

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY OCTOBER 13, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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INDIA TO FACE  
THAILAND IN  
ASIA CUP SEMIS  
11 SPORT

## CAPSULE

MIG 29K CRASHES:  
PILOT EJECTS SAFELY

**New Delhi:** A MIG 29K fighter jet of the Indian Navy crashed off the Goa coast on Wednesday morning after developing a technical malfunction. The pilot ejected safely, the Navy said.

477 WHALES DIE IN NZ  
AFTER STRANDINGS

**Wellington:** Some 477 pilot whales have died after stranding themselves on two remote New Zealand beaches over recent days, officials say.

FIR AGAINST VISHWAS  
QUASHED: AAP SLAMMED

**Chandigarh:** Opposition parties in Punjab said the quashing of FIRs against Kumar Vishwas and BJP's Tajinder Bagga by the High Court was a "huge embarrassment" for AAP chief Erum Kejriwal and CM Mann.

RUPEE FALLS 12 PAISE  
AGAINST US DOLLAR

**New Delhi:** The rupee fell by 12 paise to close at 82.33 against the US dollar on Wednesday due to sustained foreign fund outflows and a stronger dollar in the overseas markets. Besides, risk aversion sentiment among investors ahead of the release of US Fed minutes and inflation data weighed on the local unit.

ULEMA CONDEMN BEER  
SALE IN J&K DEPT STORES

**Srinagar:** Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) — an amalgam of various religious, social and educational organisations in the Valley — on Thursday condemned the Jammu & Kashmir administration's approval to the sale of beer and other ready to drink beverages in departmental stores, saying it deeply hurts the sentiments of Muslims.



Bhagawal Singh



Laila



Mohammed Shafi

Kerala human sacrifice  
accused ate victims' flesh

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Gory details have come out from the sensational human sacrifice and black magic case from Elanthoor in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala, pointing to a possible cannibalism angle.

Police are also not ruling out more such cases masterminded by main accused Mohammed Shafi (52).

A day after the arrest of Shafi (52), Bhagawal Singh (68) and Laila (58) in connection with "human sacrifice", reports said the Singh couple consumed the flesh and blood of the two kidnapped women as a ritual connected with the sorcery. The two poor women Rosily and Padma were kidnapped by Shafi.

H Nagaraju, City Police Commissioner, Ernakulam, who briefed the media about the status of the case on Wednesday did not rule out such a possibility.

"There's some information that the accused ate parts of the body after killing the victims. It is being investigated. We have to conduct DNA analysis and other scientific examinations before reaching a conclusion.

"We have seized a book on sorcery from the house of Bhagawal. The Special Investigating Team is probing all angles," said Nagaraju.

The Police Commissioner disclosed that Shafi was a psychopath as well as sexual pervert. "He had molested and assaulted a 75-year old woman in Ernakulam district in 2020. Bhagwal and Laila told us that

he inflicted injuries with a knife on the private parts of Rosely and Padma before he slit their throats and hacked their bodies into 56 pieces," he said.

The remand report says Shafi who had lured Padma with the promise of lucrative assignment reached the house of Bhagawal Singh and Laila at Elanthoor around 4 pm on September 26.

"At the bedroom located in the central part of the house, Padma demanded money from the accused persons. Following the argument, they strangled Padma using a plastic rope.

When Padma became unconscious, she was shifted to another bedroom on the western side of the house. Shafi inflicted injuries on Padma's private parts with a knife and then slashed her throat which led to her death. Later, the three of them cut Padma into 56 pieces using a cleaver and knives.

These parts were collected in a bucket and dumped at a pit which was dug up in the compound of the house at the northern side," the remand report said.

In the interrogation, the three reportedly confessed to

have similarly killed Rosily Varghese of Ashokapuram, Aluva in June. She, was taken to the couple's house at Elanthoor on the promise of a role in a movie for ₹10 lakh.

"Rosily's hands and legs were tied to the bed in a room in the centre of the house. A piece of cloth was inserted into her mouth which was also taped with plaster. She was stabbed by Shafi and her throat was slashed. Later, her private parts were cut and preserved. The accused then cut up her body into several pieces and collected them in a bucket. The body parts were later dumped in a pit dug at the eastern part of the house," stated the report.

Inflation spikes to 7.4%  
on soaring food pricesIIP plunges to  
18-month low  
on sluggish  
manufacturing,  
mining sectors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

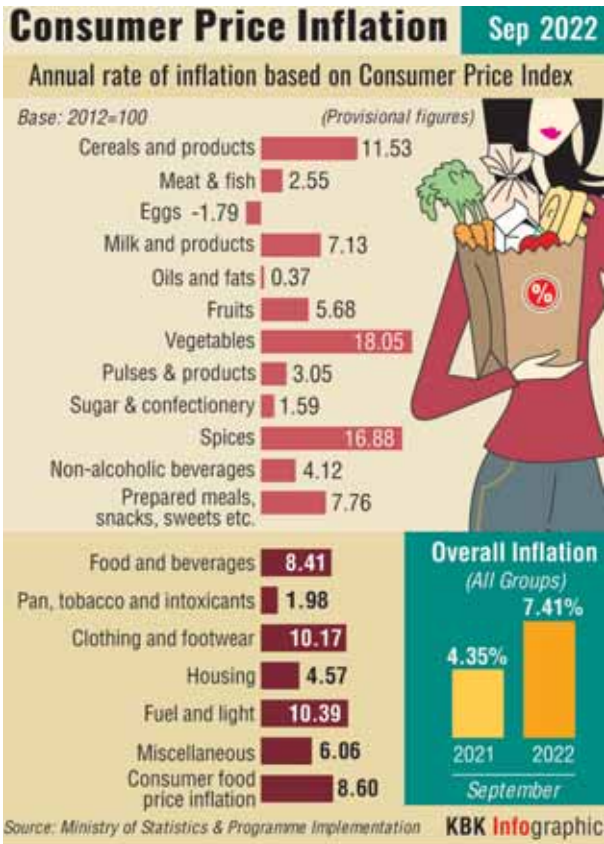
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation rose to five-month high of 7.41 per cent in September, while India's industrial production slipped to an 18-month low, contracting by 0.8 per cent in August. The retail inflation stood at 7 per cent in August and 4.35 per cent in September 2021.

The two sets of data released by the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry paint a worrying picture about the state of the economy. The rise in inflation will mount pressure on the Reserve Bank of India to continue with its monetary tightening policy and further hike the lending rate.

While the rise in inflation has been attributed mainly to costlier food items, India's industrial production (IIP) has shrunk due to a decline in output of the manufacturing and mining sectors.

The retail inflation has remained above the Reserve



Bank of India's tolerance level of 6 per cent for the ninth month in a row. And 36 consecutive months above the RBI midterm target level of 4 per cent. Inflation in the food basket rose to 8.60 per cent in September this year from 7.62

per cent in August.

With inflation remaining above the 6 per cent level, the RBI, now, will have to give a report to the Central Government giving reasons for failure to contain inflation at 4 per cent with a bias of 2 per

Aware of 'Lakshman Rekha', says  
SC on judicial review of noteban

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Wednesday it is aware of the "Lakshman Rekha" on judicial review of the Government's policy decisions but will have to examine the 2016 demonetisation decision to come to a conclusion whether the issue has become a mere "academic" exercise.

Observing that when an issue arises before a constitution bench, it is its duty to answer, a five-judge bench headed by Justice SA Nazeer directed the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India to file a comprehensive affidavit on the petitions challenging demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 currency notes.

Attorney General R Venkataramani submitted that

unless the Act on demonetisation is challenged in a proper perspective, the issue will essentially remain academic.

He said the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act was passed in 1978 to provide in public interest for demonetisation of certain high denomination bank notes in order to check illicit transfer of money harmful to the economy which such currency notes facilitate.

The top court said in order to declare whether the exercise is academic or has become infructuous, it needs to examine the matter since both sides are not agreeable.

"In order to answer that issue, we will have to hear and give an answer whether it's academic, not academic or beyond the scope of judicial review.

The point in the case is the Government policy and its wisdom which is one aspect of the matter.

"We always know where the Lakshman Rekha is, but the manner in which it was done has to be examined."

Continued on Page 2

Provide security to scribe who  
reported ₹13,000 cr fraud: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked Attorney General R Venkataramani to assure security to a journalist who has filed a petition against financial frauds and insolvency related illegalities by Amtek Auto Limited.

The Bench headed Chief Justice UU Lalit directed the Attorney General to look into the safety concern of the journalist, who alleged that

he had been receiving threats from the company, which is facing charges of huge loan frauds of more than ₹13,000 crore.

Journalist Jaskaran Singh Chawla in his petition said he is being stalked after he filed complaints against the company for cheating 27 banks and committing illegalities in insolvency process in connivance with certain officials.

He sought direction from the Supreme Court for thorough probe by CBI, ED and SFIO. The journalist said that the probe agencies are not acting on the massive bank scam and big irregularities in the insolvency process.

The journalist said in his petition that the Amtek Group again regained control in the companies using benami persons through totally illegal procedures by misusing the insolvency code. The petitioner pointed out that he was living in Noida and faces threat to life.

He also claimed he was once physically

attacked after he reported and complained to agencies of the violations and bank frauds by the company.

The Bench also comprising Justices Ravindra Bhat and Ajay Rastogi appointed Advocate Kavin Gulati as Amicus curiae. The case is listed on November 3 for next hearing.

Facebook tsunami  
wipes off millions  
of users' followers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Millions of Meta's Facebook users have lost majority of their followers on the social media platform due to unknown reasons.

Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg has reportedly lost over 119 million followers which has brought down his follower count to below 10,000.

"Facebook created a tsunami that wiped away my almost 900,000 followers and left only 9,000 something on the shore. I kind of like Facebook's comedy," exiled Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen tweeted.

A Meta spokesperson said, "We're aware that some people

are seeing inconsistent follower count on their Facebook profiles. We're working to get things back to normal as quickly as possible and we apologise for any inconvenience."

Meanwhile, Meta has claimed that a report in the Wire (portal) — which suggested BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya was part of the firm's controversial XCheck programme — was "inaccurate" and appeared to be based on "fabricated" documentation.

However, the news portal reported that Meta's claims were in stark contrast to an internal email asking its employees "how the hell" the same document had been "leaked".

Delhi riots: IB  
officer Ankit  
Sharma's main  
killer nabbed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After nearly two years of relentless pursuit to nab the prime accused in the murder of Intelligence Bureau personnel Ankit Sharma during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, the Delhi Police has arrested the 34-year-old fugitive Mohammad Muntajim, a resident of Chand Bagh area in the National Capital.

Mohammad — who was declared a proclaimed offender on January 5, 2021, carried an award of ₹5000 — was arrested from Meerpet in Telangana. He is also facing charges in five cases, including attempt to murder and criminal intimidation.

According to the post-mortem report, Ankit Sharma was stabbed 52 times by sharp-edged weapons. His body was later fished out from a nearby nullah.

Detailed report on P3

Cabinet OK's amendments  
to Cooperative Societies Act

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved amendments to the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act to bring transparency and accountability in the sector as well as reform the electoral process.

Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi also approved a ₹6,000 crore scheme known as Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) to support infrastructure, industries and other livelihood projects in the Northeastern States.

Briefing media, I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, seeks to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, for improving ease of doing business, bringing greater transparency and enhance governance. The Government plans to bring

the amendment Bill in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament, Thakur said.

At present, India has more than 1,500 multi-state cooperative societies spread across the country promoting economic and social betterment of their members based on the principles of self-help and mutual aid.

Productivity linked  
bonus to Rly staff

The Cabinet also approved the payment of productivity linked bonus to Railway employees for the financial year 2021-22, said I&B Minister Anurag Thakur. Payment to eligible employees is made each year before the dussehra/puja holidays. This year too, the amount equivalent to 78 days wages has been paid to about 11.27 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees. The maximum amount payable per eligible railway employee is ₹17,951 for 78 days.

Giving major highlights of the Bill, Thakur said the Government has included provisions relating to representation of women and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe members on the board of Multi-State cooperative societies.

Continued on Page 2

₹22,000 crore grant  
to oil firms to make  
up for loss incurred  
on subsidising LPG

The Government will extend a one-time grant of ₹22,000 crore to three State-owned fuel retailers to cover for the losses they incurred on selling domestic cooking gas LPG below cost in the last two years. The Cabinet approved the one-time grant to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).

Charges framed  
against wrestler  
Sushil Kumar in  
stadium murder

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday framed charges against Olympic medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar and 17 others in the Chhatrasal Stadium murder case, setting the stage for their trial. Additional Sessions Judge Shivaji Anand framed charges against Kumar and other accused under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, including those related to murder, rioting and criminal conspiracy.

Kumar along with others is accused of allegedly assaulting former junior national wrestling champion Sagar Dhankar and his friends in the parking lot of the city's Chhatrasal stadium on May 4, 2021 over an alleged property dispute.

Dhankar later succumbed to injuries and, according to the post-mortem report, he died due to cerebral damage resulting from blunt object impact.

Participants promise organ  
donation at Bharat Jodo Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Family members of organ donors, transgender, and well-know Kannad actress on Wednesday joined the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra which continued to receive participation from various quarters and civil society groups.

The Congress roped in hundreds of family members of organ donors on Wednesday to highlight organ donation when the yatra was passing through Chitradurga district.

Members of the transgender community of Karnataka met Rahul and shared their stories with him, while highlighting the need for generating employment for them. They also spoke about the need for a new transgender policy at national level which will provide them job opportunities based on their education.

The Congress said 33 "yatriss" marching with Rahul



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Chitradurga district, Karnataka on Wednesday

PTI

pledged their eyes for donation.

The organ donors, whose family members walked with Rahul, were: late National Film Award-winning Best Actor Sanchari Vijay who died in a motorcycle accident;

Rakshit, a PUC student from Chikkamagaluru district, who suffered a head injury after falling off a bus; and Veda Manjunath, who had an accident on the Hubballi-Dharwad bypass Highway.

Continued on Page 2



NCR PULSE

**DOE LAUNCHES 30 STUDENT-LED E MAGAZINES**  
New Delhi: In order to develop a sense of agency among students and provide them an opportunity to engage with global issues, the Delhi Government has introduced e-magazine in Delhi government schools. The Directorate of Education (DoE) on Wednesday also launched 30 student-led E-Magazines. "The magazines are from 30 different schools and focus on establishing a process where students engage in activities to create their own school magazine from scratch and discuss issues of social and educational importance," said an official.

**SISODIA INAUGURATES ANNUAL ZONAL ATHLETIC MEET**  
New Delhi: Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia inaugurated the Annual Zonal Athletic Meet of Education Zone-2 on Wednesday by lighting the torch. More than 900 students from various schools of Zone-2 will participate in this 3-days athletic meet. "These budding players are extremely hard working and will make Delhi and the country proud by winning medals in world championships in the future. The government under the leadership of CM Arvind Kejriwal aims to provide all the sports facilities to these players to ensure this," said Sisodia.

**KEJRIWAL CONGRATULATES EDUCATION TEAM**  
New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday congratulated the education team and said two government schools in the national capital have topped the ranking for state government day schools in the country. Kejriwal in a tweet said, "Proud of my Team Education. Once again, Delhi Govt schools top the Education World School Rankings, with the best state govt school in India." The government-run Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya, Sector 10, Dwarka secured the first rank and Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya, Yamuna Vihar came second in the ranking released by Education World (EW), a portal for educators, teachers and parents which comes out with rankings for schools every year.

**AUTORICKSHAW DRIVER HELD FOR MOLESTING STUDENT**  
New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested a 25-year-old auto-rickshaw driver was arrested in south Delhi's Saket area for allegedly molesting a school student. The accused, Shahrugh usually drove in Ambedkar Nagar, Sangam Vihar and Chirag Delhi area. According to police, the incident took place on September 30 at about 1.43 pm.

**SPECIAL CELL ARRESTS 2 GANGSTERS AFTER ENCOUNTER**  
New Delhi: After an exchange of fire, the Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested two alleged members of the Lawrence Bishnoi-Sampat Nehra-Tinu Bhiwani gang from South Delhi's Lado Sarai area. Police said that both gangsters have been involved in over a dozen criminal cases in Delhi and Haryana. The accused have been identified as Deepak (32), a resident of Bhiwani in Haryana and Gulshan Kumar (38), a resident of Bahadurgarh in Haryana.

**MAMC RESIDENTIAL DOCTORS' ASSN ISSUES APOLOGY**  
New Delhi: The Resident Doctors' Association of the Maulana Azad Medical College here has issued an apology over a skit performed at the college's annual festival that was disrespectful to religious sentiments, after a purported video of it was circulated on social media. The skit was performed on September 27 at a competition during the four-day college festival organised by the Resident Doctors' Association and the Azad Medicos Association. "On behalf of the performing students, we apologize for the aggravating act. We also wish to emphasize that we will ensure no such acts are repeated in future. And what only emanates is the supreme quality of medical care, for which this institution stands," the Resident Doctors' Association said in a statement.

HC quashes FIRs filed against Kumar Vishwas, Tajinder Pal Bagga by Punjab Police

**PTI ■ CHANDIGARH**  
The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday quashed two separate FIRs registered against former AAP leader Kumar Vishwas and BJP's Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga by the Punjab Police.

Justice Anoop Chitkara said that its non-interference in the Vishwas' case would result in a miscarriage of justice, while the continuation of criminal proceedings against Bagga shall amount to an abuse of the process of law.

The judge invoked Section 482 of the Code of Criminal

**Public Notice**

SARV PRIYA MAHAJAN CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY Ltd 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C-Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034

In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, applications are invited from general public of Delhi who fulfill the conditions laid down in rule-19 & 20 of DCS Rules, 2007 for filling up three vacancy in Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd. (Regd. No. 1384-GH) for three bedroom flat (Tentative cost of flat 1.5 Crore) (having Approximate 90.88 meter carpet area, which has arisen due to resignation of members. Interested persons can collect the application form in person from society office i.e. 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-34 between 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. free of cost and the same have to deposited along with the amount of Rs. 68,50,360/-which includes Share money, admission fee,land & Construction money through Pay order/ Demand Draft within 15 days of issue of this notice in favour of Sarv Priya Mahajan Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. Further at the time of applying membership, applicant has to deposit the Equalization charges as prescribed in the DCS Act & Rules.

President-Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My client, Sh. Anon Kumar Jain S/o Late Sh. Darshan Lal Jain, who has co-registered the property bearing no. 19 Rishabh Vihar Delhi-52 alongwith his brothers, Sh. Sanjay Kumar Jain, Late Sh. Sudhir Kumar Jain and Late Sh. Rakesh Kumar Jain, (through their legal heirs), vide registered WILL dated 12.09.2016 registration no. 678 at SR-19, Delhi, executed by their mother late Smt. Chakreshwari Jain W/o Late Sh. Darshan Lal Jain. The previous chain documents of the property i.e. original document, letter, possession letter and conveyance deed dated 15.09.2011 registration no. 16,124 registered at SR-19, Delhi have been lost/impounded. The same has been reported vide NCR no. 822002/2022 in this regard an earlier publication was also issued in this newspaper dated 15.04.2022. In the said advertisement by a typo error WILL has been mentioned as Gift Deed. Any person(s)/financial institution having any claim/right, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned, Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/D within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.

**Vishal Mehan (Advocate)**  
E-713, Karkardooma Court,  
Delhi-110092, Mobile No. 9811215151

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
<b>E-Tender No.</b> 25-TRD-NDLS-2022-23	<b>Date:</b> 11.10.2022
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, Invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:	
1) Name of work with its location	Cutting/Trimming/Pruning of various type of trees near overhead equipment over TRD Delhi Division".
2) Approx. Cost of work	Rs 4072990.8/-
3) Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 81500/-
4) E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	26.10.2022
5) E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	10.11.2022 (15.00 hrs)
6) Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
2704/22	
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ED seizes ₹4cr jewellery, cash in Chhattisgarh raids

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized about Rs 4 crore cash and jewellery during searches at several locations linked to government officers and businessmen in Chhattisgarh in connection with a money laundering case. On Tuesday, the ED teams searched several locations related to Deputy Secretary to the CM, Soumya Chaurasia in Durg, Chartered Accountant Vijay Malu in Devendra Nagar, Raipur, Raigarh Collector and IAS officer Ranu Sahu's residence in Raigarh, former MLA and Chairman of state's Seeds Development Corporation Agni Chandrakar in Mahasamund, businessman Suryakant Tiwari in Anupam Nagar, Raipur and mining chief and IAS officer JP Maurya in Raipur. Maurya is the husband of Ranu Sahu.

In the Mahasamund district, searches were conducted at locations linked to politicians



and businessmen. Those under the ED scanner are Laxmikant Tiwari, Ajay Naidu, a close aide of Suryakant Tiwari, District Congress president Badal Makkad and real estate businessman Sunny Lunia, officials had said. Over a dozen ED officers landed at Raigarh collector Ranu Shahu's residence in the morning for carrying out the search operation. Separate teams of the ED started conducting raids in the morning in state capital Raipur, Raigarh, Mahasamund, Korba and other districts, they said.

The seizures have been made from both the government officers and private entities searched by the agency, sources said.

The ED action relates to a money laundering investiga-

tion into alleged illegal levy commissions sourced by certain entities from transporters in Chhattisgarh in collusion with the officials, including Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's Deputy Secretary Soumya Chaurasia, they said.

The ED has taken cognisance of an Income Tax Department complaint and chargesheet to file a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel who apparently did not act on an Income Tax Department communication has termed the raids as an "act of intimidation".

Earlier, the I-T department had conducted raids at the premises of businessmen associated with steel and coal businesses.

Similar raids conducted by the I-T department in June-July this year covered the premises of coal businessman Suryakant Tiwari and Soumya Chaurasia.

German envoy praises AAP on revolutionary changes in hospitals and schools in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The German Ambassador to India, Dr Philipp Ackermann, met Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal at Delhi Secretariat on Wednesday. The Ambassador also praised the Chief Minister and the AAP for the revolutionary changes brought in Delhi Government's schools and hospitals.

"It was astonishing to see



Government schools become world-class in just four to five years and I am keen to visit Government schools myself. We are ready to provide

expertise to the Delhi Government on various issues and we can also work together in reducing air pollution," said Dr Ackermann.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister informed Ambassador Dr. Philipp Ackermann that he focused on transforming schools and hospitals as soon as the government was formed.

"In particular, many steps were taken to equip government schools with modern facilities. Our government

Under pressure to betray Sena but didn't succumb, Raut tells mother

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Incarcerated Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MP Sanjay Raut has said that though there was a lot of pressure on him to "betray" his party, he did not succumb to it, but preferred to go to jail on the basis of "fake" and "trumped up" charges of money laundering made against him.

In a letter – written to his mother Savita R. Raut on August 8 when he was sitting outside a courtroom after he got his judicial custody – that was shared on his Twitter handle, Raut wrote: "Even I am fighting against injustice, I will never bow before the enemies of Shiv Sena, meaning Maharashtra, that's why I must remain away from you... Haven't I learnt this from you?"

"Uddhav Thackeray is my dearest friend and my 'Senapati' (commander). The party is facing a major crisis... If I betray him at such a critical juncture, what face will I show to Balasaheb...?" Raut



asked.

Raut, the executive editor of Shiv Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', said: "This is no time to lose morale, or surrender, or fear as to how I would step outside to be among the people"

Raut, who is currently in judicial custody and whose bail plea will before a court on October 17, said that as taught by his mother "never go on the knees due to the fear of the ED, IT, etc, which had sent waves of panic among many MPs, MLAs forcing them to abandon their respective parties."

"I don't want my name in the list of 'cheats'... Someone has to remain firm... I have the courage, given to me by Balasaheb and You," he wrote to his mother.

Raut said that freedom fighters Lokmanya Tilak and

Vinayak Domadar Savarkar had to face similar treatment.

"Like you, the Shiv Sena is also my mother. I had pressure to betray my mother (the party). There were threats not to speak against the government as it will prove costly. I did not pay heed to the threat which is why I am away from you," Raut stated in his letter tweeted on Wednesday.

Raut, who was detained by the ED on July 31 after a raid on his Bhandup residence and his questioning that lasted for more than nine hours, was formally placed under by the investigating agency at 12.05 am on August 1 under sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The PMLA court had earlier remanded Raut to ED custody till August 4.

The ED is investigating the alleged irregularities in a money laundering case pertaining to the redevelopment of Patra Chawl by Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd a subsidiary of Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL).

Another Ramlila artiste dies on stage in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Close on the heels of the death of two artistes who died while playing the character of Lord Hanuman and Ravan, another artiste died while playing the character of Lord Shiva in Ramlila in Machhlisahr town of Jaunpur.

The artiste, Ram Prasad aka Chhaban Pandey, suffered a massive cardiac arrest on stage and died on Tuesday night. He had been playing the role of Lord Shiva for the past six years.

The Ramlila was stopped after Prasad's death.

The incident took place in Balesin village when 'aarti' was being performed. Ram Prasad clutched his chest and fell down. He was immediately rushed to a nearby medical facility where the doctors pronounced him dead.

It may be recalled that in similar incidents, two artistes playing the role of Lord Hanuman and Ravan respectively, died in the past few days while performing in the Ramlila.

Refuel only PUC-certified vehicles from Oct 25: Delhi Govt to stations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Wednesday asked all fuel stations in the national Capital to gear up to refuel only those vehicles which have valid Pollution Under Control Certificates from October 25.

In a notice issued by the transport department, owners of vehicles more than a year old (except electric or battery-driven vehicles) were also asked to get Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUCCs) for their vehicles.

The department is issuing notices to vehicle owners without valid PUCCs to get them within a week or face suspension of registration certificates.

Apart from this, the city government has also formed teams to check buses coming from neighbouring states at the Anand Vihar bus terminal for PUCCs.

The transport department has asked vehicle owners to obtain valid PUCCs before October 25 to avoid inconvenience and action as per law.



nience and action as per law.

"Driving a vehicle without a valid PUC is liable to attract a penalty of Rs 10,000 and imprisonment up to three months or both," the notice read.

Delhi Transport Commissioner Ashish Kundra said pollution control is a shared responsibility. Sharing the notice on his Twitter handle, he said: "For those who missed it. Pollution control is a shared responsibility. Do your bit this winter. Make sure your vehicle has a valid PUC certificate. Post 25 October, in Delhi, no PUC would mean no fuel at the pumps."

The Delhi government has intensified its crackdown on vehicles without valid PUCCs

in an effort to control pollution levels.

The environment department is considering issuing a notification mandating all dealers of petrol, diesel and CNG pumps to sell fuel to motor vehicles only on production of valid PUC from October 25, the notice read.

Earlier this month, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai had announced that vehicle owners would not be provided fuel at petrol pumps in Delhi without showing a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate from October 25.

The decision was taken at a meeting of officials from the environment, transport and the traffic departments on September 29, he had said.

"Vehicular emission is one of the key contributors to rising pollution in Delhi. It is imperative to reduce it, and so, it has been decided that from October 25 petrol, diesel will not be provided at petrol pumps without PUC certificate of vehicles," Rai had said.

Hry RERA court directs ILD to refund money with interest to allottee

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

The Haryana real estate regulatory authority (RERA), Gurugram, court on Tuesday directed the International Land Developers (ILD) not only to refund the received principal amount to the allottee but also pay interest at the rate specified by the State Government.

"The authority hereby directs the promoter (ILD) to return the amount received by him from the allottee with interest at the rate as prescribed under rule 15 of the Haryana real estate (regulation and development) Rules 2017 from the date of each payment till the actual date of refund of the amount within the timelines provided in rule 16 of the Haryana Rules 2017," the court said while deciding the case in favour of aggrieved allottee.

Rule 16 of Haryana Rules 2017 states any refund shall be payable by the promoter to



the allottee within ninety days from the date on which such refund has been ordered by the court.

The complainant booked an apartment in the ILD Arete group housing project signing a BBA on June 10, 2015, and its due date of possession was December 10, 2019.

The promoter failed to deliver the apartment to the allottee even at the time matter landed in the RERA court on August 2, 2021 complainant wished to withdraw from the project, seeking a refund with interest.

"Keeping in view the fact that the allottee wishes to withdraw from the project and demanding refund with

interest from the promoter who failed to give possession of the unit in accordance with the terms of the agreement for sale," said the court.

The court observed that the due date of possession as per the agreement for sale is December 10, 2019, and there is an apparent delay of one year seven months and 23 days on the date of filing of the complaint.

"The promoter is responsible for all obligations, responsibilities and functions under the provisions of the Act 2016 or the rules and regulations made thereunder or to the allottee as per the agreement for sale under section 11(4)(a). The promoter has failed to complete or is unable to give possession of the unit in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Accordingly, the promoter is liable to return the amount received by him in respect of the unit with interest," the order said.

Aware of 'Lakshman Rekha', says...

**From Page 1**  
We have to hear the counsel to decide that," the bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the court's time should not be "wasted" on academic issues. Objecting to Mehta's submission, senior lawyer Shyam Divan, representing petitioner Vivek Narayan Sharma, said he was surprised at the words "waste of constitutional bench's time" as the earlier bench had said these cases must be placed before a constitution bench.

Senior advocate and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, appearing for one of the parties, said the issue has not become academic and has to be decided by the top court. He said this kind of demonetisation requires a separate Act of Parliament. Chidambaram pointed out that in 24 hours between November

7 and November 8 of 2016, the decision was taken in a totally non-transparent way to cancel 86 per cent of the currency in circulation.

He pointed out that on November 7, the Government asked RBI to recommend demonetisation and the RBI meeting with very less number of members conducted the meeting in Delhi to recommend demonetisation and within hours Cabinet took the decisions.

"In the evening Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the policy by putting the Cabinet Ministers in the room," said Chidambaram. The top court has now posted the matter for hearing on November 9, 2022.

On December 16, 2016, a bench headed by then Chief Justice TS Thakur had referred the question of the validity of the decision and other related matters to a larger bench of five judges for an authoritative pronouncement.

Cabinet OK's amendments...

**From Page 1**

The Bill will incorporate the provisions of the 97th Constitutional Amendment.

The amendments have been brought to reform the electoral process, strengthen monitoring mechanisms and enhance accountability. The Bill will also widen the composition of board and ensure financial discipline, besides enabling the multi-state cooperative societies to raise funds.

To improve the governance of multi-State cooperative societies, the Bill has specific provisions for setting up of Cooperative Election Authority, Cooperative Information Officer and Cooperative Ombudsman.

The election authority will ensure that elections are held in a fair, free and timely manner, which in turn will help reduce incidents of complaints and malpractices. There is a provision to debar offenders for three years to bring in more electoral discipline. The ombudsman will provide for a

mechanism for redressal of member grievances in a structured fashion, while cooperative information officer will enhance transparency by providing members timely access to information.

Seeking to promote professional management, the Bill has provisions for bringing in co-opted directors with experience in the field of banking, management, cooperative management and finance. The directors having specialisation in any field relating to the objects and activities undertaken by such multi-State cooperative society can be represented on the board.

The new scheme PM-DevINE to be implemented during the remaining four years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26, is a 100 per cent Central Government-funded plan and will be administered by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), an official statement said.

Participants pledge organ...

**From Page 1**

Later in a post on his Facebook page, Rahul said he had the privilege of walking with the brave-heart families of these organ donors, and they personify resilience, empathy, and humanity.

"It was not their age to go. Rakshitha, Veda and Vijay went too soon. Even in death, they gifted meaning and happiness to others by donating their organs to save lives. A beautiful gesture of love and sacrifice! It is the human spirit of care and compassion that we must nurture and cherish. It is too precious to be lost to the hateful and greedy ploys of a few," Rahul said in his post.

Noting that Kannada thespian late Dr Rajkumar and his late actor-son Puneeth Rajkumar's similar selfless acts of donating their eyes inspired millions of Kannadigas and others, and raised awareness on the importance of organ donation,

Rahul said.

"I feel immensely proud to tell you all that 33 Bharat Yatriis have pledged to donate their eyes from this beautiful land of Karnataka," he said.

Talking to Rahul, a transgender woman Riana Rajo said, "The Government does not understand what a transgender community is. Transgenders have been suffering a lot and they have been pushed to sex work for survival. The Government needs to provide us with work opportunities and create employment for us. Otherwise, the suffering is going to continue for generations."

"I was thrown out of my school in the 10th standard when I complained about a sexual harassment by my seniors. The management told me to change my walking style and behaviour. I was later removed from the school and for living, I had to beg or choose sex work," Rajo said.



# Man wanted for Ankit Sharma’s murder held

Special Cell nabbed 2020 rioter from Telangana

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police’s Special Cell has arrested a 34-year-old man, accused of killing Intelligence Bureau (IB) staffer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, from Meerpet in Telangana. He was wanted in the murder and a reward of Rs 50,000 was declared on information leading to his arrest as he was hiding since 2020.

Police said that the accused has been identified as Mohammad Muntajim, a resident of Chand Bagh area in Delhi. He was also previously involved in five criminal cases including attempt to murder, under the Arms Act and criminal intimidation. Police said that he was declared a proclaimed offender in the case by the court vide order dated January 5, 2021.

According to the post-mortem report, Sharma was stabbed 52 times with sharp-edged weapons. PS Kushwah, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell said that specific inputs were



received that the accused was living in Telangana for the last six months following which a team of the Special Cell was sent there. Sources told police that the accused used to visit a particular chemist shop in Gayatri Nagar, Meerpet.

“The police kept watch and on October 10, at about 5:15 PM the accused Muntajim alias Musa Qureshi was spotted going into the chemist shop. Immediately the police team surrounded and apprehended him,” said the DCP.

“On interrogation, the accused revealed that after doing tailoring work for some years, he went to jail in a kidnapping and rape case. In the jail, he met one notorious criminal Mubeeb of Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh (UP),” said the DCP. “After coming out of jail the accused started working in Gazipur Murga Mandi with his

maternal uncle. But in order to meet his expenses the accused started committing crimes,” said the DCP.

“In 2018 the accused went to Mumbai along with his wife and started doing sale purchase of goats there. When he again came to Delhi, he met his two friends identified as Salman and Sameer. On February 24, both of them came to Muntajim’s house in Chand Bagh and they decided to participate in the ongoing riots in the city,” said the DCP. “On February 25, all the three accused assembled near Firdaus Masjid, Mustafabad and being highly radicalised they also involved themselves in the ongoing riots in the area of Chand Bagh, northeast Delhi.

The accused Muntajim along with his associates and others after finding Ankit Sharma alone near Chand Bagh pulia murdered him. His two friends, Salman and Sameer, have already been arrested in the case,” said the DCP.

Police said that during investigation of the northeast Delhi riots, 10 accused had been arrested including the then sitting AAP councillor Tahir Hussain.

# CBI quizzes India Ahead MD in excise policy case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday questioned managing director of India Ahead News and Andhra Prabha newspaper Mootha Gautam in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy case.

Although he is not named as an accused in the FIR, another employee of the channel, Arjun Pandey, is named in the FIR as one of the alleged “close associates” of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

The officials said that Gautam was called to the CBI headquarters in the morning and grilled on various aspects of the case, including some transactions. The agency also questioned Amit Arora, director of Buddy Retail Private Limited in Gurugram, listed in the FIR as one of the three close associates of Sisodia. He has been grilled earlier also in connection with the case, they said. Two days ago the CBI arrested Hyderabad-based businessman Abhishek Boinpally in connection with the case.

Boinpally, who was allegedly lobbying for certain liquor businessmen based in southern India, was called for



questioning on Sunday and when the agency found him evading key questions it took him into custody.

Boinpally is also not named as an accused in the CBI FIR but his close associate and partner, Arun Ramchandra Pillai, is. The two founded Robin Distribution LLP in July this year, according to Registrar of Companies (RoC) database.

According to the FIR, Sisodia’s “close associates” — Amit Arora, Dinesh Arora and Arjun Pandey — were “actively involved in managing and diverting the undue pecuniary advantage collected from liquor licensees” to the accused public servants.

The FIR claims, based on “source information”, that Sisodia and the accused public servants took decisions pertaining to the Excise Policy 2021-22 without the approval of competent authority with

“an intention to extend undue favours to the licensees post tender”.

“It was alleged that irregularities were committed including in modifications in the Excise Policy, extending undue favours to the licensees, waiver/reduction in licence fee, extension of L-1 licence without approval, etc.,” the CBI’s spokesperson had said.

The CBI has alleged that Radha Industries managed by Dinesh Arora received Rs 1 crore from Sameer Mahendru of Indospirits.

“Source further revealed that Arun Ramchandra Pillai used to collect undue pecuniary advantage from Sameer Mahendru for onward transmission to the accused public servants through Vijay Nair.

A person named Arjun Pandey has once collected a huge cash amount of about Rs 2-4 crore from Sameer Mahendru on behalf of Vijay Nair,” the FIR has alleged.

The Excise Policy 2021-22, implemented on November 17, 2021, was withdrawn by the Delhi Government amid allegations of irregularities in its implementation. Out of 849 private vends issued licences under the policy, about 250 were functioning that closed down in September.

# Delhi Govt raises DA for daily wage workers

Step taken in interest of labour class amid rising inflation, says Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Diwali, the Delhi Government on Wednesday raised the Dearness Allowance (DA) for daily wage workers. With the latest revision in the DA, the monthly wages for unskilled labourers have been raised from ₹16,506 to ₹16,792 per month. Similarly, the wages for semi-skilled labourers have been increased from ₹18,187 to ₹18,499 per month. The wages of skilled workers have been increased from ₹20,019 to ₹20,357 per month. Speaking about the increment for daily wage workers, Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia said that amid the rising inflation, this big step has been taken in the interest of the labour class.

Retail inflation rose to a five-month high of 7.41 per cent in September. “The Delhi Government has hiked the Dearness Allowance for the unskilled working class in the Capital. The move will benefit unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and other workers in all scheduled employment under the aegis of the Delhi Government. This order shall also benefit



those in clerical and supervisory jobs,” said Sisodia. “People employed on minimum wages in the unorganised sector should also get the benefits of the Dearness Allowances, which are usually offered to State and Central Government employees,” said Sisodia.

“Additionally, the minimum wage rates for the supervisor and clerical cadre of employees have also been revised. The monthly wages for non-matriculated employees have been increased from ₹18,187 to ₹18,499 and for matriculate employees, from ₹20,019 to ₹20,357. For graduates and those with higher educational qualifications, the monthly wages have been hiked from ₹21,756 to ₹22,146,” said Sisodia. The DA was hiked by around ₹500 in May this year as well.

Sisodia said that due to Corona every section of society has been affected financially and people are suffering due to back-breaking inflation. In such a situation, this increase will help the labourers.

“Minimum wages in Delhi are the highest in comparison to any other State,” he said.

## PICTALK



Women get henna applied on the eve of Karwa Chauth festival in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

# DCW chief says getting rape threats after seeking Sajid’s ouster from show

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal on Wednesday alleged that she had been receiving rape threats after she wrote to the Centre demanding the ouster of filmmaker Sajid Khan from reality show ‘Bigg Boss’.

She has submitted the complaint to the Delhi Police’s Cyber Crime Unit and sought immediate registration of an FIR and arrest of the perpetrators.

In a letter, Maliwal had informed Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur that several women had levelled allegations of sexual harassment against Khan during the #MeToo movement. “In 2018, during the #MeToo movement, over 10 actresses, models and journalists spoke out against Khan that led to his suspension from the Indian Film and Television Directors’ Association and from directing movies for an year,” Maliwal



wrote in her letter.

“However, recently, in an apparent attempt to ‘white-wash’ his image, he has been made a ‘housemate’ in the popular TV show Bigg Boss.

Ever since the commission acted in the matter on October 10, threats are being received online on the Instagram account of DCW Chief Swati Maliwal.

In the threats, the men have stated that Maliwal deserves to be raped,” the commission said. Maliwal had also appealed to Union Minister Thakur to take “urgent” action



and get Khan removed from the show and banned permanently. “I have been receiving rape threats for supporting voices of #MeToo survivors. Clearly, these are attempts to intimidate the commission and thwart its statutory work. I have submitted a complaint with Delhi Police,” she said.

“An FIR must be registered and such criminals need to be arrested and put behind bars immediately. If I can face rape threats for doing my work, imagine the problems the #MeToo survivors must have faced over the years. **SR**

# DU to open mid-entry window for admission

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A mid-entry window is likely to open in November for candidates who failed to apply for admission to undergraduate (UG) programmes within the stipulated time announced Delhi University on Wednesday. According to a senior DU official, as per a schedule issued by the university, the mid-entry window will open during the third round of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) from November 5 to 7.

The university began the admission process for undergraduate courses for the 2022-23 academic year last month. The admissions are open for 79 UG programs across 67 colleges, departments, and centres. The programmes include 206 combinations of BA courses.

# Bidhuri: Kejriwal flouting RTI norms after coming to power

NEW Delhi: Delhi BJP on Wednesday lambasted the Kejriwal Government saying that those who came to power in the national Capital with the help of Right to Information (RTI) are themselves flouting the norms of the Act.

“This Government is behaving like Hitler. When BJP MLAs questions in Delhi Assembly, they are thrown out from the House. The opposition members are not allowed to question the Government functioning,” Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said after reacting to the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Uday Mahurkar letter to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena. “The Central



Information Commissioner Uday Mahurkar has accused Delhi Government of not providing the information and giving misinformation under the RTI Act. The AAP does not answer the questions in Assembly too,” Bidhuri alleged. The Government is hiding corruption and irregularities. I requested Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to take strict action against all



officers who have been accused by Mahurkar of hiding information or giving false information,” he requested.

Bidhuri said that the RTI Act-2005 was made to bring transparency in working of the government, curb corruption and monitor functioning of Governments, but Delhi Government has abandoned all these rules. **SR**

# Legacy waste in three city landfills down by 26.1L MT

NEW DELHI: The legacy waste at the three landfill sites in the national Capital is down by 26.1 lakh Metric Tons (MTs) in the past four months, effecting an increase in disposal of 462 per cent compared to the preceding three years, following the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena’s directions to flatten the mountain of garbage.

As per the sources, total waste lying at the three landfill sites at Ghazipur, Bhalaswa and Okhla stood at 229.1 lakh MT in May, 2022, after the L-G directions to the Corporation, it came down to 203 lakh MT in September, 2022, effecting a total disposal of 26.1 lakh MT in four months



at the rate of 6.52 lakh MT per month by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Steps taken by the Corporation after the L-G intervention in disposal of the legacy waste includes, after Saxena’s visit in May end, the faulty Trommel Machines were repaired and outdated machines were replaced. The number of such machines was increased from six to 10 and 50 more

machines, tendering for which are in the final stages, will be deployed soon, sources said.

Earlier in the day, the MCD issued an appeal to the residents, construction agencies and other players to optimally use the C&D waste and inert material from the landfill sites for their construction activities and participate in the civic body’s efforts to flatten these garbage mounds.

Officials at the LG office said that ever since Saxena took charge as the Delhi LG in May this year, the disposal of legacy waste from landfill sites in Delhi between June and September 2022 was increased by 462 per cent as compared to the preceding three years. **SR**

# 2 kids among 6 injured as firecrackers explode

Gurugram: Six people, including two children, sustained critical injuries after an explosion was caused by firecrackers that were stored inside a house in Nakhrola village on Wednesday around 3.30 PM.

According to reports, the victims used to make firecrackers and stored crackers in their house. The entire stock reportedly exploded injuring six people who were present inside the house at the time.

The injured have been identified as Jai Bhagwan (48), Satish Kumar (45) and his relative, Tanuj (10), Manish (17) and Chavi (11). The explosion was so intense that the 3 roofs of the house collapsed following which the victims were trapped inside it.



The fire personnel, a police team with a forensic team and civil defence rushed to the spot and rescued the victims and rushed them to the civil hospital Gurugram from where they have been referred to Safdarjung hospital in Delhi for further treatment.

“During a preliminary investigation we found that as the Diwali festival is around the corner, the victims may involve in making firecrackers without any prior permission. **SR**

# Gahlot tells DMs to survey farmland hit by rain, help farmers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has directed District Magistrates (DMs) to conduct a survey of agricultural land that has been affected due to the unseasonal rain and take preventive measures to help farmers. Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot has written to Divisional Commissioner KR Meena to issue directions to the DMs.

“Due to unseasonal rains in Delhi, a situation of waterlogging has arisen in agricultural land. All District Magistrates have been directed to conduct survey and take necessary steps for preventive measures. Under the leadership of CM @ArvindKejriwal we are committed to solve the problems of



Yamuna River shrouded in mist following rainfall over the last few days, in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

the affected people,” he said in a tweet. In Year 2020-2021, the crop area used for the cultivation of the paddy crops was 6,171 hectares, while the pro-

duction was recorded 29,620 metric tonnes in the national capital. Maximum Paddy crop farmers were located in the Southwest district, West dis-

trict, North district, and north-west district. The harvest of the paddy crop intensifies in the month of October. “In the last few days, due to unseasonal rains, there has been waterlogging in agricultural areas and low-lying areas.

I received this information from common people and farmers that there has been waterlogging in agricultural areas of Delhi’s villages, with the water level being more than two feet, which is affecting crops that are ready to be harvested,” read the letter in Hindi.

Seeing the current situation, it is essential that proactive measures be taken to save the crops and human lives, he said. “It is my request to you that all district magistrates, in

order to assess the situation, they should carry out a land survey and take necessary solutions, including pumping out water using pumps. If it is needed, instructions can be issued under the DDMA’s contextual provisions,” added the letter. Gahlot said the agriculture in many parts of Delhi has been affected due to the unseasonal heavy rains in the last few weeks.

The information gathered from the general public and farmers stated that the low-lying areas have been flooded up to 2 feet following which ripe crops are getting damaged.

“In view of the above situation, it is necessary to reduce the crop damage. And for the safety of human life, proactive action should be taken.

Therefore, I request you all the District Magistrates to assess the situation and conduct ground survey in their respective districts and take necessary preventive measures like Drainage of water by using pumps etc.

If necessary, Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) will issue the required orders issued under the provision,” it read. A Report of each district of submerged areas and the cloaked drainage and action taken to avert the stagnant water in future should be submitted,” letter stated.

Meanwhile, the national capital has recorded 128.2 mm rainfall so far this month, the highest for October since 1956. According to the India Meteorological Department

(IMD), the city had recorded 236.2 mm rainfall in October 1956. Delhi’s all-time record rainfall for the month is 238.2 mm, which was reported in 1954. The capital had witnessed a late spell of monsoon rains from September 21 to 24 due to an interaction between a cyclonic circulation and a low-pressure system.

However, the current rains are not monsoon showers, which receded from the city on September 29, after giving 516.9 mm rainfall against a normal of 653.6 mm, the IMD had said. The incessant rains, the result of an interaction between a western disturbance and a deep trough of easterly winds, also helped meet the yearly quota (774.4 mm) of precipitation.

## Mist lowers visibility to 350 metres

NEW DELHI: The national Capital reported a thick layer of mist on Wednesday morning which lowered visibility levels to 350 metres. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 20.2 degrees Celsius, a notch below the normal. The maximum temperature settled at around 31 degrees Celsius.

Senior scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) R K Jenamani said increased moisture content in air due to a prolonged spell of rain and low temperatures led to formation of moderate fog in Delhi.



12 VIOLATIONS FOUND IN MAIDEN MANUFACTURING PLANT BY HARYANA FDA

CDSCO issues notice for stopping production



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

A week after the WHO issued an alert alleging that Indian-made cough syrups killed 66 kids in Gambia, the Haryana Government has ordered the Sonipat-based manufacturer of the medicines, Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited, to stop production.

The action comes even as the Centre has set up a four-member panel of experts to examine the details and adverse event reports received from the WHO on the kids' mortalities.

Sources said that after examining and analysing the adverse event reports, causal relationship and all related details shared by or to be

shared by the World Health Organization, the panel of technical experts namely Dr Y K Gupta, Vice Chairperson, Standing National Committee on Medicines; Dr Pragya D. Yadav, NIV, ICMR, Pune; Dr Arti Bahl, Division of Epidemiology, NCDC, New Delhi; and A. K. Pradhan, JDC(I), CDSCO, will advise and recommend further course of action to the DCGI.

It has asked the company to explain within a week "many contraventions" found during a recent inspection, or face suspension or cancellation of license.

According to the sources, Haryana's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the country's top drug regulator,

the CDSCO in a joint inspection, found 12 violations in the firm's manufacturing plant and issued notice for production to be stopped.

On October 5, World Health Organisation (WHO) director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, while addressing a press conference, had linked the cough syrups to the deaths of the children and had said that the international health body would be conducting inquiries into both the manufacturer and Indian drug regulators.

The WHO issued a medical product alert and advised all countries to remove these products – Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby

Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup – from their markets, pitching for increased surveillance within the supply chains of countries and regions likely to be affected by these products.

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij said that a joint inspection by the State's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Union government's drug regulator, the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), found 12 violations at Maiden Pharmaceuticals's manufacturing facility and as such, issued a notice to the company to shut down operations.

Vij also said that samples of the drugs from Maiden Pharmaceuticals's facility have

been sent to the Central Drug Laboratory in Kolkata for testing and the results of the same are still awaited.

The aforementioned products were reported by the WHO to the Gambian authorities in September 2022 and subsequent laboratory analysis found the products contained "unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol as contaminants". While polyethylene glycol is a food additive used in cough syrups, diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are chemicals which, when metabolised by the human body, can cause severe kidney and liver damage and can prove fatal.

The two potentially fatal compounds are sometimes

mixed with polyethylene glycol to cut costs, which raises two concerns – that Maiden Pharmaceuticals did not conduct adequate testing of its products and that it sourced raw materials for them from unlicensed vendors. "The firm has not produced process validation and analytical method validation for the drug products in question," the state regulator had reportedly written in a show-cause notice. It also said that it did not test for diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol.

Additionally, the notice stated that the manufacturer did not provide the batch numbers of three raw materials used in the products – propylene glycol, sorbitol solution and sodium methyl paraben.

None can be prosecuted under scrapped Section 66A of IT Act, orders SC



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued directions that no citizen can be prosecuted under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which it had scrapped way back in 2015.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit said in all cases where citizens are facing prosecution for alleged violation of Section 66-A of the Act, the reference and reliance upon the said provision shall stand deleted.

Under the annulled section, a person posting offensive content could be imprisoned for up to three years and also fined.

Underlining that liberty of thought and expression is of "cardinal" significance, the top court had on March 24, 2015 done away with the provision, saying "the public's right to know is directly affected by Section 66A of the Information Technology Act".

"We direct all Director General of Police as well as Home Secretaries of the states and competent officers in Union Territories to instruct the entire police force in their

respective states/Union Territories not to register any complaint of crime with respect to alleged violation of section 66A," said the bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and S R Bhat.

The top court clarified that this direction shall apply only with respect to offence punishable under section 66A, and if in the crime in question, other offences are also alleged, then the reference and reliance upon section 66A alone shall be deleted. The bench observed the counsel appearing for the Centre has placed on record an all-India status report with regard to pending cases under section 66A.

It observed the information given in a tabular form does suggest that despite the issue regarding the validity of section 66A of the Act having been decided by the apex court, a number of criminal proceedings still rely upon this provision and citizens are still facing prosecution.

"Such criminal proceedings, in our view, are directly in the teeth of the directions issued by this court in Shreya Singhal vs Union of India (March 2015 judgement) and consequently, we issue following directions....," the bench said.

"It needs no reiteration that section 66A of the 2000 Act has been found by this court in Shreya Singhal vs Union of India to be violative of Constitution and as such, no citizen can be prosecuted ....In said section 66A," it said.

In poll-bound HP, PM to lay stone of 2 power projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Una and Chamba in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh on Thursday. He will flag off the Vande Bharat Express from Una railway station and lay the foundation stone of two hydropower projects at Chamba.

At a public function, the Prime Minister will also dedicate IITT Una to the nation and lay the foundation stone of a Bulk Drug Park in Una to be built at a cost of Rs 1900 crore. After that, in a public function at Chamba, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of two hydropower projects and launch the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-III in Himachal Pradesh.

The drug park will help reduce dependence on API imports. It is expected to attract investment of around Rs. 10,000 crores and provide employment to more than 20,000 people.

It will also give a fillip to economic activities in the region, according to the Prime Minister's Office. The Prime Minister will dedicate the IITT Una to the nation. Its foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister in 2017. Currently, more than 530 students are pursuing studies in this Institute.

He will also flag off the inaugural run of the new Vande Bharat Express. Running from Amb Andaura to New Delhi, it



will be the fourth Vande Bharat train to be introduced in the country and is an advanced version compared to the earlier ones, being much lighter and capable of reaching higher speed in shorter duration. It accelerates to 100 Km/h in just 52 seconds.

The introduction of the train will help boost tourism in the region and provide a comfortable and faster mode of travel. Modi will lay the foundation stone of two hydropower projects – the 48 MW Chanju-III Hydro-electric Project and the 30 MW Deothal Chanju Hydro-electric Project.

Both these projects will generate over 270 million units of electricity annually and Himachal Pradesh is expected to get annual revenue of around Rs. 110 crore from these projects.

He will also launch PMGSY-III for upgradation of around 3125 kms of roads in the State. More than Rs. 420 crore has been sanctioned by the Central Government under this phase for the upgradation of 440 kms of roads in 15 border and far flung Blocks of the State, said the PMO statement.

Australia to clear visa backlog by year end: MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/SYDNEY

Australia has assured India that the visa backlog of its students studying in Australian universities will be cleared by the end of this year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said. Indian students are facing problems in returning to their educational institutions in Australia post-Corona pandemic.

Giving this information in Sydney late Tuesday, Jaishankar said the authorities assured him the situation has improved and about 77,000 Indian students are back in Australia.

"But you all know that the numbers should be and could



be much higher and I was assured that by the end of the year the visa backlog, particularly in respect to students, would be cleared," he said during an interaction with the Indian community.

Elaborating upon the issue, Jaishankar said he took up the visa backlog matter with different ministers when he was in Canberra adding "We have a particular problem that students are facing." Noting the

concerns of Indians, he also said "It's not just students because there's a community there are also family reasons for people to travel. I think there's an appreciation today of the importance of resuming tourism in a big way."

The minister expressed hope that this is "one of the big disruptions of the Covid era that we will be able to put behind us in the coming year." The Indian community in Australia continues to grow in size and importance, with the population of about seven hundred thousand. India is one of the top sources of skilled immigrants to Australia. Approximately 105,000 students presently study in Australian universities.



An Indian Parliamentary delegation, led by Hariwansh, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, attending the meeting of the Asia Pacific Group at the 145th Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly being held in Kigali, Rwanda

PNS

Secret vote a level-playing field for Tharoor, Kharge: Congress

New Delhi: The Congress presidential polls will be held by a secret ballot and no one will get to know who voted for whom, the party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry said on Wednesday, claiming that a level-playing field has been ensured for both candidates.

In the polls, Shashi Tharoor is pitted against Mallikarjun Kharge, who is seen as a favourite for the top party post because of his perceived proximity to Gandhi family. However, the party and both candidates have maintained that Gandhis are neutral in the polls. Addressing a press conference at AICC headquarters, Mistry said party's poll author-

ity has ensured a level playing field. On individuals canvassing for one candidate or the other, the poll authority cannot stop any individual from campaigning, he said. "But as far as the level playing field is concerned, we have tried our level best to see to it that it gets implemented," he said in response to a question on Tharoor's reported comments that some aspects of the poll suggest an uneven playing field. Mistry demonstrated to reporters the ballot boxes, ballot paper and how votes would be cast. He said sealed boxes would be transported to Delhi, kept in a strong room at AICC headquarters and opened in Delhi. PNS

BJP raps Kharge on 'Muharram mein nachege' remark

New Delhi: The BJP on Wednesday lashed out at Congress MP Mallikarjun Kharge for his "...Muharram mein naachege" remarks, saying it is not a celebration but a mourning.

"Firstly, Muharram is not a celebration but a mourning! This is highly insulting to Muslims," BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said in a video statement. "Mallikarjun Kharge, the proxy presidential candidate of the 'pratham parivaar' of the Congress party who will be the next remote-controlled president of the Congress in what is being conducted as a farcical exercise of an election when asked about the 2024 prime ministerial candidate of the Congress, said

'Bakri Eid mein bachege toh Muharram mein nachege'. This statement is a highly objectionable statement. Muslims across the globe do not celebrate Muharram. It is not a month of celebrations.

"It is a month of sorrow and a month of mourning. Therefore, to say that there will be naach-ganaa in Muharram is extremely objectionable," Poonawalla said in a video statement.

"But more importantly is the importance of this politically loaded statement for Rahul Gandhi and the truth that Kharge himself has disclosed about the position of the Congress party which is getting extinct State after State," he added. PNS

SC directs Centre to reply within 2 weeks on Places of Worship Act

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to furnish by October 31 its affidavit in response to petitions challenging the validity of certain provisions of a 1991 law, which prohibit filing of a lawsuit to reclaim a place of worship or seek a change in its character from what prevailed on August 15, 1947.

When a Bench headed by Chief Justice U U Lalit was told the Centre has not yet filed its response to the petitions, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Government, said it is under consideration as to what to respond to and whether to respond.

One of the petitioners and BJP leader Subramanian Swamy pointed out that the Centre has not yet replied to their petitions, seeking the stand of the Government. The Bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and SR Bhat, asked Mehta how much time was required to submit the affidavit.

"Two weeks, that is what my instruction is," Mehta said, adding some time was needed considering the sensitivity of the matter. "On the last occasion, Tushar Mehta, Solicitor-General, had prayed for some time to place his submissions on record by way of an affidavit in response. Solicitor-General prays for further time of two

weeks to do the needful. Let the affidavit in that behalf be filed on or before October 31," the bench said.

The top court was hearing the pleas, including the one filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay who has said Sections 2, 3, 4 of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 be set aside on grounds including that these provisions take away the right of judicial remedy to reclaim a place of worship of any person or a religious group.

On ties between the two countries, the minister said Australia is an important partner for India in terms of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific and working together ensures that this region remains free, open, stable and prosperous.

IN SHORTS

ADARSH SWAIKA IS INDIA'S NEW ENVOY TO KUWAIT

New Delhi: Senior diplomat Adarsh Swaika was on Wednesday appointed as India's new ambassador to Kuwait, a key partner of India in the Gulf region. Swaika, an Indian Foreign Service officer of 2002 batch, is currently serving as a joint secretary at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in Delhi. "He is expected to take up the assignment shortly," the MEA said in a brief statement.

'FRUITS OF RESERVATION DID NOT REACH EVERYONE'

New Delhi: NHRC chairperson Justice (Retd) Arun Kumar Mishra on Wednesday said "fruits of reservation" had not "percolated to the bottom" of the society and emphasised on the need for reservation despite the governments running several socio-economic welfare schemes. In his address at the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC's) Foundation Day here, Mishra also pressed for urgent jail reforms.

WELFARE FUND FOR FORCES TO BE LAUNCHED

New Delhi: A website for Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund named "Maa Bhairavi Ke Sapoot" will be launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a function being organised at National War Memorial Complex in New Delhi on October 14. Actor Amitabh Bachchan will be the "Goodwill Ambassador".

INDIA TO HOST OPENING DAY'S DELIBERATION OF UNSC

New Delhi: India will host the opening day's deliberations of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee on October 28 at Mumbai's iconic Taj Palace Hotel which was one of the targets of the horrific 26/11 terror attacks nearly 14 years ago. The selection of Taj Palace Hotel is seen as an attempt to send across a message about India's strong resolve to deal with terrorism. The meeting of the top UN panel on October 29 will be held in Delhi.

NHRC suggests steps to prevent ocular trauma

New Delhi: With ocular trauma causing nearly five per cent of irreversible or permanent blindness in India, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has suggested a string of measures including creation of a national registry, promoting clean fuel and well-ventilated kitchens, banning bows, arrows and sharp toys to help minimise eye injuries, ensuring adequate integrated treatment units and rehabilitation of victims of ocular trauma to minimize eye injuries cases.

The Commission's suggestions are based on the white paper submitted by the Ocular Trauma Society Of India (OTSI), recently on eye injuries, with India specific data from the international eye trauma registry called IGATES. The paper was prepared in association with Asia Pacific Ophthalmic Trauma Society and All India

Ophthalmological society, Dr Ashok kumar Grover, President OTSI said highlighting that major contributors of eye injury are road accidents (34 per cent), sports (29 per cent) and occupation (21 per cent). The ocular structures involved and types of ocular trauma play a significant role in determining the visual outcomes in these patients.

Dr Grover said that the important contributor to vision loss, trauma is responsible for 5 per cent of blindness and can have a devastating impact on all ages. Eye injuries are a preventable cause of blindness, as upto 90 per cent of eye injuries are preventable, yet it remains a significant disabling health problem that affects all age groups, he added. "Most of the injured people are children or bystanders in the young productive age group, highlights the

enormous health importance of preventing eye injuries by initiating various preventive measures and enforcing safety precautions," said Dr Grover.

The Commission has also asked the Centre, states and UT administrations particularly to identify the industries having high potential of ocular trauma and other industrial accidents and make it mandatory for owners of all such industries employing minimum 50 workers to purchase personal accident cover of minimum Rs 15 lakh for each worker engaged by them.

The establishment of an online (web-based) portal or make provision in any existing portal, to record details of each case of ocular trauma and establishment of a special fund, have also been recommended to provide financial assistance to victims of ocular trauma. PNS

Army to get EVs for peace stations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to give a push to use of clean energy, the Army has decided to procure electric vehicles(EV) including buses, cars and two-wheelers for its peace stations.

The plan envisages designated units at these stations having 25 per cent light vehicles (cars), 38 percent buses and 48 percent motorcycles will be replaced with electric vehicles.

Various factors unique to the Indian Army – employability, remote locations and operational commitments – were considered to arrive at a definite time-bound road map, defence sources said here on Wednesday. India has emerged

as one of the leaders to exceed global targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and 2070.

"Many projects are being implemented to reduce the carbon emissions and dependency on fossil fuels. Introduction of Electric Vehicles (EVs) are considered as one of the effective steps in that direction," sources said.

Hence, the Army has put into plan a roadmap to induct EVs wherever possible considering the operational commitments which will significantly cut down emissions and dependency on fossil fuels, they said.

According to the plan, for the initial phase, existing scarcity of buses will be fulfilled by procuring electric buses for select peace establishments.



# BJP trying to manipulate voter list: Kashmir parties on DEO order

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

An order issued by the District Election Officer, Jammu with regard to registration of fresh voters residing in the district for more than a year late Tuesday evening has once again created a flutter promoting the Kashmir-based regional parties to corner the Union Government and the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) alleging they were desperately trying to manipulate the voters list to ensure their victory in the electoral arena. The order had authorised all tehsildars (revenue officials) to issue certificates of residence to anyone who has lived in the district for more than one year. The order said the decision was taken to ensure that no eligible voter is left for

registration in the ongoing special summary revision of electoral rolls. Surprisingly, no other district election officer issued this order directing the officials in their jurisdiction to enroll fresh voters. According to the order, any document including the Aadhar Card, water/electricity/gas connection, bank pass-books, passport, registered rent or land deeds, etc., can be used as proof of residence. Those not possessing any of these documents can be included in the voter list after field verification. Interestingly, the order was issued a day after a high level review meeting chaired by the Election Commission of India (ECI) had taken stock of the progress of summary revision of the electoral rolls across the

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Official sources revealed so far around 6 lakh applications for fresh registration of eligible voters has been submitted. During the meeting the district wise progress was also monitored by the officials of the ECI. Meanwhile, reacting strongly to the order the opposition parties namely People's Democratic Party, National Conference and other non-BJP parties have called this decision a blow to the identity and culture of Jammu and Kashmir. Strongly opposing the attempts to enroll lakhs of outside voters in Jammu and Kashmir by getting a certificate even if he doesn't have any documentary evidence. The intention is clearly known. The order of District Election officer Jammu has clearly stated that even without any documents, the tehsildars shall issue residence certificates to anybody on his satisfaction, which means absolute discretion". PDP President Mehbooba

voters,since it has lost trust in the local voters . Addressing a press conference at PCC Hqs, JKPC President Vikar Rasool Wani alongwith Working President Raman Bhalla and other senior leaders, said this is the game plan of BJP to dilute the power of local voters, especially in Jammu region. "Now anybody can become voters in Jammu and Kashmir by getting a certificate even if he doesn't have any documentary evidence. The intention is clearly known. The order of District Election officer Jammu has clearly stated that even without any documents, the tehsildars shall issue residence certificates to anybody on his satisfaction, which means absolute discretion". PDP President Mehbooba

Mufti slammed the central government and said that it has started work on the project to make Jammu and Kashmir its colony.ECI's latest order for registration of new voters makes it clear that GOIs colonial settler project has been initiated in Jammu. They will bear the first blow to Dogra culture, identity, employment & business. BJPs attempts to create religious & regional divisions between Jammu & Kashmir must be thwarted because whether it's a Kashmiri or a Dogra, safeguarding our identity & rights will be possible only if we put up a collective fight", Mehbooba Mufti tweeted. The National Conference while opposing the move tweeted "The Government is

going ahead with its plan to add 25 lakh non-local voters in J&K and we continue to oppose this move. BJP is scared of the elections & knows it will lose badly. People of J&K must defeat these conspiracies at the ballot box". Meanwhile, BJP state President Ravindra Raina hit out at Congress and PDP saying that they have been conspiring against the constitutional values in Jammu and Kashmir. "This is not a new thing, this is the law of the country which came in 1950 and The People's Representation Act 1951 which has come into force in Jammu and Kashmir after the removal of Article 370", the BJP President added. He further stated that the process which is going on for



the registration of voters in J&k is correct and according to the constitution. According to the People's Representation Act 1951, any person can add his name to the place where he has been residing for a long time after removing his name from the electoral roll. CPI(M) leader MY

Tarigami tweeted,"This latest order is the beginning of a wider plan to give voting rights to non-locals to reduce the weightage of locals & change electoral demographics. All parties and civil society groups must reject this arbitrary inclusion of non- locals. BJP's designs must be defeated".

# Ganguly losing BCCI post as he didn't join BJP, says TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Sourav Ganguly's alleged removal as BCCI president seems to have taken political turn with the Trinamool Congress accusing the BJP of punishing the former Team India captain for not joining the saffron outfit. Slamming the BJP for making the Bengal icon a victim of saffron politics TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that "before last year's Assembly elections in Bengal the BJP tried to spread a message that Sourav Ganguly would join the party but after they (BJP) suffered a humiliating defeat and after Ganguly who is a star player but remains apolitical refused to join the politics he is being



removed as the BCCI president." Questioning the BJP Government's reported plans to infuse professionalism in the BCCI, Ghosh asked "is Jay Shah the son of Home Minister Amit Shah a cricketer ... how many matches has Anurag Thakur or for that matter his brother who is being made an office bearer have played ... Here it is clear that Ganguly was penalised

because he refused to join the BJP." He said by removing Sourav not only the game of cricket and the cricketing fraternity but the people of Bengal have been humiliated. "The people will take account of this in future ... they will definitely ask why Jay Shah was retained as the Secretary and Ganguly was removed ... is it because during his tenure the Board functioned nearly blemish free..." The BJP was quick to hit back even as national party vice president Dilip Ghosh said "Being the then president of the State party I never heard of any plans to include Ganguly in the BJP ... I never heard that either Ganguly or the BJP had any political chemistry ... rather as a party we always honoured and

respected the great Indian player and captain ... the people understand this and they will reject the TMC's dirty game of politicising this episode." His party colleague Samik Bhattacharya said "the BJP -- the biggest party in the world --- has not fallen into so bad days they will have to bring in party members in this manner." Ashok Bhattacharya former Bengal Minister and CPI(M) leader who is known to be close to Ganguly said "I had once told him not to join politics because that will harm the interests of cricket ... I hope he continues to serve cricket ... he will continue to remain one of the greatest cricketing legends of the country."

# Rainfall hits 60% paddy crops in UP; damage may push up prices

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Heavy unseasonal rainfall across Uttar Pradesh has pushed back harvesting of paddy crops and damaged the ripe summer-sown crops such as paddy, coarse cereals or millets, soybean and pulses. The potato crop sown in October has also been damaged which could stoke prices. Officials said that damage to the crops was likely to push up food prices further. Higher prices could also force the government to put more curbs on rice exports. According to Uttar Pradesh Rice Mills Association, around 60 per cent of the standing paddy crops have been impacted because of rainfall this month. The rice millers have

asked the government to relax the norm for paddy procurement by state agencies. Standing crops of potato and pulses too have been damaged by rains. The Met department said that 67 out of the total 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh recorded excess rainfall since October 1. During the south-western monsoon period (June-September), Uttar Pradesh received 28 per cent less rainfall than the normal benchmark. Fifty-three districts out of 75 in the state recorded deficient monsoon rainfall which resulted in a 4 per cent decline in paddy sowing to 5.7 million hectares compared to the previous year. Farmers in Amethi district of Uttar Pradesh, who have sown tur and paddy, are worried because of the inun-



dated of their fields because of heavy downpours in the last couple of days. The Agriculture department is yet to assess the impact of the steps to salvage the standing crops. Meanwhile, the state government has started to conduct damage assessment surveys of kharif crops. Such is the

extent of damage to the paddy crops by the heavy downpour that farmers said that they would have to buy rice in order to feed their families. Uttar Pradesh, the second biggest producer of rice, has a share of around 13 per cent in the country's rice production of 124.27 MT in the 2020-21 crop year (July-June).

# CPM capitalises on Congress MLA's sex abuse case in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The sexual abuse case against Eldhose Kunnappilli MLA has come at the most inopportune time for the Congress. The party which had succeeded in regaining the lost glory under the leadership of KPCC president K Sudhakaran and Leader of Opposition V D Satheeshan is struggling to give an explanation to the misadventures of Kunnappilli, who has become a major headache to the party thanks to the videos featuring



the young leader which have gone viral in the social media. "We will appoint a commission of enquiry to probe the charges against Eldhose Kunnappilli and we will come out with an official statement

after receiving its report," said Satheeshan. The ruling CPI(M) is on cloud nine following the news was flashed across the State. The party held demonstrations all over the State demanding the resignation of Kunnappilli whom they alleged to have brought as brought disrepute to the party. More spicy and steamy stories about Kunnappilli are coming out in the open on an hourly basis. The MLA has disappeared and he has switched off his mobile phones.

# Expedite relief work in flood-hit areas: Yogi to Mins

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath chaired a high-level meeting on Wednesday in the wake of widespread rainfall in the state and directed his ministers to oversee relief and rescue operations in the districts under their charge. Yogi Adityanath directed the Group of Ministers to immediately visit the divisional headquarters/districts under their charge and extend their cooperation in relief and rescue works. The chief minister gave instructions to expedite the



relief and rehabilitation work in all the districts affected by heavy rains and asked officials to keep the district control room functional 24x7 under the leadership of ADM/joint magistrate level officers. Expressing grief over the loss of lives due to heavy

rain, lightning, snake bite and drowning, the chief minister directed officials to immediately distribute relief money to the families of the deceased and provide proper treatment to the injured. Stating that immediate help should be provided to the common people in the flood-affected areas, the chief minister said, "There should be no delay in the distribution of relief packets. There should be adequate arrangements for lighting etc. in relief camps." Reviewing the impact of the heavy rainfall on agricultural crops, the chief minister said that the teams of Revenue

and Agriculture departments should conduct a thorough survey in all the districts and assess the damage so that farmers could be compensated for their losses. The chief minister gave instructions to do this work on priority. As per a report from the relief commissioner's office, 1,370 villages in 18 districts of the state are affected by floods due to heavy rainfall in the last couple of days. Yogi Adityanath reviewed the flood situation and issued directions to expedite the relief and rehabilitation work in the affected districts. District control rooms

should be functional round the clock under the leadership of a joint magistrate-level officer, he said. Due to excessive rainfall in the last few days, adverse effects have been seen on life, livestock and agriculture, the chief minister pointed out. Loss of public and private property has been reported from several districts, he added. The state government is committed to making necessary arrangements for the safety and maintenance of all affected people, an official statement quoted Yogi Adityanath as saying.

# Dawn without the Sun, tweets an emotional Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday penned an emotional tweet after cremating his father, Mulayam Singh, on Tuesday in his native village Saifai. Hours after performing the last rights of father Mulayam Singh Yadav, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav took to Twitter on Wednesday, metaphorically describing the dawn as one without the Sun. Yadav, who is leader of



Opposition in Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, shared two photographs from the site where his father was cremated and wrote, "Aaj pehli baar laga...bin suraj ke uga savera (Felt as if the dawn arrived without the sun)," in Hindi. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar, on Wednesday, visited Saifai and offered his condolences to the Yadav family on the demise of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. He spent about half an hour with party chief Akhilesh Yadav and met other family members. Kumar told reporters that Mulayam Singh Yadav's demise was a great loss to the nation. "We all wanted to work together but God 'swill was otherwise," he said. Meanwhile, the Yadav family, on Wednesday, performed the 'shuddhi sanskar' in which the men in the family got their

heads tonsured. As per the tradition of Saifai, the 13th day ceremony and community feast will not be held and shuddhi ceremony will be held on the 11th day after the death. SP leader IP Singh has written a letter to President Droupadi Murmu, seeking Bharat Ratna for Mulayam Singh Yadav. "Mulayam Singh Yadav's name will enhance the glory of Bharat Ratna. Netaji should be conferred the country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna without delay," he mentioned in the letter.

# Indian Navy Mig-29K fighter jet crashes off Goa coast; pilot safe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

An Indian Navy Mig-29K fighter jet crashed on Wednesday morning off the Goa coast after developing a technical malfunction. The pilot ejected safely and was rescued. A mandatory Board of Inquiry was ordered. Giving details of the mishap, Navy officials said here the pilot was reported to be in stable condition. "A MiG 29K on a routine sortie over sea off Goa developed a technical malfunction while returning to base. The pilot ejected safely and has been recovered in a swift search and rescue operation," they said. The MiG-29K is an all-weather aircraft carrier-based multirole fighter air-



craft developed by Russian aerospace company Mikoyan (MiG). The Indian Navy had procured a fleet of 45 MiG-29Ks from Russia over

a decade back at a cost of around USD 2 billion (one billion=100 crore) to operate from Russian built INS Vikramaditya. In November 2020, a MiG-29K aircraft of the Navy crashed into the Arabian Sea off the Goa coast after taking off from aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. A MiG-29K twin-seat fighter aircraft had crashed in South Goa district in November 2019 and both the pilots had ejected safely. Another MiG-29K crashed into the Arabian Sea off the Goa coast on February 23, 2020 after taking off from INS Hansa, a prominent naval air station at Vasco in Goa. The pilot had managed to eject safely.

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

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

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of Non-movable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mrs. Reena Verma (Borrower) Mr. Mukul Verma (Co Borrower) Loan Account No. LBDEL00005243194/ LBDEL00005259497	Item No 1: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Vacant Site No 20, formed out of Sy Nos. 76/1, 77, 78/2, 79 & 80 of Kambipura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Which is duly converted from Agricultural Purposes to Non-Agricultural Residential purposes, vide conversion Order No. ALN(S)SR(K)/48/ 2012-13, dated 10/01/2013, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and the layout is approved by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) vide No. BDA/TPM/PRL-16/2013-14/6878/2013-14, dated 20/03/2014 and measuring East to West : Northern Side: 47' 00" Feet, Southern Side: 51' 40" feet, North to South : Eastern Side: 30' 33" feet Western Side: 30' 00" feet, Totally measuring : 1484 Sq. ft., and bounded on the:- East by : Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 19, South by: Site No. 21. Item No 2: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Vacant Site No 21, formed out of Sy Nos. 76/1, 77, 78/2, 79 & 80 of Kambipura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Which is duly converted from Agricultural Purposes to Non-Agricultural Residential purposes, vide conversion Order No. ALN(S)SR(K)/48/ 2012-13, dated 10/01/2013, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and the layout is approved by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) vide No. BDA/TPM/PRL-16/2013-14/6878/2013-14, dated 20/03/2014 and measuring East to West : Northern Side: 51' 40" Feet, Southern Side: 55' 80" feet, North to South: Eastern Side: 30' 33" feet Western Side: 30' 00" feet, Totally measuring : 1617 Sq. ft., and bounded on the:- East by : Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 20, South by: Private Property.	Rs. 1,25,49,153.42 (as on October 05, 2022)	Rs. 85,00,000/- to 8,50,000/-	October 20, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM	November 03, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-www.disposalhub.com)**. The Mortgage/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **November 02, 2022 before 04:00 PM** failing which, this/these secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068** on or before **November 02, 2022 before 05:00 PM** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **November 02, 2022 before 05:00 PM** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068** on or before **November 02, 2022 before 05:00 PM**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at **Bangalore**.

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

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

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

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

**Date: October 13, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
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RISHI **RAJ BORAH**

Blindness in childhood has far-reaching consequences for the affected child and family as it has a significant impact on educational, employment, personal, and social prospects throughout life. India houses the largest number of blind children in any one country. There are 9.3 million visually impaired and 270,000 blind children in India. The current prevalence of blindness in children is known to be around 0.8/1000. However, over 75 per cent of all visual impairment can be prevented or treated. Directing investment towards addressing the growing economic burden of childhood blindness is an imperative step towards preventing avoidable blindness.

In a study conducted by Orbis, led by Dr. (Prof.) B. R. Shamanna, Professor, School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad and Sunny Mannava, Research Scholar, School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad, it has been indicated that the country loses an estimated \$118 billion annually in cumulative gross national income (GNI) due to childhood blindness. The report titled 'Cost-Benefit Analysis of Investing in Child Eye Health' is based on the 2020 estimates and reflects the economic losses incurred by India due to lost productive years as a result of childhood blindness spanning over a period of 35 years, and rising to \$158 billion for 40 working years.



The study has been categorized into three phases, namely updating the economic burden of childhood blindness post 1998, determining the utility weights for each child's eye health conditions, and measuring the quality of life of those with childhood blindness and visual impairment, using the utility measures developed.

Other findings in the report include an increase of direct GNI loss due to blindness from Rs 496 billion in 1997 to Rs 768 billion in 2020; an increase of 35 per cent in the economic productivity of blind persons to \$835 million in 2020 compared to 1997 estimates; 35 per cent of blindness in children and 82.3 per cent of blindness in adults is preventable and treatable; hospitalization rate for eye ailments in India stood at 3.6 per 1,000 people in rural areas and 3.5 per 1,000 people in urban areas annually; caregivers spend 50 per cent of the time taking care of children leading to a total indirect cost of Rs 167 billion (\$2.2 billion).

Children who are born blind or who become blind and survive have a lifetime of blindness ahead of them, with all of the emotional, social, and economic costs that come with it for the child, his or her family, and society. Many causes of childhood blindness are treatable or preventable.

Developing a cadre of trained healthcare professionals and strengthening infrastructure to deliver quality children's eye care at various levels of care play a critical role in mitigating childhood blindness. Moreover, establishing mechanisms to identify and treat children with eye ailments early on are also essential to this end. This is particularly true for India, where a major chunk of childhood blindness is caused by preventable conditions.

Many of the causes of corneal scarring in children could be avoided if the following eight primary health care elements are strengthened: immunisation services, maternal and child health care, health education, good nutrition, essential drugs, clean water and sanitation, endemic disease control, and treatment of common conditions. Effective communication with the children and their parents is also necessary to ensure seamless understanding and delivery of care.

Advocacy and policy engagement remain essential to measure and project the burden of blindness and seek continued support and budgetary allocation.

*(The author is Country Director, India, Orbis)*

# Military history must be in our curriculum

## Ancient India was ahead of others in warfare, with Kautilya being foremost pioneer, and that should now be replicated



NISHTHA **KAUSHIKI**

Although we are not fighting an openly declared war on the border, the tentacles of hybrid warfare are spreading fast. The young generation probably holds some of the most influential leaders, space and nuclear scientists, microbiologists and administrators. A curriculum that makes the students aware of the struggles of independent India and the glorious military history will keep their expectations realistic from India's neighbours and not fall into the trap of divisive forces. In such a scenario, service to the country would be the main guiding principle.

The history of South Asia tells us that India has never been an expansionist state despite having a predominant geographical and military position in South Asia. Wars have always been imposed, and, despite being victorious, the country was benevolent towards its aggressors. India returned the Prisoners of War and the land (such as Haji Pir Pass) that was won. Unfortunately, the graciousness of a strong victor has been taken as a 'soft approach' by many western strategic experts, Pakistan and China.

Both the adversaries together present before us a collusive and collaborative threat. The horizons of active security threats have broadened. They now include new and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and space, bio-warfare, trade wars, and hybrid warfare apart from the conventional ones such as nuclear threats. In such a changing geopolitical landscape, it becomes pertinent for India to include military history in a comprehensive and well-defined manner starting from the primary stage and going up to the secondary and higher secondary stages, apart from the university level.

In all schools, even at the level of primary classes, various dance drama skits are screened based on Shri Krishna Leela and Shri Ramayana themes, apart from excerpts from Discovery of India. The establishment of the Mauryan Empire, and the advent of invaders from the Mughals to the British, leading to India's freedom struggle, has been well explored. However, excluding military history from the curriculum ends up in a vacuum where the distractions of globalization set in and consequently divert the child's psychology. Short biographies of various gallantry award winners can be a part of both Hindi and English literature. Each 'shauryagatha' will motivate the students to serve the motherland by joining the forces or contributing through other means.

The middle section of social sciences textbooks, while including ancient India, can also include Kautilya's Arthashastra. 'Kuta-yuddha' (concealed fighting) and 'tusnim-yuddha' (silent fighting), which Kautilya spoke about, has contemporary relevance. We are responsible for making children, youth and others aware that Kautilya laid the foundations of modern-day realpolitik. Sun Tzu's Art of War, which has



'KUTA-YUDDHA' (CONCEALED FIGHTING) AND 'TUSNIM-YUDDHA' (SILENT FIGHTING), WHICH KAUTILYA SPOKE ABOUT, HAS CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING CHILDREN, YOUTH AND OTHERS AWARE THAT KAUTILYA LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN-DAY REALPOLITIK

*(The author is Assistant Professor, Central University of Punjab)*



often been hailed as a 'masterpiece', was written 50 years after Kautilya's Arthashastra. India always had a 'grand strategy' in place but owing to the enslavement by the British, we lost the outlook of exploring the ancient Indian knowledge traditions of science, maths and even warfare.

The higher-level social sciences books of history may give a detailed description of the wars of independent India, apart from the respect that forces have given to various international agreements. For instance, the burial of Pakistani soldiers by the Indian government during the Kargil War, treating Prisoners of War (PoW) with due respect, discrimination between combatants and non-combatants and not using human shields are some principles that are in the International Humanitarian Law and the forces have always abided by it, even during the harshest of counter-terrorism operations. These principles were outlined first by the Dharam Shastras.

Being the most ancient civilization, Hinduism has immensely contributed to modern-day international law, an awareness of which should be brought into the public domain. Imparting such knowledge will benefit future generations, and we should not shy away from including such topics in our curriculum. Such a strategy will develop a favourable international legal perspective towards their country apart from a sense of pride and positive self-esteem towards the forces.

For science, junior-level books should incorporate the achievements of ancient Indian knowledge systems such as making coins, the sciences of the building of the temples, water conservation, weaponry system, Sushruta Samhita and

surgeries apart from various overlapping concepts such as embryology. The subject can be correlated in the middle section with ancient and medieval weaponry systems depicted in ancient India's temples. For instance, the use of bows used with explosive materials, akin to today's missiles with chemical warheads. Also, young scientists have not explored advanced technology like acoustic levitation in the south and central Indian temples.

The use of natural harmonics in ancient India is similar to the modern use of resonance frequency and has to be explored. Some time back, a few CIA staff and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris had faced mysterious symptoms in Singapore and Vietnam. Such a cause has been associated with Havana syndrome, with experts suggesting targeted frequencies. Ancient knowledge undoubtedly is the guiding force. Such a vast knowledge system with strategic significance stands unexplored and sidelined by the national curriculum and strategic experts.

With scientific overlapping between the past and the present, military history can be considered a single chapter in most subjects. At the secondary and higher secondary stages, the study of various institutes of national importance and their achievements, such as satellites, nuclear missiles, vaccines such as Covaxin by DRDO, ISRO, AIIMS and the Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS) etc. will contribute immensely in developing a positive feeling of self-esteem.

Innovation during the war can too be included in the syllabus. For instance, the Kargil War is related

to military nationalism and the innovations of the Indian army, such as precision striking during the night, developing secured communication networks, etc. Such inclusions will motivate the science students to apply their knowledge towards creating new technologies and avoiding brain drain. It will boost technological indigenization, particularly in green energy and the development of military operational systems.

A gradual introduction to Vedic mathematics techniques will enhance the children's calculation skills. Previously, concepts such as Bijaganita have been appreciated by many western mathematicians such as G. B. Halsted and Andre Weil. Incorporation of Mathematical calculations for warfare highlighted in the Mahabharata, such as Krauncha Vyuha (Heron formation), Mandala Vyuha (Galaxy formation), Makara Vyuha (Crocodile formation) through activity-based learning will sharpen their problem-solving skills.

Overall, such moves will alter the psychology of the young generation. They would not be living in a world of fantasy where either the movie heroes or artificial characters rule the roost. When War heroes and indigenous achievements replace the non-existing heroes, the building up of national character improves substantially. For this purpose, regular civil-military interfaces at the school level for perception management should be encouraged. Finally, such an approach will help permeate the idea of democratic 'responsibilities' towards the nation rather than just 'rights' through which the people reflect their abstract notions of 'freedom' or 'Azadi'.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

AMIT SHAH'S SON CAN BE RETAINED AS THE SECRETARY OF THE BCCI BUT SOURAV GANGULY CAN'T. IS IT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T JOIN THE BJP? —TMC RAJYA SABHA MP SANTANU SEN



WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THE BJP TRIED TO INDUCT SOURAV GANGULY INTO THE PARTY. DID THEY HAVE ANY ROLE WHEN HE TOOK OVER? —BJP LEADER DILIP GHOSH



# India should raise global issues in it presidency

## Taxations, crypto-currencies, tech giants flouting norms are key concerns for G20 under Indian Presidency

On December 1, 2022, India will assume the Presidency of the G-20 countries and it will remain till November 30, 2023. It is noteworthy that G-20 is a group of large developed and developing countries of the world.

About 200 small and big meetings are to be organized in India. It is being said that this will boost tourism. But not only tourism, the Presidency of the G-20 is an opportunity for India to make efforts to find appropriate solutions to the challenges facing the world. For some time not only India, but the whole world has been going through some economic challenges.

Many countries of the world are struggling with



ASHWANI **MAHAJAN**

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the global recession, rising prices and shortage of food items. However, tech firms, social media firms, new technology, etc., while making our lives convenient are posing challenges for governments around the world. Internet technologies are facilitating businesses and are reducing the distance between the countries of the world. Old industries are waning and new businesses are taking birth.

In the race to get investment, governments of different countries of the world are moving towards competitive taxation, impacting the revenue. That is, every country is trying to show that they are facilitating investment by reducing the rate of corporate tax. But at the same

time, tax revenue is also decreasing in all these countries, causing hardships to the governments.

Not only tech companies but even other multinational companies are also trying to avoid paying taxes while running their global business. Neither do they want to pay taxes in their country of origin nor in the countries where they are operating their business.

Simultaneously, private virtual currencies (Cryptos) have come into play. Cryptos are defying official currencies. Since these currencies are bought and sold online, there is no barrier to their global movement. Collecting tax on these also remains a challenge. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has also

underlined that regulation of these currencies is not possible without global consensus and cooperation.

What is needed today is a consensus to deal with these problems at the global level and all the countries must work together to find solutions to them.

Whereas, today the marginal rate of personal tax in India is 33 per cent and in many cases even higher, the corporate tax rate was reduced to 25 per cent earlier and to only 15 per cent for new businesses. Additionally, many tax havens offer different ways of evading taxes. Hot monies and super rich people of different countries are also attracted to countries with lower tax rates.

Due to this competitive taxation, though there is hardly any gain in investment, the revenue of the governments is definitely decreasing. US President Joe Biden says companies operating in more than one country should be mandated to be taxed at least at 15 per cent. A consensus has also been reached in this regard among 136 countries. If all countries agree on a minimum tax, then it can be beneficial for all countries, which can increase tax revenue. For this work, India can use the opportunity of G-20 Presidency to move towards a global consensus in this regard.

Many virtual currencies are becoming increasingly popular today. The possibil-

ities of regulation of virtual currencies by the government of a single country are limited. Many a time criminals, including terrorists, drug dealers, etc., are duping the normal banking channels by transacting in these virtual currencies. Recently, Finance Minister Sitharaman had said that there is a need for international cooperation for effective regulation of cryptocurrencies. The Reserve Bank of India believes that the country's fiscal and monetary stability may be at risk due to cryptocurrencies.

Governments have to constantly find new sources of revenues to run their affairs and for the welfare of people. Generally, governments work towards collect-

ing taxes from emerging sectors. But the irony of the present time is that the sectors where development is taking place, companies there, are avoiding taxes under the guise of their international business. Although various MNCs used to do this in the past as well, these tech, e-commerce and social media companies are doing in bigger proportions by avoiding paying taxes.

In India, the government has moved towards imposing an equalization levy on their businesses. But the incidence of this tax is very limited. These companies need to be taxed differently. The special thing is that these companies are trying to avoid taxes even in their countries of origin.



# Ukraine recaptures 5 settlements in Kherson



AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian forces recaptured five settlements in the southern Kherson region, according to the southern Operational Command.

The villages of Novovasylivka, Novohryhorivka, Nova Kamianka, Tryfonivka and Chervone in the Beryslav district were retaken as of Oct 11, according to the speaker of the southern command Vladislav Nazarov.

The settlements are in one of the four regions recently annexed by Russia.

Meanwhile, Russia's top domestic security agency said Wednesday it arrested eight people on charges of involvement in the bombing of the main bridge linking Russia to Crimea, while an official in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia said Russian forces carried out more strikes there.

The Federal Security Service, known by the Russian acronym FSB, said it arrested five Russians and three citizens of Ukraine and Armenia over Saturday's attack that damaged the Kerch Bridge between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula — a crucial thoroughfare for supplies and travel whose much-ballyhooped construction under Russian President Vladimir Putin cost billions.

A truck loaded with explosives blew up while driving across the bridge, killing four people and causing two sections of one of the two automobile links to collapse.

Ukrainian officials have lauded the explosion on the bridge, but stopped short of directly claiming responsibility for it.



Locals receive food and everyday necessities given by Ukrainian volunteers in Izium, Ukraine, on Wednesday. Residents in Izium have been living with no gas, electricity or running water supply since beginning of September (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

# EU countries turn to Africa in bid to replace Russian gas

AP ■ DAKAR (SENEGAL)

A new liquefied natural gas project off Africa's western coast may only be 80% complete, but already the prospect of a new energy supplier has drawn visits from the leaders of Poland and Germany.

The initial field near Senegal and Mauritania's coastlines is expected to contain about 15 trillion cubic feet (425 billion cubic meters) of gas, five times more than what gas-dependent Germany used in all of 2019. But production isn't expected to start until the end of next year.

That won't help solve Europe's energy crisis triggered by Russia's war in Ukraine. Still, Gordon Birrell, an executive for project co-developer BP, says the development "could not be more timely" as Europe seeks to reduce its reliance on Russian natural gas to power factories, generate electricity and heat homes.

"Current world events are demonstrating the vital role that



(liquid gas) can play in underpinning the energy security of nations and regions," he told an energy industry meeting in West Africa last month.

While Africa's natural gas reserves are vast and North African countries like Algeria have pipelines already linked to Europe, a lack of infrastructure and security challenges have long stymied producers in other parts of the continent from scaling up exports. Already-established African producers are cutting deals or reducing ener-

gy use so they have more to sell to boost their finances, but some leaders warn that hundreds of millions of Africans lack electricity and supplies are needed at home.

Nigeria has Africa's largest natural gas reserves, said Horatius Eguu, a spokesman for the petroleum minister, though it accounts for only 14% of the European Union's imports of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, that comes by ship. Projects face the risk of energy thefts and high costs. Other promising

# Ukraine's N-plant in Russian control loses external power

AP ■ KYIV

Russian missile attacks caused Ra crippled nuclear plant in Ukraine to lose all external power for the second time in five days, increasing the risk of a radiation disaster because electricity is needed to operate critical safety systems, Ukraine's state nuclear operator said on Wednesday.

The Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant suffered a "blackout" when a missile damaged an electrical substation, leading to the emergency shutdown of the plant's last remaining outside power source, operator Energoatom reported.

All six of the reactors were stopped earlier due to the war. But they still require electricity to prevent them from overheating to the point of a meltdown that could cause radiation



to pour from Europe's largest nuclear plant. Energoatom said diesel generators were supplying the plant but Russian troops blocked a convoy carrying additional fuel for the back-up equipment.

"Russian shelling and dam-

age to the energy infrastructure associated with the operation of nuclear power plants are the same manifestation of nuclear terrorism as the direct shelling of the (Zaporizhzhia plant). And lead to the same consequences and radiation accident

# Belarus army would likely have little impact in Ukraine war



AP ■ TALLINN (ESTONIA)

Statements made this week by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko have reignited fears that his army could join Russian forces in Moscow's war against Ukraine, but the authoritarian leader appears reluctant to lend his troops to the effort, despite perceived pressure from Moscow.

Russia has already used Belarus, its longtime and dependent ally, as a staging ground to send troops and missiles into Ukraine.

Analysts say if Belarus' small and inexperienced military gets involved, the additional troops could help Moscow cut off some key transportation corridors, but likely wouldn't significantly boost Russian President Vladimir Putin's capabilities on the battlefield.

"The Belarusian army is weak and demotivated, and it is not willing to fight with Ukraine, which means that Lukashenko will try to give Putin anything but Belarusian soldiers," Ukrainian military analyst Oleh Zhdanov told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "Lukashenko is letting Putin know: 'I will help, but I won't fight.'"

Lukashenko announced on Monday that he and Putin

agreed to create a joint "regional grouping of troops" and that several thousand Russian soldiers will be stationed in Belarus.

Lukashenko offered no details about where the troops will be deployed, and Russia's motives weren't immediately clear, though the remarks come as Moscow is struggling to replenish troops lost on the battlefield.

Lukashenko also said that Kyiv is plotting to attack Belarus — and he cautioned Ukraine against attacking "even one metre of our territory with their dirty hands." His defence minister, Viktor Khrenin, also warned Ukraine not to provoke Belarus, saying, "We don't want to fight" and stressing a day later, however, that the joint force is for defence.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy assured leaders of the Group of Seven industrial powers on Tuesday that Kyiv isn't planning military actions against Belarus. He said Moscow "is trying to directly draw Belarus into this war."

Oleksiy Danilov, head of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, told Ukrainian television on Tuesday that Belarus is being "held hostage by Russia."

Fears of Russian pressure on Belarus aren't unfounded. Lukashenko, an authoritarian leader, has ruled Belarus with an iron fist for 28 years while relying on Russia's political and economic support. Moscow has pumped billions of dollars into shoring up Lukashenko's Soviet-style, state-controlled economy with cheap energy and loans.

In 2020, the Kremlin helped Lukashenko survive the largest mass protests in the country's history, following a presidential election that the opposition and the West denounced as rigged.



# Leak detected in pipeline that brings Russian oil to Germany

AP ■ WARSAW

A leak was detected in an underground oil pipeline in Poland which is the main route through which Russian crude reaches Germany, the Polish operator said on Wednesday.

The operator, PERN, said it detected a leak in the Druzhba pipeline on Tuesday evening about 70 kilometres (45 miles) from the central Polish city of Plock.

It said the cause of the leak wasn't known.

The incident follows leaks late last month in the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines running along the Baltic seabed, and amid an energy standoff between Russia and the West.

A Polish government security official, Stanislaw Zaryn, said it was too early to speculate about the causes of the leak as experts investigate the matter.

"All hypotheses are possible," Zaryn tweeted, adding that "the scale of the failure does not affect the safety of the Republic of Poland."

The Druzhba pipeline, which in Russian means "Friendship" is one of the world's longest oil pipelines, and after leaving Russia it branches out to bring crude to points including Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Austria and Germany.

Firefighters were working in cornfields near the village of Zurawice to determine the exact point of the leak, according to a spokesman for firefighters, Brig. Karol Kierzkowski.

# US developing plans for Ukrainian-type parole for Venezuelan migrants



AP ■ SAN DIEGO

The Biden administration is developing plans for Venezuelans with financial sponsors to be granted parole to enter the United States, similar to how Ukrainians have been admitted after Russia's invasion, U.S. Officials said Tuesday.

Four officials offered broad outlines of the plan to deal with a large increase in Venezuelans arriving at the U.S. Border with Mexico. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the matter publicly.

Venezuelans who cross the border illegally on land would be immediately returned to Mexico, two officials said. Currently, Mexico only accepts migrants expelled under Title 42 authority — a pandemic-era rule that denies migrants rights to seek asylum and is designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 — if they are from Guatemala, El Salvador or Honduras, in addition to Mexico.

Venezuelans who qualify for parole would enter the U.S. At airports, two officials said, mirroring a program introduced in April that allows Ukrainians with financial sponsors to stay for up to two years.

The officials strongly emphasized that discussions were fluid and plans could change. The plans were reported earlier Tuesday by CNN and

The New York Times.

While major questions remain — such as how many would be eligible for parole and where Venezuelans would board planes — the discussions demonstrate concern about what has emerged as a major challenge to authorities in the U.S., Mexico and Central America and a test of a hemispheric agreement reached in June in Los Angeles for countries that host migrants to confront issues together.

The Homeland Security Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment late Tuesday.

Mexico's Foreign Affairs Ministry said it would release details when talks are final.

"We are in discussions about a new approach that includes migration from Mexico and the northern Central American countries, as well as Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, in an orderly manner and with access to employment options," the ministry said in a statement.

Venezuelans recently surpassed Guatemalans and Hondurans to become the second-largest nationality stopped at the U.S. Border after Mexicans. In August, Venezuelans were stopped 25,349 times, up 43% from 17,652 in July and four times the 6,301 encounters in August 2021, signaling a remarkably sudden demographic shift.

# Russia ready to resume gas supplies to EU via Nord Stream 2: Putin

IAN ■ MOSCOW

In his address to the Russian Energy Week International Forum, President Vladimir Putin said Russia is ready to resume gas supplies via one link of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that remains operational, local media reported.

The Russian leader said gas could still be supplied by one remaining intact part of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. The ball

was in the EU's court on whether it wanted gas supplied via the pipeline, he said.

Putin said, "Russia is ready to start such supplies. The ball is in the court of the EU. If they want, they can just open the tap."

He went on to say that Russia has nothing to do with the sky-high energy prices that Europeans are facing this winter, instead blaming the West for stoking a global energy crisis, The Guardian reported.



It was the poorest countries that would pay the highest price in terms of rising energy costs, Putin added. Those who benefit the most from the damage

# NATO cautious to avoid war

AP ■ BRUSSELS

NATO defence ministers met on Wednesday as the alliance's member countries face the twin challenges of struggling to make and supply weapons to Ukraine while protecting vital European infrastructure like pipelines or cables that Russia might want to sabotage in retaliation.

In the almost eight months since President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine, the 30-nation military



alliance has been treading a fine line, as an organisation, providing only non-lethal support and defending its own territory to avoid being dragged into a wider war with a nuclear-

armed Russia.

Individual allies though continue to pour in weapons and ammunition, including armoured vehicles and air defence or anti-tank systems. They're also training Ukrainian troops, building on the lessons NATO has taught Ukraine's military instructors since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

But as the Russian missile strikes across Ukraine this week demonstrated, this is not enough.

# Russia arrests 8 in bridge attack

AP ■ KYIV

Russian Federal Security Service, known by the Russian acronym FSB, said it arrested five Russians and three citizens of Ukraine and Armenia in the attack on the Kerch Bridge.

A truck loaded with explosives blew up while driving across the bridge Saturday, killing four people and causing sections of road to collapse.



# Xi all set to rewind China’s clock back to ‘1 leader rule’ of Mao era

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's ruling Communist Party is set to slide back to its founder Mao Zedong's era soon as President Xi Jinping is set to break the decades-old 10-year term rule to cling in power and perhaps for life, amid mounting pressure from the US-led West against Beijing's aggressive quest to become a dominant world power.

On Sunday, 2,296 delegates "elected" under the ideological parameters set by 69-year-old Xi, will attend the carefully-choreographed Communist Party's once-in-a-five-year Congress which is widely expected to endorse his continuation in power.

The outcome of the in-camera Party Congress is expected to end two very strict five-year term limits followed by Xi's predecessors to avert the danger of the one party state becoming a country with a single leader dominating the political scene.

In the century-old history of the CPC, Mao remained at the helm until his death in 1976, ruling the most populous country and subjecting it to its ideological experiments like the Cultural Revolution during which millions of intellectuals



were exterminated and wiped out much of the country's civilisational past to create a new socialist order.

Mao's mercurial leadership was marked by brutal campaigns to purge the remnants of the capitalists and traditional elements from society and implement his brand of Communism called Mao Zedong Thought. It ended up disastrously driving the communist nation to near bankruptcy.

Mao's successor, Deng

Xiaoping, who earned the title of Paramount Leader for his sedate and pragmatic leadership putting the country on the path of economic development reversing Mao's headline policies, introduced the collective leadership system with a ten-year term limit and 68-year age limit to avoid the ills of the one leader domination of the party.

The 12th Congress of the CPC back in 1982 under the leadership of Deng set China's political and ideological direc-

tion for the next 35 years. The same Congress set a new ideological direction for the party giving high priority to economic development through market reforms and opening to the world.

It adopted the "Resolution on Certain Questions on Party History," which concluded that Mao had committed profound errors for having departed from the party's official line in 1956 on the primacy of economic development, continuing the political class struggle for two more decades.

The 1982 Congress also resolved formally to repudiate Mao's personality cult, absolute power and leadership-for-life and restore the principles of collective party leadership, including an evolving convention of term limits.

Since then, all of Xi's predecessors, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao followed the 10-year norm. Incidentally, China recorded extraordinary economic growth during their tenures, propelling it to become the second-largest economy after the US.

The opening up of China during those decades helped China to get unfettered global access and engagement, including becoming a member of the World Trade Organisation

(WTO).

"That era has now passed. And the new era of Xi Jinping has begun," said former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in one of his recent lectures in the US on China.

"This is not simply an analytical assertion on my part. It is what Xi himself has proclaimed: as Mao's era of China standing up was followed by Deng's era of China becoming prosperous, now followed by Xi's self-proclaimed new era of Chinese national power," Rudd, a fluent Chinese language speaker and widely acclaimed expert on China and the CPC, said.

Over three and half decades later, the party which controls all limbs of governance including the military, the judiciary and legislature are in the cusp of returning to the 'One Leader' rule amid its toughest period of economic slowdown exasperated by the 'Zero COVID' policy, increasing adversity with the US and the West besides uneasy relations with neighbours like India and Japan.

Xi, known as a 'princeling' as he was the son of the former vice-premier, Xi Zhongxun, who was persecuted by Mao for his liberal views rose to ranks steadily becoming Vice President under the previous President Hu.

# Iran sees internet disruption amid renewed protests

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran suffered a "major disruption" in internet service Wednesday as calls for renewed protests again saw demonstrators on the streets weeks after the death of a 22-year-old woman who had been detained by the country's morality police, an advocacy group said.

The demonstrations over the death of Mahsa Amini have become one of the greatest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the country's 2009 Green Movement protests.

Demonstrators have included oil workers, high school students and women marching without their mandatory headscarf, or hijab.

Calls for protests beginning at noon Wednesday saw a massive deployment of riot police and plainclothes officers throughout Tehran, witnesses said.

They also described disruptions affecting their mobile internet services.

NetBlocks, an advocacy group, said that Iran's internet traffic had dropped to some 25% compared to the peak, even during a working day in which students were in class across the country.

"The incident is likely to further limit the free flow of information amid protests," NetBlocks said.



Despite the disruption, witnesses saw at least one demonstration in Tehran by some 30 women who had removed their headscarves while chanting: "Death to the dictator!" Those cries, referring to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, can result in a closed-door trial in the country's Revolutionary Court with the threat of a death sentence.

Passing cars honked in support of the women despite the threats of security forces. Other women simply continued with their day not wearing the hijab in a silent protest, witnesses said. Demonstrations also occurred on university campuses in Tehran as well, online videos purported to show.

Lawyers also peacefully demonstrated in front of the Iran

Central Bar Association in Tehran, chanting: "Woman, life, freedom" — a slogan of the demonstrations so far. The video corresponded to known features of the association's building. A later video posted by activists purported to show them fleeing after security forces fired tear gas at them.

Videos also purported to show demonstrations Wednesday in Baharestan, just southeast of the city of Isfahan, as well as in the southern city of Shiraz and northern city of Rasht on the Caspian Sea. Gathering information about the demonstrations remains difficult amid the internet restrictions and the arrests of at least 40 journalists in the country, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

# Biden goes West on 3-state tour as midterm polls near

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Joe Biden's three-state swing out West this week will capture, in a nutshell, the White House's midterm strategy for a president who remains broadly unpopular: promote his administration's accomplishments and appear where he can effectively rally the party faithful — all while continuing to rake in campaign cash.

Biden's first stop Wednesday is near Vail, Colorado, where he is to designate his administration's first national monument at the behest of Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet, the state's senior senator who finds himself in a competitive reelection bid.

Then the president will head to California, where he will hold a pair of events promoting two of his most significant legislative achievements and headline a fundraiser for the House



Democrats' campaign arm.

Finally, Biden will stop in Oregon, where Democrats' grip on the governor's mansion in Salem is being threatened by an unaffiliated candidate who has captured double-digit support in polling, giving an opening for a Republican to win the race outright in November.

"We've been very clear that the president is going to go out, the vice president is going to go out," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Tuesday. "They're going to talk

about the successes that we have seen in this administration in the last 19 months."

It's all part of a campaign blueprint fine-tuned over the last several months for Biden, who has been eager to travel the country but is facing the traditional midterm headwinds against the political party in power, an unsettled economic outlook and presidential approval ratings that have remained stubbornly underwater.

To counter Republican criticisms over the economy and inflation, Democratic candidates have highlighted accomplishments such as bipartisan infrastructure, manufacturing laws, and a sweeping climate, tax and health care package.

Those achievements also helped prompt a late-summer uptick in Biden's own job performance ratings earlier this year. Democratic candidates have also been far more likely to

appear with Biden if it's an official White House event underscoring their achievements, such as the groundbreaking for a computer chip facility in suburban Ohio that was aided tremendously by the law that bolsters domestic semiconductor production.

That's the approach in Colorado, where the White House says Biden will speak about his administration's efforts to "protect, conserve, and restore some of America's most cherished lands and waters for the benefit of future generations."

Biden is to designate Camp Hale — an alpine training site where US soldiers prepared for battles in the Italian Alps during World War II — as his administration's first national monument. Many troops who trained at Camp Hale returned to Colorado after the war and helped create the state's lucrative ski industry.

AP ■ BANGKOK

A Myanmar convicted the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, on two more corruption charges on Wednesday, with two three-year sentences to be served concurrently, adding to previous convictions that now leave her with a 26-year total prison term, a legal official said.

Suu Kyi, 77, was detained on February 1, 2021, when the military seized power from her elected government.

She has denied the allegations against her in this case, in which she was accused of receiving USD 550,000 as a bribe from Maung Weik, a tycoon convicted of drug trafficking.

Corruption cases comprise the biggest share of the many charges the military has brought against the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate. Suu Kyi has



been charged with 12 counts in total under the Anti-Corruption Act, with each count punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine.

Suu Kyi had already been sentenced to 23 years' imprisonment after being convicted of illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies, violating coronavirus restrictions, breaching the country's official secrets act, sedition, election fraud and five corruption charges.

# Palestinians strike in east Jerusalem over police raids

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Palestinian shops and businesses in east Jerusalem shut down on Wednesday to protest Israeli police raids in the area that have prompted fierce clashes between police and Palestinian protesters.

Israeli police have been operating in the Shuafat refugee camp in Jerusalem's eastern sector to hunt for a suspect in a deadly shooting attack at a checkpoint on Sunday that killed a soldier.

Police have been combing Shuafat, a hardscrabble camp for Palestinian refugees on the outskirts of Jerusalem, for the suspect, setting up checkpoints and deploying groups of armed officers to question residents.

The heavy police presence has sparked intense clashes with local youth. The checkpoints



have choked off entry and exit points out of the area, disturbing daily life for residents.

The general strike was called to protest the crackdown.

Schools and shops closed across east Jerusalem, including in the Old City, whose colourful stores catering to tourists and locals alike are usually abuzz with activity.

"Showing solidarity with Shuafat means more than a day's income," said Anan Sabah, a butcher in the Old City. "The camp has been closed and surrounded for days. We are closed to say that's collective punishment."

# 477 whales die in 'heartbreaking' NZ stranding

AP ■ WELLINGTON

Some 477 pilot whales have died after stranding themselves on two remote New Zealand beaches over recent days, officials say.

None of the stranded whales could be refloated and all either died naturally or were euthanised in a "heartbreaking" loss, said Daren Grover, the general manager of Project Jonah, a nonprofit group which helps rescue whales.

The whales beached themselves on the Chatham Islands, which are home to about 600 people and located about 800 kilometers east of New Zealand's main islands.

The Department of Conservation said 232 whales stranded themselves Friday at Tupurangi Beach and another 245 at Waihere Bay on Monday.

The deaths come two weeks after about 200 pilot whales died in Australia after stranding themselves on a remote Tasmanian beach.

"These events are tough,



challenging situations," the Department of Conservation wrote in a Facebook post.

"Although they are natural occurrences, they are still sad and difficult for those helping."

Grover said the remote location and presence of sharks in the surrounding waters meant they couldn't mobilise volunteers to try to refloat the whales as they have in past stranding events.

"We do not actively refloat

whales on the Chatham Islands due to the risk of shark attack to humans and the whales themselves, so euthanasia was the kindest option," said Dave Lundquist, a technical marine advisor for the conservation department.

Mass strandings of pilot whales are reasonably common in New Zealand, especially during the summer months.

Scientists don't know exactly what causes the whales to

strand, although it appears their location systems can get confused by gently sloping sandy beaches.

Grover said there is a lot of food for the whales around the Chatham Islands, and as they swim closer to land, they would quickly find themselves going from very deep to shallow water.

"They rely on their echolocation and yet it doesn't tell them that they are running out of water," Grover said.

"They come closer and closer to shore and become disoriented. The tide can then drop from below them and before they know it, they're stranded on the beach."

Because of the remote location of the beaches, the whale carcasses won't be buried or towed out to sea, as is often the case, but instead will be left to decompose, Grover said.

"Nature is a great recycler and all the energy stored within the bodies of all the whales will be returned to nature quite quickly," he said.

# World's 1st space tourist signs up for flight around moon

AP ■ CAPE CANAVERAL

The world's first space tourist wants to go back — only this time, he's signed up for a spin around the moon aboard Elon Musk's Starship.

For Dennis Tito, 82, it's a chance to relive the joy of his trip to the International Space Station, now that he's retired with time on his hands. He isn't interested in hopping on a 10-minute flight to the edge of space or repeating what he did 21 years ago. "Been there, done that."

His weeklong moonshot — its date to be determined

and years in the future — will bring him within 200 kilometers of the lunar far side. He'll have company: his wife, Akiko, and 10 others willing to shell out big bucks for the ride.

Tito won't say how much he's paying; his Russian station flight cost \$20 million.

The couple recognise there's a lot of testing and development still ahead for Starship, a shiny, bullet-shaped behemoth that's yet to even attempt to reach space.

"We have to keep healthy for as many years as it's going to take for SpaceX to complete this vehicle," Tito said in an



interview this week with The Associated Press.

"I might be sitting in a rocking chair, not doing any

good exercise, if it wasn't for this mission."

Tito is actually the second billionaire to make a Starship

reservation for a flight around the moon. Japanese fashion tycoon Yusaku Maezawa announced in 2018 he was buying an entire flight so he could take eight or so others with him, preferably artists. The two men both flew to the space station, from Kazakhstan atop Russian rockets, 20 years apart.

Tito kicked off space tourism in 2001, becoming the first person to pay his own way to space and antagonising NASA in the process.

The U.S. Space agency didn't want a sightseer hanging around while the station was

being built.

But the Russian Space Agency needed the cash and, with the help of U.S.-based Space Adventures, launched a string of wealthy clients to the station through the 2000s and, just a year ago, Maezawa.

Well-heeled customers are sampling briefer tastes of space with Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin rocket company.

Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic expects to take paying passengers next year.

Starship has yet to launch atop a Super Heavy booster from the southern tip of Texas, near the Mexican border.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that Sh. Vedant Agarwal S/O Sh. Sanjay Agarwal is the owner of the property Built up One Shop bearing Plot No. F-2, on First Floor without Roof/Terrace Rights, area measuring 16.5 Sq. Meters, Address: Old One Shop bearing Plot No. F-1, on First Floor, without Roof/Terrace Rights, area measuring 16.5 Sq. Meters, constituted on Property Bearing Municipal No. 2423-29 situated at Ward No. VII, Siracha Ward Marg, G. B. Road, Delhi-110006, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 16.01.2020 regd. at doc. No. 421 & Sale Deed dated 27.02.2020 regd. at doc. No. 1710 respectively and the same is to be financed & mortgaged with my client i.e. Primal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd and the legal heirs of Late Sita Ram Sunka namely Sh. Anshu Kumar Sunka, Sh. Sitaram Sunka, Smt. Parmeshwar Devi, Sh. Sh. Kumar Sunka and Sh. Vishnu Kumar Sunka shall have no objection regarding mortgage of interest in property Sh. Vedant Agarwal. (If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.  
Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)  
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001  
Mob.: +91-8076188232

**ADMISSION NOTICE**  
Applications are Invited for  
**DPSE (2022-24) under**  
**Management Quota for Affiliated**  
**Institutes of SCERT (Govt. of Delhi)**  
Last date to Apply: 17.10.2022  
For further details, please contact:  
**Satyam International Polytechnic**  
GD Block, Near Pitampura Metro Station,  
Pitampura, Delhi-110068 Ph:9711396842

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General public that MRS. JULE KHAN W/O MR. GULBAHAR, is owner of A RESIDENTIAL HOUSE No. 2502 ADMEASURING 555.52 MTR. OUT-OF-KHASRANA, 1087 SITUATED AT VILLAGE: KHWAI PARGANA & TEHSIL SARDHANHA DISTT. MEERUT (U.P.) vide REGISTRED SALE DEED dated 30.08.2022 registration No. 14816 with Sub Registrar SARDHANHA (U.P.). All persons are hereby informed that MRS. JULE KHAN W/O MR. GULBAHAR has approached Poonawalla Housing Finance Ltd to take a Loan and they have lost REGISTERED SALE DEED dated 27.10.2020 in respect of said property Executed by MRS. GOPAL S/O BALJEET & MR. GRABHUSAN S/O GOPAL in favour of Mr. Gulbahar S/O Mr. Farukh di registered at sub registrar office-Registrar SARDHANHA (U.P.) vide documents No. 14035, volume no. 9853, book no. 1, pages no. 107/130, dated on 27.10.2020. MRS. JULE KHAN W/O MR. GULBAHAR has informed the UP Police dated 12.10.2022, names ROHITA KHANA, MEERUT about the loss of the above mentioned sale deed. If anybody has any charge/interest/titled in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.  
Mrs. Praseon Late, Advocate  
C-4, Ashok Vihar, Law Firm  
Unit No. 7, Basement, Plot No. C 78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301.  
E-MAIL: praseonlaw@gmail.com  
Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

**UJVN LTD.**  
H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones : 0135-2763508 & Fax : 0135- 2763507  
CIN No. U40101UR20019SG023866, Website.: www.ujvn.ltd.  
Letter No.750      **Date Extension Notice**      Dated 12.10.2022  
Due to unavoidable reasons, the last date of submission and date of opening of NIT no. e 12/UJVN/EE/(M&G)/KPS/ 2022-23 for "e- 12/ UJVN/LEE (M&G)/KPS/2022-23 "S.I.T.C of Nitrogen Injection Fire Protection System for 6/6132 kV, 12.5MVA Generator Transformer of Unit A & C installed at Kulhai Power Station" is hereby extended as under-  
Last date for submission of tender : 28.10.2022, 15:00 Hrs.  
Last date for submission of hard copy : 31.10.2022, 15:00 Hrs.  
Date of opening of tender : 01.11.2022, 16:00 Hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "http://uktdenders.gov.in"  
**Executive Engineer (M&G), Kulhai**  
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTIFICATION**  
**Re-engagement of Retired Railway Staff on monthly remuneration basis in exigencies of services in Delhi Division, Northern Railway.**  
Applications are invited from Retired Railway Staff for Re-Engagement on monthly remuneration basis in Delhi Division, Northern Railway for various categories (Total 30 vacancies) on or before 11.11.2022. Maximum upper age limit for re-engagement on 11.11.2022 is 64½ years. The employee Removed/ Dismissed/ Compulsory retired as a result of disciplinary action or pending vigilance cases or in review and Retired employees being re-engaged, covered under the Safety Related Retirement Scheme/Liberalized Active Retirement Scheme for Guaranteed Employment for Safety Staff (LARGESS) are not eligible for re-engagement.  
For more details & to download application visit our website [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) > about us > Division > Delhi > Personnel > Re-engagement of Retired Railway Staff on Delhi Division (Total 30 vacancies) and [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) > News & Recruitment > Recruitment > Notification.  
**2724/22**

**Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) (Contact Number: 96461-18774)  
**Tender Enquiry No.MQP-205/2022-23/PO(M)      Dated: 11-10-2022**  
Chief Engineer/ Meeting, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of LT Ring Type, Resin Caste, Metering Current Transformers (CTs) of ratio 100/5A, 200/5 and 400/5A of Accuracy Class-0.5S conforming to IS: 16227 Part-I & II with latest amendments.  

Sr. No.	Capacity	Qty. (Sets.)
1	100/5	2000
2	200/5	2000
3	400/5	50

**Note:** each set shall contain 3 nos. CTs  
For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to <http://esproc.punjab.gov.in> from 12-10-2022 from 11:00 AM onwards  
**Note:** Corrigendum and amendments, if any will be published online at <http://esproc.punjab.gov.in>  
**76155/12/1158/2021/17731      C383/22**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const./Northern Railway, 4th Floor, DRM Office, New Delhi-110001, invites e-tender under **One Packet System** for the under noted work:-  

1.	<b>Name of work and location :</b> Design, Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 kV AC single phase OHE for the Electrification work of :- New line from New Prithala DFC yard to Palwal.
2.	<b>Completion period of the work :</b> 09 Months
3.	<b>Approx. Cost of work :</b> Rs. 3,63,52,976.16/-
4.	<b>Earnest Money amount (to be deposited online) :</b> Rs. 3,31,800/-
5.	<b>Date &amp; Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender :</b> Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on date 12.10.2022 on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs. on 02.11.2022.
6.	<b>Detailed Tender Notice and Tender Document :</b> The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> and tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 19.10.2022 to 02.11.2022. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

**No.: 331-Dy CEE/C/INDLS/2022-23      Dated: 11.10.2022      2709/2022**  
**Serving Customers with a Smile**



# Unseasonal rain affected small farmers, says Tomar

Govt’s crop insurance scheme provides protection: Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday said unseasonal rains in some parts of the country have affected small farmers and are getting compensation under the government’s crop insurance scheme.

At a conference on ‘Enhancing Agricultural Productivity: Integration of Improved Seeds and Agri Inputs’, the minister also said Indian agriculture sector as well as profit or loss in farming are dependent on nature.

“You all must be experiencing now that unseasonal rains have caused losses to small and marginal farmers,” he said.

According to him, farmers have security cover as they get compensations under the crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).



The scheme provides protection to farmers from crop losses.

Delhi-NCR and various districts of Uttar Pradesh have received unseasonal rains this month.

So far, Tomar said the insurance companies have provided a compensation of Rs 1.22 lakh crore to affected farmers. However, he rued that all farmers are not covered under the PMFBY.

While the compensation amount provides relief to the affected farmers, it does not compensate for their hard-work, Tomar said.

# Sensex, Nifty rebound nearly 1%, snap three-day losing run

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded nearly 1 per cent while Nifty reclaimed the 17,100 level on Wednesday as value buying in energy, banking, IT and FMCG shares helped the indices cut short a three-day losing run.

Positive trends in European markets and US stock index futures ahead of the release of Fed meeting minutes and inflation data also boosted investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 478.59 points or 0.84 per cent to settle at 57,625.91. During the day, it jumped 540.32 points or 0.94 per cent to 57,687.64.

The broader NSE Nifty reclaimed the 17,100 level by jumping 140.05 points or 0.82 per cent to close at 17,123.60.

“Bears took a breather today as markets witnessed a relief rally after getting hammered in the past few sessions. However, the recovery doesn’t seem to be sustainable as multiple negative factors are at play,” said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

“The domestic market



was successful in overcoming the weak cues from global peers as it focused on quarterly earnings. The IT earnings season got off to a strong start, which improved the sector’s spirits,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Among Sensex shares, Power Grid rose the most by 3.5 per cent. Axis Bank rose by 2.89 per cent, NTPC by 2.42 per cent, IndusInd Bank 1.97 per cent, L&T by 1.7 per cent, and UltraTech Cement by 1.65 per cent.

Gains in Reliance Industries, HDFC, HDFC Bank, Kotak Bank, HUL, and ITC helped indices bounce back.

# SBI, HDFC offer home loans at 8.40% as part of festive sales

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Despite rising interest rates, leading home loan players SBI and HDFC have announced discounted interest rates beginning at 8.40 per cent as part of their festive offerings.

SBI in a statement said that its home loan book has topped the Rs 6 lakh crore mark, a first in the industry. The leading lender said it is offering up to 25 bps discount on interest rate to new home loan borrowers, making the entry level rate at 8.40 per cent and the offer will run up to January 31, 2023.

The largest pure-play mortgage player HDFC, which is awaiting its merger with its banking subsidiary HDFC Bank, said it’s also offering discounted interest rates to new borrowers to the tune of 20 bps or at 8.40 per cent.

According to HDFC website, the festive offer is valid up to November 30, and the low rate will be applicable to those borrowers who have a minimum credit score of 750.

Leading banks and mortgage players have increased their lending rates by up to 0.50 percentage point after the Reserve Bank of India last raised its repo rate by 50 bps to



tame inflation.

State Bank of India did not offer details such as the credit score conditions or the ticket size of the loan to avail of the lower rates. It further said the festive offer also includes waiver of the processing fees, balance transfers/takeovers and top-up loans.

The bank had crossed the Rs 5 lakh crore-mark home loan mark in January 2021.

SBI said while the new loan comes up to 0.25 percentage point lower than its existing rates, new top-up loans will be 0.15 percentage point cheaper, and loans against property will be cheaper by 0.30 percentage point. None of these offerings will have processing fees.

Commenting on the milestone, chairman Dinesh Khara said SBI has over 28 lakh home loan customers.

Alok Kumar Choudhary, the managing director-retail banking & operations, said, while interest rate for new loan buyers and loan takeovers starts at 8.40 per cent and top-up loans start at 8.80 per cent.

Meanwhile, HDFC told PTI that its retail home loan book stood at Rs 5.363 lakh crore in the June quarter and its developer loan book at Rs 1.351 lakh crore, taking the overall AUM to Rs 6.714 lakh crore. The mortgage lender has not disclosed the Q2 numbers yet. Earlier in the month, HDFC had said it sold individual loans worth Rs 34,513 crore in the second quarter, up from Rs 27,199 crore, closing its gap with SBI to just about Rs 29,187 crore.

# Wipro Q2 net profit drops 9.3% to ₹2,659 cr



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT services major Wipro Ltd on Wednesday reported a 9.3 per cent drop in its September quarter net profit, weighed down by rising staff expenses and lower non-US earnings.

Profit attributable to equity shareholders of the company was 9.3 per cent lower at Rs 2,659 crore, the company said in a statement.

The company had reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 2,930.6 crore in the same period a year back.

However, on a sequential basis, profit rose 3.72 per cent in the quarter under review, from Rs 2,563.6 crore in the previous June quarter.

# RBI to tell Govt why it failed to check inflation since Jan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With inflation staying above the upper tolerance limit for nine straight months, the Reserve Bank will now have to submit a report to the central government detailing reasons for the failure to contain prices and remedial steps to rein in the price rise.

The Reserve Bank of India Act mandates that in the case of the inflation target not being met for three consecutive quarters, the central bank has to submit a report to the government explaining the reasons and detail the remedial actions it will be taking to check the price rise.

This will be the first time since the onset of the Monetary Policy Framework which came into effect in 2016 that the RBI will be made to explain its actions in a report to the government.

As per the mandate given to the Reserve Bank by the Union Government, the central bank is required to ensure



retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Now, the Secretary to the MPC, which factors in retail inflation while arriving at bi-monthly monetary policy, will now schedule a separate meeting of the rate-setting panel to discuss and draft the report to be sent to the Central Government under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act.

# Govt to bring e-com policy only after data privacy issue settled

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will look to stabilise its e-commerce firm ONDC and address the data privacy concerns before bringing a proposed e-commerce policy, according to an official source.

In June 2021, the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry released a draft set of rules that aims to tighten the governance of e-commerce platforms.

On the other side, the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Commerce and Industry Ministry is also framing a national e-commerce policy.

A couple of ministries are involved in the policy making as it lies in the jurisdiction of other legislations.

“We have already launched the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to help

small retailers. It has gone quite well. We have raised funds for ONDC. Once this gets stabilised and democratised, it will be easy to formalise the proposed e-commerce policy,” the source said.

There is also an element of data privacy in e-commerce, which Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is looking into it and working on a law, the source said.

The proposed e-commerce policy will get finalised when all the concerned ministries are in perfect “alignment”, the source added.

The work is in progress and no deadline has been set as of now, the source added.

The e-commerce policy is expected to impact the Indian e-commerce market, which is projected to touch USD 188 billion in 2025 from USD 64 billion in 2020, with growing consumer preference to buy on the digital marketplace, according to a FICCI report.

# Rupee falls 14 paise to close at 82.35 against US dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee fell 14 paise to close at 82.35 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday amid the strengthening of the American currency and sustained foreign fund outflows.

Besides, risk aversion sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 82.32, then fell further to settle at 82.35 against the American currency, registering a decline of 14 paise over its previous close.

During the session, the local unit witnessed an intraday high of 82.15 and a low of 82.37 against the greenback.

On Tuesday, the rupee rebounded from its all-time low to close 19 paise higher at 82.21 against the US dollar.

“In line with the dollar index, the rupee marked another steady day. So far this week, the rupee has been trading in a narrow range and closing near 82.32,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Parmar said a rebound in the domestic equities and the central bank’s intervention ahead of the crucial retail inflation



release supported the rupee on Wednesday’s trade.

In the near-term, spot USD/INR is expected to trade in the range of 82.10 to 82.80, Parmar noted.

Traders said investors remained cautious ahead of the release of key domestic macro data India’s inflation, IIP and manufacturing output are due today, while the FOMC minutes are scheduled for late evening.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.01 per cent to 113.21. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.39 per cent to USD 94.66 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 478.59 points or 0.84 per cent to end at 57,625.91, while the broader NSE Nifty rose 140.05 points or 0.82 per cent to 17,123.60.

# Industrial production contracts 0.8% in August: Govt data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India’s industrial production contracted 0.8 per cent in August, according to the official data released on Wednesday.

The IIP had grown 13 per cent in August 2021.

As per the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector’s output contracted 0.7 per cent in August 2022. The mining output contracted 3.9 per cent, while power generation increased 1.4 per cent during August.

In April 2020, industrial production had contracted 57.3 per cent due to a decline in economic activities.

# IIFCL aims to more than double InvIT exposure to ₹2,500 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) aims to double its exposure to infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) to ₹2,500 crore during the current financial year.

IIFCL invested ₹975 crore in project bonds, including around ₹324 crore of bonds in renewable energy InvIT during 2021-22.

“We are looking at all good AAA rated InvITs for investment on the debt side. Depending on the opportunities, InvIT exposure may cross Rs 2,500 crore by the end of the current financial year,” IIFCL managing director P R Jaishankar told PTI.

# HCL Tech Q2 net profit up 7% at ₹3,489 cr, raises full-year revenue guidance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT services company HCL Technologies on Wednesday posted a 7 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to ₹3,489 crore for the September quarter and raised the full-year revenue guidance.

The net profit stood at ₹3,259 crore in the year-ago period.

The revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2022, came in at ₹24,686 crore, 19.5 per cent higher than the same period the previous year.

The board has also declared an interim dividend of ₹10 per equity share for the financial year 2022-23.

# Steel demand needs to grow at 9% CAGR to meet 160 kg/capita consumption target: Icra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic steel demand needs to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9 per cent over the next decade to meet 160 kg per capita steel consumption target envisaged in the National Steel Policy (NSP).

Launched in 2017, NSP also aims to ramp up the country’s crude steel production to 300 million tonne (MT) by 2030-31.

Jayanta Roy, Senior Vice-President & Group Head, Corporate Sector Ratings, Icra said, India’s current per capita steel demand of 76 kg is not only significantly below the world average of 233 kg per capita, but also remains the lowest among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa



(BRICS) nations.

To take the country’s steel consumption close to NSP target of 160 kg per capita in FY2031, the domestic steel demand would need to grow at a CAGR of 9 per cent in the next decade, the expert said in an Icra report on Wednesday.

He further noted, “This is almost double the growth rate achieved in the decade gone by. While achieving this milestone will be challenging, it is not impossible, as the country has been able to demonstrate growth of a similar magnitude in the past.”

# Gold falls ₹20; silver at ₹473

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices in the national capital fell by ₹20 to ₹51,155 per 10 grams on Wednesday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹51,175 per 10 grams.

Silver also declined by ₹473 to ₹58,169 per kg from ₹58,642 per kg.

In the international market, gold was trading flat at USD 1,669.5 per ounce while silver was down at USD 19.18 per ounce. “COMEX gold held steady in the morning trade after the Bank of England’s comments on the removal of emergency market support,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.



# Broking app m.Stock down for three hours during markets; issues resolved

PTI ■ MUMBAI

South Korean company SMirae Asset’s discount broking application m.Stock faced a three-hour downtime, impacting investors during market hours on Wednesday.

A company official said there was a technical glitch that resulted in the downtime, but the same was rectified well before the close of market hours, which helped decrease the inconvenience for cus-



tomers.

In a tweet at 1415 hrs in the afternoon, m.Stock said the issues have been resolved and it regrets the inconvenience caused to the customers.

A major problem was with the mobile application and customers could intermittently access the service from the

web during the downtime, the official said. The company has over 50,000 paid accounts, as per the official.

Responding to social media chatter about customer care being unresponsive during the downtime, the official clarified that all the calls were responded to.

In April this year, Mirae launched the application with plans that included zero brokerage after the payment of a one-time fee of ₹999.

# PVR shareholders approve merger with rival INOX Leisures

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Multiplex operator PVR on Wednesday said it has received the nod from its shareholders for the scheme of merger with rival Inox Leisure.

The leading cinema exhibitor convened a meeting of its shareholders on Tuesday following the directions of the Mumbai bench of the National

Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

The proposal was passed by over 99 per cent of the number of valid votes cast, said the scrutiniser’s report of the meeting shared by PVR.

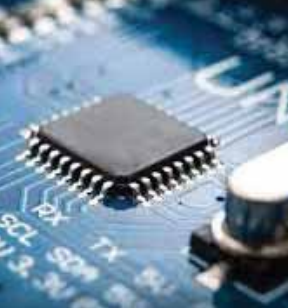
In June this year, both PVR and Inox Leisure said they had received clearance for their merger from bourses NSE and BSE.

# Govt to clear semiconductor unit proposals in 30-60 days: MoS IT

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Government is likely to start approving proposals to set up electronic chip and display manufacturing plants in the country in next 30-60 days, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Wednesday.

Speaking at IESA Vision Summit, Chandrasekhar said there has been a tremendous progress in the development of the semiconductor ecosystem



in the country in the last 8-9 months.

The government has received proposals from five companies for setting up electronic chip and display manufacturing plants with investment of Rs 1.53 lakh crore.

Vedanta Foxconn JV, IGSS Ventures, ISMC propose to set up electronic chip manufacturing plants with USD 13.6 billion investment and have sought support of USD 5.6 billion from the Centre under the Rs 76,000 crore Semicon India Programme.



# Deepak Chahar ruled out of T20 WC

Siraj, Shami, Shardul set to join India in Aus

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pacer Deepak Chahar, who was a strong contender to replace Jasprit Bumrah in the Indian squad for the T20 World Cup, has been ruled of the marquee event due to a back injury, BCCI sources said on Wednesday.

While Chahar, a stand-by player for the World Cup, will miss the plane to Australia, the national selectors have asked pacers Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur to join the squad.

The trio will fly to Australia on Wednesday night.

"Deepak will take some time to get fit. His back issue has flared up again. His ankle is fine and there wasn't any problem there. So BCCI is sending three reinforcements, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur," a BCCI official said.

One among the three pacers will replace Bumrah in the squad of 15.

Since the team has time till October 15 to announce Bumrah's replacement, the team management has time to check out form and fitness of all three pacers.

Chahar had competed in the T20 series against South Africa but developed a back issue and was forced to skip the ODI series. He reported to National Cricket Academy (NCA) for rehabilitation.

Chahar missed cricketing action for nearly six months early this year after suffering a hamstring tear, which was followed by a back injury. He came back during the tour of Zimbabwe.

Pacers' timely arrival in Australia will give them time enough to acclimatisation to the conditions Down Under. In case their services are required, they will be ready for the contest.

Shami with his artistry and experience leads the race but Siraj was excellent in the recently-concluded ODI series against South Africa, where he emerged Player of the Series. Siraj took five wickets, including three in the Ranchi ODI, in



**CHAHAR HAD COMPETED IN THE T20 SERIES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA BUT DEVELOPED A BACK ISSUE AND WAS FORCED TO SKIP THE ODI SERIES**

three games.

Shardul with his all round abilities will provide cover to Hardik Pandya but most likely he will be in stand-by list.

Ravi Bishnoi and Shreyas Iyer are unlikely to travel for the time being and will only join the team in case the team asks for a batter's replacement.

Bishnoi will travel in case there is any injury to Yuzvendra Chahal.

"Shreyas has been told that Deepak Hooda is fit, so he would only be called if any specialist batter gets injured. He has been asked to play Mushtaq Ali trophy and remain ready."

## SKY remains static at 2nd in T20I rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

In-form batter Suryakumar Yadav continued to be the top ranked Indian batter in the shortest format, holding on to his second spot in the latest ICC T20I rankings released on Wednesday.

Suryakumar, who finished India's recent T20I series at home against South Africa as their leading run-scorer, is on 838 points, behind Pakistan wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan.

The 32-year-old is the lone Indian in the top 10.

Opener KL Rahul and veteran Virat Kohli occupy the 13th and 14th spots while skipper Rohit Sharma is 16th.

Kiwi star Devon Conway, the leading run-getter in the ongoing T20I tri-series in New Zealand, jumped into the top five after the impressive showing in the three-team series.

Conway made an unbeaten 70 against Bangladesh and another unbeaten 49 against Pakistan in the following game to leapfrog Aaron Finch and Dawid Malan and make it to the top five with 760 rating points.

The New Zealand batter closely follows South Africa middle-order batter Aiden Markram, who is at No.4 with 777 points.

The top three in the bat-



ting rankings remain intact with Rizwan, Suryakumar and Babar Azam holding onto their rankings.

In the ODI batting rankings, Shikhar Dhawan dropped down six places despite India's 2-1 series win against South Africa.

The India opener comes in at No.17 with Kohli and Rohit, both of whom also dropped down the rankings a bit after missing the ODI series, the only Indian batters ahead of him.

While Kohli is seventh, Rohit is a spot behind his compatriot at eighth. The duo missed the recently-concluded ODI series against South Africa.

Shreyas Iyer (33) and Sanju Samson (93) were the big movers in the top 100 of the batting rankings.

## SURYAKUMAR CAN BE INDIA'S VERSION OF ABD: STEYN

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former South Africa quick Dale Steyn feels the pace and bounce on Australian pitches will suit Suryakumar Yadav's 360-degree game, making him India's go-to player in the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Following a hat-trick of half-centuries in the bilateral home series against Australia, the Mumbaiaiker continued his red-hot form Down Under as he slammed a 35-ball 53 in India's 13-run win over Western Australia in a practice match here on Monday.

"He is a wonderful 360-degree player, and reminds me of AB de Villiers. He could be India's version of AB de Villiers

and with the red-hot form that he's in right now, he's a player to definitely watch out for this World Cup," Steyn said on Star Sports show 'Cricket Live'.

Steyn went on to explain how the Australian conditions would be just perfect for the Indian No. 4 to hit top-gear.

The Rohit Sharma-led side will face Australia on October 17 at the Gabba in the official warm-up game before taking on Pakistan in their tournament opener on October 23.

"He's the kind of player that likes to use the pace of the ball. He likes to get in behind the square. In places like Perth, Melbourne, all of these grounds, there is a little bit of extra pace on it.

"So, you can use the pace, you can hit on fine leg, behind and all along the carpet. And he's also really good when standing still and getting off the back foot.

"He has played some amazing back foot cover drives and some beautiful cover drives off the front foot too. So, he's an all-round player, and it's in Australia, where the wickets are so good, they are batter friendly.

"You can also get away when a bowler tries to bowl full, you can place the ball left and you can use the pace of the ball really well, given some room," he added.

While India's first-choice white ball players are in

## India face Thailand in Asia Cup semis

PTI ■ SYLHET

It has been a smooth ride for the mighty Indian team so far and the trend is expected to continue when the sub-continent powerhouse aim to crush minnows' Thailand one more time in the Women's Asia Cup semi-final here on Thursday.

The last match between two teams had turned out to be a huge mismatch as India had skittled Thailand out for just 37 runs in 15.1 overs to run away with an easy win during the league stage.

Thailand would look to do better than their previous batting effort against India after making the Asia Cup semi-final entry for the first time at the expense of hosts defending champions Bangladesh.

The Naruemol Chaiwai-led side would hope to prove that their qualification for the tournament was not a fluke.

For India, the tournament came as a perfect opportunity to test their bench strength and give their less-experienced players "enough game time" ahead of the next year's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

As a result, India's star skipper Harmanpreet Kaur played only three of their six league matches, and even dropped down to No. 7 against Pakistan in the only game they lost.



The team tried out the likes of T20 power-hitter Kiran Prabhu Navgire and Dayalan Hemalatha in search of a "finisher".

While rookie Navgire, who smashed the fastest fifty in the Women's T20 Challenge earlier in May, has managed just 10 runs from three innings, the more experienced Hemalatha has also failed to impress — 45 runs, four innings.

It remains to be seen if the team continues to experiment or play full strength to be ready for the title clash.

The spin troika of Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana and

Rajeshwari Gayakwad easily kept most of the teams under check.

To make it a contest, the onus would be on their Thailand's top three — Nannapat Koncharoenkai, Natthakan Chantham and skipper Chaiwai. The trio has done bulk of the scoring for the team and a big test awaits them against a disciplined Indian attack.

The biggest positive for India has been Jemimah Rodrigues' stunning form as she has shouldered the responsibility in the middle-order and is leading the run-charts with 188 runs with two half-centuries.



## NZ beat B'desh by 48 runs in Tri-series

AP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Devon Conway continued a compelling run of form leading into the T20 World Cup with an innings of 64 on Wednesday in New Zealand's 48-run win over Bangladesh at the New Zealand T20 Tri-series.

With his help, New Zealand made 208-5 after losing the toss and then restricted Bangladesh to 160-7.

Conway made 70 not out and 49 not in his two previous innings in the series, carrying his bat on both occasions as New Zealand posted wins over Bangladesh and Pakistan. With his 36 in New Zealand's opening loss to Pakistan, he has made 219 runs in the series so far at an average of 109.5. He now has six half centuries in T20 internationals.

Conway provided the engine of New Zealand's innings Wednesday, taking his runs from only 40 deliveries at a strike rate of 160.0 with five fours and three sixes.

Glenn Phillips took up where Conway left off, blasting 60 from 24 balls with two fours and five sixes at 250.0. Martin Guptill made 34 batting at No. 3 in his first appearance at the

tournament, and opener Finn Allen hit 32 from 19 balls.

"The way Devon batted was really phenomenal," Phillips said. "The partnership he and Guptill produced really set us up and I was just able to swing the bat at the end.

"For us that was the complete batting performance and the blueprint rolled out perfectly."

Captain Kane Williamson was rested for the match but will return when New Zealand plays Pakistan in the tournament final on Friday. Pakistan will play Bangladesh in the last of the round-robin matches Thursday.

The odds were against Bangladesh, which has surpassed 200 in a T20 innings on only three occasions. It made a good run at it, reaching 90-3 after 10 overs.

The loss of Soumya Sarkar at the end of the 10th over was a blow; he put on 43 with captain Shakib Al Hasan in brisk time.

Shakib carried the innings, making 70 from 44 balls, including a half century from 33 deliveries. He was out in the 19th over when Bangladesh was 153-7 and the match already was lost.



## Malan & Curran help Eng seal T20I series

AP ■ CANBERRA

Dawid Malan posted 82 to lead the batting and Sam Curran snared three wickets to help England clinch a series victory over Australia with an eight-run win on Wednesday that will be a setback for the hosts ahead of their title defense at the T20 World Cup.

Malan plundered seven boundaries and four sixes in his 49-ball innings and shared a 92-run fifth-wicket stand with Moeen Ali that propelled England from a precarious 54-4 in the 9th over to a total of 178-7 after being sent in to bat.

Curran took some big wickets when Glenn Maxwell (8) pulled a bouncer to Alex Hales at mid-wicket in the 8th over and Marcus Stoinis (22) picked out Harry Brook at deep mid-wicket in the 12th. He returned to end Australia's hopes by taking out the leg stump of Tim David (40 of 23 balls) with a perfect yorker in the 18th. The Australians finished on 170-6.

England won the series-opening match in Perth last Sunday by eight runs but was facing a full-strength bowling attack in Canberra, with Australia making five changes

for Game 2.

Malan went in at the start of the third over after skipper Jos Buttler was out for 17, and he dug in while Hales (4), Ben Stokes (7) and Harry Brook (1) all fell cheaply.

Australia captain Aaron Finch said the difference Wednesday was the fielding, with his lineup putting down four chances and England holding every catch.

"We were really poor in the field, especially when we had them four (wickets) down inside the first 10 overs," he said. Malan, playing his 50th T20 international, raised his 50 from 31 balls and kept the pressure on the Australian attack with controlled aggression and some hefty hitting.

He had a reprieve on 54 when he skied one down the ground off Mitchell Starc and David was not only unable to catch the ball, but promoted it over the boundary for six.

"Over the moon," Malan said of his player-of-the-match performance.

"Thankfully got away with a little bit here and there."

The teams will meet again in Canberra on Friday before a final week of preparation for the T20 World Cup.

## JANSEN REPLACES PRETORIUS IN PROTEAS T20 WCUP SQUAD

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Left-arm quick Marco Jansen has replaced the injured Dwaine Pretorius in South Africa's 15-member squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia, the country's cricket board announced on Wednesday.

All-rounder Pretorius was ruled out of the T20 showpiece after sustaining an injury in his left thumb during the third T20I against India.

The 22-year-old Jansen was initially part of the travelling reserves and has been replaced by pacer Lizaad Williams in the standby list, Cricket South Africa (CSA) said in a media release.

Jansen has represented South Africa in just one T20I. His debut in the format came during their tour of India in June this year. He had taken one wicket for 38 runs in the



Rajkot match.

The tall pacer has also played seven Tests and three ODIs for South Africa.

He was part of the T20I squad in the recent series against India but didn't get a game. He replaced Pretorius for the ODI series and featured in the third game before finding a place in the T20 World Cup squad.

South Africa will begin their campaign in the T20 showpiece against a qualifying team on October 24 in Australia.

T20 World Cup squad: Temba Bavuma (C), Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi and Tristan Stubbs.

Reserves: Bjorn Fortuin, Andile Phehlukwayo, Lizaad Williams.

## Mushtaq Ali T20: Ton-up Nitish stars in Delhi's win over Punjab

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Captain Nitish Rana smashed a magnificent hundred as Delhi comfortably beat Punjab by 12 runs in a group B league fixture of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament here on Wednesday.

Rana, a T20 specialist and Kolkata Knight Riders star, was simply too good for the Punjab bowling unit as he scored 107 off only 61 balls with the help of nine fours and seven sixes to take Delhi to a solid 191 for 4 in 20 overs.

In reply, Punjab could only manage 179 for 5 with Ishant Sharma picking up 2 for 35 in his 4 overs.

Rana also did star turn with his off-breaks, picking 2/24 in 3 overs.

Earlier, Rana scored his maiden T20 hundred off only 55 balls and also added 173 runs in just 16.4 overs with U-19 World Cup-winning India captain Yash Dhull (66 not out off 45 balls), who also got his first half-century in shortest format.

Dhull, playing only his second T20 game, smashed four fours and as many sixes.

**VYAS SIZZLES**

**Indore:** Samarth Vyas blazed away to 97 off 52 balls to power Saurashtra to a four-wicket win over Baroda in a group D fixture here.

Chasing 176, Vyas single-handedly steered Saurashtra to their highest successful run chase in the tournament.

With 96 needed of the last eight overs, the 26-year-old upped the ante.

He first hit impact substitute Safvan Patel, who came in for Dhruv Patel, for a four to bring up his fifty in style and then whacked two sixes to collect 20 runs of the 14th over.

In the groove, Vyas along with Jay Gohill (17 not out) plundered 45 runs off the next two overs. The duo hit four maximums and three boundaries.

Vyas unfortunately fell three runs short of what would have been a well-deserved cen-



tury. His innings was studded with nine sixes and five fours.

Earlier, Mitesh Patel and Vishnu Solanki struck scintillating half-centuries to help Baroda post a challenging 175 for 4.

In the day and night game, Bihar trounced Nagaland by six wicket in a low scoring match.

**TAMIL NADU WIN**

**Lucknow:** Defending champions Tamil Nadu outplayed Odisha by five wickets in a group E fixture here.

Skipper Baba Aparajith (63 not out) played the role of sheet anchor to perfection, nothing up an unbeaten 63-run knock after Tamil Nadu bowlers, led by T Natarajan, restricted Odisha to below 150.

Opting to bat, Odisha rode on half-centuries by Subhanshu Senapati (65) and Anshy Rath (51) to post 141/3.

In reply, Tamil Nadu got off to a strong start despite Gujarat Titans player Sai Sudershan's (14) dismissal in the fourth over.

CSK opener N Jagadeesan (35) slammed three boundaries and a six and added 48 runs with Aparajith. But the Odisha bowlers did well to stage a comeback as they picked up a flurry of wickets to rattle to defending champions.

With the wickets falling like ninepins at the other end, Aparajith kept his calm and continued with business as usual.

The 28-year-old batting all-rounder sent the ball to the fence seven times and was ably supported by M Shahrukh Khan (19) as the two shared a vital 46-ran stand.

In the end, Tamil Nadu knocked off the target with seven balls to spare.

Earlier, out-of favour left-arm medium pacer Natarajan (2/32) did well to break the partnership between Senapati and Rath.

In another match in the group, Gaurav Puri slammed an unbeaten 47-ball 93 to power Chandigarh to a 66-run win over Sikkim.





## COOPERATION

# China welcomes other countries to board its “express train of development”

July 2022 saw a special training program—the “Angel of Life for Africa” midwifery training—held at Wenzhou Medical University in Zhejiang province. More than 200 trainees from Egypt, Cameroon, Central Africa and other African countries participated in this program online.

The “Life of Angel for Africa” midwifery training program, jointly launched by Beijing AmBridge International Culture Development Ltd, Wenzhou Medical University, Tanzania-China Friendship Promotion Association and other institutions in 2018, aims to help African countries reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates. From 2018 to 2019,

more than forty African trainees received training in Wenzhou. “I hope more Chinese doctors can come to Africa and share their professional experience with local medical workers to benefit more African people,” said Anna Ann Marie, a student majoring in gynecology from Ghana.

Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime. Helping African countries train assistant midwives is a vivid example of China sharing common destiny and seeking common development with the rest of the world. Since 2012, China has been working actively with the international civil society to bring together non-governmental sectors to promote the building of a global development

community.

On the outskirts of Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, a Chinese-built road known as “Egg Road” has freed chicken farmers in the town of Mahazaza from the fear of mass damage of their eggs during transport. In Ethiopia, the original home of coffee, the China-backed satellite has helped strengthen the early warning of climate disasters and provided scientific and technological support for the local traditional coffee farming industry. On the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, the Chinese company-invested Qingshan Industrial Park has sprung up, significantly increasing the employment rate and per capita annual income in Morowali

county, where the park is located.

Schulz, former president of the European Parliament and president of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of Germany, said that China’s contributions to global development are attributable to its wealth of experience. China has not only eliminated absolute poverty, making an important contribution to global poverty reduction, but also defined the goals and measures to be taken for its next stage of social development. Today, China is extending a helping hand to other countries and actively responding to their development needs as a responsible major country.

A growing number of Chinese marks in the global development

landscape are evidence of win-win cooperation between China and the rest of the world. “We Chinese not only aspire for good living for ourselves, but also hope people in other parts of the world lead a decent life.” Over the past decade, China has stayed committed to the strategy of opening-up for win-win results. It is ready to share its development experience and opportunities with other countries and welcome them to board China’s express train of development so that the world will achieve common development.

Over the past decade, China has further cut the negative list on foreign investment, advanced reform and innovation in pilot Free Trade

Zones, and developed the Hainan Free Trade port. It has established new platforms for foreign cooperation such as the China International Import Expo (CIIE) and the China Beijing International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) and signed nineteen free trade agreements with twenty-six countries and regions, providing more development opportunities for the world.

Professor Peter Nolan of the University of Cambridge said that China is working for the development of all countries from the standpoint of the world people, which is of great significance in today’s world.

(People’s Daily)

## FOCUS

Practice has shown us that as development is bound to undergo changes influenced by the prevailing environment and conditions, development concepts will change accordingly.

—Excerpt from the fourth volume of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*

## “It’s impressive how fast China is developing!”

“It’s impressive how fast China is developing!” said Patrik Kobele, chairperson of the Communist Party of Germany who visited China twice in the early 1990s and 2018, respectively.

“When I visited Beijing again in 2018, it was so different from the city I had visited nearly thirty years before that I could hardly recognize its streets,” Kobele recalled. In the 1990s, Beijing’s roads were full of bicycles. By 2018, they were already dominated by cars, including new energy vehicles.

Kobele has carefully read *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*. What he has seen and heard in China has convinced him of the Chinese people’s support of the Communist Party of China. “At the Shenzhen Bay Square for Startups, I visited the Party-People Service Center.

It is a large open space with a cafe and a library, where people can report problems to the Party organization. In the Smart Party Building experience area, people can learn theoretical knowledge about the Party through an interactive big screen. In China, Marxism has been more widely spread and more deeply rooted in the people’s hearts,” he said.

Kobele said that Communist Party of Germany hopes to deepen exchanges and cooperation with Communist Party of China to draw inspiration for progress. “Although the two Parties differ in size, we share the same ideal and always follow the principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other’s internal affairs in the party-to-party engagement,” he added.

(People’s Daily)

## ECONOMY

## China’s manufacturing PMI rebounds to 50.1 percent in September

The purchasing managers’ index (PMI) for China’s manufacturing sector came in at 50.1 per cent in September, up 0.7 percentage points from the previous month, rising above the threshold. This leading indicator shows that China’s economy continues to restore development momentum.

In September, according to Zhao Qinghe, a senior statistician at the Service Survey Center of the National Bureau of Statistics, as the package of policies for stabilizing the economy continued to take effect and the impact of scorching temperature subsided, the manufacturing sector’s outlook was warmer, and its PMI returned to the expansion range.

Specifically, production has expanded. In September, the manufacturing industry entered the traditional peak season, and the production index rose to 51.5 percent, 1.7 percentage points higher than the previous month, and returned to above the threshold again. The

production activities of manufacturing enterprises have accelerated. From the perspective of the industry, the production indexes of food, wine, refined tea, medicine, non-metallic mineral products, ferrous metal smelting and calendaring processing, and general equipment manufacturing industries all rose to 54.0 percent or above, and the production capacity of enterprises was released rapidly. At the same time, in order to meet the production needs, enterprises increased procurement of raw materials, the purchasing volume index rose to 50.2 percent, and the market activities in the manufacturing sector increased.

The non-manufacturing business activity index and the composite PMI output index in September were 50.6 per cent and 50.9 per cent, respectively, which were higher than the threshold for four consecutive months, Zhao said.

(People’s Daily)

## Yunnan’s imports and exports up 17 percent in the first eight months

As of August, according to data released by Kunming Customs on October 2, imports and exports of the southwest China’s Yunnan province reached 233.37 billion yuan (US\$32.81 billion), up 17 percent year on year. The province achieved exports of 119.06 billion yuan (US\$16.74 billion), up 12.3 percent, and imports of 114.31 billion yuan (US\$16.07), up 22.3 percent.

In the first eight months of this year, Yunnan’s imports and exports to Belt and Road countries reached 139.19 billion yuan (US\$19.57 billion), up 21.1 percent. Yunnan’s imports

and exports to ASEAN nations rebounded to 86.4 billion yuan (US\$12.14), up 4.9 percent. The province’s imports and exports to Thailand and Malaysia reached 12.36 billion yuan (US\$1.74 billion) and 11.38 billion yuan (US\$1.60 billion), up by 30 percent and 266.1 percent, respectively. During the same period, the province’s imports and exports to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait increased by 113.2 percent and 190.3 percent, respectively, and its imports and exports to the United States increased by 12.4 percent.

(Yunnan Daily)

## IN-PICS



October 1, 2022 marked the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. During the Chinese National Day holiday this year, which lasted from October 1 to 7, the characteristic town in Mengzi City, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture of southwest China’s Yunnan province attracted a large number of visitors.  
(Photo by Xinhua)

## CHARMING YUNNAN



Collared falconet. Photo by Sun Xiaohong

## MY CHINA STORY

## Indian “backpacker” recording China through lens

Again with a camera bag on back, Sudheer Uralath walks and stops in the streets and fields of Ningbo in east China’s Zhejiang province. Most of his photographic works capture moments of warmth and smiles in the daily life of ordinary people.

Uralath is a former assistant director from Kerala of southwestern India. Since he became a backpacker for his love of travel more than ten years ago, he has worked and lived in countries and regions such as France, Thailand and Indonesia while recording the wonderful moments of urban life with his camera. In 2015, he traveled to Ningbo for the first time and was immediately “captured.”

For Uralath, Ningbo people’s love of nature and art has to some extent built an image of “slow down, cheer up” for this city. “Ningbo is a city where people feel comfortable,” he said and took out a photo with a dozen elderly

people sitting in a street garden and playing the flute and erhu (a two-stringed musical instrument) attentively. Uralath explained, they are a group of retired people, and they have formed this “grassroots band” to share their love of music with others.

“I’m often impressed by those seniors singing, dancing and playing musical instruments,” said Uralath. “The elderly people live a colorful, enjoyable life in Ningbo. I can’t help but turn my lens toward them to capture the happy

moments.”

Years on, Uralath has contributed a number of his photos to internationally renowned magazines to show the happy life of Chinese people to the world. “Recording Ningbo has become a passion in my life,” he said with a smile. All his photos of China are full of life, colors and joy. “Through my lens, I see not only the urban and rural beauty of Ningbo but also the people who love life and work hard to make it better.”

(People’s Daily)



Sudheer Uralath, Online photo

## Eco conservation brings in income for townspeople

After lying in wait all night in a dense forest in Yingjiang County, Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, an ecological photographer captured a breathtaking moment of a kingfisher catching a fish. Unexpectedly, this photo has triggered a “butterfly effect,” attracting nearly 3,000 bird watchers and photographers to Yingjiang from home and abroad and bringing in 500,000 yuan (US\$70,300) for the locals over more than half a year.

Known as a “living bird museum” and a

“genetic treasure chest of wildlife,” Yingjiang is home to a large variety of rare and endangered animals and plants. In particular, it is an ideal place to observe and take photos of birds such as wild hornbills. To date, more than 700 species of birds have been spotted in the county. The arrival of birdwatchers and photographers has changed the local development pattern.

Relying on the complete tropical rainforest ecosystem and rich wild bird resources, Yingjiang has stepped up efforts to develop eco-tourism, including

building characteristic bird-watching villages and holding events such as the International Bird-watching Festival. Seizing the business opportunities, the villagers can earn money without leaving their hometown by running restaurants and homestay hotels and acting as tour guides.

As the photos of wild birds attract more people to Yingjiang, the local villagers have increased their income. The lucid waters and lush mountains have proven to be invaluable assets.

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