “fraud” in securing the custody of his son from his estranged wife and not coming back to the Supreme Court again.

The bench on Friday last reminded the CBI that it was assured that every possible help and assistance shall be extended by the Union agencies and the Indian Embassy in Kenya in securing the presence of Kansagra and his minor son before this court.

“Rajat Nair, learned advocate appearing for the CBI, submits that the status report shall be filed on or before October 08, 2022. Let the needful be done,” the bench noted in the order.

It took note of the plea of the mother of the minor child that two properties at Rajkot of her estranged husband, who is not appearing before the top court, be attached.

Having found Kansagra guilty of violating its orders and committed contempt of court, the CJ-led bench has



adjoined the matter to hear the contemnor on the issue of sentence a few times.

“However, since the contemnor did not appear nor was he produced before the Court by way of last chance time was given and the matter was directed to be posted on August 18...After a few adjournments the matter is now posted before us. Even after grant of such facility and adjournment on a few occasions, Mr Perry Kansagra has not appeared before this Court,” it noted.

It has now posted the suo motu contempt case on October 10 for considering the issue of sentence and its pronouncement after perusing the CBI report.

The bench would also consider the plea of the mother that a CBI officer or “any responsible officer either working in the Ministry of External Affairs or the High Commission in Kenya” be deputed to accompany Smriti Madan Kansagra to Kenya to meet the child and/or take appropriate proceedings in Kenya. It has also sought the assistance of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya

Bhati in the case.

Kansagra, who holds dual citizenship of Kenya as well as the United Kingdom, fought a custody battle for his son with his estranged wife in Indian courts and gave undertakings that he will abide by the conditions, and later, he got custody in 2020 from the apex court by allegedly giving a forged or wrong “mirror order” from the Kenyan High Court.

Later, he not only refused to obey the directions granting visitation or meeting rights to the mother but shockingly moved the Kenyan court for “declaration of invalidity of Indian jurisdiction and/or laws and/or judgments denying, violating and/or threatening to infringe the fundamental rights of the minor through purported and unenforceable judgments and orders relating to the minor under Articles 23(3) (d) of the Constitution of Kenya.”

Taking into account the “fraud” “contumacious” behaviour of Kansagra, the top court had recalled its verdict and given a slew of directions against him including registration of a suo motu contempt case.

# Tharoor for public debate between Cong president poll candidates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor on Sunday proposed to hold a public debate with his rival Mallikarjun Kharge in the run-up to the Congress president’s election, saying it would evoke people’s interest in the party similar to the recent British Conservative Party leadership race.

Kharge outright rejected the proposal, saying, “I don’t want to get into that, I only know how to work, give me an opportunity to do that.”

Tharoor also said the Nehru-Gandhi family has held and will always hold a special place in the hearts of Congress party members. He said the answer to Congress’ current challenges lies in a combination of effective leadership and organisational reforms.

Kharge and Tharoor were left in the fray in the Congress presidential poll after former Jharkhand minister K N Tripathi’s nomination was



rejected on Saturday.

Talking about what he brings to the table, Tharoor has he has a “proven and credible track record in leading at the highest levels of organisations, whether it has been at the UN” or more recently for the Congress party as founder-chairman of the All-India Professionals’ Congress.

At the UN, Tharoor said, “as the under-secretary-general in charge of the body’s public information department, I managed the communications of the UN’s largest department comprising of over 800 staff in 77 offices worldwide, rationalized its structure, trimmed its budget and sharpened its

efforts — all of which prompted many to urge me to contest to lead the UN Organisation itself”.

Referring to the All-India Professionals’ Congress, he said, “I had to create from scratch and which in just five years since 2017 has over 10,000 fellows from across 20 states in the country.”

In terms of organisational reforms, the former Union minister said, he has outlined a set of priorities that he believes can help strengthen the Congress and take on the machinery of the BJP.

“Since our current situation is widely deployed, it may be an advantage not to be bur-

dened by the baggage of having spent too much time in the present party organisation and be able to approach it from a fresh perspective,” the 66-year-old leader said.

Asked if he would want a public debate between the party’s presidential candidates as is seen in many western democracies and if such an exercise would help delegates make up their minds, Tharoor said, “I would be open to the idea.”

Tharoor insisted that “there are no ideological differences among us; rather, it is a question of how we propose to go about achieving the objectives we already agree upon.”

Batting for a public debate, he said between the last date for submission of nominations and the date for polls, there are roughly about two-and-a-half weeks and it would be practically and logistically difficult to reach out to all the 9,000-odd delegates who are eligible to vote in these elections, he argued.

# ED summons Karnataka Cong chief for questioning in National Herald case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar for questioning in its ongoing money laundering probe into the Congress party-owned National Herald newspaper.

Shivakumar has been asked to depose before the agency on October 7 in Delhi, officials said. The 60-year-old former Cabinet minister was last questioned by the agency on September 19 in Delhi in another money laundering case linked to alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

The latest summons comes at a time when the ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’ of the Congress party, led by its leader Rahul Gandhi, entered Karnataka on Friday, September 30, and will be in the state for 21 days.

Shivakumar is involved in the conduct of this leg of the yatra. While exiting the ED office after his questioning last month, he had told the waiting

mediapersons that he has been charge-sheeted by the agency in one money laundering case but he does not know what is the new case (disproportionate assets) against him.

“Surprisingly, they (ED officials) have asked me about the payment from one of my trusts from me and my brother to Young Indian,” he had told reporters.

Young Indian is the company that owns the news organization National Herald.

Shivakumar also said he has sought more time from the agency to furnish details about his assets and liabilities to them. The former Karnataka minister said he believed in the “law system” and knew that he would get justice.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi, her MP son Rahul Gandhi and senior Congress leaders like Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal have been questioned by the ED over the last few months in the National Herald money laundering case.

# Don’t ignore any communication shared by NSCS, NSA: Modi to Mins

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told all Ministers and secretaries not to ignore background notes or other communication shared by National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and National Security Advisor (NSA), sources said on Sunday.

While framing any policy, there is a need to look at it from India’s strategic point of view, Modi said there were instances when notes from the national security council were not given due importance.

During a five-hour long meeting of the council of ministers held on Friday which was also attended by all secretaries in the Union government, Modi cited the case of the dependence on imported Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) used for manufacturing drugs, which was highlighted by the NSCS several years back, the sources said. Thereafter, on the instruction of Prime Minister, Deputy NSA Vikram Misri gave a presentation on NSCS to apprise ministers about the secretariat.

# ‘Fit India Freedom Run’ 3rd series launched, to continue till Oct 31

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The third edition of ‘Fit India Freedom Run’ was jointly launched by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here on Sunday on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

Started by the Modi Government during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the third edition of the ‘Fit India Freedom Run’ will go on until October 31.

Also present were former Health Minister Harshvardhan, Secretary Sports Sujata Chaturvedi, Director General, Sports Authority of India Shri Sandip Pradhan, Fit India ambassador Ripu Daman Bevil as well as other officials from the Sports Ministry and SAI along with a large number of participants.

Reiterating the Prime Minister’s ‘vision’, Rijiju said, “When Shri Narendra Modi launched the Fit India move-

ment in 2019, his vision was to make the entire nation fit. This movement over the years has now become such a massive success. Everyone is now interested to join the movement and the Fit India mobile app is also being downloaded with much enthusiasm every single day.”

Echoing his sentiments on the same lines, Thakur mentioned, “From Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to Amrit Kaal, we have to keep working towards Prime Minister’s vision of taking India to new heights and the way to reach the goal is to take our fitness to a new level.”

Urging for a record number of participants in this edition of the Freedom Run, Thakur added, “There is no better occasion than to start the third edition of this successful run on Gandhi Jayanti and culminate it on Ekta Divas — the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on Oct 31.”

# Closing date of e-auction of mementos gifted to Modi extended till Oct 12

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The closing date of an online auction of over 1,200 items, including models of the upcoming Ram temple in Ayodhya and sporting memorabilia of Commonwealth Games medallists, gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been extended to October 12.

The e-auction that began on September 17 was earlier scheduled to end on October 2. “The last date for the e-auction of PM’s gifts has been extended to October 12,” a Culture Ministry official said.

The ministry also tweeted to announce the extension of the last date.

“Feeling that you’ve missed out on the HYPERLINK https://mobile.twitter.com/hash tag/PMMementosAuction2022?srcl=hashtag\_click #PMMementosAuction2022? We are delighted to announce that the auction has been extended till 12th October, 2022. Visit HYPERLINK “http://mmentos.Gov.In” #mmentos.Gov.In now to participate #AmritMahotsav,” it tweeted.

# Love hormone healer of human heart: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Known for promoting social bonds and generating pleasurable feelings, for example from art or exercise, the love hormone, scientifically called Oxytocin, has been found to be a healer of the heart, too. The results are published in Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology.

For long the hormone is known for many other functions too, such as the regulation of lactation and uterine contractions in females, and the regulation of ejaculation, sperm transport, and testosterone production in males.

However, researchers from Michigan State University show that in zebrafish and human cell cultures, oxytocin can stimulate stem cells derived from the heart’s outer layer (epicardium) to migrate into its middle layer (myocardium) and there develop into cardiomyocytes, muscle cells that generate heart contractions. This discovery could one day

be used to promote the regeneration of the human heart after a heart attack.

“Here we show that oxytocin, a neuropeptide also known as the love hormone, is capable of activating heart repair mechanisms in injured hearts in zebrafish and human cell cultures, opening the door to potential new therapies for heart regeneration in humans,” said Dr Aitor Aguirre, an assistant professor at the Department of Biomedical Engineering of Michigan State University, and the study’s senior author.

Cardiomyocytes typically die off in great numbers after a heart attack. Because they are highly specialized cells, they can’t replenish themselves. But previous studies have shown that a subset of cells in the epicardium can undergo reprogramming to become stem-like cells, called Epicardium-derived Progenitor Cells (EpiPCs), which can regenerate not only cardiomyocytes but also other types of heart cells.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ministers Rajnath Singh, Piyush Goyal, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Opposition leaders Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Central Hall of Parliament on Sunday

# J&K cop martyred in terror attack ahead of Shah's visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the visit of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir starting Monday, unidentified terrorists opened indiscriminate firing on the security check post in which one local policeman made a supreme sacrifice while a jawan of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) received injuries in Pinglana area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Sunday.

At the time of the terror attack, a Deputy Superintendent of Police was also present in the area as he arrived there to carry out a routine inspection of the security check point. In another terror related incident, a joint team of security forces eliminated a local Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terrorist in Baskuchan area of Shopian. According to police, the killed LeT terrorist has been



identified as Naseer Ahmad Bhat of Nowpora Baskuchan, Shopian. As per police records, the killed terrorist was a categorized terrorist and involved in several terror crime cases.

According to a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police, "at about 3.00 pm terrorists fired upon a joint party of Police/CRPF in Pinglana area of Pulwama in which police personnel Javid Ahmad Dar attained martyrdom and a CRPF personnel got injured".

The fire came from a nearby street, police said. The injured CRPF jawan was currently undergoing treatment in the hospital while different police teams were on the

lookout for a terror suspect behind the attack.

In Jammu, DGP Dilbagh Singh told reporters, "in the last one week we have conducted four successful operations in which terrorists belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba were eliminated".

DGP Dilbagh Singh also claimed every time a VVIP is visiting Jammu and Kashmir an attempt is made by the Pakistan based terrorist handlers to send a signal 'all is not well' in the region.

Singh said it is evident the situation has changed drastically on the ground zero and we have hit the 'terror ecosystem'. Singh added, Pakistan is an enemy of development and lover of destruction.

They won't like people of Jammu and Kashmir to live in peace and heave a sigh of relief. Pakistan and its agencies are ensuring that the valley remains not in peace but in disturbance.

# Citing 'Intelligence Bureau' report, Kejriwal claims AAP set to form Govt in Gujarat

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister of Delhi, asserted on Sunday that a "Intelligence Bureau report" indicates that given the current traction and popularity of the party, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is likely to win elections and form the government in Gujarat. The AAP leader also asserted that the results show a narrow margin of victory, urging the people of Gujarat to give the party a "big push" in order to secure a comfortable majority in the state.

While addressing a press conference in Rajkot, Delhi's CM said, "According to sources, an IB report has come. It is written in the report that if elections are held today, then the Aam Aadmi Party will form the government in Gujarat."

In an attempt to garner support from the people of Gujarat, he further added, "Although it is written in the report that right now it is with



a thin margin. (We) are ahead with very few seats. The people of Gujarat will have to give a big push so that the (AAP) government is formed with a comfortable majority."

The AAP leader claimed that since the release of the "IB report," the BJP and Congress have teamed up and held private meetings.

According to him, the saffron party is "especially freaking out" about the report and is doing everything it can to strengthen Congress in order to split the anti-BJP vote.

"Congress has been given the responsibility to garner as many votes of AAP as possible," Kejriwal said.

"I want to tell the people of Gujarat - be cautious."

# Convenient to appropriate Babu's legacy but difficult to walk in his footsteps: Rahul

Just as Gandhiji fought the British Raj, we ... (have) embarked on a battle with ideology that killed Gandhiji, says ex-Cong chief

PTI ■ BADANAVALU (K'TAKA)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary and said while it is convenient for those in power to appropriate the legacy of the Father of the Nation, it is difficult to walk in his footsteps.

Rahul Gandhi, who visited a Khadi Gramodyoga Kendra here that Mahatma Gandhi had visited in 1927, said the ideology that killed the freedom fighter has delivered inequality and divisiveness in the last eight years.

In a statement, the former Congress chief said, "We remember and pay our respects to that great son of India. Our remembering is made more poignant by the fact that we are on the 25th day of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, a padyatra in which we are walking his path of ahimsa, unity, equality and justice."



"Just as Gandhiji fought the British Raj, we ... (have) embarked on a battle with the very ideology that killed Gandhiji. This ideology has delivered inequality, divisiveness and the erosion of our hard-won freedoms in the past eight years. Against this politics of himsa (violence) and 'asatya' (lies), the Bharat Jodo Yatra will spread the message of Ahimsa and Swaraj from Kanyakumari to Kashmir," he said.

Rahul Gandhi said the

Congress' yatra is the quiet and determined voice of the Indian people against the politics of fear, hatred and division.

"It might be convenient for those in power to appropriate Gandhiji's legacy, but it is much more difficult to walk in his footsteps," he said.

The Congress leader also participated in a prayer meeting and interacted with women weavers at the Khadi Gramodaya Kendra.

# Yogi reaches Kanpur to meet accident victims

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/KANPUR

cancelling his scheduled Balrampur visit, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday reached LLR (Hallet) Hospital in Kanpur Nagar to enquire about the well-being of those injured in the road mishap at Sadh in Ghatampur late Saturday evening.

The Chief Minister expressed his grief over the accident and gave instructions to the Health Department's officials and doctors for the necessary care for the injured.

Addressing the media, the Chief Minister said that he was here with Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana to express condolences to the families which lost their members in the accident.

Stating that the govern-



ment had run several awareness programmes from time to time to prevent such accidents, the chief minister also said that the president of India, the prime minister and the home minister had all expressed their grief over the tragic road mishap in which 26 persons were killed.

"Rs 2 lakh is being given to the kin of those who died in this accident and Rs 50,000 to the injured. After the last rites,

this sum will be given to the kin of the deceased," he said.

Yogi Adityanath further remarked: "I have given instructions to the officials of the Transport Department to see to it that tractors-trolleys and trucks, which are meant for transportation of goods and for agriculture purposes, are not used for public transport. We will also run an awareness campaign in this regard for the public."

The chief minister added that he had also directed the Home Department, Transport Department and all other departments on how to prevent road accidents.

"It is deeply saddening, and both the Central and state governments stand by the families who have lost their loved ones in this tragic accident. But

we must also raise awareness to prevent such accidents in future," he said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also visited Kortha village where he met the families of those who lost their kin in the accident and consoled them.

While comforting the family members, Yogi Adityanath assured them of providing all possible assistance to them.

The chief minister was accompanied by senior administration and police authorities.

On October 1, about 50 residents of Kortha village in Kanpur district visited Chandrika Devi temple in Fatehpur in a tractor-trolley. The accident happened when the tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond near Ghatampur on their way back.

# J&K Police identify mastermind behind Udhampur twin bus blasts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir police Sunday identified one of the key masterminds behind the twin bus blasts which rocked Udhampur on September 28/29 last week and also arrested one of the accused who was chiefly responsible for planting the IED's in both the buses at the behest of his handler currently operating from Pakistan.

Two civilians were injured in the blasts triggering panic in the area. Luckily, no other loss of life was reported as the buses were found empty when the blasts were triggered.

Addressing a joint press conference in Jammu in the



presence of Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh, Additional DGP Mukesh Singh told reporters, "like previous blast which took place in Udhampur in the month of March 2022, the foot prints of Pakistan based terrorist Mohammad Amin Bhat alias Khubaib, hailing from the Doda district, have been tracked down with the arrest of an accused terrorist Aslam Sheikh, resident of Basantgarh area of Ramnagar,

Udhampur district.

After the twin blasts, "4-5 suspects were picked up for questioning by the investigating teams of the Udhampur police". During the interrogation one Aslam Sheikh, confessed to his involvement behind the twin blasts. Singh told reporters, Aslam in his confession told interrogators he was acting at the behest of LeT terrorists Mohd Amin Bhat.

According to the records of the J&K police, "Mohammad Amin alias Khubaib, among others, had joined militancy in early 90s and crossed the border for arms training. He is presently operating from Pakistan and Pak-Occupied-Kashmir and is desperately attempting to revive

militancy in Doda region by instigating local youth of Doda district to join militancy for carrying out subversive activities.

Bhat, according to ADGP Mukesh Singh, contacted Aslam Sheikh via social media and informed him to pick his consignment of sticky bombs and IED's from Dyalachak area, close to the International border on September 21. The consignment was dropped by the drone sortie in the area. The same consignment was picked up by Aslam Sheikh on the intervening night of September 23-24. According to ADGP Mukesh Singh, "Aslam Sheikh received a fresh set of directions from Mohd Amin Bhat on September 27".

# Cash-starved Bengal Govt to borrow hugely to meet everyday expenses

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Starved of liquidity, the Mamata Banerjee Government is likely to borrow hugely in coming months to meet its daily expenses, sources in the Government say.

Though no senior bureaucrat or Minister would speak a word about the Government's plans to meet the rising expenditure on account of payments towards 100-days' work scheme, dearness allowance arrears and other schemes inside sources said there were plans to bor-



row about Rs 20,500 crore from the market in the closing months of this calendar year.

According to sources the government is likely to borrow Rs 4,500 crore in October. The amount would go up to Rs 7,000 crore in the month of November and then to Rs

9,000 crore in December. This could take the total loan to Rs 5 lakh 86,000 crore.

The State government had earmarked a total borrowing of Rs 73,268 crore for 2022-23. The previous Marxist government had left a total loan of Rs 1.72 lakh crore in their three decades of rule.

The Opposition BJP and Left have held the Chief Minister responsible for gradually leading Bengal towards a debt trap. "She has been running a Khela-Mela regime highlighted by dolls, grants and fairs to gain narrow political mileage ... in the process she has been pushing the

common man into debt trap," said CPI(M) central committee member Sujjan Chakrabarty.

The opposition BJP has shown how the Chief Minister had "mindlessly been spending money on unproductive schemes like a grant of Rs 60,000 each to 43,000 clubs organising Durga Puja across Bengal ... this has led to an unnecessary expenditure of Rs 252 crore."

"The Chief Minister was solely responsible for driving away the industry captain Tatas from Bengal ... after this no industry worth its salt has invested here in a big way

though she has spent crores on early basis in organising Bengal Global Business Summit a mega event to attract investment," said Samik Lahiri a former CPI(M) MP.

"While she has failed to comply with the High Court order to clear DA of the government employees ... while she has failed to clear the dues of the MNREGA workers ... she has been spending mindlessly in doles to gain votes ... but this cannot go on for ever ... she will have to face the consequence," BJP State president Dr Sukanta Majumdar said.

Even the CAG has

expressed concern over increasing gap between gross domestic state product and the total loan taken. While in 2018-19 the State loan was 35.68 percent of the GSDP in 2020-21 it has gone up to about 37.05 percent, the authorities have pointed out. The CAG has also showed how in 2020-21 the Government has spent 71.53 percent of its acquired loan for serving previous debts.

The TMC Government has repeatedly accused the Centre for the present financial crisis the State was in. The Chief Minister recently told in a public meeting how the

Centre had withheld about Rs 1 lakh crore that belonged to the State. She also alleged how the Centre was not clearing Rs 4,000 crore for the MNREGA scheme.

The Chief Minister in a recent letter written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi said how the Centre was blocking Bengal's legitimate grants. She wrote in May this year "You are aware that the wages for MGNREGA form an important part of livelihood of rural people and considering this importance, the Act mandates that the wages must be paid within fifteen days," adding the wage payment for

MNREGA in Bengal was due to the tune of Rs 6,500 crore ... i.e Rs 3,000 crore against the wage liabilities and Rs 3,500 crore against non-wage liabilities.

However, Bengal BJP leader Dilip Ghosh said that Centre had done the right thing by stopping the payment as most of the funds that were being sent to the state were being either diverted for political purposes or taken away by the TMC politicians. "The Centre has asked for accounts ... Till the State submits the papers how can the Centre clear the funds ... this is public money," he said.

# Mulayam critical, Akhilesh rushes to G'gram

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, along with his wife and son, rushed to Gurugram as party patriarch and his father Mulayam Singh Yadav has been shifted to the ICU ward of Gurugram's Medanta Hospital after deterioration of his health condition.

The 82-year-old veteran was earlier admitted to the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram after a serious health condition and his medical status is said to be critical at present.

Mulayam's brother and Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) chief Shivalp Singh Yadav is also in Gurugram to meet his ailing brother. Abhay Ram Yadav, younger brother of



Mulayam Singh Yadav and other family members in Saifai and Etawah have also rushed to Gurugram.

This is the second time when Mulayam Singh Yadav has been hospitalised at Gurugram's Medanta Hospital in the past three months. In July, he was admitted to the hospital following a routine check-up, reports had said.

Mulayam Singh Yadav is currently a serving Member of Parliament from Mainpuri constituency in Uttar Pradesh. He has served as the UP's chief

minister thrice -- 1989-1991, 1993-1995 and 2003-2007. He also held the post of Union defence minister from 1996 to 1998.

Recently, Akhilesh Yadav was elected as SP president for the third term. Yadav Junior (49), who in his fresh term will lead the party in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the 2027 Uttar Pradesh elections, has said that his father and SP founder always wanted SP to become a national party.

"We struggled for it and tried a lot. On this day, when you are giving me another term of five years, we should all take a pledge that the next time we meet the SP becomes a national party," Akhilesh said at the party's national convention.

# Bapu's ideals laid foundation for self-reliant India: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, saying "Mahatma Gandhi's ideals laid the foundation for a 'self-reliant' India. Bapu's call for Swadeshi, Swachhata and Gram Swaraj are the basis of the vision of attaining self-reliance".

The Chief Minister also fondly remembered India's second Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, whose birth anniversary also falls on October 2, noting that he is admired across the country for his simplicity and decisiveness.

On the occasion, the chief



minister paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi by offering a garland on the Gandhi statue located at the GPO Park in the state capital. He also later visited Gandhi Ashram and Shastri Bhawan, memorials to Gandhi and Shastri, respectively, to pay tributes to them along with Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, and Swatantra Dev Singh, among others.

The chief minister, while remembering Gandhi, said, "Bapu's teachings act as a guide for the new, free and independent India. Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi since 2014 has worked assiduously to push the country towards self-reliance. Uplift of the poor through Jan Dhan accounts, Swachh Bharat Mission and safeguarding the dignity of women were among the first steps of the Modi government."

In his address, the chief minister said that when the whole world was grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, the prime minister gave the mantra of a self-reliant India and promoted 'vocal for local'. He said the

double-engine government was working religiously for Gram Swaraj and self-reliance through the promotion of local goods such as Khadi.

Maintaining that his government was working for a self-reliant Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister said that schemes like One District One Product (ODOP) and Vishwakarma Shram Samman were encouraging local and traditional crafts and strengthening the rural economy. He said the government was also providing tool kits and financial assistance to support artisans and craftsmen.

"In the last five years, UP encouraged local products, and resultantly the exports

have doubled. With this, we are leading lakhs of people towards self-reliance," he added.

Furthermore, paying tributes to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, the chief minister said that Shastri established India as a powerful country in the world with the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'.

Yogi Adityanath said that for the next three months from Gandhi Jayanti, the state and Central government had decided to give special discounts on Khadi products. On the occasion, ministers of the government including the chief minister also bought clothes from the Gandhi Ashram.

# With drained battery & no fuel, India's Mars Orbiter craft quietly bids adieu

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India's Mars Orbiter craft has run out of propellant and its battery drained beyond the safe limit, fuelling speculation that the country's maiden interplanetary mission 'Mangalyaan' may have finally completed its long innings.

The Rs 450 crore Mars Orbiter Mission was launched onboard PSLV-C25 on November 5, 2013, and the MOM spacecraft was successfully inserted into Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 in its first attempt.

"Right now, there is no fuel

left. The satellite battery has drained," sources in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) told PTI. "The link has been lost".

There was, however, no official word from the country's national space agency, headquartered here.

With fuel on board, ISRO had been performing orbital manoeuvres on MOM spacecraft to take it to a new orbit to avoid an impending eclipse in the past.

But recently there were back-to-back eclipses including one that lasted seven-and-half hours," officials said on condi-



tion of anonymity, noting that all the propellant on board the ageing satellite had been consumed.

"As the satellite battery is designed to handle eclipse

duration of only about one hour and 40 minutes, a longer eclipse would drain the battery beyond the safe limit," another official said.

ISRO officials noted that the Mars orbiter craft functioned for almost eight years, well beyond its designed mission life of six months.

"It has done its job and yielded significant scientific results," they said.

The objectives of the mission were primarily technological and included design, realisation and launch of a Mars Orbiter spacecraft capable of operating with sufficient

autonomy during the journey phase; Mars orbit insertion/capture and in-orbit phase around Mars.

The MOM -- a technology demonstration venture -- carried five scientific payloads (total 15 kg) collecting data on surface geology, morphology, atmospheric processes, surface temperature and atmospheric escape process.

The five instruments are: Mars Color Camera (MCC), Thermal Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (TIS), Methane Sensor for Mars (MSM), Mars Exospheric Neutral Composition Analyser

(MENCA) and Lyman Alpha Photometer (LAP).

"MOM is credited with many laurels like cost-effectiveness, short period of realisation, economical mass-budget, and miniaturisation of five heterogeneous science payloads", ISRO officials pointed out.

Highly elliptical orbit geometry of MOM enabled MCC to take snap shots of 'Full disc' of Mars at its farthest point and finer details from closest point.

The MCC has produced more than 1000 images and published a Mars Atlas.

Meanwhile, plans on a follow-on 'Mangalyaan' mission to the red planet, however, are yet to be formed up.

ISRO came out with an 'Announcement of Opportunity' (AO) for future Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM-2) in 2016 but officials acknowledged that it's still on the drawing board, with the coming 'Gaganyaan', 'Chandrayaan-3' and 'Aditya-L1' projects being in the space agency's current priority list.

The AO had said: "It is now planned to have the next orbiter mission around Mars for a future launch opportuni-

ty. Proposals are solicited from interested scientists within India for experiments onboard an orbiter mission around Mars (MOM-2), to address relevant scientific problems and topics."

"Not in the approved list as of now", a senior ISRO official told PTI on being asked about an update on the MOM-2.

"We need to formulate the project proposals and payloads based on the wider consultation with the research community," the official said. "It's still on the drawing board. But needs some more details and international collaboration for finalising the mission."



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Loose talk

Kejriwal says that an 'Intelligence Bureau report' foresees his victory in Gujarat Assembly poll

If a political party frequently makes 'explosive' claims, over a period of time people get inured to its statements—especially when the claims seldom correspond with the objective reality. So, if Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) boss Arvind Kejriwal thought that he would set the Yamuna on fire with a statement, based on an "Intelligence Bureau report," he may be in for an unpleasant surprise. This report, Kejriwal claimed, says that his party will win the Gujarat Assembly elections if these are held today. Apparently, he did not explain the small matter of how he got hold of the IB report. After all, the IB is an intelligence agency, not a ministry or department which posts its documents on its website. The casualness with which Kejriwal mentions an IB report to score political points is disconcerting; it is unbecoming for an incumbent Chief Minister to have disclosed the findings of an intelligence report (if he really saw it). A few weeks ago, while slamming Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the alleged Operation Lotus, he had said the Centre's recent action against Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had increased the AAP's vote share in Gujarat by 4 per cent. And, for good measure, this increase would rise to 6 per cent if Sisodia was arrested. Nobody knows from where Kejriwal got these numbers—some pollster carrying out a survey, his own party doing it—but he said it nonetheless. The media too reported it faithfully.



Such loose talk doesn't cover Kejriwal in glory, but it has been quite useful for him and his party. Before coming to power in Delhi, he flooded the political arena in the national capital with all manner of accusations against Congress leaders (as the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance was in power) and some big industrialists. Former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit, who died in 2019, was a favourite target. He pledged to throw all corrupt people behind bars if elected. He did get elected, but did nothing against those whom he had called corrupt. It's true that the Delhi Police is not under him, but he didn't even initiate any serious investigation or prosecution against the corrupt. If a private citizen Subramanian Swamy can get powerful people prosecuted and even jailed, why couldn't Kejriwal? Unfortunately, Kejriwal is not the only politician who has acquired the habit of hurling wild allegations against the people he doesn't like; Bharatiya Janata Party leaders have also said nasty things about Robert Vadra, without taking action against him if he did anything wrong. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said all kinds of things about Lalu Prasad Yadav in the past, though now they are allies. At the heart of the issue is politicians' belief that they will not be held accountable for their statements, so they say anything that suits their political purpose. But they must realize that there is something called the law of diminishing returns.

### PICTALK

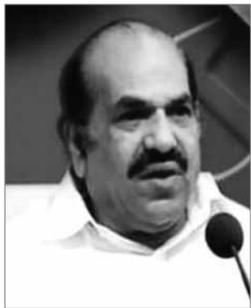


Devotees pull 'Swarna Ratham' during 'Navaratri Brahmotsavam' celebrations, at Tirumala in Tirupati district

## Adieu comrade kodiyeeri

Unlike his fellow partymen Kodiyeeri Balakrishnan was civil, his death leaves a void in state politics of Kerala

A Communist and a Gentleman are two mismatched terms. To be precise, it is an oxymoron description. But Kodiyeeri Balakrishnan, CPI(M) leader and former home minister of Kerala who breathed his last on Saturday night stood out as an exception to this usage. Starting as an ordinary activist of the Kerala Students Federation (the predecessor to the Students Federation of India), Balakrishnan rose through the ranks with his organizational skills and leadership qualities to become the home minister of the State and then the party's Kerala secretary. Kodiyeeri, an innocuous village in the Kannur district figured in the national political landscape only because of Balakrishnan. For an average Keralite, whether he is the camp follower of the Congress or BJP or the Muslim League, Kodiyeeri meant Balakrishnan and vice versa. Balakrishnan, who was the home and tourism minister during the tenure of V S Achuthanandan as chief minister (2006-2011) is the only politician in the State to come out of that office without a blemish.



While Communists, especially the Marxists in Kerala and elsewhere are strangers to civility and dignity, Balakrishnan, a hardcore Marxist, remained a pleasing personality. There were no instances in his career when he reportedly lost his cool and temper. He was dear to the public because he spoke their language and the Keralites saw in him a mirror image of themselves. Upcoming politicians should take a cue from Balakrishnan who rose from humble beginnings and became a member of the CPI(M)'s Polit bureau, the apex national body of the Marxists. Balakrishnan steered the CPI(M) for six years as its secretary. No other past secretaries had commanded the kind of popularity he had enjoyed among the masses cutting across party lines. The recent Party Congress (the triennial conclave of the CPI(M)) held at Kannur was a standing monument of his leadership qualities. At a time when people were skeptical about the move to hold such a massive event amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, Balakrishnan who was in semi-retirement due to illness, staged a comeback to make the event a grand success. The only blot on his five decades-long public life was caused by his two sons who faced charges ranging from narcotics trade and money laundering. But Balakrishnan was bold enough to declare that they themselves would face the charges while neither he nor the party had any role in it. Kodiyeeri Balakrishnan was a Communist and a Gentleman.

# Rights and duties are interrelated

Though fundamental duties are not enforceable constitutionally, they are as vital as fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution.



J.L. KOUL JALALI

President of India Droupadi Murmu in her address to the nation on Independence Day eve said that the keyword for India today is compassion; for the downtrodden, for the needy, and those on the margins. Stating that some of our national values have been incorporated in our Constitution as the fundamental duties of the citizen, she appealed to every citizen to know about their fundamental duties and follow them in letter and spirit so that our nation reaches new heights. After independence in 1947, India has made tremendous progress in various spheres of activity more so in economic development. But despite welfare measures, the distribution aspect of this development has not percolated down properly to lower sections of society. After the political change that occurred in the country following the general elections in 2014, this aspect of development too has been taken care of more vigorously and the poverty line brought down but still much needs to be done to eliminate the evil of poverty. The President appealed to every citizen to know about their fundamental duties and follow them in letter and spirit. It is a common observation that in India a vast dichotomy exists between rights and duties.



While we are keen on our rights we talk very rarely about our duties as citizens of free India. There is hardly any realisation that our fundamental rights entail responsibilities and fundamental duties. We also appear to be generally not aware of the dictum that a person's rights start from where others' rights end. In his 'Man Ki Baat' program from Akashvani on 29.1.20017, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi spoke about rights and duties and the need to bridge the gulf between the two in our country. The concept of duties has not been new to India as these have been a part of our traditions in various spheres of human activity from times immemorial. A long spell of foreign rule for over a millennium in our coun-

try had distorted our sense of rights and duties, drained us of most of our rich values, and left us bereft of any positive inculcation of the spirit of duties and responsibilities. Even the concept of Dharma assiduously evolved in Hinduism had got much distorted. The cumulative effect of this long foreign subjugation had been that despite our unique spiritual heritage we had turned into self-oriented individuals out to further our interests at any cost. Even our value of the correlation of means and ends had got mauled.

Framers of the Constitution of free India were conscious of it when they finalised the Constitution of India. It guaranteed various fundamental rights to every citizen of India which are enumerated and defined in part III of the Constitution. These are enforceable by courts and broadly include the right to equality, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and expression, right against exploitation, cultural and educational rights, and right to constitutional remedies. In section IV, the Constitution has also laid down directive principles enunciating fundamental obligations of the State to its citizens. Though not enforceable by courts, these

TIME HAS COME WHEN PEOPLE OF INDIA WILL HAVE TO BRIDGE THIS WIDE GULF BETWEEN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES VIGOROUSLY

aim at making India a progressive and developed nation and welfare State. Apart from these fundamental rights and directive principles, the fundamental duties of the citizens of the country were incorporated into the Constitution of the country through the forty-second amendment to it in 1976. Like directive principles, these too are not enforceable by courts but constitute moral obligations of the citizens of the country.

These include respect for our Constitution, the pursuit of noble ideals laid down by our national struggle for independence, work for protecting our sovereignty, promotion of harmony and spirit of common brotherhood among all people transcending religious, linguistic and regional, and sectional diversities, valuing and preserving our rich cultural heritage and protecting environment, safeguarding public property and abjuring violence, developing scientific temper, humanism, the spirit of inquiry and reform and striving for excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity. The time has come when the people of India will have to bridge this wide gulf between our constitutional rights and duties. To examine lending legal support to the gigantic task, in

February this year the Supreme Court asked Centre and State governments as to how they intend to sensitise citizens on the importance of knowing their fundamental duties enshrined in our constitution. It also agreed to examine a PIL seeking that moral obligations of duties be converted into legal commitment by enacting a law.

After decades and for many years now India has a working, stable central government poised yet again for faster socio-economic growth in a more corruption-free atmosphere. With this background as already pointed out by this writer in his article on "Rights and Duties" published on 24.2.2017 and with vast technological and other resources at their command, the government and people of India have to carry out this sustainable campaign with the same missionary spirit with which our leaders carried out successfully the freedom struggle. This has also to be done with the same zeal with which Ashoka erected his famous edicts in far-flung areas of his vast empire over two thousand years ago to instill discipline, a sense of duty, and moral values in the people.

The author a former IIS officer and producer. The views expressed are personal.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### CONGRESS BASHING UNCALLED FOR

Sir — All the Congress bashing due to its elections to the president of the party is uncalled for. I have never heard of a contest for the position in any party so far. The BJP which prides itself on its democratic traditions may have had different presidents through the years. But why has there never been another contender for the post? The fact is a few men at the top decide who the president should be and nobody dares to dissent. Congress is the oldest party and ideally should have started the trend of having a contest for the president of the party. No party is going to take the challenge of having dissenters to the party diktat. Therefore to single out Congress for not having inner party democracy is not quite right.

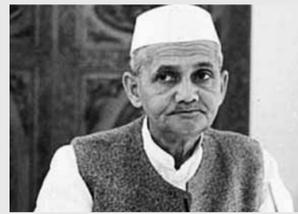
Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

#### AN ERA ENDS WITH KODIYERI

Sir — It was with deep sorrow that we learned the sad news of the demise of CPI(M) veteran Kodiyeeri Balakrishna, one of the tallest leaders of the CPI(M) and Kerala politics, an astute politician, who could combine organizational acumen and a rare ability to make friends across the political spectrum and ideological divides he was widely known for his organisational caliber and Parliamentary expertise. His career graph is a manifestation of his vital role in Kerala politics, he had a deep and clear understanding of the issues of the day, and his contribution during his four-decade-long political career will always be remembered for a long time to come. When he was the home minister of Kerala, his role as a mediator to hold all factions of CPM together was praiseworthy. Many of his colleagues in party viewed him as a possible successor to the present chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

He fought his cruel illness with an indomitable spirit till the end, his passing is all the tragic as he was still young at 69, but his leaving us at this crucial junction is all the more tragic, when he had so much

#### Remembering Shastriji on his B'day



While the nation celebrates Gandhi Jayanthi on October 2 every year, few remember that the day is also the birthday of Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's second Prime Minister, who played an important role in shaping a new India. He commanded a lot of respect from his peers and is remembered

for his great mind and extraordinary willpower. Shastri coined the popular slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' which still resonates in the heart of every Indian. Shastri never misused the power of the office. For his personal use when he bought a Fiat worth Rs12000. Shastri had only Rs. 7,000 in his bank account. He took a loan from the bank for the balance amount and purchased the car. Even today the vehicle is kept at the Shastri Memorial in New Delhi. Lal Bahadur Shastri was deeply influenced by the political teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. "Hard work is equal to prayer", he once said, in accents profoundly reminiscent of his master. In the direct tradition of Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri represented the best in Indian culture.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

to contribute to the political arena, he was a person who had friends and admirers across political spectrum demise of the late leader is an irreparable loss to the politics of Kerala and CPM which leaves a lasting impression in Kerala politics.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bangalore

#### BAN ALL HATE MONGERS

Sir — The Centre has banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its eight frontal organizations over charges that includes terrorism, terror funding, Militancy, and Radicalisation of "a particular section of society. Despite its claim of working for the poor and the needy, the PFI had been for radicalism. It attained notoriety after its gracious attack on a professor in Kerala for allegedly inflammatory remarks on the Prophet. The ban on the PFI is justified but what about other organizations who are disturbing peace and Harmony in our country?

Then the Government should also ban the organizations who did numerous attacks in our country. The organizations that did

blasts in the samjhautha Express, the organizations that killed more than 2000 Muslims in the Godhra riots, the bombings in Malegaon, the attacks in Ajmer dargah and Macca Masjid should also be banned.

Lalu Prasad rightly said RSS should also be banned as it is more dangerous than PFI. He rightly asserted that all communal organizations needed to be banned and that probes and actions should be taken if any evidence is found against them.

It is a clear fact that Muslims in our country do not support any organization that in the name of service to Muslims and kills innocent people. They do not want an organization that believes in violence and takes recourse to religious slogans at the drop of a hat. So the crackdown on outfits inciting hatred and violence should not be confined to one community. Banning should be done to all organizations who are spoiling the peace and Harmony in our country

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

### SOUNDBITE

We are one of those few countries which have a wide range of defence options before us.

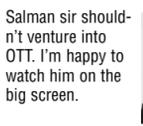


External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar



We had to take urgent action (tax cuts) to get our economy growing, get Britain moving.

UK Prime Minister —Liz Truss



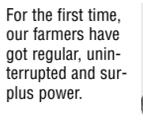
Salman sir shouldn't venture into OTT. I'm happy to watch him on the big screen.

Actor —Varun Dhawan



Don't think India have a replacement for Bumrah. A vital cog, he'll be sorely missed.

India ex-batter — Wasim Jaffer



For the first time, our farmers have got regular, uninterrupted and surplus power.

Punjab Chief Minister —Bhagwant Mann

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

INDIAN ECONOMY RISES AS PHOENIX TO FLY HIGH

After going past UK, it should improve HDI ranking



KG SOFI **DINESH** & UTTAM **CHAKRABORTY**

Phenomenal march of India to become the fifth largest economy in the world after going past its colonial master the UK when the country is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is worth appreciating. Many economic accolades have revisited India. However, India has invited fresh challenges like high inflation rate, huge income disparity, unemployment and excessive taxation, which are likely to be difficult to tackle in the days to come.

Going past the colonial master, the UK, to become the fifth largest economy in the world is definitely not an easy feat for India. During the period ending March 2022, India's GDP stood at \$854.7 billion as compared to the UK at \$816 billion. This is just a speck of other achievements that India managed to garner during this period. India's weightage in the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) rose to the second spot, just behind China. It has spread its exports to penetrate new markets, earlier monopolized by China.

Export orders have seen an uptick from both the US and Europe, especially for products from labour intensive sectors such as handicrafts, apparels, and non-electronic consumer goods. Economic projections from the World Economic Forum and management consulting firm Kearney point towards India owning the world's largest labour force with a probable contribution of more than \$500 billion to the global economy.

This rising tide of global impact in terms of economic growth can be sustained and multiplied by India if the economic benefits percolate deep down to touch the lives of the common man. Moreover, this is a subject which has been debated since India's independence also. A more humane and holistic society governance can do wonders to keep the momentum of the current trend of GDP and economic development in full swing.



It would be wise to ponder on this fact in the light of the United Nations Human Development Index for 2020-21. This report projects that India has moved down in its global rankings in Human Development Index (HDI) values from 130 to 132 in 2021. Also, in terms of the per capita income report of 2021, India was ranked 145th compared to the UK at the 22nd rank, which essentially translates to the fact that the average income of an Indian continues to remain low compared to the average income of a UK citizen.

It is required to contemplate whether India surpassing the UK as the fifth largest economy in the world also translates into higher productivity of an average Indian compared to a UK citizen. If the answer is negative, then India should look into ways and means to enhance the productivity and per capita income of an average Indian to become the biggest economy in the world, which we can easily achieve with the current governance.

When we critically encounter issues like high inflation rate, huge income disparity, unemployment and huge taxation, these need to be dealt carefully. India can be able to pull its economically weaker citizens from poverty by ensuring that policies and benefits reach them. Only through sustained poverty alleviation programmes and policies directed at benefitting the common man economically, India can sustain its economic bull run for over a period of time.

Yes, the phoenix is rising after a long slumber of ages, and this rise could be the dawn of India's march into its lost glory if supported by an equally economically strong common man who is, after all, the pillar on which this phoenix will finally rest on.

(Sofi and Chakraborty teach at Bharathidasan Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli)

Sabarmati, Yamuna: Tale of two rivers



SUMEET **BHASIN**

The Sabarmati Riverfront is a story still unfolding that matches only with Singapore, while Yamuna in Delhi remains dead

Until 2005, washer men held forth on the banks of Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad, washing and drying clothes of the big city, while slums dotted its floodplains, with garbage sprawling around to present a nauseating look to the visitors to Gujarat's capital. The people covered their noses as they passed by the riverbanks of Sabarmati. The river was as dead in the city, as is Yamuna in the national capital. People in Ahmedabad faced long traffic jams, as the roads were clogged, because of massive encroachments of the floodplains and the adjoining public land. The scene filled one with despondency.

But by that time Narendra Modi had already chalked out the plan for the development of the Sabarmati Riverfront. The project would cost a total of Rs 1200 crores. The project would be a city level intervention, conceived and implemented as a pioneering multi-benefit project, with significant urban transformation potential to transform the historic, but neglected river Sabarmati into a vibrant urban space.

The vital focus was to return the river back to the citizens of Ahmedabad, and in the process also ensure that the city gains a major asset, which will improve the efficiency of its infrastructure and the quality of life. The aims also envisaged revitalizing the river, which in fact was carrying significant sewage flow and used as a dumping yard for disposal of garbage.

The project ensured that it would be financially self-sustainable, while entailing environmental improvement, along with cultural and social sustainability to transform the non-perennial river for better.

Now that Gujarat is hosting the 36th National Games at a short notice, the Paldi Sports Complex at the Sabarmati Riverfront is one of the sporting venues for the big sporting event. This turnaround is at a scale seen in Singapore only. The East Asian city-state is a major tourism destination. The city planner has aligned Singapore in such a way that a tourist would always see something new, thus finding something novel and innovative, which leaves the tourists with impressions that they should again come. This has been the model of Singapore for several decades. The city administrator will develop an amusement park and other attractions.

The Sabarmati Riverfront is on the same pattern. The visitors will always find that there is something new in line with the spirit of a lively city. This has been reflected in the development of green cover and Miyawaki plantation of 14.30 hectare of land on the banks of the Sabarmati River, which has seen over 23000 tree plantations in four public parks with a total area of 12.45 hectare, besides a biodiversity park of eight hectares.



DELHI CM HAD CLAIMED THAT HE WOULD REDUCE POLLUTION IN YAMUNA BY 90 PER CENT BY 2023. WE ARE JUST TWO MONTHS AWAY FROM KNOCKING THE DEADLINE, AND THE YAMUNA IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL IS EXHALING FOAMS OF CHEMICALS

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)



Last month, over 100 Mayors and Deputy Mayors came visiting the Sabarmati Riverfront, and they were awed with the scale of development at the place. The urban administrations would be the next engine of the growth of the nation, and the mayors have to lead their corporations with innovative solutions to the challenges faced by the cities in the country. The leaders of the local bodies were thrilled as they walked on the Atal Bridge, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 27 this year. The bridge is now a major tourist attraction, and the people make a beeline to buy tickets to spend half an hour on the iconic place. This has not only boosted the tourism potential of Ahmedabad and Gujarat, but is also filling the coffers of the local municipal corporation to take up further development works, which would again scale up the attractions of the Sabarmati Riverfront.

This is not the end of the story, for it's just the beginning, as the next phases of development of the Sabarmati Riverfront would give new wings to the lives of the people in Ahmedabad. The masterplan for 'Riverfront Phase 2' will encourage development that is in harmony with nature, with a combination of high, medium and low density zones, carefully planned amidst green and open spaces, besides the masterplan also proposing an efficient and integrated mobility network. But it must be noted that the overall development will be sensitive, sustainable and will aim to pro-

mote wellness and mindfulness of the city-dwellers.

In the next five years, when people would visit Ahmedabad and the Sabarmati Riverfront, they may see a Singapore rising there with a similar or grander energy of the people, driving the economy of the city and Gujarat to greater heights, while at the same time being in full harmony with nature, sticking firmly to sustainability and setting the example for urban renewal and development worth replication across the country.

Cities in India for ages have developed on the riversides. The developments of riverbanks will only ensure the renewal of the cities. There should be no second opinion about this aspect. This explains why Delhi is regressing. The city is dying. The people are depressed. The population of Delhi, in place of taking pride in living in the national capital, finds themselves stuck in matchboxes, struggling to breathe and walk.

In Delhi, the people can neither breathe nor walk, and they each year spend more and more money on their health expenses. Yamuna gave life to Delhi, and the river is now reduced to gutters. The ruling politicians in the national capital have fooled the people with promises of reviving the Yamuna River to only fatten their purses with the looted money. The people are now resigned to their fate that there could be no progress for better in their lives.

First, Sheila Dikshit, chief minister of Delhi from 2003 to

2015, sold false promises of cleaning Yamuna. She was succeeded by Arvind Kejriwal who has filled the people with so much skepticism that no one is now hoping that they would ever walk on the banks of Yamuna in the evenings as they do on the Sabarmati Riverfront. In 2015, Kejriwal sold the dream to the people in Delhi that he would transform Yamuna into the Thames River of London. In 2020, he presented a 10-point guarantee card in the Delhi Assembly that Yamuna would not only be cleaned but one could even start swimming in the waters!

Delhi Chief Minister had also claimed that he would reduce pollution in Yamuna by 90 per cent by 2023. We are just two months away from knocking the deadline, and the Yamuna in the national capital is exhaling foams of chemicals. The Centre also made available the funds to the extent of Rs 2419 crores. But there was no will on the part of the city government. To make a change in the lives of the people, the city administrators need vision, but the Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party believes in making quick gains by the politics of freebies. Thus, Yamuna remains dead in Delhi, while Sabarmati flows in Ahmedabad with all the youthful energy.

Now that Delhi is approaching another winter, the people may be condemned to inhale the toxic air, for there is no sink to absorb the carbon and the pollution. The Yamuna Riverfront could have taken shape if there was a vision and will to change the lives of the people for the better.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IT'LL BE A GOOD THING TO HAVE MORE PEOPLE IN THE FRAME. THE MORE CANDIDATES (FOR CONGRESS CHIEF'S POST), THE BETTER.

—CONGRESS LEADER SHASHI THAROOR



I TOLD HIM (KHARGE) THAT I STAND BY HIM AND CAN'T EVEN THINK OF CONTESTING AGAINST HIM. I WILL BE HIS PROPOSER.

—CONGRESS LEADER DIGVIJAYA SINGH

The Great Indian identity chase for KYC updates

Aadhar occupies place of eminence in KYC update documents, but its anomalies give citizens a harrowing experience

There is only one thing that is more dangerous than doing something without fully knowing its implication. And that one thing is doing something without knowing fully the implications and yet defending it. In the second case, the danger is of half-baked competencies at work.

The job gets done, because with the apparatus and systems, all the superficial skills are there, and the implementation of the decision becomes a logical flow. In the chain reaction that is triggered, the doer himself knew only the techniques and operated it without understanding the full implications of the action. The others in the team only did their bit to keep it going. Yet, as an upshot, undesirable results emerged. This



VINAYSHIL **GAUTAM**

(The author is a member of advisory committee of Ministry of Shipping)

happens very often in governance and in certain related domains. Any action should be undertaken only when the complete implications of that action are understood, to the extent possible.

When the Aadhar card was introduced into the system more than a decade ago, it was portrayed as a harmless and welcome intervention in the process of establishing identity. Gradually, the instrument grew larger and larger in its significance. It grew from being innocuous to becoming essential in many ways and acts. Gradually, not only did governmental circles and quasi-independent institutions start using it, but the interloper in the form of the private sector too appeared. In a distant way, Aadhar tended to become the

equivalent of a social security identity in certain countries. Matters reached a head where the courts had to intervene.

The rollercoaster ride of reference to and use of Aadhar was stymied. That may be another story. Closer to the narrative is the fact that, throughout, Aadhar found a critical pride of place in many situations, including KYC (Know Your Customer) efforts. Slowly, there was an attempt to sanitise various systems with KYC. Nothing wrong with that either. The problem, however, was elsewhere. KYC became a double-edged sword. The enterprising individuals reportedly found ways of having more than one Aadhar card. Predictably, this was both identified and tracked. The problem was contained. However, some



thought that some damage had been done. The magic of the instrument of the Aadhar card started to receive a shadow on the side.

However, along with the PAN card, 'establishment of identity' became a common requirement. And, as it happens often in the case of overkill, in certain cases, the claims of Aadhar and PAN cards as identity symbols still needed to be supplemented.

Here, the Voters cards surfaced. In some cases, even the Passport document was dug out from its usual recalcitrant position in domestic matters, and occupied the pride of place in identity documents.

Put simply, institutions such as the DGCA took a fancy to the Passport as an identity proof. So the citizen, with all his humility, was on the road to collecting identities: Aadhar, PAN, Passport, Voter cards, et al. The list continues to grow. Some agencies wanted the electricity bill as proof of identity and residence. Others wanted the Municipal Corporation Tax Receipt, and so the search for identity items grew larger, as the choices widened.

In fact, as the wise crack once said "there is nothing wrong with anything if you are

not affected". Like the story of Betal, the identity story of documents and evidence almost never ends. There were spelling errors in names and cases of mixed up identities of lanes with common house numbers. One could have the right block and number, but say the name South City in a town could become the 'Water Colony' of the same town. The error was innocent and unintended, but the citizen had to pay the price. He had to work very hard to get the system to get it right.

He was supposed to first identify the error and then track it to where it originated in the system. These efforts were stressful and none of them could be set right at one place. A number of people refused to help to sort it out, because they did not want to be 'dragged in'.

Nevertheless, the system continued to chug along relentlessly. This kind of being 'protective' to the system needs a thorough review. It cannot be anybody's case that the ineligible should be pandered to. But equally it should not be anybody's case that harassment, endless at that, must be supported in the name of 'protecting' the system. There are many dangers which start surfacing when this happens.

Of them, the biggest is the impunity with which the non-descript misuses the confusing elements in a system to get 'away with the booty'. He would be pretending to be the aggrieved party, while he was actually exploiting the system. Few things are sadder than legitimate cases being lost because of the convolutions in the system.

# Ukraine presses on with counteroffensive; Russia uses drones

AP ■ KYIV

Russia attacked the Ukrainian president's hometown and other targets on Sunday with suicide drones, and Ukraine took back full control of a strategic eastern city in a counteroffensive that has reshaped the war.

Russia's loss of the eastern city of Lyman, which it had been using as a transport and logistics hub, is a new blow to the Kremlin as it seeks to escalate the war by illegally annexing four regions of Ukraine and heightening threats to use nuclear force.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's land grab has threatened to push the conflict to a dangerous new level.

It also prompted Ukraine to formally apply for NATO membership, a bid that won backing on Sunday from nine central and eastern European NATO members fearful that Russia's aggression could eventually target them, too.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced Sunday that his forces now control Lyman. "As of 12.30 pm (0930 GMT) Lyman is cleared fully. Thank you to our militaries, our warriors," he said in a video address.

Russia's military didn't comment on the situation in Lyman on Sunday, after



announcing Saturday that it was withdrawing its forces there to more favorable positions. The British military described the recapture of Lyman as a "significant political setback" for Moscow. Taking the city paves the way for Ukrainian troops to potentially push farther into Russian-occupied territory.

In southern Ukraine, Zelenskyy's hometown of Kriviy Rih came under Russian attack by a suicide drone that destroyed two stories of a school early on Sunday, said

Valentyn Reznichenko, governor of Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region.

Russia in recent weeks has begun using Iranian-made suicide drones to attack targets in Ukraine.

In southern Ukraine, the Ukrainian air force shot down five Iranian-made drones overnight, while two others made it through air defences.

A car carrying four men who wanted to forage for mushrooms in a forest in Ukraine's Chernihiv region struck a mine, exploding the

vehicle and killing all those inside, local authorities said on Sunday.

Russian attacks also targeted the city of Zaporizhzhia, Ukrainian authorities said on Sunday. Ukraine's military carried out strikes on multiple Russian command posts, ammunition depots and two S-300 anti-aircraft batteries.

The reports of military activity couldn't be immediately verified.

Ukrainian forces have retaken swaths of territory, notably in the northeast around

Kharkiv, in a counteroffensive in recent weeks that has embarrassed the Kremlin and prompted rare domestic criticism of Putin's war.

Lyman, which Ukraine recaptured by encircling Russian troops, is in the Donetsk region near the border with Luhansk, two of the four regions that Russia illegally annexed on Friday after forcing what was left of the population to vote in referendums at gunpoint.

In his nightly address Saturday, Zelenskyy said: "Over

the past week, there have been more Ukrainian flags in the Donbas. In a week there will be even more."

In a daily intelligence briefing, the British Defence Ministry called Lyman crucial because it has "a key road crossing over the Sivversky Donets River, behind which Russia has been attempting to consolidate its defences."

The Russian retreat from northeast Ukraine in recent weeks has revealed evidence of widespread, routine torture of both civilians and soldiers, notably in the strategic city of Iziom, an Associated Press investigation has found.

AP journalists located 10 torture sites in the town, including a deep pit in a residential compound, a clammy underground jail that reeked of urine, a medical clinic and a kindergarten. Russian officials release limited information about military activity in what the Kremlin still refuses to call a war.

They routinely claim that Russia exclusively targets Ukrainian military forces, the foreigners supporting them or Western-supplied weaponry.

Putin frames the Ukrainian gains as a US-orchestrated effort to destroy Russia, and last week he heightened threats of nuclear force in some of his toughest, most anti-Western rhetoric to date.

## Germany, Denmark, Norway to deliver 16 Howitzers to Ukraine



AP ■ BERLIN

German Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht on Sunday announced the delivery of 16 wheeled armoured howitzers produced in Slovakia to Ukraine next year.

The Zuzana systems would be produced in Slovakia and financed jointly with Denmark, Norway and Germany, the German minister told public broadcaster ARD after returning from her first trip to

Ukraine since the start of the war there.

The Zuzana howitzer is the flagship product of the Slovak defence industry and the only heavy weapon system produced in the country, dpa reported. According to the manufacturer, it can fire all types of NATO 155 millimeter caliber ammunition.

The German ministry put the total value of the procurement at 92 million euros (\$90 million), with the three countries financing it equally.

# 10 torture sites in 1 town: Russia sowed pain, fear in Iziom

AP ■ IZIUM

The first time the Russian soldiers caught him, they tossed him bound and blindfolded into a trench covered with wooden boards for days on end.

Then they beat him, over and over: Legs, arms, a hammer to the knees, all accompanied by furious diatribes against Ukraine. Before they let him go, they took away his passport and Ukrainian military ID — all he had to prove his existence — and made sure he knew exactly how worthless his life was.

"No one needs you," the commander taunted. "We can shoot you any time, bury you a half-meter underground and that's it."

The brutal encounter at the end of March was just the start. Andriy

Kotsar would be captured and tortured twice more by Russian forces in Iziom, and the pain would be even worse.

Russian torture in Iziom was arbitrary, widespread and absolutely routine for both civilians and soldiers throughout the city, an Associated Press investigation has found. While torture was also evident in Bucha, that devastated Kyiv suburb was only occupied for a month.

Iziom served as a hub for Russian soldiers for nearly seven months, during which they established torture sites everywhere.

Based on accounts of survivors and police, AP journalists located 10 torture sites in the town and gained access to five of them. They included a deep sunless pit in a residen-



tial compound with dates carved in the brick wall, a clammy underground jail that reeked of urine and rotting food, a medical clinic, a

police station and a kindergarten. The AP spoke to 15 survivors of Russian torture in the Kharkiv region, as well as two families

whose loved ones disappeared into Russian hands. Two of the men were taken repeatedly and abused. One battered, unconscious Ukrainian soldier was displayed to his wife to force her to provide information she simply didn't have.

The AP also confirmed eight men were killed under torture in Russian custody, according to survivors and families. All but one were civilians.

At a mass grave site created by the Russians and discovered in the woods of Iziom, at least 30 of the 447 bodies recently excavated bore visible marks of torture — bound hands, close gunshot wounds, knife wounds and broken limbs, according to the Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office.

Those injuries corresponded to

the descriptions of the pain inflicted upon the survivors.

AP journalists also saw bodies with bound wrists at the mass grave. Amid the trees were hundreds of simple wooden crosses, most marked only with numbers. One said it contained the bodies of 17 Ukrainian soldiers. At least two more mass graves have been found in the town, all heavily mined, authorities said.

A physician who treated hundreds of Iziom's injured during the Russian occupation said people regularly arrived at his emergency room with injuries consistent with torture, including gunshots to their hands and feet, broken bones and severe bruising, and burns. None would explain their wounds, he said.

"Even if people came to the hos-

pital, silence was the norm," chief Dr. Yuriy Kuznetsov said. He added that one soldier came in for treatment for hand injuries, clearly from being cuffed, but the man refused to say what happened.

Men with links to Ukrainian forces were singled out repeatedly for torture, but any adult man risked getting caught up.

Matilda Bogner, the head of the U.N. Human rights mission in Ukraine, told the AP they had documented "widespread practices of torture or ill-treatment of civilian detainees" by Russian forces and affiliates. Torture of soldiers was also systemic, she said.

Torture in any form during an armed conflict is a war crime under the Geneva Conventions, whether of prisoners of war or civilians.

## Unite to face 'great struggles, major risks': Xi tells Communist Party officials ahead of its key Congress

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping has said that the Communist Party must be united to prepare for "great struggles and face major risks", ahead of this month's key Congress of the ruling party where he is expected to get endorsed for a record third five-year term unlike his predecessors.

In an article published in the party's journal Qiushi on Saturday, China's National Day, 69-year-old Xi said the country "has never been closer" to achieving its great national rejuvenation, but the last mile would be full of perils and challenges.

"Our party must be united to lead the people to face major challenges effectively, defend against major risks, overcome major barriers and resolve major contradictions. We must



press on with great struggles under new historical characteristics," Xi wrote, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Sunday.

He, however, did not elaborate.

His comments exhorting the 96-million-member strong Communist Party of China (CPC) came as it is set to hold the once-in-a-five-year

Congress on October 16 here which would discuss the new political and economic policy frameworks for the future and also endorse Xi for a new five-year term in power or perhaps for life.

If endorsed, Xi will become the only leader after the party's founder Mao Zedong to continue in power beyond the stipulated 10-year term. Xi will be completing the 10-year term

this year.

His call for the party's unity came as China under his leadership faced increasing isolation with growing adversity with the US, EU and Japan over Taiwan besides growing domestic pressures owing to economic slowdown exacerbated by his zero COVID policy forcing lockdowns of various cities over recurring spikes of the virus. Xi said that the party members must demonstrate tenacity and persistence to complete the journey.

This required the party to stay focused and have conviction in the path it had taken, he added.

"We will not walk back to the old path of isolation and dogmatism, nor shall we ever take the evil path of changing flags," he said, using a metaphor common in revolutionary language to mean changing the political system.

## Latvian premier's party emerges on top in general election



AP ■ HELSINKI

Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins' ruling centre-right party won the most votes in Latvia's general election, centrist parties were runners-up and pro-Moscow parties crashed in a vote that was shaped by neighbouring Russia's war in Ukraine and divisions among the Baltic country's sizable ethnic Russian minority.

With almost all votes counted, initial results showed on Sunday that Karins' New Unity party had taken 18.9 per cent of votes, while the opposition Greens and Farmers

Union was second with 12.8 per cent and the new centrist electoral alliance United List — made up of several regional parties — was third with 11 per cent.

Only eight parties or electoral alliances passed the 5 per cent barrier and secured representation at the 100-seat Saeima legislature.

The centre-right National Alliance and the centrist Development/For!, which are both members in Karins' current minority coalition government, are among them.

Karins, a 57-year-old dual Latvian-US citizen born in Wilmington, Delaware, told

media outlets earlier that it would be easiest to continue with the same coalition government if New Unity wins.

None of the parties catering to Latvia's ethnic Russian minority, which makes up more than 25 per cent of the country's 1.9 million population, managed to secure a seat at Parliament.

The election on Saturday was a blow particularly for Harmony, a Moscow-friendly party that traditionally served as an umbrella for most of Latvia's Russian-speaking voters, including Belarusians and Ukrainians. Harmony received a mere 4.8 per cent of votes in comparison to the 2018 election, when it garnered almost 20 per cent of the vote, the most of any single party, but was excluded by other parties from entering the government.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24 had a substantial effect on voter attitudes, observers say, and resulted in a deep division between Russian-speakers opposing and those supporting the war.

## Pope appeals to Putin to end 'spiral of violence' in Ukraine



AP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis on Sunday appealed to Russian President Vladimir Putin, imploring him to "stop this spiral of violence and death" in Ukraine, and denounced what he called the "absurd" risk of nuclear war.

Francis made his strongest appeal yet on the seventh-month war as he addressed the public in St. Peter's Square.

The pontiff also called on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to "be open" to serious peace proposals. He also exhorted the international community to "use all diplomatic instruments" to end this "huge tragedy" and "horror" of war.

## Take steps to encourage India's transition away from Russian weapons: Congressional amendment

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A strong US-India defence partnership rooted in shared democratic values is critical to advancing US' interests in the Indo-Pacific, three American senators have said in a legislative amendment that urges the Biden administration to encourage New Delhi to accelerate its transition away from Russian weapons.

Senator Mark Warner, Co-Chair of the Senate India Caucus, along with Senators Jack Reed and Jim Inhofe, in the amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, says that India faces immedi-



ate and serious regional border threats from China, with continued military aggression by the Chinese people along the India-China border.

The relations between India and China have soured over the incursion by Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh in May 2020, leading to a prolonged military standoff that is still unresolved.

India has made it clear to China that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

"The United States should take additional steps to encourage India to accelerate its transition away from weapons and defence systems manufactured in the Russian Federation while

strongly supporting India's immediate defence needs," said the amendment. It said that for its national defence, India relies on weapons manufactured by Russia.

Russia has been a major supplier of military hardware to India. In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding a warning by the US that going ahead with the contract may invite sanctions under the provisions of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

## 9 NATO members urge support for Ukraine after annexation

AP ■ PRAGUE

The heads of nine European NATO members on Sunday issued a joint statement backing a path to membership for Ukraine in the US-led security alliance, and calling on all 30 NATO nations to ramp up military aid for Kyiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a surprise move Friday to apply for fast-track NATO membership, in response to Russia's annexation of four regions of Ukraine.

NATO membership needs approval from all 30 members

and Ukraine is unlikely to join anytime soon. Being a country already at war complicates the request.

The nine NATO countries in Central and Eastern Europe fearful that Russia could target them next if it isn't stopped in Ukraine urged a response to the annexation.

The leaders of Czechia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania and Slovakia published a statement on their websites Sunday saying: "We support Ukraine in its defense against Russia's invasion, demand (that Russia)

immediately withdraw from all the occupied territories and encourage all allies to substantially increase their military aid to Ukraine."

It said the leaders "firmly stood behind the 2008 Bucharest NATO Summit decision concerning Ukraine's future membership." At the 2008 summit, NATO members welcomed Ukraine and Georgia's aspirations to join, but declined to provide a clear timeline for the two countries' possible ascension. Sunday's letter didn't mention a timeline, either.

Asked Friday about

Zelenskyy's application for accelerated NATO membership, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the application process in Brussels "should be taken up at a different time."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg was noncommittal when asked about Zelenskyy's appeal to join.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by Putin, derided the move, saying that Zelenskyy's request amounts to "begging NATO to accelerate the start of World War III."

# Florida deaths rise to 47 amid struggle to recover from Ian

AP ■ FORT MYERS (US)

Rescuers evacuated stunned survivors on a large barrier island cut off by Hurricane Ian and Florida's death toll climbed sharply, as hundreds of thousands of people were still sweltering without power days after the monster storm raged from the state's southwestern coast up to the Carolinas.

Florida, with nearly four dozen reported dead was hit hardest by the Category 4 hurricane, one of the strongest to make landfall in the United States.

Flooded roadways and washed-out bridges to barrier islands left many people isolated, amid limited cell phone service and a lack of basic amenities such as water, electricity and the internet.

Florida Gov Ron DeSantis said on Saturday that multibillionaire businessman Elon Musk was providing some 120 Starlink satellites to "help bridge some of the communi-



ation issues."

Starlink, a satellite-based internet system created by Musk's SpaceX, will provide high-speed connectivity.

Florida utilities were working to restore power. As of Sunday morning, more than 700,000 homes and businesses were still without electricity,

Maryland and southern Pennsylvania, according to the National Hurricane Centre, which has warned of the potential for flash flooding.

More than 1,000 people were rescued from flooded areas along Florida's southwestern coast alone, Daniel Hokanson, a four-star general and head of the National Guard, told The Associated Press while airborne to Florida.

In Washington, the White House announced that President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden would travel to Florida on Wednesday. But a brief statement did not release any details of the planned visit.

The bridge to Pine Island, the largest barrier island off Florida's Gulf Coast, was destroyed by the storm, leaving it accessible only by boat or air.

The volunteer group Medic Corps, which responds to natural disasters worldwide with pilots, paramedics and doctors, went door-to-door asking residents if they wanted to be evacuated.

down from a peak of 2.67 million.

At least 54 people were confirmed dead: 47 in Florida, four in North Carolina and three in Cuba.

The weakened storm had drifted north on Sunday and was expected to dump rain on parts of Virginia, West Virginia,

# Truss sticks by economic plan as her party worries

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Liz Truss said on Sunday that she could have done a better job "laying the ground" for her package of unfunded tax cuts, but insisted she would push on with an economic plan that has caused turmoil on financial markets and weakened the country's public finances.

Truss acknowledged that the UK faces "a very turbulent and stormy time," but said her policies would lead to a "high-growth, low-tax economy" in the longer term.

The comments are unlikely to calm Truss' Conservative Party, which opens its four-day annual conference on Sunday in the central England city of Birmingham amid plunging poll ratings and growing public discontent.

Truss took office less than a month ago, promising to radically reshape Britain's economy to end years of sluggish growth.

But the government's September 23 announcement



better job of laying the ground" Truss stuck to her insistence that Britain's economic problems were part of a global spike in inflation and energy prices spurred by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In a bid to calm the market turmoil, Truss and her finance minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng, have said they will set out a medium-term fiscal plan on November 23, alongside an economic forecast from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility.

Many economists, and many Conservatives, say that means weeks more economic turmoil are ahead. Michael Gove, who served as a senior minister in previous Conservative governments, said the announcement "will have to be brought forward" and some parts of the economic package will have to be dropped.

Gove said there was "an inadequate realisation at the top of government about the scale of change required."

of a stimulus package that includes 45 billion pounds (USD 50 billion) in tax cuts, to be paid for by government borrowing, sent the pound tumbling to a record low against the dollar.

The Bank of England was forced to intervene to prop up the bond market, and fears that the bank will soon hike interest rates caused mortgage lenders to withdraw their cheapest deals, causing turmoil for home buyers.

"I have learned from that," Truss told the BBC. "I will make sure in future we do a

# Pak Cabinet OK's legal action against Imran over leaked 'foreign conspiracy' cypher audio tapes

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Cabinet on Sunday decided to launch legal action against former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his party's top leaders over audio leaks in which he could allegedly be heard discussing the controversial US cypher and how to exploit it to portray his ouster as a conspiracy.

At least two audio tapes have been circulating on social media since Tuesday where 69-year-old Khan can be heard discussing a diplomatic communication with leaders and giving directions about how to use it for political objectives.

The cable based on a meeting of US Assistant Secretary of State for Central and South Asia Donald Lu with Pakistan ambassador in Washington Asad Majeed reportedly involves the US official discussing the political situation in Pakistan.

# Brazil holds historic election with Lula against Bolsonaro

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazilians were voting on Sunday in a highly polarized election that could determine if the country returns a leftist to the helm of the world's fourth-largest democracy or keeps the far-right incumbent in office for another four years.

The race pits incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro against his political nemesis, former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. There are nine other candidates, but their support pales to that for Bolsonaro and da Silva.

Recent opinion polls have given da Silva a commanding lead — the last Datafolha survey published Saturday found a 50% to 36% advantage for da Silva among those who intended to vote. It interviewed 12,800 people, with a margin of error of two percentage points.

Agatha de Carvalho, 24, arrived to her local voting station in Rio de Janeiro's working class Rocinha neighborhood shortly before it opened, hoping to cast her ballot before work, but found 100 others were already lined up. She said she would vote for da Silva, and called Bolsonaro "awful."

"A lot of people died because of him during the pandemic. If he hadn't done some of the things he did, some



of those deaths could have been avoided," she said.

Bolsonaro's administration has been marked by incendiary speech, his testing of democratic institutions, his widely criticized handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the worst deforestation in the Amazon rainforest in 15 years.

But he has built a devoted base by defending traditional family values, rebuffing political correctness and presenting himself as protecting the nation from leftist policies that infringe on personal liberties and produce economic turmoil. Also in Rocinha, Manuel Pintoadinho, a 65-year-old metalworker, said he voted for Bolsonaro and didn't blame him for tough economic times.

"The pandemic ruined everything, inflation is really high," Pintoadinho said. "It's not his fault."

A slow economic recovery has yet to reach the poor, with 33 million Brazilians going hungry despite higher welfare payments. Like several of its Latin American neighbors coping with high inflation and a vast number of people excluded from formal employment, Brazil is considering a shift to the political left.

Gustavo Petro in Colombia, Gabriel Boric in Chile and Pedro Castillo in Peru are among the left-leaning leaders in the region who have recently assumed power.

Da Silva could win in the first round, without need for a run-off on Oct. 30, if he gets more than 50% of valid votes, which exclude spoiled and blank ballots. Brazil has more than 150 million eligible voters, and voting is mandatory, but abstention rates can reach as high as 20%.

An outright win by da Silva would sharpen focus on Bolsonaro's reaction to the count. He has repeatedly questioned the reliability not just of opinion polls, but also of Brazil's electronic voting machines. Analysts fear he has laid the groundwork to reject results.

# Spain: Four bodies retrieved from migrant boat, 1 man rescued



AP ■ MADRID

Spain's marine rescue service said Sunday it picked up the bodies of four people from a rubber dingy that was adrift in waters off northwest Africa and is believed to have been carrying more than 30 people.

A merchant ship rescued one person after it spotted the boat Saturday about 280 kilometers (150 miles) south of the Canary Islands archipelago.

The marine rescue service sent a helicopter to take the man from the ship to the Spanish island of Gran Canaria, where he was treated in a hospital.

Spanish state news agency Efe said the man, from the Ivory Coast, told rescue services that there had been 34 people on the boat when it set sail nine days ago.

Thousands of migrants from northwest and sub-Saharan African countries try to reach Spain by boat each year. Many die in the attempt.

The voyage across the Atlantic to the Canary Islands is one of the most dangerous migration routes in the world, authorities and rights groups say, with trips in often overloaded boats taking more than a week to reach the islands and European soil.

# Iran Parliament Speaker says protests could weaken society

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's parliamentary speaker warned Sunday that protests over the death of a young woman in police custody could destabilize the country and urged security forces to deal harshly with those he claimed endanger public order.

Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf told lawmakers that unlike the current protests, which he said aim to topple the government, previous demonstrations by teachers and retirees over pay were aimed at reforms, according to the legislative body's website.

"The important point of the (past) protests was that they were reform-seeking and not aimed at overthrowing" the system, said Qalibaf. "I ask all who have any (reasons to) protest not to allow their protest to turn into destabilizing and toppling" of institutions.

Thousands of Iranians have taken to the streets over the last two weeks to protest the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who had been detained by Iran's morality police in the capital of Tehran for allegedly not adhering to Iran's strict Islamic dress code. The protesters have vented



their anger over the treatment of women and wider repression in the Islamic Republic.

The nationwide demonstrations rapidly escalated into calls for the overthrow of the clerical establishment that has ruled Iran since its 1979 Islamic revolution.

The protests have drawn supporters from various ethnic groups, including Kurdish opposition movements in the northwest of Iran that operate along the border with neighboring Iraq. Amini was an Iranian Kurd and the protests first erupted in Kurdish areas.

Iranian state TV has reported that at least 41 protesters and police have been killed since the demonstrations began Sept 17.

An Associated Press count of official statements by author-

ities tallied at least 14 dead, with more than 1,500 demonstrators arrested.

Qalibaf, the parliamentary speaker, is a former influential commander in the paramilitary Islamic Revolutionary Guard.

Along with the president and the head of the judiciary, he is one of three ranking officials who deal with all important issues of the nation. He three meet regularly and sometimes meet with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters.

Qalibaf said he believes many of those taking part in recent protests had no intention of seeking to overthrow the government in the beginning and claimed foreign-based opposition groups were fomenting protests aimed at tearing down the system.

# Biden pledge to make federal fleet electric faces slow start

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden, a self-described "car guy," often promises to lead by example by moving swiftly to convert the sprawling U.S. Government fleet to zero-emission electric vehicles. But efforts have lagged in helping meet his ambitious climate goals by eliminating gas-powered vehicles from the federal fleet.

Biden last year directed the U.S. Government to purchase only American-made, zero-emission passenger cars by 2027 and electric versions of other vehicles by 2035.

"We're going to harness the purchasing power of the federal government to buy clean, zero-emission vehicles," the president



said soon after his January 2021 inauguration. He has since used photo ops — taking a spin in Ford Motor Co.'s electric F-150 pickup truck, or driving GM's Cadillac Lyriq electric SUV at the Detroit auto show — to promote their potential. Cabinet officials have hawked a first set of Ford Mustang Mach-E SUVs in use at the departments of Energy and Transportation.

The White House frequently describes the 2027 timeline as on track. But the General Services Administration, the agency that purchases two-thirds of the 656,000-vehicle federal fleet, says there are no guarantees.

Then there is the U.S. Postal Service, which owns the remaining one-third of the federal fleet. After initially balking and facing lawsuits, the agency now says that

half of its initial purchase of 50,000 next-generation vehicles will be powered by electricity. The first set of postal vehicles will hit delivery routes late next year.

Climate advocates say that agency can do even better.

"USPS should now go all-electric or virtually all electric with its new vehicles," said Luke Tonachel, senior director of clean vehicles and buildings at the Natural Resources Defense Council, citing an additional \$3 billion in federal spending targeted for the postal fleet under the landmark climate law Biden signed last month. About 30% of U.S. Greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector, making it the single largest source of planet-warming emissions in the country.

# Turkey says 23 Kurdish militants killed in Iraq airstrikes

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkish warplanes "neutralised" 23 Kurdish militants in a raid 140 kilometers (90 miles) inside Iraq, the Turkish Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

The ministry usually refers to killed militants as "neutralised." It said the number of casualties in the mission in the Asos region of northern Iraq, which is controlled by the autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government, was expected to rise.

A video accompanying the ministry's tweet showed F-16 fighters taking off and a number of explosions in a mountainous area.

The ministry referred to a statement from Defence Minister Hulusi Akar on Thursday in which he said airstrikes had hit 16 targets in the Asos region.

Turkey has been conducting a series of operations in northern Iraq since 2019, saying the military is targeting the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, to prevent it from launching cross-border attacks

on Turkey.

In April, Operation Claw-Lock was launched, which involves ground and air forces.

The PKK has waged an on-again, off-again insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984, a conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people.

The group is listed as a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

The Defence Ministry later said seven "terrorists" had been neutralized in north Syria in response to the killing of a Turkish police officer in a missile attack on Sunday.

The attack on a Turkish base near Al Bab was carried out by Kurdish militants from the People's Protection Units, or YPG, according to official statements.

The YPG, which helped in the US-led campaign against the Islamic State group, is linked to the PKK but isn't considered a terrorist group by the US or the EU.

# 1984 marks 'one of the darkest years' in modern Indian history: US Senator

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The anti-Sikh riots of 1984 mark "one of the darkest years" in modern Indian history, a US Senator has said, as he underlined the need to remember the atrocities committed against the Sikh community so that those responsible may be held accountable.

Violence erupted in Delhi and other parts of the country after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984.

Over 3,000 Sikhs were killed across India, mostly in the national capital.

"1984 marks one of the darkest years in modern Indian history. The world watched as several violent incidents broke out among ethnic groups in India, with several notably targeting the Sikh community," Senator Pat Toomey said on the Senate floor. "Today we are here to remember the tragedy that commenced on November 1, 1984, following decades of ethnic tension between Sikhs in the Punjab province and the central Indian Government," he said recently.

"To prevent future human rights abuses, we must recognise their past forms. We must remember the atrocities committed against Sikhs so that those responsible may be held accountable and that this type of tragedy is not repeated against the Sikh community or other communities across the globe," Toomey, a Republican, said.

# Gandhi Jayanti celebration returns to China's picturesque Chaoyang park after two years of Covid-induced hiatus

PTI ■ BEIJING

After a two-year Covid-induced hiatus, Gandhi Jayanti celebrations returned to China's sprawling Chaoyang Park here as it resonated with the recitation of his famous quotes by Chinese school children and his bhajans by members of the Indian diaspora.

Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated every year at the picturesque Chaoyang Park in Beijing ever since the statue of Gandhi, sculpted by acclaimed sculptor Yuan Xikun, was installed in 2005 on the banks of a lake amid serene surroundings to enable his admirers to pay tributes to

the Mahatma.

Yuan besides being an acclaimed sculptor, who sculpted the statues of famous Chinese and world leaders, is also well connected with the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and the long-time Curator of the famous Jin Tai Art Museum located in the Chaoyang park.

Yuan carved out the Gandhi statue with a unique posture of the Mahatma sitting with a book in his hand.

The installation of Gandhi's statue for the first time officially in Beijing was regarded as politically significant as for decades the Mahatma, a contemporary of Mao



Zedong who led China's national liberation movement, has remained an enigma in China as the two leaders professed contrasting political philosophies.

While Mao remained a firm advocate of violent liberation movements with his famous dictum that power flows through the barrel of the gun, Gandhi's successful non-violent

movement against the British, in contrast, caught the attention of the world.

Since the installation of Gandhi's statue, on every October 2 a set of Chinese school children recite his famous sayings, highlighting non-violence, adherence to truth and the importance of conservation.

The practice was disrupted due to the pandemic for the past two years.

This year, over a dozen school children recited Gandhi's sayings in both Chinese and English, drawing applause at a well-attended gathering at the Jin Tai Art Museum which included Indian Ambassador

Pradeep Kumar Rawat and Yuan himself.

Rawat, who played a role in the installation of the statue along with Yuan during his previous diplomatic stint in Beijing in 2005, said though born in India, Mahatma Gandhi's message resonated with the entire humanity.

"Mahatma Gandhi's principle of non-violence was all-encompassing — human against human, human against animal and more importantly human against nature," Rawat said. Yuan in his address said Gandhi's sculpture has also "become a symbol of friendship between the people of India and China."

# India makes strong pitch to major US firms for investing in oil, gas production

PTI ■ HOUSTON

Favourable geology, open data access, supporting policy regime and ease of doing business were the major drivers to attract potential US players to invest in India's energy and petroleum growth wave during a two-day investors meet held here.

The investors meet from September 28-29, showcasing the lucrative fiscal policies and conducive environment of energy and petroleum (E&P) sector, that has seen a paradigm shift in policies aimed at attracting investors for investment was organised by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) and facilitated by Houston Consulate General of India.

MoPNG Secretary Pankaj Jain, in his keynote address to potential investors from over 50 companies; oil and gas majors, financial institutions, private equity firms, service providers and academicians, made a strong pitch to investors interested in doing business with India.

He discussed India's strength and role in the global energy ecosystem and highlighted India as the destination of energy opportunities.

Jain spoke on the latest



offering of discovered fields, ease of doing business for bidding and assured an open-door policy to resolve any issue faced by the industry as he sought foreign and private investments to boost domestic oil and gas production.

"India is the world's 4th largest oil importer and the demand is expected to rise driven by an increase in India's per capita consumption of energy which currently stands at one-third of the global average. India wants to be the new destination for global energy players. Oil producers worldwide are eager to gain a foothold in India, where fuel demand is

expected to keep rising as the country's economy grows," he said.

"India is exploring the multiple attractive opportunities in the energy sector as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy to its growing population, 40 per cent of the working age population is aged between 15-35 years. It is the large growing economy and will be the main driver of rising demand for energy over the next two decades, accounting for 25 per cent of global growth."

"Being the 2nd largest oil consumer, its oil consumption or demand is expected to rise

to 450 MMT by 2040 from about 220MT in 2022. India, also being the 2nd largest refiner in Asia with 23 refineries, will increase its refining capacity to 400 MMTPA by 2030 from current 251.2 MMTPA," he said.

He said the Indian government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein most sectors are now open to FDI under the automatic route. In exploration activities of oil and natural gas fields as well 100 per cent FDI is allowed under the automatic route. The measures by Government of India have resulted in India attracting its highest ever FDI inflow of USD 83.57 billion

during 2021-22, Jain said.

India's unique geology offers attractive opportunities especially in unexplored offshore areas, he said, adding the country has several analogous basins where oil and gas discoveries are proven and operations have been undertaken.

"Andaman is similar to South-North Sumatra/ North-Mergui, KG is similar to the Gulf of Mexico, Saurashtra is and Kutch similar to East African rift. 2.36 Mn sq. Km offshore area across over 9 offshore basins; with 55 per cent area already appraised via seismic or drilling," he said.

"We have 26 sedimentary basins and have streamlined processes to further drive sector attractiveness by giving freedom to carve out blocks, play based exploration, pre-cleared blocks and opportunity to partner with existing players," he said.

"The investors meet was an eye opener for us as well as the potential investors and gave an opportunity to understand reasons behind their interest and what they are looking for to enter India and how to address it. New operators expected to bring innovative technology and capital to raise domestic production, which presently meets only 15 per cent of domestic demand," Jain told PTI at the meet.

# Housing sales up 87% in Jan-Sep in 7 cities; sales till Sept breach full 2019 figure: Anarock

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing sales rose 87 per cent in January-September across seven cities to 2,72,709 units and breached the transactions clocked in entire 2019 pre-COVID year on strong demand, according to Anarock.

Sales stood at 1,45,651 units in the January-September period of 2021.

Property consultant Anarock, which is one of the leading housing brokerage firms, tracks primary sales of seven major cities -- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune.

As per the data, housing sales in these seven cities increased to 2,72,709 units during January-September this year from 1,45,651 units in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The January-September figure of this calendar year is higher than the 2,61,358 units sold during entire 2019.

Sales plunged to 1,38,344 units in 2020 due to the adverse impact of the COVID-19 induced lockdowns.

India's primary housing market revived last year on pent up demand coupled with incentives offered by some state governments like



Maharashtra in the form of lower stamp duty.

As a result, sales rose to 2,36,516 units in 2021 and the momentum has continued so far this year.

The impact of rise in interest rates on home loans -- from a decadal low of around 6.5 per cent to over 8 per cent now -- has not been felt so far on the housing market. The RBI has increased the repo rate by 190 basis points since May this year to contain inflation.

Housing prices too have gone up by at least 10 per cent in the last one year.

Experts believe that the pandemic has positively

impacted the concept of home ownership, which along with improved affordability index, is driving sales.

According to the Anarock data, the sales of residential properties in Delhi-NCR more than doubled to 49,138 units in January-September from 22,478 units in the year-ago period.

In the MMR, sales increased by 67 per cent to 81,315 units from 48,716 units.

Bengaluru saw 81 per cent increase in housing sales to 37,645 units from 20,780 units, while Pune witnessed 69 per cent rise to 40,598 units from 24,043 units.

# Inflation may fall to 5.2 % next fiscal on normal rain, ease in supplies sans no exogenous shocks: RBI report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Persistently high inflation remains a key policy concern for the Reserve Bank, which has raised rates aggressively so far this year, but the pressure might ease next fiscal assuming normal rains and further normalisation of global supply chains without any exogenous shocks, according to an RBI report.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects retail inflation to come under control at 5.2 per cent in the next financial year beginning April, down from 6.7 per cent it has forecast for the current year.

"For 2023-24, assuming a normal monsoon, a progressive normalisation of supply chains, and no further exogenous or policy shocks, structural model estimates indicate that inflation will average 5.2 per cent," RBI said in its 'Monetary Policy Report September 2022'.

The central bank is mandated to keep retail inflation in a range of 2-6 per cent.

However, inflation has been above the RBI's upper tolerance level since January 2022 mainly due to adverse supply shocks amid geopolitical tensions arising out of the Russia-Ukraine war since late February.

Both the countries are key suppliers of foodgrains, edible oil, fertilisers and energy resources such as crude oil and natural gas.



Even as inflation has eased from its April peak of 7.8 per cent, it remains at unacceptably high levels, the central bank said in the report.

On Friday, the Reserve Bank hiked the key repo rate by 0.50 per cent to 5.90 per cent to bring inflation under control. During the May-August period of this fiscal, it raised the policy repo rate by 140 basis points or 1.4 per cent.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI met four times during April-September 2022, including an off-cycle meeting in May, in the backdrop of a sharp jump in global commodity prices and uncertainties around the pace of monetary policy normalisation globally.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta

Das, while announcing the policy, said the world already witnessed two major shocks of the pandemic and the Ukrainian situation over the last two-and-a-half years and a third shock comes in the form of aggressive monetary policy actions by central banks globally.

The RBI projects the inflation to remain above the upper tolerance level of 6 per cent through the first three quarters of 2022-23 (till December) and expects it to come under control from January 2023 onwards.

For the January-March quarter of 2022-23, it has projected the retail inflation to average 5.8 per cent and further down to 5 per cent in the April-June 2023-24 period.

Even as the forecast for the next fiscal looks soothing, upside risks remain on a host of factors such as further ratcheting up of geopolitical tensions, higher crude and commodity prices, longer than expected supply chain disruptions and escalation in global financial market volatility due to aggressive monetary policy actions. Shortfall in domestic kharif crop output, unseasonal rains or firming up demand may also add up to the upside risks. "The downside risks could arise from an early resolution of geopolitical tensions," the RBI report said.

Further correction in global commodity prices due to slowing global demand, and improvement in supply conditions with the ebbing of the pandemic will help in bringing down inflation.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), global economic growth is expected to slow down to 3.2 per cent in 2022 from 6.1 per cent in 2021, while the outlook is "gloomy and more uncertain" with risks tilted to the downside.

On the other hand, it expects global consumer price inflation to peak to 8.3 per cent this calendar year, as against 4.7 per cent in 2021.

The RBI has cut India's GDP growth forecast for this fiscal year to 7 per cent from its earlier projection of 7.2 per cent.

# 'Consumer spending in India expected to be high this festive season'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Coming out of the pandemic, consumers in India have expressed a strong desire to buy more discretionary products during the festive season, according to Deloitte's Global State of Consumer Tracker.

Deloitte's latest analysis indicates that consumers are willing to increase spend on both travel and hotel stays. They also intend to buy either a new or used vehicle within the next six months.

"Despite concerns over inflation, the planned spending over the next four weeks will see spike across age groups in all categories," Deloitte said in a press statement.

Consumers' intent to purchase clothing, electronic and home furnishing, and recreation, entertainment and leisure, indicates a positive spending pattern triggered by the upcoming festive season.

"The survey findings clearly indicate that consumers plan to increase their discretionary spend by 30 per cent (on items such as recreation and entertainment, restaurants, and leisure travel) in August 2022, compared with April 2022," it said.

The current wave indicates consumers surveyed were willing to travel to domestic and



international destinations. With 'mask-lift' announcements and easing out of other COVID-related restrictions in some countries, about 88 per cent Indian consumers plan to spend on leisure travel in the next four weeks.

"The upcoming festivities and sale offers play a key role in propelling the Indian auto industry, which is expected to grow at a high pace in the next six months," Deloitte said. "The tracker indicates that surveyed consumers' intent to buy a vehicle grew by 9 per cent in the past four months."

As on August 2022, 78 per cent Indian consumers sur-

buying across age groups plan to buy a vehicle in the next six months; of which, 84 per cent plan to buy a new one. The prominent reasons for purchasing a vehicle were high maintenance cost of old vehicles and new features offered in latest models.

Commenting on the latest trends of the Global State of Consumer Tracker, Porus Doctor, Partner and Consumer Industry leader, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, said, "In the past year, consumers have been unwavering in their priorities - they still feel introspective, and focused on health, well-being, and purpose."

# Petrol, diesel sales jump in Sep as festival season approaches



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel sales in India jumped in September as economic activity picked up with the nearing festive season and the ending of the monsoon raised the demand, preliminary industry data showed.

Petrol sales soared 13.2 per cent to 2.65 million tonnes in September when compared to 2.34 million tonnes of consumption in the same month last year. Sales were 20.7 per cent higher than Covid-marred September 2020 and 23.3 per cent more than pre-pandemic September 2019.

Demand was, however, 1.9 per cent lower than the previous month of August 2022.

Diesel, the most used fuel in the country, posted a handsome 22.6 per cent rise in sales in September to 5.99 million tonnes when compared to the same month last year. Consumption was up 23.7 per cent over September 2020 and nearly 15 per cent higher than pre-Covid 2019.

The fuel, which had seen a near 5 per cent drop in sales in August when compared to the previous month of July, saw demand rise 1.3 per cent month-on-month.

Industry sources said the ending of monsoon rains in most parts of the country and a pick up in agriculture season led to a rise in diesel demand. Rains usually restrict mobility and demand from the farm sector, which uses diesel in irrigation pumps and trucking.

Also, the approaching festival season led to a pick-up in economic activity and a rise in demand.

Auto fuel sales had dipped in July and August owing to the monsoon and reduced demand. This dip had come after a surge in June that was supported by increased summer travel to colder areas of the country to escape from the heat and vacations during annual breaks at educational institutions.

As the aviation sector opened up, India's overall passenger traffic at airports inched closer to pre-Covid-19 levels.

Accordingly, jet fuel (ATF) demand jumped 41.7 per cent to 5,44,700 tonnes during September when compared to the same month last year.

# 'Just top 20% of consumer driving demand as majority yet to recover from pandemic hit'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

That the rich got richer during the pandemic has become more evident with research data showing just 20 per cent of the population are leading the discretionary consumption wagon as the rest are still recovering.

The pandemic has not impacted affluent consumers' income levels in the country is clear from the fact that the top 20 per cent of the population account for the bulk of discretionary consumption -- 59 per cent in rural areas and 66 per cent in urban areas, Tanvee Gupta-Jain, chief economist at UBS Securities India, said in a report.

Citing an in-house UBS survey (conducted in August among 1,500 higher-income consumers) results, she says more than half of the respondents have bought gold/ jewellery as planned or more in the past three months and more than half of them planning to invest in properties and buying cars/two-wheelers over the next two years.

# Concessional import duties on edible oils in place till March 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Concessional import duties on specified edible oils are in place till March 2023, the food ministry said on Sunday.

This decision was taken on August 31, 2022 by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in order to boost domestic supply and keeping retail prices under control.

The food ministry in its latest statement said that the CBIC's decision of extending existing concessional import duties on specified edible oils is in place till March 2023.

"The concessional customs duty on edible oil import has been extended by another 6 months, which means that the new deadline will now be March 2023," the statement said.

The ministry also said that domestic edible oil prices have been on a declining trend driven by a fall in global prices. With falling global rates and lower import duties, retail prices of edible oils have fallen considerably in India.

According to the statement, the current duty structure on crude palm oil, RBD Palmolein, RBD palm oil, crude soybean oil, refined soybean oil, crude sun-



flower oil and refined sunflower oil remains unchanged till March 31, 2023.

The import duty on crude varieties of palm oil, soybean oil and sunflower oil is currently zero. However, after taking into account 5 per cent agri cess and 10 per cent social welfare cess, the effective duty on crude varieties of these three edible oils is 5.5 per cent.

The basic customs duty on refined varieties of palmolein and refined palm oil is 12.5 per cent, while social welfare cess is 10 per cent. So, the effective duty is 13.75 per cent.

For refined soybean and sunflower oil, the basic customs duty is 17.5 per cent and taking into account 10 per cent social welfare cess, the effective duty comes to 19.25 per cent.

# SME IPOs catch investors' fancy; 87 hit primary market to raise ₹1,460 crore in Jan-September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Strong performance of past SIPOs spurred investors' interest, with 87 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) garnering ₹ 1,460 crore through initial share-sales in the first nine months of the year. This was way higher than 56 companies that had raised ₹ 783 crore through initial public offering (IPO) in the entire 2021, the industry data showed.

Further, the remaining part of the year 2022 can see more mature companies accessing the platform. Moreover, tech-based and larger broking players can play a major role in developing the SME platform, Uday Nair, Director at Fedex Securities, said, adding, "overall the year is good for SME companies looking to raise capital from the exchange."

"SME segment is not impacted by the bearishness in the market and investors are looking forward to the healthy pipeline of IPOs going forward."

# Gone with loan: Indian 'travelphiles' bank big on 'travel now, pay later'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maldivian blues or Rajasthan's sand dunes? Keen on both, Rakesh Mandavaya had a budget for none. That's when he learnt of the 'travel now pay later' option offered by banks and fintech companies. And the rest, as they say, is his Maldives travel history he can't stop gushing about.

The 37-year-old, who managed a memorable holiday and that too a foreign one, said his six-month interest free loan for ₹ 1.5 lakh was approved in just a day. "Since my trip was an impromptu one, I didn't have enough time to plan it or money to fund it. Then a friend told me about travel loans. The process was super easy," the Delhi-based IT professional told PTI.

"I think the demand for such a loan category was always there. It is useful for everyone, especially salaried employees. It will encourage people to see new places and make holiday memories," he added.

The TNPL acronym for the 'travel now pay later' trend has caught on, a variation of the 'buy now pay later' (BNPL) segment



where customers buy products without paying for them immediately. Be it a foreign or a domestic destination, leisure or adventurous getaways, TNPL options available with leading travel agencies, including SOTC, Thomas Cook India and MakeMyTrip (MMT), make it all within reach for India's growing tribe of 'travel-philes' busy ticking off their bucket lists. The trend has picked up pace after the pandemic.

"You walk into a leading electronics store to buy a refrigerator or a mobile. You will see 10 options to pay over an EMI or pay for later programmes," said Akash Dahiya, founder of SanKash, a travel aggregator with a network of more than 6,000 merchants.

# MANCHESTER IS BLUE

## Haaland, Foden hat-tricks help Man City thrash Red Devils 6-3

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Errol Haaland and Phil Foden scored hat-tricks as Manchester City thrashed Manchester United 6-3 to move to within a point of Premier League leaders Arsenal on Sunday.

Haaland has scored hat-tricks in each of his last three Premier League home games to take his tally as a City player to 17 in 10 competitive games for the English champions.

Antony's strike and Anthony Martial's late double ensured United avoided a record defeat in the Manchester derby as they remain in sixth, nine points off the top.

Since also conceding four times inside the first 45 minutes at Brentford in August, United had bounced back with four consecutive Premier League wins to offer hope they are heading in the right direction under Erik ten Hag.

But the Red Devils were given a rude awakening of the gulf that still exists between the Manchester giants.

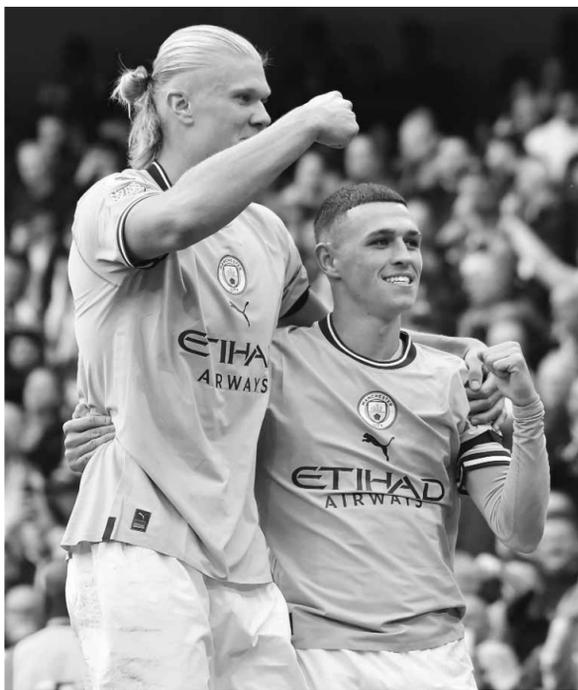
City could have scored many more than the four they managed in a blistering first half performance that swept away any doubts caused by an inconsistent start to the season from Pep Guardiola's men.

Within four minutes it took two goal-line clearances and a fine save from David de Gea to deny Haaland, Kevin De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva the opening goal.

Four minutes later, City did open the floodgates when Foden swept home Silva's cross for the Manchester native's first derby goal.

Ilkay Gundogan's free-kick hit the post and Foden blasted another big chance wide before Haaland inevitably made his mark.

United were left to bemoan the



absence of Raphael Varane to defend a De Bruyne corner as he received treatment on an ankle injury that forced him off at half-time.

Without the Frenchman, there was no match for Haaland's presence in the penalty box as his header crossed the line before Tyrrell Malacia's attempted clearance.

Moments later, City showcased

their ability to counter-attack as Jack Grealish fed De Bruyne, who perfectly picked out Haaland to convert on the stretch at the back post.

Haaland then turned provider with a low cross that Foden converted to leave United trailing 4-0 at half-time for the third time in a year.

Unlike, in a 5-0 defeat at Old Trafford to Liverpool last season and

## Perez again insisting on European Super League

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez again insisted on the idea of a European Super League when speaking at a club members assembly on Sunday.

In April 2021 a dozen of Europe's biggest clubs signed up to a controversial new project but it crumbled after a strong backlash from supporters and football's governing bodies.

Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus stayed on board while other clubs abandoned ship and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg (CJEU) is to rule over whether European football governing body UEFA is acting as a monopoly by blocking the project.

"The Super League has never been closed off with a concrete for-

mat," Perez told Madrid members. "We think that it could change depending on different contexts."

"The objective of the Super League is to modernise football. It is essential to offer fans games of great quality. UEFA, with their changing and remodelling of the Champions League is mistakenly going the other way."

The Real Madrid chief compared football to tennis, where the top players usually face each other multiple times a year.

"What sense does it have depriving fans of big games?" he asked. "(Rafa) Nadal and (Roger) Federer have met over 40 times. Nadal and (Novak) Djokovic have played 59 times, is this boring?"

"Liverpool and Real Madrid have only met nine times in 67 years."

at Brentford last month, there was some semblance of a United response after the break.

Antony smashed home his second goal in as many Premier League appearances since a £82 million (\$92 million) move from Ajax.

But Haaland quickly retook centre stage with a thumping finish to meet Sergio Gomez's cross.

City were on course to match the record margin of victory in a Manchester derby when Haaland set up Foden to smash home and complete

his hat-trick.

That was Foden's final involvement as he was withdrawn in a quadruple change as Guardiola could afford to also hand a rest to De Bruyne, Gundogan and Grealish.

United took advantage of City taking their foot off the accelerator in the final 10 minutes as substitute Martial scored twice to cut the arrears.

The Frenchman bravely headed in the rebound after Ederson parried Fred's shot and then emphatically fired home from the penalty spot.

## India men's team stuns Germany in World TT C'ship



PTI ■ CHENGDU

Star paddler G Sathiyani won both his singles, including the one against world number 9 Dang Qiu, to script India's stunning 3-1 win over second seeds Germany in the group stage of the World Table Tennis Championships here on Sunday.

World number 37 Sathiyani won two gruelling deciders, first against 36th ranked Duda Benedikt (11-13, 4-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-9) before edging out Germany's highest-ranked player Qiu (10-12, 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-9).

In both the matches, Sathiyani staged a strong fight-back after losing the first two games.

"The match against Qiu was definitely much tougher. He is a top-10 player. It was a

high quality match as well," Sathiyani said.

India number 2 Harmeet Desai had lost the second singles to Qiu 1-2 (7-11, 9-11, 13-11, 3-11) before Manav Thakkar helped his team go 2-1 up with a 3-1 (13-11, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10) win over higher-ranked Ricardo Walther.

The 17th-ranked India had beaten Uzbekistan in their opening group game on Saturday. They need to finish in the top two to advance to the pre-quarterfinals.

In the women's draw, India recorded their first win of the group stage with a 3-0 result over Czech Republic.

The Manika Batra-led side had lost to Germany on Saturday.

Manika defeated Hana Matelova 3-1 (11-6, 11-6, 8-11, 12-10) in the first singles before Akula Sreeja and Diya Chitale won their singles against Marketa Sevcikova and Katerina Tomanovska, 3-0 and 3-1 respectively.

It was a close affair between Diya and Katerina before the Indian prevailed 11-13, 15-13, 12-10, 14-12. Down two game points in the fourth game, Diya relied on her serve to make it 10-10 before winning a spectacular rally.

Katerina made it 12-12 before the India got the couple of points she needed to complete a fine win.

## Mbappe helps PSG beat Nice in Ligue 1

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe came off the bench to score the winning goal as Paris Saint-Germain defeated Nice 2-1 on Saturday to reclaim top spot in Ligue 1.

French international Mbappe was left out of the starting line-up by coach Christophe Galtier with one eye on Wednesday's Champions League clash at Benfica.

Mbappe was replaced by 20-year-old Hugo Ekitike, who was making his first start for PSG.

However, it was fellow



superstar Lionel Messi who grabbed the early attention when he gave PSG a 29th-minute lead with a sumptuous, curling free-kick which sailed over the Nice wall and past goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel.

Gaetan Laborde levelled for Nice, who were coached by Galtier until this season, in the 47th minute after PSG got into a terrible defensive tangle.

Mbappe was summoned from the bench on the hour mark and struck the winner with seven minutes left after Nice attempted and failed to play the ball out of defence.

## Lewandowski takes Barca to top of La Liga

AP ■ BARCELONA

Robert Lewandowski's lethal finish sent Barcelona provisionally top of La Liga with a tight 1-0 win at Real Mallorca on Saturday.

Marc-Andre ter Stegen kept a fifth consecutive clean sheet in the top flight and, along with Lewandowski's brilliantly taken strike in the 20th minute, it was enough to put Barcelona one point clear of Real Madrid, who host Osasuna on Sunday.

Earlier Atletico Madrid cruised to a 2-0 win over a toothless Sevilla, increasing the pressure on Julen Lopetegui.

Marcos Llorente and Alvaro Morata's goals took Atletico provisionally up to sixth, while leaving the hosts 16th, just a point above the re-

legation zone.

In Mallorca, Xavi Hernandez's side demonstrated they are ironing out the creases which caused them so many problems last season, improving both defensively and in attack, with the relentless Lewandowski leading the charge.

Barcelona's coach earned a new domestic record of 18 consecutive league matches on the road without defeat, moving ahead of former Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane.

Ter Stegen, who has started this season in top form, beat his own personal record of 500 minutes without conceding in La Liga, reaching 534 minutes and counting.

At the other end, Lewandowski leads the scoring charts in Spain on nine goals



from seven games, after clinically curling into the bottom corner to break the deadlock against Mallorca.

"This win will help us ahead

of some very tricky weeks," Ter Stegen told Movistar.

"The record isn't as important as the win. I'm sure it will give me confidence. These wins

put you in a good dynamic, these games mean a lot.

"They help us maintain the pressure on Real Madrid."

"Generally we did very well, we limited them to just two chances, Ter Stegen made a brilliant save and Lewandowski scored a great goal," said Xavi.

"(However) it would be poor to limit it to that. We defended very well. They are players that make the difference, but I would say the team competed well."

At the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan and with only one win from seven league games, Sevilla supporters jeered their own side.

Sevilla coach Lopetegui said he would focus on the things he could control, amid speculation the club are considering his future.

"I'm focused on what's up to

me, these are circumstances intrinsic to football," said Lopetegui.

"The situation is not one we wanted. I'm sure the team will turn it around. I am sad today, being weak is something else."

Atletico dominated, with Morata missing two big chances and Llorente drilling into the far corner in the 29th minute, beyond the reach of Bono.

After a mistake by Jose Carmona, Morata doubled the lead before the hour mark, neatly lofting home.

Only impressive saves from Bono prevented Cunha and substitute Antoine Griezmann from adding to Atletico's lead, as they answered their critics after derby defeat by Real Madrid. "The team was a team again, we worked all together," Atletico coach Simeone told DAZN.



## Roma pile misery on Inter, Milan earn dramatic win

AP ■ MILAN

Chris Smalling plunged Inter Milan further into crisis by heading Roma to a 2-1 triumph at the San Siro which kept his team in touch with Serie A leaders Napoli, 3-1 winners over Torino.

England defender Smalling perfectly met Lorenzo Pellegrini's free-kick with 15 minutes remaining to complete a clinical Roma comeback from going behind to Federico Dimarco's fine first-half strike.

"I hope I can keep scoring goals," Smalling told DAZN after netting his second match-winning of the season.

"We've got a very strong squad this season, and we have big goals we're aiming at."

Jose Mourinho's side, which levelled through a superb Paulo Dybala volley six minutes before halftime, showed it can do it against the big boys with a mature performance which for once didn't finish with wasted chances leaving it wondering what might have been.

Roma are four points behind Napoli in fifth place after a win which also leaves Inter, who dominated early on but fell away, further back in the title race.

Simone Inzaghi's seventh-placed team is eight points off the pace after losing for the fourth time in eight matches, hardly the best preparation for the crucial Champions League visit of Barcelona on Tuesday.

Inter also trail their local rivals AC Milan by five points after two stoppage-time strikes from Fode Ballo-Toure and Rafael Leao

snatched a 3-1 win for the champions at Empoli.

Milan, who took the lead through Ante Rebic with 11 minutes remaining, were left reeling when Nedim Bajrami's pinpoint free-kick levelled the scores in the 92nd minute.

But with Empoli still celebrating what they assumed was a hard-earned point, Ballo-Toure put Milan back ahead when he pushed in Rade Krunic's knockdown.

And Leao, who set up Rebic's opener and had been the star performer for Milan, then capped a stunning win by racing through on goal unopposed and classily dinking in the third in the seventh minute of added time.

It was another superb display from Portugal winger Leao, who has scored four goals and set up six more in all competitions this season, an incredible number which makes him the one to watch at Chelsea on Wednesday.

LAZIO STAY IN TOP 4

Lazio ensured that they would stay in Serie A's top four on Sunday after comfortably beating Spezia 4-0 in Rome.

First half goals from Mattia Zaccagni and boyhood Lazio fan Alessio Romagnoli and a brace from Sergej Milinkovic-Savic at the Stadio Olimpico put the hosts three points behind league leaders Napoli in third.

Maurizio Sarri's team are level on 17 points with AC Milan and second-placed Atalanta after making short work of Spezia, who are four points above the relegation zone, and claiming their third straight league win.

## Tiafoe staying focused after 'crazy month'

AP ■ TOKYO

Frances Tiafoe on Sunday reflected on a "crazy month" that saw him reach a US Open semi-final and play a starring role at the Laver Cup -- but hopes that's just the start.

The world number 19 from the United States made a name for himself when he stunned Rafael Nadal on his way to a shock final-four appearance at Flushing Meadows last month.

He followed that up by leading Team World to their first Laver Cup title in London and even beat Roger Federer in doubles in the final match of the retiring tennis great's career.

Tiafoe, in Tokyo for the Japan Open, believes he has "a lot to give to the game".

"I'm super curious right now to see where I can take this tennis thing," said the 24-year-old.



"As far as the noise, obviously it comes with it. People will cheer me one day and the next you'll be forgotten -- you know how individual sports go."

He is the number four seed at Japan Open and will play Japanese wild card Yasutaka Uchiyama in the first round on Monday.

Top seed Casper Ruud,

Nick Kyrgios and Taylor Fritz will also play in Tokyo, although Britain's Cameron Norrie withdrew on Sunday after testing positive for Covid.

Tiafoe arrived in Japan after he and doubles partner Jack Sock sent Federer into retirement with a defeat, after they beat the Swiss great and Rafael Nadal at the Laver Cup.

## Nishioka beats Shapovalov to win Korea Open

AP ■ SEOUL

Yoshihito Nishioka stunned fourth seed Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) to win the Korea Open on Sunday for his second ATP title.

The Japanese player is set to rise to a career-high 41 after adding the Seoul crown to his triumph at the 2018 Shenzhen Open in China.

Nishioka defeated world number two Casper Ruud on the way to the final and he was neck-and-neck in the first set against Canada's

Shapovalov, until he broke in the 10th game to take the first set.

Shapovalov, who was also chasing a second title, took the upper hand early in the second set.

But the 27-year-old Nishioka bounced back, levelling the set and then powering on to win the match and the title on the tie-break.

Nishioka also toppled fifth seed Dan Evans earlier in the tournament.

Japan's top men's player will next participate in the Japan Open in Tokyo this week.

## Sherif becomes Egypt's first WTA champion

AP ■ PARMA

Mayar Sherif became the first woman from Egypt to win a WTA Tour title on Saturday when she defeated top seed and world number seven Maria Sakkari in the Parma final.

The 26-year-old triumphed over her Greek rival 7-5, 6-3, also achieving her first ever top 10 win.

"It means a lot for my country," Sherif said. "It means a lot for the people back home, my family, all the hard work, all the mental struggles in the last weeks. I'm just thrilled and happy. This was never expected."

Sherif, ranked 74 in the world, carved out her place in history on a gruelling day which saw her playing a semi-final and final back-to-back after Friday's



schedule had been washed out by rain.

She finished the final with 10 winners to 11 unforced errors and generated 13 break points, converting six. Sakkari hit 22 winners to 22 unforced errors.

"I'm exhausted," Sherif said

after coming back from being an early break down in both sets of the claycourt final.

"Today was a very tough day for me, many hours on court. I'm very happy that I pulled it off. I had to dig very deep."

"The first match was emotionally and mentally tough. There were so many key moments in the match, a lot of pressure. But after I won that match it gave me a lot of confidence so I used that for the match right after."

Earlier on Saturday, Sherif, had required almost three hours to defeat sixth-seeded Ana Bogdan 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in the semi-finals. Sakkari eased through to her first final since Indian Wells with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Danka Konvinic of Montenegro.

# Sky fires India to 237-3

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Indian top-four batters once again put up a superlative show to post a massive 237 for 3 in the second T20 International against South Africa here on Sunday.

A sellout crowd witnessed raining boundaries at the small ACA Barsapara Stadium as the Indian batters smashed 25 fours and 13 sixes. They scored 178 runs in boundaries.

Rohit Sharma (43 off 37 balls) and KL Rahul (57 off 28 balls) started it before Suryakumar Yadav (61 off 22 balls), Virat Kohli (49 not out) and Dinesh Karthik (17 not out) finished it off in style.

Replying to his critics, Rahul (57) was back at his aggressive best, slamming a 24-ball fifty, his second in a row, as he and Rohit put on 96 runs for the opening wicket that came off just 59 balls.

Yadav then continued to raise his standards higher with a third successive half-century that came off just 18 deliveries and India crossed the 200-mark in the 18th over.

With the top-four doing the bulk of the scoring, India's designated finisher Karthik got just seven balls but he made the most of the opportunity, smashing two sixes and one four in his quickfire 17 not out.

The South African pacers looked lacklustre and bowled full and the Indians feasted on to them.



Rohit first began the onslaught and Rahul followed it up in style after Temba Bavuma put them in.

After being hit on his hand from Wayne Parnell in the second over, Rohit came out all guns blazing while Rahul was a mute spectator with nine from five balls.

It was then the turn of

Rahul who whipped the ball over square leg with perfect demonstration of his wrist work.

It was a shot that summed up his dominating innings as he took on Nortje in a similar fashion, this time whipping the bowler a little deep.

There was no signs of tentativeness in Rahul's batting that

had copped much criticism as he raced to his fifty in just 24 balls, stepping down to Aiden Markram for a six over long-on.

India were 57 for no loss inside the power play and there was no stopping the duo when a snake gave South Africans a bit of a breather.

In a rare sight, the snake slithered out onto the field

from the extra cover region to stop play for about five minutes before the groundsmen captured it in a bucket.

## MISMANAGEMENT

Trust Assam Cricket Association (ACA) to mess it up every time.

Chaos once again reigned supreme at the ACA Barsapara

Stadium here during the India-South Africa second T20I on Sunday.

If a snake slithering onto the field during India's innings was not enough, the worst was in store when the stadium went into partial darkness during South Africa's chase of the massive target of 238, causing a second interruption in the match.

Just after the first ball of Deepak Chahhar in the third over when South Africa were reeling at 5/2, play came to halt after one of the four floodlight towers went off, halting play for 18 minutes.

All the players went back to the dressing room and it took about six minutes for the lights to slowly turn on one by one before play resumed.

Blaming it on a "technical glitch", Assam Cricket Association secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI: "We have three parties handling the power aspect - our own 25-member team, a third (outsourced) party and the state power department. It was perhaps a voltage problem, some technical glitch."

Saikia said the ACA has used generator sets to power the match and not depended on electricity supply from the power department.

The media contingent also faced similar problem before the match as there were no lights till a few overs into the match as the officials took hours to find out the fault.



## India take on Malaysia in Asia Cup T20

PTI ■ SYLHET

Shafali Verma couldn't have asked for an easier opponent to regain her mojo as a confident India get ready to maul Malaysia in their second T20 match of the women's Asia Cup here on Monday.

The game should serve as net session for Harmanpreet Kaur and Co against a Malaysian side that was thrashed by Pakistan by nine wickets in its opener.

After a comfortable win against Sri Lanka, scripted by Jemimah Rodrigues, the less experienced Indian players are expected to get some game time as the team prepares for the T20 World Cup in South Africa early next year.

Shafali, who has endured a dismal run, would want to come out all guns blazing and may take this opportunity to try an alternate batting approach as her natural game has not been yielding success off late.

The 18-year-old has not scored a T20I half-century since March last year but played a couple of good knocks at the Commonwealth Games. She then had a woeful England tour, where she had single digit scores four times across formats.

The big-hitting opener needs to find consistency after three years in international cricket. Her lack of footwork was the main cause of her undoing as English bowlers capitalised on her weakness.

With the quality of the Malaysian bowlers no where close to their English counterparts, it is important that Shafali uses this opportunity to the fullest to gain her confidence.

For vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, who failed to get going against Sri Lanka, the game will be about quality hitting time in the middle against an attack that is sure to feel intimidated.

Rodrigues, who came off a wrist injury, made instant impact with a sensational career-best performance while Harmanpreet has also been in imperious touch.

The tournament provided Indian with the perfect platform to experiment and several new players like Kiran Navgire could be seen in the playing XI come Monday.

Finding the right combination with the ball is also high on India's priority list.

With the pitch here producing knee length bounce on the opening day of the competition itself, India are expected to field a spin heavy attack with Renuka Singh being the sole specialist pacer.

## THE TEAMS (FROM)

**India:** Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sabineni Meghana, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sneha Rana, Dayalan Hemalatha, Meghna Singh, Renuka Thakur, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Radha Yadav, KP Navgire.

**Malaysia:** Winifred Duraisingam (c), Mas Elysa, Aina Najwa, Ainna Hamzah Hashim, Aisya Eleesa, Dhanusri Muhunan, Jamahidaya Intan, Mahirah Izzati Ismail, Noor Hayati Zakaria, Nur Arianna Natasya, Nur Dania Syuhada, Nuriyaa Natasya, Sasha Azmi, Elsa Hunter, Wan Julia.



## Mukesh, Rajat earn maiden India call-up for SA ODIs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Uncapped Bengal seamer Mukesh Kumar and prolific domestic performer Rajat Patidar on Sunday earned their maiden India call-up for the upcoming three-match ODI series against South Africa, starting October 6 in Lucknow.

Mukesh, a prolific red ball bowler for Bengal, had performed just at the right time, emerging as top wicket taker in first class games against New Zealand 'A' and followed that up with another stupendous show in the Irani Cup.

The 28-year-old quick had taken nine wickets in the three matches against New Zealand 'A', besides snapping 20 wickets for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy this year.

He also emerged as the wrecker-in-chief for Rest of India in the ongoing Irani Cup with a four-wicket haul which broke the back of the Saurashtra batting in Rajkot on Saturday.

Patidar, a stylish hitter, on the other hand, has scored centuries in IPL play offs, in the Ranji Trophy final and in 'Tests' against New Zealand 'A' in the last three months.

The 29-year-old from Indore gained prominence after slamming a sizzling 112 not out for Royal Challengers Bangalore against Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL eliminator. He also scored a 58 against Rajasthan Royals in the next match.

Switching to red-ball cricket, Patidar came up with scores of 85 and 79 against Punjab and Bengal respectively in knockout matches in the Ranji Trophy before slamming a decisive hundred in the Ranji Trophy final to guide Madhya Pradesh to the title.

His performance earned him a place in India A squad and Patidar grabbed the opportunity by producing two hundreds in the three four-day matches against New Zealand A. He also fired a quick unbeaten 45 to help India A beat New Zealand A in the

first one-day.

While Mukesh and Patidar will be the new faces, the Indian team would once again be led by ODI specialist Shikhar Dhawan, while Shreyas Iyer will be his deputy this time.

Shreyas and Deepak Chahar will link up with the T20 World Cup squad in Brisbane after the ODI series. They were named as stand-by players for the ICC flagship event. The team will train in Perth in first week.

The second and third ODIs of the South Africa series will be played on October 9 and 11 in Ranchi and Delhi respectively.

**The Squad:** Shikhar Dhawan (captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer (vice-captain), Rajat Patidar, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Shahbaz Ahmed, Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan, Mohd. Siraj, Deepak Chahar.

## Saurabh's all-round show puts ROI in firm control

PTI ■ RAJKOT

All-rounder Saurabh Kumar hit a strokeful fifty before returning to snap two wickets as Rest of India tightened the noose around Saurashtra on day 2 of the Irani Cup match here on Sunday.

Saurabh smashed 10 boundaries in his 78-ball 55 and added 71 with Jayant Yadav (37) for the seventh wicket to take ROI close to the 350-mark after Sarfaraz Khan dominated the opening day with a century.

It was Saurabh's innings which helped ROI grab a solid 276-run first-innings lead over Saurashtra.

The 29-year-old from Uttar Pradesh then returned to dismiss both the Saurashtra open-

ers -- Harvik Desai (20) and Snell Patel (16) -- as ROI gained further ascendancy in the match.

At stumps, Chirag Jani (3 batting) and Dharmendrasinh Jadeja (8 batting) were at the crease with Saurashtra, the 2019-20 Ranji Trophy Champions, at 49 for two in 17 overs, still trailing by 227 runs.

Earlier, left-arm fast bowler Chetan Sakariya gave Saurashtra a glimmer of hope with a five-wicket haul as they dismissed ROI for 374 in 110 overs.

The 24-year-old (5/93) snapped four wickets to go with the one scalp he took on the opening day after Chirag Jani removed the overnight batters Hanuma Vihari (82) and Sarfaraz (138) in the first

sessions.

After dominating the opening day, ROI resumed day two at 205 for three with skipper Vihari and centurion Sarfaraz batting for more than an hour, adding another 33 runs to their overnight partnership.

However, both departed in quick succession with Jani producing the breakthroughs.

Jani first had Hanuma caught by Harvik Desai before trapping Sarfaraz in front of wicket in his opening spell to reduce ROI to 239 for 5 in the 65th over.

It was a Sakariya show after that as he drew Srikanth Bharat (12 off 44) with a full delivery after coming round the wicket and induced an edge which was caught by Harvik Desai.

## KL bats at his best when he has 'nothing to lose': Watson

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

KL Rahul bats at his best when he has "nothing to lose" approach and that is how former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson wants the opener to play at the T20 World Cup beginning later this month.

Rahul's strike rate came under scanner during the Asia Cup and the ongoing home series against South Africa.

Though India had to chase down only 107 in the first T20 against the Proteas, questions were raised over Rahul's intent as he ended with 51 not out off 56 balls.

Speaking to PTI, Watson said Rahul needs to be aggressive from ball one in the World Cup Down Under.

"KL Rahul is is one of my favourite batters. To me when he is batting at his best, when he is aggressive, he takes the game on and is not trying to control the

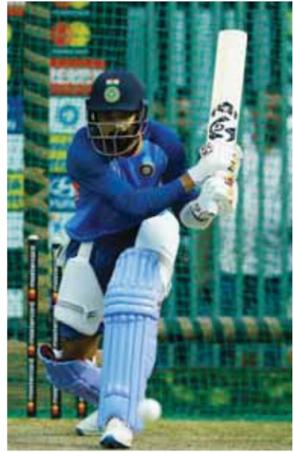
game. "He has got that skill, when he is just reacting to the ball coming down, he has all the shots all around the ground against the best bowlers in the world."

"I love seeing him when he feels like he's got nothing to lose, then he can even strike at 180 without taking too much risk. If he is able to do that (in Australia), there will be a lot of bowlers in trouble," said one of the best all-rounders to have played for Australia.

With serious question marks over the availability of the injured Jasprit Bumrah for the ICC event, India's pace attack seems like their weakest link.

Watson thinks on similar lines and wants Mohammad Siraj to take Bumrah's place if the latter is deemed unfit for the World Cup.

"India have certainly got the batting to do incredibly well in Australian conditions but the biggest question mark is around their fast bowling.



"The spinners, Axar Patel and Yuzi Chahal, are as good as anyone in the world in all conditions but the fast bowling without Bumrah in particular, whether they can execute skills under pressure at the back end of the game. That is where teams will be trying to expose India." India need a bowler who can bowl in excess of 140kmph in the absence of Bumrah, said Watson.

"It is a genuine concern (lack of express pace), that is why Siraj will be a good option if Bumrah isn't there."

"The pace at which he bowls and the skills he has got, swinging it away and pushing towards 150 kmph with the brand new ball and he can execute well in the end as well."

"He provides that element that other Indian bowlers don't necessarily have," said the 41-year-old adding that he would pick Siraj over Mohammad Shami in the squad.

## Perez wins Singapore Grand Prix

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Sergio Perez won a rain-affected Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday meaning his Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen, who finished seventh, must wait at least another week to retain his Formula One world championship.

The Mexican took the chequered flag 7.5sec ahead of the Ferrari of Charles Leclerc, whose teammate Carlos Sainz was third in the night race that started more than an hour late because of a storm.

Verstappen had a mathematical chance to clinch a second world title in Singapore, but needed to win and have other results go his way.

The Dutchman was always going to struggle after starting eighth on the grid at the

Marina Bay Street Circuit but he battled back from a slow start where he dropped to 13th to finish seventh.

It means his world championship lead over Leclerc has been cut to 104 points ahead of next week's Japanese Grand Prix. Perez is two points behind Leclerc.

Verstappen will need to be 112 points ahead at the end of next Sunday's race in Suzuka to retain his title.

It means a win will be enough for Verstappen if Leclerc fails to finish second.

"It was certainly my best performance," Perez said. "I controlled the race. The last three laps were so intense. When I got out of the car, I felt it. I gave everything today."

Perez was under investigation for an infringement under



one of numerous safety car periods during the race, and potentially faces a time penalty that could hand the victory to Ferrari.

"I have no idea what's going on, they just told me I was under investigation and to

increase the gap," Perez said. Leclerc started on pole but had a sluggish getaway on intermediate tyres in the slippery conditions allowing Perez to reach the first corner in the lead.

"I pushed all the way," said

Leclerc. "The bad start put us on the back foot and it was a really difficult race after that."

"I need a good night's sleep and to get ready for Japan."

Sainz said he felt he could never threaten the front two after he crossed the line 7.7sec behind his teammate.

"It was very tough out there," Sainz said. "I never really got into a rhythm in the wet and then couldn't challenge the top two guys."

"I had to settle for P3, but the good thing is I didn't do any mistakes and could bring the car home and be quick towards the end of the race."

Lewis Hamilton started third in his Mercedes and lost a place at the start before later slithering into a barrier and finishing ninth.

## Kenya's Kipruto and Yehualaw triumph at London Marathon

AP ■ LONDON

Kenyan Amos Kipruto marked his London Marathon debut with a decisive victory in the men's race on Sunday as Ethiopian 23-year-old Yalemzerf Yehualaw became the youngest winner of the women's race.

It was a maiden London victory for Yehualaw in what was just the second marathon of her career.

The 30-year-old Kipruto, a world bronze medalist in Doha in 2019, crossed the line in London in two hours, four minutes and 39 seconds after breaking away late on.

Leul Gebresilase of Ethiopia finished second in 2:05:12, with Bashir Abdi of



Belgium third in 2:05:19.

Ethiopian distance great Kenenisa Bekele was fifth with compatriot Sisay Lemma, last year's London Marathon winner, seventh.

Yehualaw's winning time of 2:17:26 was just three seconds outside the personal best she set at Hamburg in April when making the fastest debut in any women's marathon.