

## WORLD 5

EAST IRAN CITY, SCENE OF BLOODY  
CRACKDOWN, SEES NEW PROTESTS

## MONEY 6

WORSENING GEO-POLITICAL  
CRISIS COULD FUEL INFLATION

## SPORT 8

NZ CRUSH AUSTRALIA BY 89  
RUNS IN SUPER 12 OPENER

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## sunday pioneer

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## Modi sets off mission '10 lakh jobs', offers letters to 75,000

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In line with his announcement a few months ago to provide 10 lakh Government jobs in a "mission mode" in the next one and a half years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched "Rozgar Mela" to hand over appointment letters to 75,000 newly inducted appointees.

The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join 38 Ministries or Departments of the Government of India at various levels in Group A and B (gazetted), Group B (non-gazetted) and Group C. These jobs, among others, are from home, defence, railways, banking and labour.

The posts on which appointments are being made include Central Armed Force Personnel, Sub Inspector, Constable, LDC, Steno, PA, Income Tax Inspectors, and MTS among others.

Addressing the appointees via video conferencing, the Prime Minister said, "Today marks the day when a new link in the form of Rozgar Mela is being anchored to the employment and self-employment campaigns in the country that



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Rozgar Mela-recruitment drive for 10 lakh personnel via video conferencing from New Delhi on Saturday



PTI

are going on for the last 8 years." While making "Diwali" for the newly inducted youths a little more "special", Modi connected with youngsters in the selected 75 places where Ministers and MPs were also present with the appointees.

Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag

Thakur was in Chandigarh, Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh in Bihar, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Odisha, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Rajasthan and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Tamil Nadu.

Similarly, Commerce

Minister Piyush Goyal was presented in Maharashtra, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda in Jharkhand and Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya was in Gujarat to attend the event. This is the first time in the country that such a "Rozgar Mela" by the Centre is being organised and appointment letters handed over on the spot.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said more

of such "Rozgar Melas" will be organised by the Government. "The Central Government is working on multiple fronts simultaneously to create more and more jobs," he said.

The PM said that completion of the process of selection for the lakhs of vacancies in a few months and issuing appointment letters is an indication of the change that the Government system has undergone in the last 7-8 years.

"Today, work culture is changing," he said. "The efficiency of Government departments has increased due to the efforts of our karmayogis," he added.

He recalled the days when applying for government jobs was "a cumbersome process and favouritism and corruption were rampant in selections."

Modi said the steps during the initial years of his Government like self-attestation and abolition of interviews in Group C and Group D posts of the Central Government, have helped the youth.

"Today, India is the 5th biggest economy. This feat has been achieved because of the reforms undertaken in the last 8 years," he said. The country, the Prime Minister pointed out, "leapt forward from the 10th to 5th position in the last 7-8 years."

Continued on Page 2

## CPC climax: Ex-Prez dragged out of meet, 3rd term likely for Xi



Former President Hu Jintao walks past Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, and Premier Li Keqiang during the closing ceremony of the 20th National Congress of China's ruling Communist Party at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Saturday

PTI

PNS ■ BEIJING

High drama ensued at the concluding session of the ruling Communist Party Congress here on Saturday as former President Hu Jintao was escorted out of the podium under the full glare of the media.

Hu, 79, sitting next to President Xi Jinping in the front row with other top leaders at the ornate Great Hall of People was persuaded to leave the meeting by two men, presumably security guards.

The incident happened just as the local and foreign media was ushered into the meeting attended by over 2,296 dele-

gates and officials.

In over a minute-long video, which went viral on social media, Hu, who handed over the power to Xi in 2012 in a smooth transition after completing a 10-year tenure, appeared reluctant to depart as the security men kept persuading him to leave.

Xi is all set for an unprecedented third five-year term as the key Congress of the ruling Communist Party on Saturday cemented his power further, edging out several senior leaders, including moderate number two leader Premier Li Keqiang in a major shake-up at the top.

Detailed report on P5

## CAPSULE

## AMRAPALI EX-DIRECTOR GRANTED INTERIM BAIL

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court in a special sitting on Saturday granted interim bail to former director of real estate company Amrapali Group, Anil Sharma for two weeks on medical grounds, directing him to surrender after the expiry of the same.

P4

## PROTESTS ERUPT ACROSS EUROPE OVER INFLATION

**London:** In Romania, protesters blew horns and banged drums to voice their dismay over the rising cost of living. People across France took to the streets to demand pay increases that keep pace with inflation.

## 7 INJURED IN BLAST AT BHOPAL BPCL OIL DEPOT

**Bhopal:** Seven persons were injured, two of them seriously, in a blast that occurred when petrol was being filled in the container of a tanker at a Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's (BPCL) depot on the outskirts of Bhopal, an official said on Saturday.

## CONG'S YATRA TO ENTER TELANGANA ON OCT 23

**Hyderabad:** The Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi will enter Gudebellur in Telangana on Sunday morning, after exiting Karnataka from Raichur.

## MAHA LOGS 387 COVID-19 CASES, ONE DEATH

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra on Saturday reported 387 Covid-19 cases and one death, which took the State's tally to 81,27,259 and the toll to 1,48,379, a health official said on Saturday.

## Taxpayers support free ration to poor, fume at revdi culture: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday raked up the issue of "revdi culture" yet again as he sought to distinguish between his Government's free ration scheme, which the Opposition parties have termed a "freebie", and those by the others, with Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal being the main target of his indirect attack. He asserted "a large section of the country is gearing up to rid the country of revdi culture".

"The Government is providing free ration to 80 crore countrymen during the pandemic and has spent more than ₹3 lakh crore on this. When the taxpayer feels that his money is being spent in the right place, s/he also feels happy. Today, crores of taxpayers in the country are satisfied with the great service



they are doing by helping to feed crores of people during the corona period. When this same taxpayer sees that free 'revdi' is being distributed with the money collected from him, then he also gets pained. Today many such taxpayers are writing letters to me openly. I am happy that a large section of the country is gearing up to rid the country of revdi culture," he said.

The PM had in July this year first spoken about the freebies culture as he targeted

political opponents. Accusing them of promising freebies in exchange for votes, he had warned the people, especially the youth, against the revdi culture, saying it is very dangerous for the country and its well-being.

The AAP and Kejriwal had taken strong exception to it and termed their freebies like free power to consumers as Government's responsibilities. Those like senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot had termed the Centre's free ration scheme as "revdi".

Modi was addressing the event of "Griha Pravesham" of about 4.51 lakh beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin scheme in Satna, MP. As it coincided with the Dhanteras celebrations, Modi said, "There was a time when only those who had means would celebrate Dhanteras."

Continued on Page 2

## 15 labourers die, 40 injured as bus for home rams into truck in MP

**Rewa:** Fifteen persons were killed and 40 others injured after an Uttar Pradesh-bound private bus, mostly carrying labourers going home for Diwali, rammed into a trailer-truck from behind in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh, officials said on Saturday.

The accident occurred around 11.30 pm on Friday near Teonthar town, when the bus was going to Gorakhpur from Hyderabad, they said.

The bus, a sleeper coach, was negotiating a mountain road in Sohagi ghati when it rammed into the trailer-truck from behind on NH-30, Rewa Superintendent of Police (SP) Navneet Bhasin said.

The trailer-truck suddenly applied brakes after it hit another vehicle ahead of it, due to which the bus crashed into the truck, he said.

## Software engineer waylaid, gangraped; 10 detained

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR/ CHAIBASA

A 26-year-old software engineer was gangraped by 10 youths near Chaibasa airstrip where she had gone with her boyfriend on a two-wheeler to spend some time. According to police, the accused first stopped the couple, beat up her boyfriend forcing him to leave the spot, and then raped the woman after taking her to a secluded spot on Thursday evening. After committing the crime, the accused left her at the spot and fled. They also took away her wallet and mobile phone.

The woman managed to reach home and told her family about the incident after which they filed a police complaint. A resident of Jhinkpani block in West Singhbhum, the victim stays at a rented house at Kumarhatu in Chaibasa. She is at present working from home for a multinational company.



A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed on Saturday to probe the ghastly crime. A case has been registered with the Chaibasa mufassil thana on the statement given by the victim, said West Singhbhum SP Ashutosh Shekhar.

Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) of Chaibasa Sadar, Jagganathpur, and the officer-in-charge of Mufassil police station are members of the SIT, West Singhbhum Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar said.

Twelve people were detained for interrogation in connection with the incident, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Sadar) Dilip Khalko said.

## Moments before crash, pilots had given distress call

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The pilots of the ill-fated Army's Rudra advanced light (ALH) helicopter had sounded 'May Day' or SOS distress call before it crashed on Thursday in Arunachal Pradesh. Rescue teams recovered all five bodies onboard the helicopter in a 48-hour operation ending Saturday.

Giving details of the accident of the twin-engine Rudra ALH WSI based at Likabali (Assam) crashed at general area Migging (South of Tuting in Arunachal Pradesh) which took place at 10.43 am on Thursday, Army sources said here on Saturday both the pilots were highly experienced and trained. Prior to the crash, the Air Traffic Control (ATC) had received a MAY DAY call suggesting a technical or mechanical failure, they said. The 'May Day' call is made in

an emergency. Officials also said weather conditions were good for flying operations. Both these factors will form the focus of the probe.

The two pilots had more than 600 combined flying hours on ALH-WSI and over 1,800 service flying hours between them. The Rudra advanced light helicopter was inducted into service in June 2015, they added.

The mandatory court of inquiry to find out the cause of mishap was ordered. The deceased personnel were identified as pilots Major Vikas Bhambhu and Major Mustafa Bohara, Aswin K V, Biresh Sinha and Rohitashya Kumar.

After the crash, immediate joint search operations with teams from the Army and Airforce located the site, where the terrain was extremely challenging in terms of hills and thick jungle.

Continued on Page 2

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# SJM slams Delhi Govt for ban on firecrackers during Diwali

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch on Saturday slammed the AAP-led Delhi Government over the imposition of a complete ban on all kinds of firecrackers in the city, terming the move "inappropriate and unscientific".

It also alleged that the Arvind Kejriwal government's "blanket ban" on firecrackers was aimed at misguiding people and diverting their attention from the real cause of air pollution in the national capital.

Government agencies have failed to solve the problem of stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and other parts of the country even though it

is the "biggest source" of air pollution in the national capital and the surrounding northern states, the SJM said without naming anyone.

"The SJM strongly opposes the complete ban on firecrackers by the Delhi government during the festival of Diwali as it is inappropriate," it said in a statement.

"The SJM also urges all state governments to make efforts to find a permanent solution to the problem of stubble burning and repeal the restrictions on firecrackers during Diwali," the RSS body added.

The burning of firecrackers "illegally" imported from China causes air pollution due to mixing of potassium nitrate and sulphur in them, not the



green firecrackers manufactured in the country, it said.

"Potassium nitrate and sulphur are not mixed in green firecrackers made in India today. Other pollutants such as aluminium, lithium, arsenic and mercury etc., have also been reduced to the

minimum," the SJM said.

While these green firecrackers are certified by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, it is also "scientifically proven" that they cause 30 per cent less pollution, it added.

The "last minute" decision of the Delhi Government and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to ban even the green firecrackers is "highly deplorable", the SJM said.

Since the Union government has imposed "an effective ban" on the Chinese firecrackers, it is completely "unfair" to impose a blanket ban on all types of firecrackers in Delhi during the festival of

Diwali, it said.

The ban on all kinds of firecrackers is not just "arbitrary, anti-people and bereft of any scientific basis, but also hurting the sentiments of the people on the occasion of Diwali", it added.

"The Swadeshi Jagran Manch also urges the Delhi Police to come clear on whether they will follow the arbitrary orders of the Delhi government of arresting people in Delhi if found in possession of or bursting firecrackers," the RSS affiliate said.

The SJM said the Delhi government's decision would deal a severe blow to over millions of workers and others engaged in the production and distribution of firecrackers in the country.

# Record 15 L diyas to be lit during Ayodhya Deepotsav

KAMLESH SRIVASTAVA ■ AYODHYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will light the first diya in Ayodhya on Sunday as the city will make an attempt to create a history in the Guinness Book of World Record by lighting 15 lakh earthen lamps at one go.

Uttar Pradesh's Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh told reporters here that by lighting the first lamp, the prime minister would inaugurate the Deepotsav and the whole of Ayodhya city would glitter in flickering lights of earthen lamps.

"All preparations have been made. Though this is the sixth Deepotsav, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is coming to Ayodhya for the first time for this function. Ayodhya has been decked up to welcome the prime minister as gates have been built from bypass to the new ghat," Singh said.

He said that a yatra comprising 11 tableaux used to be organised every year but this time the number of tableaux had been increased to 16. This yatra would reach Ram Katha Path from Saket Mahavidyalaya via the main road, he added.

The minister said that this time 15 lakh earthen lamps would be lit, and the diyas had come from all the villages across the state.

The ghats have been decorated. The diyas have been placed at the ghats by over



Locals arrange earthen lamps at Ram Ki Pauri in preparation for the 'Deepotsav' celebrations, in Ayodhya on Saturday

22,000 volunteers. From the morning of October 23, the volunteers will fill these lamps with oil and at around 6:30 in the evening the prime minister will light the first diya, called Mayur diya.

This time the Deepotsav function will be streamed live across the globe.

Bharatiya Janata Party district president Sanjeev Singh and local MLA Ved Prakash Gupta also addressed the reporters.

Meanwhile, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi is adorned with quintals of flowers to make Deepotsav even more magnificent. Along with native types, special exotic floral decorations have been created.

Teams of specialist artists have been invited from areas like Mathura, Sitapur, and other cities to work continually on

the decoration.

Balkrishna Saini, who took the responsibility of flower decoration, stated that the flowers were imported to adorn the place of Lord Ramlala. These flowers will be utilised to make rangolis as well as decorate the Ram temple and the welcome gate.

Six quintal white, blue, yellow, purple flower petals and green leaves have been used to make rangoli. About 40 quintals of marigolds and 2,000 bundles of gerbera flowers have been used to decorate the Ram temple. In addition, various species of flowers from Kolkata and Bengaluru were purchased, including orchids, lilies, denim, and carnations. Balkrishna Saini said that earlier he had done floral decoration during Shri Ram Lalla's pranan pratishthan.

# Woman detained on fake gangrape charge: Cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Ghaziabad police has detained a 36-year-old woman who claimed she was raped by five men two days ago. The woman was discharged from the GTB Hospital on Saturday. The woman has been charged under several IPC sections, including cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy.

Police are also probing the role of a journalist in connection with the case, with officers saying she was allegedly paid ₹5,000 to spread "exaggerated news of the rape". Police have so far detained three men — Azad, Gaurav and Afzal — for allegedly "conspiring" to falsify a case to try and resolve a property dispute. Police say they have recovered evidence of payments made via PayTM from Azad, allegedly to the woman journalist, to spread misinformation.

On Saturday, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson Swati Maliwal on Saturday wrote to Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, urging him to constitute a high-level committee to investigate the alleged abduction and gangrape of the woman. This comes after Ghaziabad Police on Thursday said the entire incident was fabricated by the woman against the five suspects named in the case due to property dispute. Earlier, the Ghaziabad police claimed the incident was staged and arrested three of her associates, charging them with fabrication



of evidence.

In her letter, Maliwal said that strong action should be taken against the woman if her allegations are found to be false. Maliwal said thatthe DCW received a call on its helpline number — 181 — on October 18 from a GTB Hospital nurse regarding a case of sexual assault and was asked to send a counsellor. "It must be examined as to who inflicted the injuries on the woman and who was responsible for inserting the iron rod-like substance into her private parts which was removed by the GTB Hospital (as mentioned in the MLC report).

"In case it is proved beyond doubt that the girl (woman) was actively involved in hatching a conspiracy against the men and that she is not a victim but instead a perpetrator, I would urge you to ensure that strong action is taken against the woman under Section 182 (false information with intent to cause public servant to use his lawful power to the injury of another person) of the IPC and others," she added.



Illuminated Ram Ki Paidi on the banks of Saryu river ahead of the traditional 'Deepotsav' celebrations, in Ayodhya on Saturday

# Pilots had given distress...

From Page 1

There were five personnel on onboard when the mishap took place. Four mortal remains were retrieved on Friday while the last victim was found on Saturday.

This is the second incident of an Army helicopter accident in the state this month. A Cheetah helicopter crashed in Tawang district on October 5, killing one of the two pilots

onboard.

Another Cheetah helicopter crashed in March near the Line of Control (LOC) in Jammu and Kashmir. The pilot died in this incident, too.

Rudra is a twin-engine attack helicopter manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Army. It is the Weapon System Integrated (WSI) Mk-IV variant of the Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).

It is a multi-role, multi-mission new generation helicopter in the 5.5-ton weight class" and is seen as the workhorse of the Army.

Inducted in 2002, over 400 of the helicopters including weaponised version known as ALH Rudra are now in service.

According to HAL, as of January this year, more than 335 Dhruvs have been produced, logging around 3,40,000 cumulative flying hours. The Army and IAF operate about 90 Rudras in total, which were inducted in 2013.

Twenty three of Dhruv/Rudra have met with accidents claiming lives of several personnel on board, besides making scores of emergency landings.

In October 2019, a Dhruv helicopter of the Indian Army carrying the then Chief of the Northern Command Lt General Ranbir Singh and other senior officers had crash landed in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch.

# Union Ministry approves Terai elephant reserve

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Union Forest and Environment Ministry has given its approval to the Terai Elephant Reserve (TER), which will be developed over a 3,049

square kilometre area, including the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve located in Lakhimpur and Pilibhit districts.

According to the UP Forest department, the nod for TER

was given on Friday and the notification is likely to be issued by the state government soon. The UP Forest department had prepared the proposal in April and forwarded it to the Centre on

October 11. With the Terai Elephant Reserve coming into existence, the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve would be the lone national park in Uttar Pradesh that would protect and conserve four iconic wild

species — tiger, one-horned rhinoceros, the Asian elephant and swamp deer. The establishment of the Terai Elephant Reserve will be a milestone in terms of wildlife conservation.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given on behalf of 1. Rajender Singh, 2. Dhanwati and 3. Ganeshi Lal Education Society (owner and lessee also) who are owner of A School constructed on land admeasuring 11 Kanal 2 Marla, comprised in Mustafi No.136, Killa No.207, 209, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 19/3/4, Mustafi No.136, Killa No. 221/1/1 & Mustafi No.136, Killa No.21, Village Kanina, Sub-Tehsil Kanina, District Mahendragarh (Haryana); acquired the same from various Jambhandis & Sale Deed and intend to mortgage the aforesaid land against the financial assistance from **Protium Finance Limited**, Office situated at Vikrant Tower, 6th Floor, Rajendra Place, New Delhi. That, 1. Original Sale Deed dated 06.08.2004 in favour of Mr. Rajender Singh S/o. Mr. Ganeshi Lal, registered vide Document No.1335, on 06.08.2004; 2. Original Lease Deed (for 30 years) dated 06.01.2004 in favour of Ganeshi Lal Education Society (as lessee), registered vide Document No.1551, on 06.01.2004; 3. Original Lease Deed (for 30 years) dated 12.08.2011 in favour of Ganeshi Lal Education Society (as lessee), registered vide Document No.1653, on 12.08.2011; 5. Original Gift Deed dated 24.12.2012 in favour of Ganeshi Lal Education Society, registered vide Document No.2605, on 24.12.2012, all the deed was registered at the Sub-Registrar, Kanina, are/is not available/ misplaced/ lost, a complaint regarding loss of aforesaid deed is lodged by Mr. Subhash Yadav S/o. Mr. Rajender Yadav in Police Station City Kanina, vide Application Nos 1323306/2200377 & 1323306/2200380. To comply the requirements of BANK/NFCA, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and / or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address.

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# Modi offers...

From Page 1

While acknowledging the enormity of the economic challenges that the country faces, the Prime Minister said that India could manage to contain the negative repercussions of Covid-19 to a great degree.

"This has been made possible because in the last 8 years we got rid of those shortcomings of the country's economy which created hindrances," he said. "Never before a self-employment programme of this magnitude was implemented in the country," he said.

Modi said keeping in mind the 75 years of Independence, the Central Government is giving appointment letters to 75,000 youngsters under a programme.

"We decided that a tradition of giving

appointment letters in one go should be started so that a collective temperament of completing projects in a time-bound way develops in departments," the Prime Minister said, explaining the rationale of the Rozgar Mela. "I am happy that many NDA-ruled and BJP-ruled States, along with Union territories, will also organise similar Melas," he added.

Welcoming and underlining the significance of the timing of their induction, the Prime Minister told the new appointees that in the 'Amrit Kaal', for the fulfilment of the resolve of a developed India, "we are marching ahead on the path of a self-reliant India".

The Prime Minister remarked that the innovators, entrepreneurs, industrialists, farmers and people from the

field of manufacturing and services have a crucial role in taking India to the path of self-reliance.

Highlighting the importance of 'Sabka Prayas', the Prime Minister said "everyone's efforts are critical in this journey and this feeling of Sabka Prayas is possible only when all the important amenities reach everyone".

Apart from self-help groups, he continued, Khadi and village industry are the prime examples of employment generation in the villages. For the first time in the country, the worth of Khadi and Village Industries has crossed Rs 4 lakh crore and more than 4 crore jobs have been created in Khadi and Village Industries.

"A large number of our sisters have a huge stake in this," he said. The start-up India campaign, the Prime Minister pointed out, has established the potential of the youth of the country all over the world. Similarly, MSMEs were supported in a

big way during the pandemic, protecting about 1.5 crore jobs.

MGNREGA amounts to jobs for 7 crore people in the country, he said.

The Prime Minister affirmed that the most ambitious project for the country in the 21st century has been the 'Make in India' and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

"The Government is working comprehensively in the manufacturing and tourism sectors as both have huge employment potential," he said. Processes are also being simplified for companies from all over the world to come to India, set up their factories and meet the world's demand, he said.

The Government has also started the PLI scheme to give incentives on a production basis. The more production, the more incentive that is the policy of India.

Its results are already visible in many sectors today. The data of EPFO which has been coming in the past years also shows how much the

Government's policies regarding employment have improved the situation.

He noted that according to the data that came two days ago, in the month of August this year, about 17 lakh people joined EPFO and have now become a part of the country's formal economy. He said about 8 lakh such people are in the age group of 18 to 25 years.

The Prime Minister said India's biggest strength lies with the youth of the nation.

The Prime Minister urged the new appointees to always keep their 'Kartavya Paths' in mind when they walk in through the doors of offices.

"You are being appointed for the service of the citizens of the country," the Prime Minister said. In the 21st century India Government job is not just about facilities but a commitment and a golden opportunity to serve the people from every nook and corner of the country in a time-bound manner, the Prime Minister said.

# Modi rakes...

From Page 1

Now even the country's poor people are marking Griha Pravesh to their own homes."

He said Rs 22,000 crore were spent on the construction of these houses only in Madhya Pradesh while nationwide the "dreams of 3.5 crore families" have been fulfilled so far.

He said the Government's endeavour is to to minimise the expenditure of middle and low-income groups and showcased the Ayushman Bharat scheme which has benefited 4 crore people. He also pointed out that the government had spent thousands of crore for the free vaccine campaign during corona and prevented the poor from shelling money out of their own pockets.

Citing the rising fertiliser prices due to the Ukraine War, the Prime Minister underlined that the government is going to spend an extra sum of Rs 2 lakh crore this year so that farmers do not bear the burden.

# Cong's Bharat Jodo Yatra to enter Telangana on Oct 23

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi will enter Gudebellur in Telangana on Sunday morning, after exiting Karnataka from Raichur.

The Telangana leg of the march will begin from Gudebellur in Mahabubnagar district.

Telangana Congress has made elaborate arrangements to welcome Rahul's marathon walk at the entry point on Karnataka-Telangana border. After breakfast at Gudebellur, the Yatra will break for Diwali for three days from October 23 noon till October 26, a press release from TPCC said.

After that, the Yatra will resume on October 27 morning from Gudebellur.





A woman tries gold ornaments on the occasion of Dhanteras festival in New Delhi on Saturday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

# Security beefed up for Diwali in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has beefed up security arrangements in markets, malls and heavy foot-fall areas to ensure a smooth and safe Diwali. "Elaborate security arrangements have been made, especially in markets, malls, vital installations and places likely to draw large crowds", according to Delhi police officials.

Police visibility has been enhanced through intensified patrolling and deployments of extra pickets. All personnel are on high alert to thwart any untoward incident, they added. Special Commissioner of Police



(Law and Order) Sagar Preet Hooda said, "In view of the festival season, we have intensified patrolling in market areas, extra police pickets have been installed and personnel deployed.

"From the anti-terror point of view, anti-sabotage checks are being done to ensure that no anti-social or anti-national

elements carry out activities that can harm anybody's life." For women's safety, women personnel have been deployed on the ground, Hooda added. They will also patrol major intersections on scooters to ensure a safe environment. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) (East) Priyanka Kashyap, along with Additional DCP Sachin Sharma, other officials and police mitras, carried out foot patrolling at Laxmi Nagar, one of the busiest markets in Delhi and V3S Mall, Preet Vihar, to take a stock of the security measures and instil confidence among the public. Kashyap spoke to

the personnel deployed on the ground to brief, sensitise and motivate them. She also interacted with representatives of Market Welfare Associations and the general public to seek their suggestions.

Police personnel in plain-clothes will be deployed in market and crowded areas to check on any anti-social elements or criminals trying to create any untoward situation, the officials said.

In the southwest district, a cyber awareness programme was organised at Sarojini Nagar Market to sensitise citizens and create preventive awareness among the people, espe-

cially vulnerable sections such as children and students, women and senior citizens.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Manoj C said such sessions would improve the police-public interface and help curb cyber crimes. "This is a part of our technological initiatives towards citizen-centric services to create awareness among the public about common cyber-crimes," he said.

Flag marches and patrolling were also conducted in the crowded market of Sarojini Nagar, which witnesses heavy footfall during the festival season, the police said.

# Majority against 'ban' on firecrackers, 42% households support it: Survey

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid ban on firecrackers, a survey conducted by community platform LocalCircles revealed that the percentage of households bursting firecrackers in Delhi-NCR on Diwali could be the highest in five years as two out of every five families are likely to indulge in the activity.

According to the survey, 42 per cent of households support "some form of ban" on lighting crackers during the festival while 53 per cent households said no restrictions should be imposed on cracker burning as it is not the root cause of the air pollution problems faced in recent winters.

"10 per cent of the respondents said they have already bought firecrackers from shops in Delhi, while 20 per cent said they have purchased firecrackers from other cities in the National Capital Region (NCR), indicating that the ban on the sale of such items is not as effective as it needs to be", the survey found. The survey received more than 10,000

responses from the residents of all the districts in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad.

Sixty-nine per cent of the respondents were men, while 31 per cent were women. "Sixty-one per cent respondents said they will not be burning any crackers either because they are convinced that they cause pollution or because they are abiding by the ban.

The survey results, when compared over time, indicate that the percentage of families burning crackers this year is likely to be the highest in the five-year period since 2018," it said.

"As against 32 per cent such families in 2018, the percentage grew in 2019 to 35, but fell post the second wave of Covid in 2021 to 32 but again, as the festive spirit has risen this year and there is no ban on crackers in the NCR cities of Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Noida, 39 per cent Delhi-NCR families are planning to burn crackers," the survey report added.

# Delhi's air quality to remain 'very poor' till Oct 24, says SAFAR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) has predicted Delhi's overall air

quality is to remain in the 'poor' to the lower end of 'very poor' category until the morning of October 24. Transport-level winds from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh

towards Delhi will pick up from October 24 and, in all likelihood, will bring significant stubble-related emissions to Delhi, SAFAR said. According to a research study

by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) the air quality in the national capital exceeds the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) during the winters,

stubble burning remains a "significant contributor" to Delhi's unbreathable air in October and November. The city's 24-hour average AQI was recorded in the 'poor' category at 265

on Saturday as residents flouted the ban on firecrackers in parts of the national capital ahead of Diwali, according to Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) data.

# 'KL Rahul's Onion Samosa' to spl screening of Indo-Pak T20 clash by eateries, movie halls



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With India and Pakistan set for a face-off in the T20 World Cup on Sunday, restaurants and cinema halls in Delhi have introduced curated menus and will hold special screenings of the match to cash in on the fervour.

From 'Hitman's Cheese Masala Pao' to 'KL's Onion Samosa', restaurants are offering an eclectic mix of dishes named after some of India's favourite players. Popular restaurant SOCIAL has intro-

duced a special menu — 'SOCIAL Stumps'. Some of the dishes on the menu are 'Laam Dand Gol Pind Pakoda Platter' which includes aloo vada, sabudana vada, paneer pakoda and cheese nads, 'Buttler's Butter Garlic Mushrooms', and 'Pat's Cumin and Coriander Tikka' — fish tikka marinated in coriander and baked in a tandoor. Also on the menu is 'Joe's Root Burger' made with quinoa and root veggies, and topped with cheddar cheese and smoky barbecue sauce; 'Kookaburger', a lamb burger topped with beer and cheese sauce and served with gherkins; 'Chicken Fine Leg Tikka'; and a special 'Electric Bleed Blue LLIT' drink.

To match the stadium's energy, SOCIAL will also have 'dholwalas' and face painters at its restaurants across India.

# DU to deploy policewomen in plain clothes to check ragging



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to check ragging, the Delhi University has decided to deploy women police officers in plain clothes outside colleges, and anti-ragging posters across campus, vigilance squad in every college and police pickets are among the measures to maintain discipline from the new academic session.

Over 72,800 candidates out of 80,164 have accepted the college and course allotted to them in Delhi University's first round of allocations. Saturday was the last date for acceptance of allocated seats for undergraduate courses in the first merit list. It was extended by a day on Friday.

Earlier, a meeting of the proctorial board of the University of Delhi was held on Friday to deliberate upon measures for facilitating the smooth

induction of students during the opening of the new session. Officials from the Delhi Police and senior varsity officials were present during the meeting.

Several important decisions were taken in the meeting to ensure the maintenance of discipline and prevention of ragging in the varsity and college campuses, a senior university official said. "In this connection, the colleges and departments have been requested to strictly enforce the rules and regulations issued from time to time, especially the provisions of Ordinances XV-B, XV-C, and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (14 of 2013)," DU Registrar Vikas Gupta said.

Gupta said that all students and hostel residents as well as their parents have been asked to give an undertaking regarding anti-ragging at the time of admission.

"The university will set up two Joint Control Rooms, one each in the North and South Campuses (North Campus Tel. No. 27667221 and South Campus Tel. No. 24119832), beginning from 2nd November, 2022 till 11th November, 2022," he said.

## Solar Eclipse Fair

October 25, 2022, Kurukshetra

Sparsha- 4:25 pm | Moksha - 5:39 pm

### Do's

- ★ Use a small pinhole on a wall or white paper to see the image of the Sun.
- ★ To view the partial phase of the eclipse directly, use only well-tested, safe solar filters or welders' darkened number 14 glasses.

### Don'ts

- ★ Never look at the Sun directly with the help of a telescope or binoculars.
- ★ Never use blurry glasses, colour film, sunglasses and neutral density photo filters. This is completely unsafe.

Solar eclipse to be seen in Kurukshetra till 2051	
October 25, 2022	4:25 pm to 5:39 pm
August 2, 2027	3:53 pm to 5:00 pm
June 1, 2030	10:15 am to 12:56 pm
May 21, 2031	11:42 am to 2:34 pm
November 3, 2032	9:32 am to 10:54 am
March 20, 2034	4:20 pm to 6:23 pm
September 2, 2035	4:49 am to 6:36 am
March 20, 2042	6:30 am to 7:12 am
June 11, 2048	7:01 pm to 7:24 pm
November 25, 2049	8:56 am to 11:04 am
April 11, 2051	5:42 am to 6:47 am

Contact  
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e-Mail : adckrksh@hry.nic.in, sdm.thanesara@hry.nic.in, dckrksh@hry.nic.in

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# Sighting of Pak drones in J&K rises three times

**RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI**

The recovery of arms and ammunition along the northern and western border with Pakistan has substantially reduced till September this year due to the tightened security grids of the Central forces on the ground.

According to official data, as many as 45 rounds and arms and 595 rounds of ammunition were recovered till September this year in contrast to recovery of 84 arms and 5,284 rounds of ammunition in 2021.

However, the number of drones carrying narcotics in the Punjab sector has increased in the last nine months even as the BSF has shoot down 10 drones along the Punjab frontier till now. Most of the arms and ammunition were recovered from the Punjab border with 501 live rounds and 32 arms being seized from this border this year followed by 90 rounds of ammunition and 11 arms being seized from Jammu sector, one weapon and three live



rounds being seized from Gujarat. In 2021, as many as 3,322 live rounds and 58 arms were recovered from Jammu and 347 such ammunitions and 10 arms were seized from Gujarat along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, 463 ammunitions were recovered from Jammu and 1,152 ammunition and 84 arms were seized from Kashmir.

Apprehension of ultras along the Indo-Pak border stood at 176 in 2021 and the number has marginally been down with 170 apprehensions till September this year excluding those nabbed from Line of Control which was six last year and till September this year. Sightings of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones along the Indo-Pak

border and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir increased thrice from 109 in 2021 to 327 this year till September.

During the first nine months of this year, a maximum of 236 drones were sighted from Punjab followed by observation of 51 such flying machines in Jammu, 24 in Rajasthan, six in Gujarat, five in Kashmir and two in Jammu.

Last year, 64 drones were sighted in Punjab followed by 31 in Jammu, seven in Gujarat, two in Gujarat, three in Kashmir and two in Jammu. Over the last few years, drones have been used as a medium of logistics by the Pakistani agencies for sending arms, ammunition and drugs especially along the Punjab frontier for onward supply to the terrorist groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Border Security Force on its part is seeking to devise means to counter threats emanating from the drones coming from across the border.

# SC grants bail to ex-Amrapali honcho Sharma for 2 weeks

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court in a special sitting on Saturday granted interim bail to former director of real estate company Amrapali Group, Anil Sharma, for two weeks on medical grounds, directing him to surrender after the expiry of the same.

The Apex Court further directed Sharma to approach the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court for regular bail in the case. Sharma is facing around 30 cases and got bail in six cases and 24 cases pending against him for cheating the home buyers. The top court clarified that it has not given bail to the accused, but has only extended the interim protection for two weeks citing Sharma's medical condition and directed him to appear before trial court to surrender and apply for bail.

In August this year, the Supreme Court had granted interim bail to Sharma for eight weeks on medical



grounds, which was today extended for two more weeks. "The petitioner shall surrender on or before Nov 7 before CMM East Karkardooma and shall be taken in custody in immediately .... Operation on left eye be conducted as per medical advice ... Petitioner is being treated as Shankar Netralaya Chennai and can have operation there if so advised," said the Bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit.

Chief Financial Officer Chander Prakash Wadhwa liberty to file fresh bail application on the medical grounds, or

challenge the earlier HC order refusing bail," said the Bench. However the bench refused to grant Wadhwa bail.

The top court also extended the interim bail of another former director of Amrapali Group, Shiva Priya, in the same case.

He was directed to surrender after Diwali. Amrapali home buyers had moved the apex court in 2017 seeking various reliefs including compensation and refund of their money for delayed possession of flats. Matter adjourned to be taken up on Oct 31.

# End violence, return to path of dialogue, diplomacy: India to Russia, Ukraine

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

As military conflict between Russia and Ukraine has escalated, India has said its approach will remain people-centric. It will also continue to support countries affected by surge in food, fuel and fertilizer prices due to war.

Making his country's stand clear in the United Nations General Assembly late Friday, Deputy Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador R Ravindra also said New Delhi has consistently called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to the violence and called upon both sides to return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Reiterating that New Delhi has been providing assistance to Kyiv, Ravindra said that military offensives in Ukraine have resulted in the loss of lives and countless miseries, especially for women, children and the elderly. India continues to remain concerned over the sit-



uation in Ukraine," the ambassador said. "India's approach to the Ukraine conflict will continue to be people-centric."

We are providing both humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and economic support to some of our neighbours in the Global South under economic distress even as they stare at the escalating costs of food, fuel and fertilizers which has been a consequential fallout of the ongoing conflict," the deputy permanent representative said.

# Guj CS, DGP face EC's rap for failing to file compliance report on officials transfer

**Agencies:** The Election Commission of India (EC) has written to the Gujarat Chief Secretary and its police chief demanding an explanation over why it has not received compliance reports regarding the transfer of officials directly connected with the conduct of the soon-to-be held Assembly Elections in the State.

According to norms, officers directly connected with the conducting of elections cannot be posted in their home districts or places where they have served for a considerably long period during elections.

The EC had, on August 1, written to the Chief Secretary and Chief Electoral Officer of poll-bound Gujarat over the issue on August 1 and asked for a compliance report by September 30.

It had then sent a reminder for the urgent furnishing of the compliance report on October 19 but to no avail. On Friday, the EC demanded immediate compliance and the furnishing of reports in this respect from the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police (DGP). The Commission also demanded that they explain the cir-



cumstances as to why the compliance reports have not been furnished so far even after the lapse of the stipulated time limit despite a reminder.

In the case of administrative officials posted in revenue districts, these instructions, according to guidelines, cover officers of all ranks across the administrative hierarchy allotted specific election duties through roles including District Election

Officers (DEOs) and Returning Officers among others.

For police officers, the instructions apply to individuals currently occupying posts right from the Inspector General-level to Police Sub-Inspectors.

The police officials posted in functional departments like computerisation, the intelligence-gathering special branch, training among others, however, are exempt.

On August 1, the EC wrote to the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Chief Secretaries and Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) stating that no officer connected directly with elections can be allowed to continue in their present revenue district of posting.

This, the EC stated, would include officers who happened to be posted in their home district, had completed three years in a district during the last four years or would be completing three years on, or before, January 31, 2023 in the case of Himachal Pradesh and February 28, 2023 in case of Gujarat.



As a part of a joint Indian Air Force and Indian Army exercise, a high altitude Combat Free Fall mission was successfully carried out by commandos of Army Para Special Forces and Garuds from a C-130J aircraft in the Eastern sector

# Rahul recalls family links with K'taka as Yatra moves ahead



**PTI ■ RAICHUR (K'TAKA)**

On the last day of Bharat Jodo Yatra in poll-bound Karnataka, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said that his family has a long connection with the State, as he reminded that his grandmother and mother had won crucial elections from here.

Pointing out that today was the last day of the yatra in the state, covering more than 500 km, he thanked the people for their support, love and strength.

"My family has a long connection with Karnataka. I can never forget that you (people) gave victory to (former PM) Indira Gandhi from Chikkamagaluru (in 1978). I can also not forget you gave victory to Sonia Gandhi in Ballari (in 1999)," Rahul Gandhi said while concluding his speech at the end of the 45th day of the yatra here.

He then moved to the centre of the stage and held the hands of both state Congress President D K Shivakumar and Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah and raised in the air, aimed at sending out a message of unity to the party cadres.

Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, who are nursing chief ministerial ambitions ahead of assembly polls next year, are indulging in a game of political one-upmanship, with an intention to assert their position in the party's state

unit. The Bharat Jodo Yata will be entering neighbouring Telangana on Sunday morning after covering a short distance within the state's borders.

The nationwide foot march entered the state on September 30 at Gundlupet in Chamarajanagara district and after covering several districts, it was in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh for three days from October 18. The yatra then re-entered Karnataka at Raichur on October 21.

Alleging that the BJP and RSS have spread hatred and violence in the country, Gandhi said, "They have created rifts between brothers, they have tried to divide India. So, we have taken up this Bharat Jodo Yatra." He also said that according to farmers in today's India, their government is neither protecting nor helping them, and farming as a profession was not fetching adequate money.

Speaking about the tax/GST on fertilisers, tractors, pesticides and diesel, he further said: "Farmers say that the MSP (minimum support price) which they have to get, the government is not ready to give them."

After walking for 20-22 days on the streets of Karnataka, I could not find a single happy farmer here." The former AICC president also said the youth are unable to find jobs despite having degree certificates, but if one has Rs 80 lakh he or she can become a sub-inspector in Karnataka.

# Over 1,500 obsolete, archaic Acts to be repealed in Winter Session: Rijiju

**PTI ■ SHILLONG**

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants lesser Government role in people's lives and the Centre will repeal more than 1500 obsolete and archaic laws during the Winter Session of Parliament.

Obsolete laws are impediments in the normal life of common people and do not have relevance in the present time, nor deserve to remain in the statute books, Rijiju said addressing the 'Rozgar Mela' programme here.

"It is the prime minister's desire to reduce the compliance burden of the people, to ensure that they can live as peacefully as possible. He wants less government role in the life of the common people," Rijiju said.

Modi on Saturday launched Rozgar Mela, the recruitment drive for 10 lakh personnel. "We (NDA government at the Centre) have



decided to remove all obsolete archaic laws from the statute as unnecessary laws are a burden to the common man. We have decided to revoke more than 1500 laws in the winter session of Parliament. I am ready to introduce many more repealment acts," he said.

Laws, he said, are meant to facilitate justice for the common people and not trouble them. They are meant to prescribe certain mechanisms to ensure that the life of common people is as normal as possible.

Rijiju praised for the NPP-

led government in Meghalaya but expressed the desire that BJP be given more role in the BJP in the government for more benefit to the common people. Meghalaya Assembly poll is due in about four months' time. Rijiju said the Centre is giving special focus to NE and there is no reason why the region will lag behind in any sector.

"It is BJP's desire to make the northeast prosperous and India a powerful nation. "The party desires to fulfil the targets set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India prosperous and fully developed by 2047," he said.

The union minister said the home ministry is looking into the demand of the people to introduce ILP in Meghalaya to check outsiders to the state.

"As the ILP is a local demand, the government has to take a collective decision taking into account the larger interest of everyone around," he stated.

# Cease broadcast activities, use Prasar Bharati route, States told

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Centre has issued an advisory asking Union Ministries, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations not to enter into any broadcasting or distribution of broadcasting activities directly.

In the advisory, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting asked those broadcasting their content to route it through Prasar Bharati. It also asked entities distributing the broadcasting content to "extract themselves" from it by December 31, 2023.

The advisory is likely to impact Kalvi TV, an educational channel launched by the Tamil Nadu Government which is available on some DTH platforms, and IPTV, launched by the Andhra Pradesh Government.

"No Ministry/Department of the Central Government and State/UT Governments and entities related to them shall enter into broadcast-



ing/distribution of broadcasting activities in future," said the advisory issued on Friday.

"In case Ministries of Central Government, State/UT Government and entities related to them are already broadcasting their content, it shall be done through Public Broadcaster," it said. "In case Ministries of Central Government, State/UT Government and entities related to them are already distributing the broadcasting content, they will be required to extract themselves from the distribution activities," it stated.

Entry No. 31 in List I (Union List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India covers "posts and telegraphs, tele-

phones, wireless, broadcasting and other like forms of communication".

Only the central government, as per Article 246 of the Constitution, can legislate on such subjects, the advisory said. In 2012, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which is also the broadcast regulator, had suggested that central and state governments, their companies, undertakings, joint ventures with private sector and entities funded by governments should not be allowed to enter the business of broadcasting. The advisory noted that the TRAI's recommendations have been considered by the I&B Ministry.

The existing operational broadcasts in respect of some of the central government ministries and departments, and some state governments have already been brought under the ambit of Prasar Bharati through a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure the continuity of such societal initiatives, it said.

# Jacqueline deleted evidence from phone: ED

**IAN S ■ NEW DELHI**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has claimed that Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez had deleted evidence from her cell phone, and also tried to leave the country.

The ED made this submission while opposing the actor's bail plea in connection with a money laundering case pertaining to Rs 200 crore extortion matter involving multimillionaire conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar, an official said on Saturday.

The IANS is in possession of ED documents which confirm that she had deleted data from her cell phone. "She admitted deleting crucial evidence on her phone and further had told others to delete



Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez leaves after appearing before the Patiala House court in connection with a money laundering case linked to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar, in New Delhi, on Saturday

the evidence which amounts to tampering of evidence. She also tried to flee abroad," the ED has claimed.

The ED said that during the investigation it emerged that Jacqueline enjoyed the proceeds of crime which the main accused (Sukesh Chandrashekhar and Leena Maria Paul) obtained by the route of extortion from Aditi (wife of Shivinder Singh). Jacqueline had knowledge of the criminal antecedents of the main accused — Sukash and Leena.

"She not only used and enjoyed the proceeds of crime herself but also shared that with her family members staying abroad while knowing very well that the money and gifts showered by Chandrasekar were nothing but proceeds of

crime not earned by him through any genuine source. An amount of Rs 7,12,24,767 had been identified till now as proceed of crime and the same was attached," the ED said.

The ED said that Jacqueline never cooperated with the investigation team, and only when confronted with evidence and statements, she had made disclosure. Initially, Jacqueline denied that Chandrashekhar had purchased two cars for her parents but on December 12, 2021 she admitted it.

She also stated that her sister had received \$1,72,913 in her account. Fernandez was granted interim bail. She has not been given regular bail. The court has extended her interim bail till next date of hearing.

# Security forces bust hideout in J&K's Ramban, recover ammunition, explosives

**RAMBAN (J-K):** Security forces on Saturday busted a hideout and recovered ammunition and explosives in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said.

Acting on specific information about the presence of arms and ammunition in a remote forested area in Khari tehsil of Ramban, the police and the Army launched a joint search operation there, they said.

A militant hideout was unearthed and ammunition and explosive material were recovered, officials said. The recoveries included 310 AK-47 rounds, 30 9mm rounds, one 9mm magazine.

**PTI**



# Ex-prez Hu booted out of CPC meeting

## High drama marks closure of China's key Communist Party Congress

PTI ■ BEIJING

High drama ensued at the concluding session of the ruling Communist Party Congress here on Saturday as former president Hu Jintao was escorted out of the podium under the full glare of the media.

Hu, 79, sitting next to President Xi Jinping in the front row with other top leaders at the ornate Great Hall of People was persuaded to leave the meeting by two men, presumably security guards.

The incident happened just as the local and foreign media was ushered into the meeting attended by over 2,296 delegates and officials.

In over a minute-long video, which went viral on social media, Hu, who handed over the power to Xi in 2012 in a smooth transition after completing a 10-year tenure, appeared reluctant to depart as the security men kept persuading him to leave.

The frail-looking former president, who had a sheaf of papers in his hand, appeared talking to the two men much to the disquiet of the leaders, who sat through the whole episode motionless.

Finally, when he began walking, Hu was seen saying something to Xi who in return acknowledged nodding his head and patted Premier Li Keqiang. Then he began a long walk to the exit door accompanied by the two men. His exit was not explained.

Hu not only attended the



opening ceremony of the Congress, but was also present throughout the session.

All Chinese Communist Party (CPC) meetings are held in extreme secrecy and it is indeed very rare for such an incident to take place.

The once-in-a-five-year Congress of the party which concluded its four-day session on Saturday is special in many respects as it cemented Xi's status by amending the party's Constitution to grant him more powers.

Xi, 69, will be completing his 10-year tenure this year. All leaders before him, including Hu, retired after ten-year tenure.

The 20th Congress concluded its session by electing the powerful Central Committee comprising over 370 members.

The Committee will meet on Sunday to elect a 25-member

Political Bureau which in turn would elect seven or more members to the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee will elect the General Secretary. Xi, the outgoing General Secretary of the party besides being President and head of the military, is widely expected to be endorsed for the post for a third five-year term.

Since the whole proceedings of the Congress are held under a blanket of secrecy, it is not clear how smooth the process of Xi's endorsement will be.

Beijing and several other parts of China witnessed rare protests with banners hung on overpasses of major thoroughfares, protesting against Xi's unpopular zero-COVID policy and authoritarian rule.

The banners were later removed by security officials.

## Republican panel sues Google over email spam filters

AP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

The Republican National Committee has filed a lawsuit against tech giant Google, alleging the company has been suppressing its e-mail solicitations ahead of November's mid-term elections.

The lawsuit, filed in the District Court for the Eastern District of California on Friday evening, accuses Gmail of "discriminating" against the RNC by unfairly sending the group's e-mails to users' spam folders, impacting both fund-raising and get-out-the-vote efforts in pivotal swing states.

"Enough is enough — we are suing Google for their blatant bias against Republicans," said RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel in a statement to The Associated Press.

"For ten months in a row, Google has sent crucial end-of-month Republican GOTV and fund-raising e-mails to spam with zero explanation. We are committed to putting an end to this clear pattern of bias."

Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

# Sunak's best chance of becoming UK PM lies in no contest

IAN'S/PTI ■ LONDON

British Indian Rishi Sunak's best chance of becoming Prime Minister of the UK lies in no other candidate mustering the support of 100 ruling Conservative party MPs — a minimum condition set by the 1922 Committee, authorised to conduct the election, as a qualifying mark.

That would mean a no-contest for the leadership and he would automatically get the top job. On the other hand, if either former Prime Minister Boris Johnson or Penny Mordaunt, who was leader of the House of Commons under Liz Truss, who threw in the towel as premier on her 45th day in office, crosses the threshold of support from 100 MPs, then a confirmatory vote by the wider membership of the Conservative party could be an uncertain prospect for Sunak.

He lost to Truss at this stage in the summer.

The BBC reported on



Saturday morning Sunak 'is set to officially enter the race to become the UK's next Prime Minister'. It had also been indicating since Friday night that he was the first to receive the support of 100 Conservative MPs.

Johnson, who with his family was holidaying in the Caribbean island of Dominica, flew back to London on economy class on Saturday morning.

There is growing speculation that he will run. But according to media reports on Saturday afternoon he had not obtained the endorsement of 100 MPs.

## Priti endorses Johnson

PTI ■ LONDON

Priti Patel, who served as British Home Secretary in former prime minister Boris Johnson's Cabinet, on Saturday endorsed her ex-boss as the best-placed candidate to replace Liz Truss at 10 Downing Street.

The Indian-origin MP, who had remained conspicuously silent over her choice of Conservative Party leader in the last leadership contest



between Truss and Rishi Sunak, said Johnson had the public mandate from the 2019 general election to deliver for the Tories.

The 50-year-old politician took to Twitter to say that the

former prime minister had a "proven track record" of getting the big decisions right, in an apparent attempt to override the partygate scandal of COVID lockdown law-breaking parties that critics have flagged as a major factor against a Johnson comeback.

"Boris has the mandate to deliver our elected manifesto and a proven track record getting the big decisions right. I'm backing him in the leadership contest," she tweeted.

Mordaunt formally announced her candidature in Friday evening. But was also said not to have managed the backing of sufficient fellow lawmakers.

Mordaunt was third in that competition earlier this year which was won by Truss.

Neither Sunak nor Johnson have officially declared their

intention to contest the leadership election, with Leader of the Commons Penny Mordaunt the only candidate to formally announce her candidacy so far.

However, the former Finance Minister has taken a comfortable lead with some heavyweight Tory ministers and MPs from different factions of the Tory party throwing their

weight behind him and the betting odds also continuing to rise in favour.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab told the BBC, "I think he is the best placed candidate to provide some stability, to provide confidence for the millions of workers and businesses up and down the country," he said.

# Lights go out in Ukraine as Russia launches 'massive' strike

AP ■ KYIV

Hundreds of thousands of people in central and western Ukraine woke up on Saturday to power outages and periodic bursts of gunfire, as Ukrainian air defence tried to shoot down drones and incoming missiles.

Russia has intensified its strikes on power stations, water supply systems and other key infrastructure across the country, the latest phase of the war as it nears the eight-month mark.

Ukraine's air force said in a statement Saturday that Russia had launched "a massive missile attack" targeting "critical infrastructure," hours after air raid sirens blared across the country. It said that it had downed 18 out of 33 cruise missiles launched from air and sea.

"Several rockets" targeting the capital were shot down on Saturday morning, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on the Telegram messaging service.

Similar reports were made by the governors of six western and central provinces, as well as the southern Odesa region on the Black Sea.

The presidential office said in its morning statement that five explosive-laden drones were downed in the central Cherkasy region southeast of Kyiv.

The western city of Khmelnytskyi, which straddles the Bug river and was home to some 275,000 people before the war, was left with no electricity, shortly after local media reported several loud explosions.

The city council urged local residents to store water, "in case it's also gone within an hour," in a social media post on Saturday.

The mayor of Lutsk, a city of 215,000 in Ukraine's far west, made a similar appeal on Telegram on Saturday. Power in Lutsk had been partially knocked out after Russian mis-



siles slammed into local energy facilities, he said.

The central city of Uman, a key pilgrimage center for Hasidic Jews which counted some 100,000 residents before the war, was also plunged into darkness after a rocket hit a nearby power station, regional authorities said on Telegram.

In the capital and four surrounding regions, including Cherkasy, rolling blackouts came into effect on Saturday morning in response to the reduced power supplies. The state energy company Ukrenergo continued to urge all Ukrainians to conserve energy.

Earlier this week, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on consumers to curb their power use between 7 a.m. And 11 a.m. Daily, and avoid using energy-guzzling appliances such as electric heaters.

Over the past two weeks, Moscow has increased its attacks on key civilian infrastructure across Ukraine. About 40% of the country's electric power system has been severely damaged, officials said. Zelenskyy said earlier in the week that 30% of Ukraine's power stations have been destroyed since Oct.

## Russian-installed authorities order evacuation of Kherson

AP ■ KYIV

Russian-installed authorities ordered all residents of the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson to leave "immediately" Saturday ahead of an expected advance by Ukrainian troops. Waging a counteroffensive to recapture the occupied area.

In a Telegram post, the regional pro-Kremlin administration called on civilians to use boat crossings over the Dnieper River to move deeper into Russian-held territory, citing a tense situation on the front and the threat of shelling and alleged "terror attacks" by Kyiv.

Kherson has been in Russian hands since the early days of the invasion in February.

The city is the capital of a region of the same name, one of four Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally annexed last month. The region's Kremlin-

backed authorities previously announced plans to evacuate all Russian-appointed officials and as many as 60,000 civilians across the river, in what local leader Volodymyr Saldo said would be an "organised, gradual displacement."

Ukrainian officials have urged local residents to resist attempts to relocate them, with one local official alleging that Moscow wanted to take civilians hostage and use them as human shields. Putin signed a decree Wednesday imposing martial law on Kherson and three other regions in southern and eastern Ukraine he declared as Russian territory in defiance of international law. Elsewhere, hundreds of thousands of people in central and western Ukraine woke up on Saturday to power outages and periodic bursts of gunfire, as Ukrainian air defense tried to shoot down drones and incoming missiles.

# January 6 panel subpoenas Trump

## Seeks historic testimony



AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House committee investigating the January 6 attack on the US Capitol formally issued an extraordinary subpoena to Donald Trump, demanding testimony from the former president who lawmakers say "personally orchestrated" a multi-part effort to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

The nine-member panel issued a letter to Trump's lawyers saying he must testify, either at the Capitol or by videoconference, "beginning on or about" November 14 and continuing for multiple days if necessary.

The letter also outlined a sweeping request for documents, including personal communications between Trump and members of Congress as well as extremist groups. Those are to be turned in by November 4, although the committee's deadlines are generally subject to negotiation.

"We recognise that a subpoena to a former president is a significant and historic action," Chairman Bennie Thompson and Vice Chair Liz Cheney wrote in the letter to Trump. "We do not take this action lightly."

The panel rooted its action in history, listing past presidents from John Quincy Adams to Gerald Ford, who testified before Congress after leaving office — and noted that even sitting presidents have responded to congressional subpoenas.

It is unclear how Trump and his legal team will respond. He could comply or negotiate with the committee, announce he will defy the subpoena or

ignore it altogether. He could also go to court and try to stop it.

David A. Warrington, a partner with the Dhillon Law Group, said the firm would be handling the issue for Trump, and he said in a statement: "We understand that, once again, flouting norms and appropriate and customary process, the Committee has publicly released a copy of its subpoena. As with any similar matter, we will review and analyze it, and will respond as appropriate to this unprecedented action."

The subpoena is the latest and most striking escalation in the House committee's 15-month investigation of the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, bringing members of the panel into direct conflict with the man they have investigated from afar through the testimony of aides, allies and associates.

In the subpoena letter, the committee wrote about the "overwhelming evidence" it has assembled, showing Trump "personally orchestrated" an effort to overturn his defeat in the 2020 election, including by spreading false allegations of widespread voter fraud, "attempting to corrupt" the Justice Department and pressuring state officials, members of Congress and his own vice president to change the results.

"In short, you were at the center of the first and only effort by any U.S. President to overturn an election and obstruct the peaceful transition of power, ultimately culminating in a bloody attack on our own Capitol and on the Congress itself," Thompson and Cheney said.

# East Iran city, scene of bloody crackdown, sees new protests

AP ■ DUBAI

A city in Iran that was the scene of a bloody crackdown last month awoke to new destruction on Saturday, state TV showed, after tensions erupted the day before.

In Zahedan, a southeastern city with an ethnic Baluch population, protests after Friday prayers left the city battered.

Shops gaped open to the street, their windows smashed. Sidewalks were littered with broken glass. ATMs were damaged. Cleaning crews came out, sweeping debris from vandalized stores.

The outburst of protests in Zahedan came as demonstrations across Iran continue over the the September 16 death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of the country's morality police.

Although the protests first focused on the country's mandatory hijab, they have transformed into the greatest challenge to the Islamic Republic since the 2009 Green Movement over disputed elections.

Security forces have dispersed gatherings with live ammunition and tear gas, leaving over 200 people

dead, according to rights groups.

Violence first broke out in the restive city of Zahedan on September 30 — a day that activists describe as the deadliest since the nationwide protests began.

Outrage spread after allegations that a Baluch teenager had been raped by a police officer, fuelling deep tensions in the underdeveloped region home to minority Sunni Muslims in the Shiite theocracy.

Rights groups say dozens of people were killed in what residents refer to as "Bloody Friday," as security forces opened fire on the crowds.

The Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights puts the death toll at more than 90. Iranian authorities have described the Zahedan violence as involving unnamed separatists, without providing details or evidence.

With anger simmering over the deadly crackdown, unrest in the city flared again on Friday, according to video footage that purportedly showed crowds gathering after noon prayers in Zahedan chanting "I will kill the one who killed my brother!"

The scale of the clashes remained unclear, but Iranian state TV aired footage of the aftermath, blaming 150



"rioters" for the trail of destruction.

The state-run IRNA news agency said protesters shouted slogans, hurled stones at motorists and damaged banks and other private property.

Authorities said they arrested 57 demonstrators, among the estimated thousands who have landed in jail over the protests. The provincial police commander, Ahmad Taheri, said security forces were searching for more culprits.

More unrest loomed five weeks after the protests first erupted. Security was exceptionally tight on the streets of Tehran on Saturday. Riot police and members of the Basij militia, armed with batons, were out in force near Tehran University and at major intersections in the capital.

A teachers' union in Iran also called for a nationwide strike on Sunday and Monday in protest over the deaths and detention of students

in the country, according to the association's statement on Telegram.

"We know very well that the military and security forces are invading the sanctity of schools and educational spaces," the association said. "They have taken the lives of a number of students and children in the most cruel way."

Iranian officials have repeatedly blamed the protests on foreign interference, without offering evidence. On Saturday, Iran's deputy judiciary chief, Kazem Gharibabadi, vowed Iran would file a case in Tehran court against the United States government and London-based Farsi language media outlets over their alleged role in fomenting unrest.

"Due to the direct involvement and meddling of America in the recent disturbances, it was decided to open a legal case to assess the damages and issue a verdict," Gharibabadi told judiciary news website Mizan.News.

It's unclear how such a case, like a raft of previous Iranian cases against the US over years of enmity, would gain traction; there are no American assets to confiscate in the Islamic Republic.



# Worsening geo-political crisis could fuel inflation: FinMin report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sounding a note of caution, the Finance Ministry's Economic Review said on Saturday that inflation might witness another resurgence in case of deterioration of geo-political situation leading to higher global energy prices and supply chain pressures.

Observing that India has managed inflation better than most other countries in the world, the Review said that barring further weather extremities, retail food inflation is expected to decline in the coming months, leading to lower headline retail inflation.

However, it added, global energy prices and supplies remain sources of concern.

"Geopolitical conflicts may yet intensify reigniting supply chain pressures that have eased recently.

If so, inflation may yet see a resurgence rather than a decline in 2023," the review said.

Retail inflation for India during these six months stood at 7.2 per cent, lower than the world inflation of 8 per cent, as represented by the median inflation of major economies, it said.

During the same period, it said, the INR depreciated by 5.4 per cent against the USD, less than the depreciation of 8.9 per cent of six major currencies in the DXY Index.

A series of measures taken by the RBI during July 2022 is expected to stabilise the capital flows further and support the INR, it said.

The report said India's growth narrative in the first six months of the current financial year featured the uninterrupted thrust govern-



ment provided to its capital expenditure that, until August of FY 2022-23, stood 46.8 per cent higher than the corresponding period of the previous year.

The increase marked a decisive shift towards improved quality of spending as the ratio of revenue expenditure to capital outlay fell to 4.5 from 6.4 in the last year, it said, adding, rising capital expenditure levels were also supported by stronger revenue generation following an improvement in tax compliance, higher corporate profitability, and growing economic activity.

Increasing revenue generation has further kept the fiscal deficit until August aligned with its budgeted level, which otherwise could have gone awry with high capital expenditure, higher fertilizer and food subsidies and excise tax cuts to

rein in inflation, it added.

While capital formation and digitalisation boost medium-term potential growth rate, learning losses caused by the pandemic-induced shutdowns and rising obesity levels restrain it, the report said, a healthy and educated India is a productive India.

The government quietly went about facilitating the development of India's digital infrastructure on the foundation of unique national identity, financial inclusion and payments, it said.

Similarly, quietly rebuilding the economy's ability to grow and letting it grow, after at least half a decade of financial stress followed by the pandemic, the global inflation shock and the global tightening of financial conditions will yield results that will be harder for the world to miss, it added.

## Amid high inflation & weak rupee, Fin Min review says eco performance 'impressive'

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as economic growth and rising inflation remain major concerns for India, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying that these twin challenges would be in focus in the next Union Budget, the monthly economic review for September has said that country's economic performance has been "impressive" in the first half of 2022-23.

"Indian economic performance in the first half of 2022-23 has been impressive compared to the world. As measured by PMI composite index, the economic activity level was higher for India at 56.7 compared to 51.0 for the World level during April-Sept 2022," said the economic review which was released on Saturday by the Finance Ministry.

"While wholesale inflation has significantly reduced from its peak of 16.6 per cent in May 2022 to 10.7 per cent in September 2022 on account of moderating commodity prices and government measures, retail inflation remains above the RBI's upper tolerance band due to an uptick in food prices. However, food inflation is expected to moderate as the harvesting and procurement seasons progress, thereby contributing to a declining headline retail inflation in the rest of the fiscal year," it said while elaborating on inflation.

"On the external front, the rupee has performed relatively well in first half of 2022-23 compared to other major economies, reflecting the strong fundamentals of the Indian



economy."

The rupee incidentally had touched a historic low of 83.18 earlier this week, even as Sitharaman said that she saw it more as a case of the dollar strengthening than the rupee falling. The economic review for September 2022 however noted that "the country should be able to meet these challenges and keep the economy growing steadily."

"Prudent macroeconomic policies that have served the country well since 2014 continue to remain essential. As is the case with battling in swinging conditions, balls well-left (policy errors avoided) will be as important as balls played well (policy decisions taken)," it said.

The Central government's continuous thrust on capital expenditure promotes broad-based growth by facilitating private sector capital formation. Significant pick-up in consumption has resulted in a more-than-proportionate jump in GST revenues, a more robust economic recovery could allow the collections to settle at an elevated level, proving the high revenue productivity of the broad-based consumption, the review further noted.

A well-capitalised banking

system has led to an upswing in credit disbursement to the retail, industry and services segments.

"High-Frequency Indicators (HFIs) suggest a continued broadening of traction in services activity. E-way bills, in particular, point to the overall growth of inter-state wholesale and retail trade.

"Going forward, the pent-up demand in the services sector, combined with a strong economic outlook for India, will drive growth in the service sector," the review said.

Service sector firms are positive about demand conditions, sales turnover, their hiring plans and the overall business situation they expect in third quarter of the current fiscal.

However it cautioned that "even as India remains one of the bright spots in an otherwise gloomy global scenario where the dark clouds of recession gather, the country's fiscal and monetary authorities must remain watchful. The globalised nature of India's economy portends that even as inflationary pressures abate, another challenge to macroeconomic stability will rear its head in the form of external sector pressures."

## Reliance Jio starts rolling out 5G-enabled public Wi-Fi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio has launched 5G-enabled wi-fi service at temple town of Nathdwara in Rajasthan and it will be expanded to other public places with high footfalls like railway stations and educational institutions, the company said on Saturday.

Jio has also started rolling out 5G services in Nathdwara and Chennai. The company has extended the Jio Welcome

offer to the city. Under the offer, customers with invitation only will get access to 5G service during the beta trial and they will be able to access unlimited 5G data at up to 1 gigabit per second.

"Today, we have powered the first True5G-enabled wi-fi service at the holy town of Nathdwara and the temple of Lord Srinath Ji. With this, we will power many more such locations and allow them to trial our services. In addition,



tion, we welcome Chennai as our latest city to be added to the Jio True5G Welcome Offer," Reliance Jio Chairman Akash M Ambani said in a statement.

The company said it is introducing "JioTrue5G-powered wi-fi services" in high footfall areas such as educational institutions, religious places, railway stations, bus stands, commercial hubs and other places.

Reliance Jio has plans to

cover the entire country with 5G services by December 2023 and it has simultaneously started out 5G-enabled wi-fi services.

"As stated earlier, 5G cannot remain an exclusive service to the privileged few or those in our largest cities. It must be available to every citizen, every home, and every business across India. This is a step in that direction to enable every Indian with JioTrue5G," Ambani said.

## ₹40K cr of business expected during 2-day of Dhanteras: CAIT

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Around Rs 40,000 crore of business is expected to be generated on this Dhanteras, which is spread over the weekend, on the back of positive consumer sentiment, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said on Saturday.

Dhanteras, the first day of Diwali, is considered auspicious to buy new items, especially gold, silver jewellery, all kinds of utensils, kitchenware, vehicles, clothes and ready-made garments, electronics, electrical goods among others.

This year Dhanteras is spread over the weekend, with the muhurat beginning from 2 pm on Saturday till 6 pm on Sunday.

"Around Rs 40,000 crores of business" is expected on two days festival of Dhanteras, CAIT national president B C Bhartia said in a statement.

All India Jewellers and



Goldsmith Federation national president Pankaj Arora said there is great enthusiasm among jewellery traders across the country regarding the sale of Dhanteras on Saturday and Sunday, for which the industry has made elaborate preparations.

There is also demand for artificial jewellery that is also visible in the markets this year, while gold, silver coins, notes and idols are also likely to be bought in large quantities on Dhanteras, he added.

## 50% of Indian mobile users wish to upgrade to new device in 5G era

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

About 50 per cent of smartphone users in India plan to buy a new device within the first year as 5G roll-out begins, a report has said.

India has more than 500 million smartphone users to date.

The price band of Rs 20,000-Rs 30,000 is the most preferred price band for the future smartphone purchases in the country, according to Counterpoint Research.

India's smartphone market ASP (average selling price) is expected to rise because consumers tend to prefer a higher price band for every subsequent purchase.

Samsung, Apple and OnePlus are at the top as the survey respondents preferred smartphone brands for the next purchase, the report noted.

In terms of features, 5G capability is the third most important feature considered when planning the next purchase. The same factor is ranked tenth in terms of importance for current smartphone purchases.

"When purchasing a new smartphone, more than one-third of the users plan to retain their current device as an alternative/secondary phone. Also, with more exchange offers



available, more than one-fourth of the respondents plan to trade in their current smartphone when purchasing the next one," said research analyst Arushi Chawla.

Samsung users have the strongest brand loyalty with 51 per cent of the users who used Samsung as their previous device also using Samsung currently.

Apple, despite having a smaller share in previous and current smartphone purchases, is the second most preferred brand (20 per cent) for future purchases, said the report.

"In addition, 5G capability becomes more important as we move up the ladder for budget preference for future smartphones. 5G is one of the main factors taken into consideration for all major smartphone brands. But 5G is the most important factor for respondents preferring Apple as their next smartphone purchase," said Chawla.

## ICICI Bank Q2 net jumps 31% on core income growth

PTI ■ MUMBAI

ICICI Bank on Saturday reported a 31.43 per cent jump in its September quarter consolidated profit at Rs 8,007 crore, helped by a steady growth in core business and also a dip in money set aside for bad loans.

On a standalone basis, the second largest private sector lender reported a 37.14 per cent jump in September quarter net profit at Rs 7,557.84 crore, as against Rs 5,510.95 crore in the year-ago period.

The bank's core net interest income grew by 26 per cent to Rs 14,707 crore in the reporting quarter, helped by a 23 per cent loan growth and a 0.30 per cent expansion in the net interest margin to 4.31 per cent. The non-interest income excluding treasury income increased 17 per cent to Rs 5,139 crore, while there was a treasury loss of Rs 85 crore in the reporting quarter as against gains of Rs 397 crore in the year-ago period.

Like many other lenders in the system, the bank's deposit growth at 12 per cent was trailing the loan growth by a wide margin.

Its executive director Sandeep Batra told reporters that the bank does not see the slower deposit growth as a constraint to its growth ambitions given its comfortable liquidity covers.

## Kotak Bank Q2 net jumps 27 % to ₹2,581 cr on all-round performance

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday reported a healthy set of numbers, with net profit growing 27 per cent to Rs 2,581 crore for the three months to September, boosted by record margins and loan sales.

On a consolidated basis, the country's fourth largest private sector lender, which is also into brokerage, life and general insurance and mutual funds, among others, reported a 21 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 3,608 crore in the reporting quarter.

The management led by Deputy Managing Director Dipak Gupta and Chief Financial Officer Jaimin Bhatt attributed the healthy set of numbers -- almost all of them growing at over 20 per cent -- to "all cylinders, led by consumer verticals, firing well".

Total income grew to Rs 10,047 crore from Rs 8,408 crore in the year-ago quarter, driven by net interest income that increased to Rs 5,099 crore from Rs 4,021 crore, clipping at 27 per cent. The key profitability metric, net interest margin -- which is the difference between what a bank earns on interest from borrowers and what it pays to depositors -- was at 5.17 per cent for the quarter.

Gupta and Bhatt admitted that NIM cannot sustain at



5.17 per cent as cost of funds increases, and it will fall to 4.25 - 4.35 per cent levels. They attributed the spike in the margins to the automatic repricing of loans with market-linked rates and fees and services rising 24 per cent to Rs 1,760 crore annualised. This also means that the bank has passed on the entire 190 bps hike in the repo rate since May this year by the RBI, which took the key policy rate to the pre-pandemic levels as it fights to contain inflation which has been over 6 per cent levels for the past three quarters.

On the assets front, gross non-performing assets improved to 2.08 per cent of gross advances, down from 3.19 per cent a year ago. Net NPAs performed better, dropping to 0.55 per cent from 1.06 per cent, Bhatt said.

The bank's fresh slippages jumped to Rs 983 crore sequentially but Bhatt said the same was due to regulatory changes effected in Q1. The net slippage was Rs 657 crore, half of last year when its stood at Rs 1,300 crore.

कार्यालय अधिकांशी अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड खण्ड, उत्तराखण्ड  
**उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान**  
लेन नं.-1, तरुण विहार, मोधरोवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001  
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पत्रांक: 3287/ई-निविदा सूचना/2022-23 ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक: 22.10.2022  
मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जलजीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं के कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, सिंगल बिड सिस्टम आधार तकनीकी और आर्थिक रूप से सक्षम बोलीदाता से निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है :

निविदा क्र.सं.	विकास खण्ड	कार्य विवरण	घरोहड़ बरामाशि (रु.में)	निविदा का मूल्य (रु.में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	टेकेंदर की श्रेणी
1	वक्रता	सिंजला पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सहाई जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	83950.00	₹5000 +GST	06 माह	सी. एवं उच्चतर
2	वक्रता	ल्युना मंगलाट पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सहाई जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	85300.00	₹3000 +GST	06 माह	सी. एवं उच्चतर
3	वक्रता	हमोल पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सहाई जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	55950.00	₹2000 +GST	04 माह	सी. एवं उच्चतर
4	वक्रता	सुजक पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सहाई जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	99570.00	₹3000 +GST	06 माह	सी. एवं उच्चतर
5	वक्रता	गोखा पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सहाई जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	84160.00	₹3000 +GST	06 माह	सी. एवं उच्चतर
6	वक्रता	इन्द्रोली पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सहाई जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	51200.00	₹2000 +GST	04 माह	सी. एवं उच्चतर
7	वक्रता	शेखिया पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सहाई जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	91450.00	₹3000 +GST	06 माह	सी. एवं उच्चतर

निविदा समय सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत हैं:

क्र.सं.	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाईन प्रकाशन की तिथि	29.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	29.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि	03.11.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि	07.11.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि	14.11.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाइन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निर्धारित शुल्क, बिड सिक्वायिटी, स्टॉप पेपर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज)	14.11.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि	15.11.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि	सूचना पृष्ठक से दी जायेगी

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयों व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर ऑन लाइन देवी/प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

“जल संयंत्र-जीवन संयंत्र”

के.सी. वैष्णवी  
अधिसारी अभियन्ता

## India Fashion Awards joins hands with India Craft Week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For decades, fashion brands across the globe have engaged with highly skilled Indian artisans for their craftsmanship and have celebrated them with deference and respect.

Still, India's artisan community has not been able to achieve financial stability. In its endeavour to promote Sustainability and Fashion in

Craft and support the rich legacy of Indian artisans, India Fashion Awards has joined hands with India Craft Week, supported by World Crafts Council — International and Asia-Pacific Region.

The India Fashion Awards & India Crafts Week jointly organised one-of-a-kind symposium titled, "Crafts in Fashion" at NSIC, Okhla, in New Delhi on October 22.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

To, be known to all that my client: **SMIL, NEW SHARMA W/O SHRI SURENDER MOHAN ANGERAS alias SURENDER MOHAN SHARMA R/O FLAT NO. B-56/2, FIRST FLOOR, NARAINA VIHAR, NEW DELHI**, is the owner of **ODA MIE FLAT NO. B-56/2, ON FIRST FLOOR, SITUATED AT NARAINA VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110026, VIDEO DDA FILE NO. F14371956/GENVR**, have applied for Conversion of leasehold from freehold of the aforesaid property in DDA. The original documents i.e. **Original DEMAND LETTER** of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable inspite of his best efforts. An F.I.R./NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi L.R. No. 8610003429 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing) or Director (Housing), Vikas Saction, New Delhi.

Ch.No. M-7, Near SBI Western Wing, 18 Hazari Court, Delhi-54

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public at large are hereby informed that Sanjay Gupta and Asha Gupta are the lawful joint owners of Entire Free Hold Built-up Property bearing Municipal No. 1512, commonly known as 1512(A), area measuring 257 Sq. Yds. Out of Total area measuring 500 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 346, Situated at Wazir Nagar, Kolla Mukaburpur, New Delhi - 110003, vide registered sale deed dated 02.09.2019, registration No. 4712, with Sub Registrar Vazir Nagar, Delhi. Public at large are hereby further informed that SANJAY GUPTA AND ASHA GUPTA has approached MONEYSWIFT FINANCIAL SERVICES PVT. LTD (MSGF Finance) availing a Loan facility amounting to Rs. 3,00,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Only) and they are not submitting the copy of Death Certificate of M. MR. Saranjeet Singh & some of the previous chain linked documents prior to 2006 as they are not available with them. If anybody has any change/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute on basis on these documents or otherwise, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm) Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No C 78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201011, E-Mail: sgassociates@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed that my client **Mr. Rajesh Dahi D/o Late Shri Chandra Bhan R/o RZ-4 Ganpati Enclave, X Block Paprawat Road, New Roshan Pura, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043** hereby this public notice dispossess her husband namely **Shri Prem Prakash S/o Late Shri Ram Lal resident of Village Goyala Khurd, Post Office Chawla, New Delhi-110071** from all property purchased by her which includes **Plot No. 4 area measuring 250 Sq. Yds. out of Kharsa No. 305 situated in the Village Roshan Pura, Delhi** which is also known as **New Roshan Pura Extension, X block, Main Paprawat Road, Ganpati Enclave, Najafgarh, New Delhi - 110043**.

My client have disowned her husband due to his bad habits. My client have disowned her husband from all movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with **Shri Prem Prakash** will do so at his/her their own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by **Shri Prem Prakash**.

**Ujjwal Bhardwaj, Advocate**  
Dated: 14.10.2022 Enrol. No: D/5001/12020

**ARBITRATOR'S NOTICE**

ARBS. Case No. 02/2022

In the Matter of:

**GATI Limited**

Versus .... Claimant

**GETIT Furniture Pvt. Limited**

..... Respondent

**ARBITRATOR'S NOTICE**

M/s GETIT Furniture Pvt. Limited Through Managing Director Registered office at: 1205, 12th Floor, New Block-4, Delhi High Court, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001

Email:- [help@getitbazaar.com](mailto:help@getitbazaar.com)

Head office at: GETIT Furniture Pvt. Ltd. 4th Floor, IRIS Tech Tower Sector-37, Sohna Road, Gurugram(Haryana)

Also at: GETIT Furniture Pvt. Ltd. GYS Heights, Plot No.-10 & 11 (2nd & 3rd Floor), Tower-C, Sector- 125, Noida, 201301

**Respondent**

1) Please take notice that vide order dated 16.08.2022, passed by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi at New Delhi in ARBS. P. No. 227/2019, I have been appointed as Sole Arbitrator to adjudicate dispute and/or differences between the parties under a Services Agreement dated 01.12.2015. 2) You the Respondent named above are required to appear in person or through your associates/Representatives on 04.11.2022 at 5:30 PM at my residential office at A-22, Neeti Park, New Delhi-110049.

**VIVEK B SAHARA**  
Chamber No.22, Lawyers' Chamber, Block-4, Delhi High Court, New Delhi-110003  
Ph.: 011-26517968, Mob.: 9811156831



# Mainz rout Cologne 5-0 in Bundesliga



AP ■ MAINZ (GERMANY)

Five different players scored for Mainz as it routed 10-man Cologne 5-0 to strengthen its bid for the European places in the Bundesliga. Mainz on Friday achieved its biggest margin of victory for nearly three years and soared from 11th to third in the table. Cologne dropped two places to ninth. Cologne defender Luca Kilian hauled down Mainz forward Karim Onisiwo on

the break to give away an 11th-minute penalty converted by Marcus Ingvarsten. Kilian soon fouled Onisiwo again to earn himself a second yellow card and his second sending-off in 10 league games this season. Persistence paid off for Mainz in the 35th as Dominik Kohr scored at the third attempt after he and Ingvarsten each had a shot blocked. Anton Stach added a third goal just before halftime,

Cologne avoided being punished for another blunder when goalkeeper Marvin Schwäbe blasted a routine clearance straight at Onisiwo, allowing Angelo Fulgini to put the ball in the net. But a video review showed it hit Onisiwo on the arm. Cologne fell apart late on as Aarón Martín curled in a free kick for Mainz's fourth goal and — after another Mainz goal was disallowed for offside — Onisiwo scored to round off an impressive win.

# Juventus beat Empoli 4-0 ahead of crucial European match

AP ■ TURIN (ITALY)

Juventus could be back on track after a dismal few weeks for the Bianconeri. Adrien Rabiot scored twice late on to add to goals from Weston McKennie and Moise Kean as they beat Empoli 4-0 on Friday for their second straight victory. Juventus was still seven points behind Serie A leader Napoli, having played a game more, but it was a timely confidence boost ahead of the must-win match at Benfica in the Champions League. Anything but a win on Tuesday would see Juventus eliminated from the competition at the group stage, following last week's humiliating 2-0 loss to Maccabi Haifa. That came days after Juventus also lost in Serie A by the same scoreline, against AC Milan. However, it managed to beat Torino in the city derby last week and was also boosted by the return of Paul Pogba and Federico Chiesa to training, although the duo was not ready for Friday's match. Angel Di Maria and Gleison Bremer were also still out injured. Juventus got off to the perfect start as Rabiot whipped in a cross from the left for Kean to head his side in front in the



eight minute. Kean also headed wide from a good position later in the half, while Empoli goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario did well to parry from McKennie at point-blank range. McKennie got his goal in the 56th when he headed in a

corner. It was the American's first Serie A goal since January 15 against Udinese. His only other goal this season was in September in a 2-1 defeat at Paris Saint-Germain. Kean had a goal disallowed for offside before Rabiot

headed in another corner eight minutes from time. Rabiot doubled his tally in stoppage time by tapping in at the back post after Manuel Locatelli sent Danilo down the right and he rolled across the box for the France international.

# FIFA slams unacceptable TV deal offers for Women's World Cup

AP ■ AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Broadcasters were criticized by FIFA president Gianni Infantino on Saturday for what he called unacceptably low offers for rights to screen the Women's World Cup next year. Offers of just 1% of the value of men's World Cup rights deals have been rejected, Infantino said, for the tournament that starts in July in Australia and New Zealand.

The men's World Cup has driven FIFA's expected overall income toward \$7 billion for the four-year commercial cycle that ends in December after that tournament in Qatar. "100 times less, even more than 100 times in some occasions, then this is not acceptable," the FIFA leader said at a news conference ahead of the finals tournament draw. "I don't want to mention them, but those who are there, they know it." The time zones in Australia and New Zealand mean many games, especially in the group stage, will be played in the nighttime hours in lucrative markets in Europe and the Americas. "We are not going to accept this," Infantino said of the broadcast offers, "because we know that the viewing figures for these broadcasters in some big footballing countries for the men's World Cup or for the Women's World Cup are actually very similar ... meaning their commercial income is



very similar for men and for women." Infantino took a further jibe at broadcasters who he said pushed FIFA to treat women's soccer more equally on issues such as World Cup prize money. The 32 teams at the men's World Cup in Qatar will share \$440 million in prize money, while a prize fund of \$60 million was proposed for the first 32-team women's edition in 2023. "In some countries, they are quite good at telling us ... that we should give more emphasis on equal opportunities, on equality, on non-discrimination, on treating men and women in the same way which is, of course, what we have to do, and we try to do that to the best of our ability," Infantino said. "It's important that everyone puts actions, as well, behind words and we all start

to treat women's football the same way." FIFA has changed the commercial model for the Women's World Cup to earn its own income instead of simply being packaged as an add-on for broadcasters and sponsors doing deals for the men's tournament. Infantino suggested a further push for equality for women's soccer, noting that Olympic tournaments have 16 men's teams and only 12 for women. "Women should have 16 teams as well at the Olympic Games," he said. "These are some discussions we are going to have." Adding four women's teams would need more than 70 athlete quota places when the International Olympic Committee is asking some governing bodies to make cuts to help find space for new sports and control organizers' costs.

# AHLAWAT WINS BY THREE SHOTS AT PUNE OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

PTI ■ PUNE

Gurugram's Veer Ahlawat shot a solid four-under 62 in the final round to claim a three-shot win at the Pune Open Golf Championship for his second professional trophy. Ahlawat ended the tournament with a tally of 19-under 245. The win helped him to jump six spots on the Tata Steel PGTI Order of Merit for 2022 and grab the 11th position. Delhi's Kapil Kumar finished second at 16-under 248 carding a two-under 64 in the final round. Ahlawat (63-59-61-62), the overnight leader by one shot, made a tentative start with a birdie and bogey on the second and third holes. The tall and lanky golfer then stepped on the gas with birdies on the seventh, ninth, 10th and 11th to build a lead

that gave him little to worry. His bogey on the 17th followed by a birdie on the 18th hole helped to seal his name on the winner's cheque. "My last win as a pro was three years back and ever since I came close but could never finish it off. This win today makes me and my team very happy that our hard work has paid off," said Ahlawat after his win. "I am very satisfied with my short game and my chipping specifically, and that I think, played a critical role in my performance today." Kapil (59-62-63-64) started on a conservative note, picking a shot on the fourth, his only birdie before he took the turn. His bogey on the seventh hole brought his front nine at level par. On his back nine, he got a birdie on the 11th hole before squandering it with a bogey on the 13th. Kapil, there-



after, made a quick recovery to make two back-to-back birdies on the 14th and 15th holes to wrap up his round at two-under 64 for the day. Mysore's Yashas Chandra MS carded the day's best round of six-under 60 to finish at tied third with Sri Lankan N Thangaraja, with identical total scores of 15-under 249. Gurugram's Manu Gandas and Noida's Rashid Khan finished as tied fifth with matching totals of 14-under 250. Some of the other prominent names in the Top 10 include Delhi's Kshitij Naved Kaul at seventh with an overall tally of 13-under 251; Olympian Udayan Mane and Gurugram's Kartik Sharma finished tied eighth with a tally of 12-under 252. Ludhiana's Pukhraj Singh Gill and Chandigarh's Ajeetesh Sandhu finished at tied 10th with identical scores of 11-under 253.

# US to face Vietnam, Netherlands at women's soccer World Cup

AP ■ AUCKLAND

The defending champion United States will face the Netherlands in the group stage of the women's soccer World Cup next summer, setting up an early repeat of the 2019 World Cup final. The draw was made at a ceremony in Auckland on Saturday. Four-time champion the United States was drawn in Group E with Vietnam, the Netherlands and a playoff winner still to be determined in a tournament expanded for the first time to 32 teams drawn into eight groups of four. The US will play all of its group matches



es in New Zealand in the tournament to be played at 10 stadiums in Australia and New Zealand in July and August 2023. The match against the Netherlands will be at Wellington on July 27. The US beat the Dutch 2-0 in

the 2019 final in France. Second-ranked Sweden is drawn in Group G with South Africa, Italy and Argentina. Third-ranked Germany is in Group H with Morocco, Colombia and South Korea and European champion England in Group D with Denmark, China and a playoff winner. The three playoff winners will be determined through inter-continental qualifying matches in Auckland in February. Under the formula of the draw, the six top-ranked teams couldn't face each other in the group stage. That ensured the US will not face Sweden in the group stage of a major tournament for the first time in 10 years.



# Sakkari onto semis in Mexico, qualifies for the WTA Finals

AP ■ GUADALAJARA

Sixth-ranked Maria Sakkari defeated Veronika Kudermetova 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 to advance to the semifinals of the Guadalajara Open 1000 and clinch a place in the WTA Finals. Sakkari, seeded fourth, will take on the winner of the late match between Marie Bouzkova and Anna Kalinskaya. Sakkari will play in the WTA Finals for the second straight year. The 27-year-old from Greece advanced to the semifinals in Guadalajara a year ago. Top-ranked Iga Swiatek and Ons Jabeur secured their berths with their efforts at the U.S. Open, and Jessica Pegula arrived in Mexico after punching her ticket last week in San Diego. Others who qualified included Coco Gauff, Caroline Garcia, Aryna Sabalenka and Daria Kasatkina. Gauff, who secured her place with two wins this week, lost to Viktoriya Azarenka 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-3. The 33-year-old Azarenka, from Belarus, reached her first semifinal since last October, when she advanced to the final at Indian Wells. "She's a young player, but she's had quite a few already experiences on the tour. I love watching Coco play," Azarenka said. "I believe that she's going to do great things in the sport. I feel like she just needs a little bit more to kind of take that one step forward."

# SAMARTH, HARITASHREE WIN UNDER-14 TITLES AT FENESTA OPEN

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Samarth Sahita and Harithashree Venkatesh claimed the under-14 boy's and girl's titles respectively at the Fenesta Open National tennis championship on Saturday. While Samarth emerged victorious after his opponent Arnav Vijay Paparkar conceded the final at 3-4 in the first set, Haritashree registered a 6-4 6-2 over Aishwarya Jadhav. "Winning the Fenesta Open feels very good. I always wanted to win Fenesta and be number 1 in India. So it feels great today," said Samarth in a release. In the boys under-16 final, Hitesh Chauhan showed his true worth as he outgunned Arjun Rathi 6-4 4-6 6-4 in a long match which went down to the wire. "I have just won my Fenesta National U16 and I am really happy. I want to thank my parents and my coach Aditya Sachdeva," said Hitesh.

# Chaubey proposes restarting of Merdeka Cup, Malaysian FA says working on it



PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey has requested his counterpart in the Malaysian FA to restart the once-popular Merdeka Cup in which the Indian team had finished runners-up twice. Chaubey, who took over as the president of the AIFF earlier this year, said the Malaysian football federation, which used to the organise the tournament, is working on restarting it next year. The Malaysian football apex body is headed by Dato Haji

Hamidin bin Haji Mohd. Amin. "Malaysia FA president told me that his organisation is working to restart the tournament, most probably next year. If it happens he said he will surely invite India to take part in the tournament," Chaubey told PTI. "He said he will try to hold the tournament during FIFA window in September-October. It's a big honour for India because our country has historical connection with Merdeka Cup and we have done well in the tournament. "Our national team will also get another platform to compete with strong teams of Asia, to play

more competitive international matches. It's a positive development for us," Chaubey added. The invitational tournament, which was held to celebrate the country's Independence Day, was last organised in 2013. India had finished runners-up way back in 1959 and 1964, losing to the hosts and Burma in the two finals. The tournament was started in 1957. Chaubey and AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran met with Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa on Friday at the AFC House here, and held discussions that revolved around the growth of the sport in India. "The #MerdekaCup had created so many opportunities for #IndianFootball in the past. My request to restart this tournament & have INDIA as one of the invitee participants was warmly greeted by FA Malaysia President Dato Haji Hamidin bin Haji Mohd. Amin," Chaubey tweeted earlier in the day.

# Odisha FC ride home advantage for win as they face Kerala Blasters

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Indian Super League returns to Bhubaneswar after a two-year hiatus as Odisha FC host Kerala Blasters FC at the Kalinga Stadium on Sunday. Both sides will be desperate for points as they come into this fixture after losing their previous matches. The last time Odisha FC and Kerala xBlasters clashed at this venue, the game ended in a thrilling 4-4 draw. The Juggernauts have played six matches at the Kalinga Stadium, winning four and losing just one. The hosts will be eager to build on their stellar home record and get a result against the Blasters. However, it will be anything but a cakewalk for the Juggernauts, who have won just one game in their last six games against them. "We are happy to be back home, playing at the Kalinga Stadium again. We have good memories here and all the players are excited to perform well tomorrow," said head coach Josep Gombau. "We hope fans come in numbers to see the game and I



hope we start with a win at home," he added. In their last game, Odisha FC attempted 16 shots, nine more than their opponents Mumbai City FC. However, seven were blocked, six were off-target, and just three made the keeper work. Shot accuracy is an aspect the Juggernauts will have to improve for the upcoming game. Striker Diego Mauricio has enjoyed playing against the Brazilians in the past. The Brazilian, who has already scored twice this season, has netted five goals in three games

against them in his ISL career so far. In their respective last games, both sides displayed a similar pattern in the final third. In a 5-2 loss against ATK Mohun Bagan, Kerala Blasters attempted 18 shots, out of which five were blocked, six were off-target, and seven tested the keeper. Their opponents, on the other hand, kept all their shots on target and eventually waltzed away with a crucial victory. The Blasters will have to be more clinical in the final third if they want to be a menace for the Odisha FC defenders.



# NZ CRUSH AUSTRALIA BY 89 RUNS IN SUPER 12 OPENER

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Wicketkeeper-batter Devon Conway smashed an unbeaten 92 as New Zealand began the T20 World Cup Super 12 stage in emphatic fashion, thrashing defending champions Australia by 89 runs here on Saturday.

The 31-year-old left-handed opener played some sublime shots as he held the New Zealand innings together in a 58-ball knock, which was studded with seven fours and two sixes and took them to an imposing 200 for three after they were sent in.

Also, not to forget the explosive start given by rising T20 star Finn Allen as he hammered a sensational 16-ball 42.

In reply, Kiwi pacer Tim Southee (2.1-0-6-3) set the tone early on before left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner (4-0-31-3) foxed the Aussies with his clever variation to make it a lopsided contest.

The New Zealanders were relentless in attack as Australia folded for 111 in 17.1 overs to suffer their second heaviest T20I defeat in terms of runs.

This was also Australia's first defeat to New Zealand in Australia in any format since 2011.

The Aussies lost half of their side in 10.2 overs after the talented Tim David (11) became Santner's third victim.

Southee cleaned up David Warner in the most unlikely fashion when the left-hander's pull shot ricocheted off the his leg, arm and bat before unsettling the stumps in the second over.

Despite the big setback, the defending champions were quick to regroup



as Mitchell Marsh played some exquisite shots, including a stunning six over covers against Santner.

Just when the hosts looked to be getting into the groove with the experienced duo of Marcus Stoinis and Glenn Maxwell in the middle, a Superman-like flying catch by Glenn Phillips triggered a collapse.

The boundaries started drying up after Finch and Marsh fell cheaply.

Stoinis looked to attack a wide Santner delivery as Phillips, from the deep cover ran a few yards to his right

and dived to complete a blinder.

Australia, without their star batter Steve Smith, looked out of depth.

Earlier, Conway did not go ballistic but his runs came at a good rate and he completed his fifty in 36 balls, with a six off Adam Zampa in the 13th over.

In the process, he became the second fastest player in T20I history after Dawid Malan to score 1,000 runs.

However he failed to complete his maiden century in the format with Jimmy Neesham (26 not out; 13 balls) taking most of the strike at the death

to push the total to 200 with a six off the final ball by Josh Hazlewood.

Conway's opening partner Finn Allen fired the opening salvo, as he blasted his way to a 16-ball 42, hitting three sixes and five fours inside the powerplay to give the Kiwis the perfect start after Aaron Finch opted to field.

The 23-year-old Allen showed why he's labelled as the future T20 star as he took the fiery Mitchell Starc head on with two fours and one six, including a clean powerful thump over the mid-on boundary in the first over.

He continued his fury against Pat Cummins, too, as the Aussie veteran fed him with a short-pitched stuff, and Allen happily swivelled him for a six in an over that yielded 17 runs.

The seasoned Conway was content playing the second fiddle with Allen hitting all around the park, as they raced to 56 for no loss inside four overs.

Hazlewood finally gave a breakthrough to the hosts as he yorked Allen in the fifth over to bring an end to his innings, which came at an astonishing strike-rate of 262.5.

## We were very clinical in what we needed to do: Williamson

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Captain Kane Williamson, on Saturday, said a "clinical" approach helped New Zealand register their first win in white-ball cricket in 12 years over Trans-Tasman rivals Australia in their own backyard.

New Zealand thrashed defending champions Australia by 89 runs in their opening T20 World Cup Super 12 match here.

Williamson lauded his batting line-up for putting up a mammoth 200 for three after opener Devon Conway's 58-ball unbeaten 92 after being asked to bat. They bowled out Australia for 111.

"It was one of those days, an outstanding day, the openers set the tone, lots of contributions right through the batting and that was a very good score on this pitch," the Kiwi skipper said after the match.

"The bowlers then did well and were well supported in the field. Everyone know their roles in this team, we knew about the quality of their bowling (Australia's), took the game deep and we were very clinical in what we needed to do."

It was also Australia's lowest total in a T20I at home, the previous lowest being 127 against Pakistan in 2010 at Melbourne.

Australia captain Aaron Finch said they were complete-



ly outplayed by New Zealand.

"They certainly did (on the New Zealand openers), they set the tone in the first 4 overs and we didn't recover. Needed a big start, that didn't happen and we were outplayed completely."

"He (Allen Finn) got off to a flier, we needed early wickets which didn't happen and when we chased, we lost too many wickets, we weren't good enough with the net run-rate taking a bad hit," he said.

"We play Sri Lanka next, four games left, need to win everything and have some luck on our side."

Man of the Match Conway was all praise for his opening partner Allen, who hit a 16-ball 42 to give New Zealand an explosive start.

"Special performance by the boys tonight. Credit has to go to Finn, how he started and got the momentum for us, pretty good performance from everyone."

# All-round England beat Afghanistan by 5 wickets after Curran's 5/10

PTI ■ PERTH

England were wobbly with the bat, but hostile on the field in a five-wicket victory over Afghanistan in their T20 World Cup opener here on Saturday.

Sam Curran led the way with excellent figures of 5/10 as title contenders England, aided by some incredible catches, bowled out Afghanistan for 112 in a Super 12 Group 1 match.

While left-arm fast-medium bowling all-rounder Curran did the bulk of the damage, England were also helped by as many as three stunning catches after Jos Buttler opted to bowl.

Ibrahim Zadran (32) and Usman Ghani (30) were the two main contributors for

Afghanistan.

When England batted, Liam Livingstone (29 off 21 balls) was there till the end to see the team through after they lost five wickets. England won with 11 balls to spare.

Buttler did not last long, falling for an 18-ball 18 to Fazalhaq Farooqi but the Afghans did not have enough on the board to pose any sort of threat to an English line-up that bats deep.

Alex Hales, too, got out after making 19 in 20 deliveries but that did not come in the way of a convincing England victory.

Ben Stokes (2) was out cheaply too, leaving England at 65 for three in the 11th over. It became 97 for five in the 16th over, when Rashid Khan had Harry Brook (7) caught by Ibrahim Zadran.

On a lively Optus track that encouraged a good contest between the bat and the ball, Afghanistan managed 35 runs in the powerplay after losing Rahmanullah Gurbaz in the second over.

Declared fit for the game after being hit by Shaheen Afridi during the warm-ups, Gurbaz produced an outrageous shot to pull Chris Woakes over fine-leg for a six, but a quick 146kph Mark Wood delivery cut short his stay in the middle as he edged it to wicketkeeper Jos Buttler.

Wood welcomed Ibrahim Zadran with a 154kph thunderbolt that went past the outside edge after holding its line from just back of a length.

However, the next ball was a full toss and it was duly smashed through the covers,



easing Zadran's nerves.

After hardly getting the strike, Hazratullah Zazai got into the act by playing Woakes over cover point for a boundary.

Wood kept bowling fast at the other end, but Zadran was equal to the task, flaying a mean short ball from the English pacer over fine leg for a maximum.

As Afghanistan entered the middle overs looking to improve the run rate, Liam Livingstone pulled off a blinder running in from the deep, to signal the departure of Zazai after the batter had looked to slash one over third man.

Ben Stokes, who opened the proceedings for England, was the bowler on that occasion.

With Afghanistan at 37 for two in seven overs, Sam Curran was introduced into the attack,

and Usman Ghani flicked him for four.

However, England succeeded in keeping things tight in the middle before Curran returned to dismiss Zadran, thanks to a fine catch by Moeen Ali at backward point.

Meanwhile, Stokes was seen grimacing after completing his third over, but it did not look serious.

Najibullah Zadran hit Adil Rashid for a six straight down the ground in a 13-run 13th over before Wood came back to check the flow of runs.

Stokes sent back Najibullah, this time it was the turn of Adil Rashid to come up with a brilliant catch as the fielder, stationed at mid-on, he went back and completed an excellent catch after covering a lot of ground.

## We have plans for everyone, not just Surya: Babar

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Suryakumar Yadav has a ter-rorising presence due to his extraordinary shot-hitting ability but Pakistan skipper Babar Azam doesn't want to give extra importance to a particular batter as they gear up for much-awaited clash against arch rivals India, here on Sunday

Surya, the fastest to batter to touch 1000-run mark in T20Is, plays shots all around and has tormented the bowlers across teams.

"We have plans for each player, not just Surya. We have a plan and hopefully we can execute them properly," Babar said on the eve of the match.

There was good news for the Pakistan team that Shan Masood has recovered from his head injury. He was hit on his head by a Mohammed Nawaz's shot during a practice session.

"Shan Masood has recovered. He has cleared all the tests. Pitch was covered for two days but we know at the back of the mind what our XI would be," the skipper said while informing



that Fakhar Zaman is still nursing an injury and will be unavailable for the game.

If rain leads to a shortened game, Babar and his boys are ready.

"Whatever be the duration of the match, we are ready. But for the fans, it would be great if we have a full match," Babar said. While Shaheen Shah Afridi

is cynosure of eyes, Babar termed Haris Rauf as the most improved bowler.

"The amount of improvement he has shown, the bowling unit has got confidence. His home ground in BBL is MCG. He didn't let us miss Shaheen in the manner he took responsibility," Babar said.

Off the field whenever we have met it has been cordial. There may lot of tension between the BCCI and PCB due to Asia Cup controversy but Babar said the players on both sides have good relations with each other.

"We have shared a good bond with Indian players and that's what professional sportsmen do. It also helps in on field relations as we all give 100 percent for our teams."

Babar was visibly annoyed when asked about a certain viewpoint that Pakistan is a two-man batting side in him and Mohammed Rizwan.

"Ab main kya bolun. You will know on the day. T20 is a short format and anything can happen," he kept it short.

## Surya tells me he will take his chances, just wants me to be there: Kohli

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Virat Kohli has no qualms playing second fiddle to Suryakumar Yadav. Because his younger India teammate tells him to do so, and more importantly, it "works beautifully" for the team as the man, acronymed SKY, goes ballistic.

During the recent white-ball series against Australia, Kohli played second fiddle with Suryakumar turning the aggressor.

"It's a great space to be while batting out there in the middle with SKY," Kohli said on Star Sports show 'Cricket Live'.

"He has a lot of fun in the middle because of his skills and ability. He just asks how the ball is coming from the wicket and then, within 2-3 balls, he gauges the wicket and then gets going."

"During our partnerships, he says that that he will take his chances and just wants me to be there with him. So, I play a different role when I'm out there with him, which I am enjoying because it works beautifully well for the team."



Kohli and Suryakumar added 104 off just 10.2 overs to chase down Australia's 187-run target in the final T20I in Hyderabad last month.

It has been nine years since India won an ICC event and all eyes are on the coveted trophy as Rohit Sharma and Co begin their T20 World Cup campaign with a clash against arch-rivals Pakistan at the MCG on Sunday. For Rohit, who had taken over the captaincy from Kohli following last year's T20 World Cup, it will be his first ICC event as the skipper.

Talking about his rapport with Rohit, Kohli said: "Our discussions are always on how do we win big tournaments and then, our planning and preparations are directed towards that. Ever since I have come back to the team, the atmosphere has been very good."

Kohli had skipped India's Tour of the West Indies and Zimbabwe to take a six-week break after struggling with form. He returned to the side during the Asia Cup and went on to score his first century in three years against Afghanistan.

## The Match: Confident India hoping to turn tables on Pakistan

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Its unblemished record of success against the arch-rivals at the marquee ICC events a thing of the past, a hurt Indian team will be desperate for revenge against a high-quality Pakistan side in a sell-out Super 12 clash of the T20 World Cup, here on Sunday.

While rain is threatening to play spoilsport, it's unlikely to be a complete washout according to people who understand weather conditions here.

Thousands of fans from both countries have criss-crossed the globe to watch their team in action and trust rival captains Rohit Sharma

and Babar Azam to tell you this is another 'match' for them but all the 22 players and the reserves know that this is "The Match".

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, under whom, India never lost to Pakistan at ICC events, would repeat himself time and again that there is no place for the word 'revenge' in a cricket field.

But a lot has changed in the past one year since Shaheen Shah Afridi in an intimidating opening spell gave Pakistan team its first victory in a World Cup across formats.

It wasn't just a match won or a voodoo broken but that 3/31 by Shaheen was also suc-



cessful in bruising the egos of some of contemporary cricket world's biggest batting stalwarts.

While Rohit, Virat Kohli or KL Rahul aren't the ones to forget last year's humiliation in Dubai easily, the fact remains that India as a team has looked slightly under-cooked in recent times.

And at least on Sunday, the 'Men In Blue' wouldn't start as favourites in the 'mother of all clashes'.

BCCI's statement that India will not travel to Pakistan to play the Asia Cup and the subsequent PCB threat of pulling out of 50 over World Cup in India has only made the

atmosphere more politically charged and vicious.

India wouldn't mind going into a match as underdogs and it will be Pakistan, who will have to live up to the high expectations.

Combination is still a worry for India as has been a trend with the Indian team for some time now -- not having a settled combination. In 2019, they didn't have a number four even after two years in the run-up to the meet. Now, one year after the last T20 World Cup, India might have to drop a specialist left-hander (Rishabh Pant) from the top five in order to accommodate an extra bowler.



## Strategy to deal with Shaheen is to play within 'V': Tendulkar

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Shaheen Shah Afridi is one of the world's premier white ball bowlers and the Indian batters need to try and play him "straight" even if they are attacking the talented Pakistani left-arm pacer, said legendary Sachin Tendulkar.

At his peak, Tendulkar played a lot of limited overs cricket against Wasim Akram, perhaps the greatest left-arm fast bowler of all time and the maestro did share his observations with PTI during a chat.

Asked what he would have done had he faced a bowler of Shaheen's calibre during his playing days, Tendulkar laughed and said: "I have not put my mind as such since I know I won't be facing him."

But then on a serious note, he shared his point of view.

"Shaheen is an attacking bowler and he likes to go for wickets. He pitches the ball up and backs himself to swing the ball. He has the capability to beat the batters in the air and off the pitch with his pace upfront. So with him strategy should be to play straight and within the 'V'," said Tendulkar. Shaheen's greatest asset is to bring the ball back into right

handers at express pace and even getting a few to hold its line apparently with no change of pace.

He also has a good short ball which can hurry batters and make them candidates for leg before.

Tendulkar, a technician par excellence, also warned that even if a batter makes trigger movement (the initial reflex movement), it shouldn't be akin to making a commitment to play the shot.

"Trigger movement is a preparation to play the ball and not commitment, if you are not committing to play the ball, it could be either on front-foot or backfoot, but it is a trigger movement and not commitment," he said.

"Because once you are committed on backfoot, you can't come on the front-foot and vice versa. Trigger movement is about preparation."

"Every ball, there is some kind of movement, as long as that is not commitment it is fine," Tendulkar concluded. India and Pakistan will face-off against each other in their T20 World Cup opening match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, here on Sunday.



You have to be the best of whatever you are, but successful, cool actresses come in all shapes and sizes  
—Jessica Alba



# A CROWN OF THORNS

Congressmen across the country may celebrate Kharge’s victory, but Kharge himself would not have that luxury as he has to race against time to reverse the electoral fortunes of the 137-year-old party, writes DEEPAK KR JHA

Veteran Kharge scored a one-sided victory over Shashi Tharoor to emerge as the first non-Gandhi Congress president in 24 years. A staunch Gandhi family loyalist from Karnataka, the 80-year-old leader trounced Tharoor by bagging nearly 84 per cent of votes in the party presidential election. Congressmen across the country may celebrate Kharge’s victory, but Kharge himself would not have that luxury as he has to race against time to reverse the electoral fortunes of the 137-year-old party. Kharge will now have to intensify the party’s moribund campaign in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. In both States, the Congress campaign has not picked up in the absence of senior leaders, including Rahul Gandhi.

Against the backdrop of a loyalty pledge by senior leaders to the “high command,” it remains to be seen if the “puppet” tag that many critics have labelled on Kharge sticks or not. It will depend on whether he takes decisions independently or “rushes to 10 Janpath for advice on every issue. .

But the most immediate concern for Kharge will be to resolve the treacherous challenge in Rajasthan where the bitter feud between Chief minister Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot could mar the Congress’ prospect of returning to power in the 2023 assembly election.

Kahrg’s elevation to the party’s top post comes when the Congress is in power in just two states on its own – Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Kharge’s election also comes at a time when, despaired about its future, hundreds of small and big leaders have left the party. Around 177 MPs/MLAs quit the party during elections, while 222 other leaders left the Congress for other parties in the last eight years

Kharge has to coordinate with Team Rahul Gandhi, which occupies key posts and positions in the All India Congress Committee (AICC), the Congress Working Committee (CWC), and in most states and influential leaders of the party.

The next challenge is constituting the party’s apex body, the CWC. It will be interesting to see how Kharge accommodates the so-called G-23 members supported him.

Kharge had to firm up a larger alliance for

**REBUILDING CONFIDENCE:** Bring back confidence in the cadres and bring various factions of the party together. and discuss.

**ELECTIONS STRATEGY:** To prepare the party for the assembly elections in important States Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, then Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh followed by the mega 2024 Lok Sabha battle..

**ORGANISATIONAL REFORMS:** Organisational overhaul and better teamwork. Regional working presidents and vice presidents can help Kharge in taking important decisions. Empowered Action Group-2024 was formed in Udaipur Chintan Shivir to formalize the strategy for polls.

**GENERATIONAL DIVIDE:** Kharge has to play a big role in grooming the leaders of the young generation and giving them their rightful place and space in the party and at the same time ensuring seniors are not sidelined.

**RETAINING THE UPA:** Several important and bigger allies like Trinamool Congress have remarked Congress has lost its way. Kharge has to build bridges with them and strengthen the UPA.

the 2024 Lok Sabha with Mamata Banerjee, DMK’s MK Stalin, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish and others like BJD, TRS, and YSR Congress. Kharge’s role will be significant in stitching any alliance once again with former PM H D Deve Gowda-led JDS with whom the Congress was in an alliance government in the current assembly.

Kharge’s public life began as a union leader in his home district of Gulbarga, now Kalaburagi, and he joined the Congress party in 1969 and became the President of the Gulbarga City Congress Committee.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, he bucked the Narendra Modi wave that swept Karnataka, particularly the Hyderabad-Karnataka region, and won from Gulbarga with a margin of over 74,000 votes.

A nine-time MLA, Gurmitkal assembly constituency was his home turf before he set his sights in 2009 on national politics. He has been a two-time MP from Gulbarga parliamentary segment. However, in the 2019

BESIDES THE URGENT NEED TO PLACE THE PARTY ON TRACK AND TAKE ON THE BJP IN THE ASSEMBLY POLLS IN HIMACHAL AND GUJARAT, THE MAJOR TASKS CUT OUT FOR KHARGE IS TO KEEP THE PARTY’S FLOCK TOGETHER, SETTLE INTERNAL SQUABBLES LIKE THE ONE RAGING ON IN RAJASTHAN, PREVENT ANOTHER GROUPING LIKE G-23,, AND, ABOVE ALL, TAKE INDEPENDENT DECISIONS WITHOUT ANNOYING THE GANDHIS

- After Independence when Pattabhi Sitaramayya assumed office as AICC chief in 1948, the party has been led by 17 people so far, of which five have been presidents from the Gandhi family. In 1947, Acharya Kriplani was the president after which Sitaramayya assumed office as party chief post-independence in 1948-49.
- In 1950, Puroshattam Das Tandon became chief following which Nehru served as the party chief between 1951 and 1955. Nehru left the post of Congress president in 1955 and UN Dhebar took over the reins of the party. Indira Gandhi was the Congress president in 1959, followed by N S Reddy who remained at the helm till 1963. K Kamraj was president of the Congress in 1964-67, while S Nijalingappa was the Congress president in 1968-69.
- Jagjivan Ram became the Congress president in 1970-71 and then Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma was the Congress president from 1972-74. Devkant Barua was the Congress president from 1975-77.
- From 1977-78, K Brahmananda Reddy was the president. Indira Gandhi again became the Congress president and held the reins of the party from 1978-1984.
- From 1985 to 1991 after the assassination of Indira Gandhi, her son Rajiv Gandhi was the Congress president. Between 1992 and 1996, P V Narasimha Rao was the Congress president.
- Kesri assumed the presidency after that and was replaced by Sonia Gandhi in 1998. She remained at the helm till 2017 when Rahul Gandhi became president. Sonia Gandhi returned as interim chief in 2019 after Rahul Gandhi resigned following the Lok Sabha polls debacle.

Lok Sabha polls, the veteran leader was defeated by BJP’s Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes. He has served as Union Cabinet Minister for Labour and Employment, Railways, Social Justice and Empowerment in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government.

“No one is big or small, all have to work together as ‘karyakartas’ to strengthen Congress... We have to fight together against fascist forces who are attacking democracy and Constitution. All Congress workers feel that the country cannot be sacrificed for a dictator. We have to together these destructive forces”, Kharge said.

This was the sixth time that the Congress had an internal election for its president in its 137-year-history. Earlier it had in 1939, 1950, 1977, 1997, and 2000. Congress has claimed that its internal democracy has no parallel in any other party and it is the only one to have a central election authority for organizational polls.

It was way back in 1939 when an electoral contest decided who would be Congress president and in fact, Mahatma Gandhi’s candidate P Sitaramayya had lost to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Then in 1950 came the Congress’ first election post-Independence for the post of party president when Purshottam Das Tandon and Acharya Kripalani faced off for the top post. Tandon, seen as a Sardar

Vallabhbhai Patel loyalist, had won the contest trumping the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru’s choice.

In 1977, following the resignation of Dev Kant Barooah as party president in the wake of the defeat in the Lok Sabha polls, K Brahmananda Reddy defeated Siddhartha Shankar Ray and Karan Singh in the party’s polls for AICC chief.

The next election that needed a contest came 20 years later in 1997 when Sitaram Kesri squared off in a triangular contest with Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot. Except for Maharashtra and parts of Uttar Pradesh, all state Congress units had backed Kesri. He had posted a landslide victory getting 6,224 delegates’ votes against Pawar’s 882 and Pilot’s 354.

The third contest came in 2000 and this was the only time a Gandhi family member was challenged in the elections with Jitendra Prasada taking on Sonia Gandhi. Prasada suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Sonia Gandhi who garnered over 7,400 votes, while Prasada reportedly polled a paltry 94.

The last poll that placed Kharge in the driver’s seat was a historic one as Kharge replaced Sonia Gandhi, the longest-serving party president. In the post-Independence era, a person from the Gandhi family has been at the helm of the party for about 40 years in total.

(The Writer is a Special Correspondent, The Pioneer)



# AUROBINDO: A BRIDGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

Sri Aurobindo chose not to come up with another religion since he felt that religions had played their part in human evolution and it was time to move beyond its shell, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY

In a country where people still take pride in quoting from the texts of Plato and Friedreich Nietzsche, author Pariksith Singh has done a wonderful job in highlighting the contribution made by “our own” Maharshi Aurobindo in the sphere of an all-encompassing philosophical discourse in his well-researched book Sri Aurobindo and Philosophy.

The book delves deep into the works of Sri Aurobindo to present a compelling and fascinating collage of his multifaceted and multidimensional genius, who is not only one of the greatest political leaders of modern times but a supreme visionary, thinker par excellence, great scholar, and writer, spiritual guide and statesman, and a leader of all humanity.

The book has been launched to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the great sage of India who influenced every aspect of our thinking, starting from rediscovering the sacred messages of the Vedas to our deeper yearning for Independence from the British.

The author rightly calls Sri Aurobindo one of the greatest seers and thinkers of all time.” He is one of the tallest figures in a long line of illustrious metaphysicians and darshniks that humanity has produced. He ranks very high among the pre-Socratics, including Parmenides and Heraclitus, Plato, Kant, Hegel, and Heidegger, along with Wittgenstein and Derrida. And equally so among from the east such as the Vedic and Upanishadic rishis, Ved Vyasa, Sri Krishna, the Buddha, Adi Sankara, Ramanujacharya, down to the great Swami Vivekananda.”

The book primarily deals with two aspects: Sri Aurobindo and Indian philosophy; 2) Sri Aurobindo and Western Philosophy. The writer paints Sri Aurobindo as a bridge between Indian darshan and western philosophy. “He dramatically transformed Indian philosophies such as Vedanta and Advaita, Sankhya and Yoga, made them truly synthetic, practical and integral.”

The author has gone into detail talking about Sri Aurobindo’s seminal contribution to Indian philosophical thought and metaphysics. Singh points out that Sri Aurobindo brought Indian philosophy within the reach of the masses by simplifying it and turning it into pleasurable pursuit.

The author has pointed out that before Sri Aurobindo made his mark on the global philosophical arena, Indian darshan wilted under the overpowering cultural and social influence of the Colonial masters, who looked down upon Indian culture, tradition, arts, and education system.

“Swami Vivekananda made a breakthrough for India on an inter-



national platform and presented India for the first time with this true swaroop to the west. Sri Aurobindo picked up from where Swamiji had left off with his tour de force and synergized Indian metaphysics with Western thought, including its ancient Greek cognitions and the more modern ones by Henri Bergson.”

At a time when India is seeing a bitter religious divide, the author has discussed Sri Aurobindo’s all-encompassing philosophy of religion that could serve as a unifying theme for our time.

The author says that Sri Aurbindo took the essence of all religions, not just intellectually but in practice and in his own person. Like Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa before him, who showed in his life that there is inherent spirituality in each religion and denomination, such as Christianity, Islam, the worship of Rama or Shiva or Mahakali, Sri Aurobindo took the essence of each religion and looked to creating a life beyond religion as we know it.

The author has beautifully summed up Ari Aurobindo’s approach towards religion in the following paragraph: “He chose not to create another religion since he felt that religion had played its part in

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA MADE A BREAKTHROUGH FOR INDIA ON AN INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM AND PRESENTED INDIA FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH THIS TRUE SWAROOP TO THE WEST. SRI AUROBINDO PICKED UP FROM WHERE SWAMIJI HAD LEFT OFF WITH HIS TOUR DE FORCE AND SYNERGIZED INDIAN METAPHYSICS WITH WESTERN THOUGHT, INCLUDING ITS ANCIENT GREEK COGNITIONS AND THE MORE MODERN ONES BY HENRI BERGSON

human evolution and it was time to move beyond its shell”.

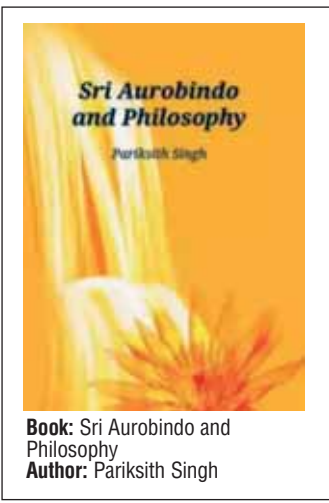
The author presents perspectives on Sri Aurobindo’s vast oeuvre as a darshanik and shares his exalted dream and aspiration for India and humanity, his horizonless ranges that are their own skylines, his lights, and his snow-capped peaks.

It gives a glimpse into Sri Aurobindo’s pragmatic integral philosophy that is unique in being Vedantic in essence yet modern in expression and outlook.

Author Pariksith Singh is a poet, writer, entrepreneur, and healer. His life, work and literature are uniquely personalized expressions of his spiritual journey and unfolding realization. One can sense a constant striving towards deeper and wider truth in all that he is and does.

Pariksith’s creativity spans from literature, philosophy, and science to politics, business and entrepreneurship. He writes widely and deeply on all matters that he feels are relevant to contemporary human civilization. His concern, though all this, remains only one—the articulation of the deeper and the wider.

Pariksith first published The Shoreless River, followed by Riddles for Pesky Teenagers and his first Hindi poem, Chhuti Ke Din. Then came Kshitijon Ke Paar, and



Book: Sri Aurobindo and Philosophy  
Author: Pariksith Singh

selections from Radha’s Geet, a series of mystical devotional poems in English, followed by There was a Girl I Loved Once, a collection of his English mystical-symbolica poetry, and Swayam Ka Ghospaithiya, a collection of his symbolical Hindi poetry, in 2018. The companion volume to this book, Sri Aurobindo and the Literary Renaissance of India, was published in 2021. Pariksith lives in Florida with his wife and four children and practices medicine.

## TUNES OF LOSS

Poetry that urges the reality and need for remembrance in the cycle of life and thereafter

BY ANITA NAHAL

I have no words that I can truly express the inner recesses of my feelings after reading the thoughtfully curated, heart-touching memorial poetry book by Swati Pal, Living on. I have felt what some of the poets in this book might have, not all, as each person’s bereavement is different. I have felt parental loss experienced when my parents passed when I was thousands of miles away in a different land. The emptiness that sits later inside the body is unexplainable. It just sits there. Refuses to budge. I try pulling it off, every now and then, but it finds a way to keep its hold tight like a cruel, scab that refuses to fall off.

I understood that it would not be easy to read the poems in Living on. There is no passport, or flight, or train, or roads leading to the unfamiliar realm where our dear ones now reside. Yet, I knew it was essential I read the book cover to cover. I would request everyone to do so. Poetry by nine poets in this volume shakes our core, it unsettles our comfort, it faces us headlong, like a fatal accident in the middle of the night on a badly lit road. Yet, its critical we read these poems, so that we can quietly, setting aside any qualms, place little nuggets inside us of deep and keen awareness about other people’s grief. For that is life. If we want to be in touch with reality, with loneliness, even if it’s not ours. It would make us more caring individuals, I hope.

Poems in Living on are by individuals, each of whom has encountered personal woe at the passing of a child, parent, spouse, or sibling. Each poem has a face to it which makes the certainty of the passing painfully tangible. This book nudges us to be softer and to be empathetic creating everlasting recollections of people who we don’t personally know but who will meander into our memories because of these poems. In turn the poetry instinctively urges us to fold our hands in prayer for those left behind. Isn’t that what we want for ourselves? Just a few words of concern, a tight hug, an autumn fallen leaf of remembrance.

I find the poets in Living on very courageous. How tough it must have been to sit down and construct the words, the lines, and stanzas. I salute each one of them for



Book: Living On  
Author: Curated by Swati Pal  
Publishers: Hawakal  
Pages: 134  
ISBN: 978-93-91431-57-0  
INR 350 ~ USD 15.99

their willingness to create heart-touching verses to share about their amazing, cherished, beloved ones. I cried during and after reading each poem.

I would like to say a few words about the cover design that unassumingly yet clearly leaves markings of footprints of gone precious ones. I can almost see their feet walking away in the faint lines on the jacket as we follow them in the soulful poetic creations of the magnificent lives they led. I also see tears shed by family and friends drifting in harsh and unspoken winds in this dimension, tween the etchings on the jacket.

I would like to thank Dr. Swati Pal who curated this volume. It must have been an emotionally challenging task to request others to write these poems, to lead them, to inspire them, amid her own pain and sorrow. As she honestly says in the introduction, “I could not sit by and see the misery...let the anguish annihilate the souls of those whose affliction I understood keenly. They held my hand and I theirs.” And we readers hold your hands, Swati, and those of the other poets, in our heart, always. This pressing, beseeching book reminds us that we are not to forget those no longer with us. We will remember, we will indeed remember, Ananya, Col Surya Panda, Akul, Divya, Tejaswee, Manorma Singh, Ananth, Rishikesh and Reba Dasgupta, Brig Mahadeb Pal, and Divakar (Mohan) Sinha. We will not overlook them and your emotive poetry about them. Both will remain with us as we celebrate their beautiful lives forever.

India ranks amongst the top five countries in the number of PhDs as well as scientific publications worldwide. But did you ever wonder what goes on inside a typical research lab? Ever thought about what the seemingly intellectual Professors and Ph.D. scholars do inside a research lab? Join author Shubha Vij as she takes you on an interesting journey inside scientific labs. The book, ‘Short of Science’ provides a rare and realistic glimpse into a researcher’s life. It brings out the hidden realities and frailties of those inside the sanctum sanctorum of the labs.

This is Shubha’s debut fiction novel, but she is well known in the scientific world with more than thirty publications to her credit including many in high-ranked international journals such as Nature, Nature Genetics and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA. Using her vast experience and insider’s knowledge in various research laboratories over the years and across the globe, Shubha spins out a mix of science and non-science written in a highly palatable style. As the reader zips through the tastefully written chapters, it becomes evident that a research laboratory is not only a high altar of scientific ideals but also a breeding ground for a very different type of politics and a resultant hierarchical, unregulated battleground.

Sanyukta, the lead protagonist is a bright Ph.D. student harboring the usual stereotypes of research labs. Be it the commute to the cam-

pus or roaming around the book-stores and bhelpuri street in Delhi’s famous South Extension market or the daily challenges faced by the researchers, the author delivers a visual and emotional treat through her writing and keeps the reader involved. Other believable characters presented with a dash of satire are the conspiring instead of collaborating colleagues as well as the Ph.D. supervisor- an ambiguous and opportunistic professor who jumps to the front seat when it comes to taking the limelight.

The book also shines the spotlight on authorships, there are some widely known guidelines on giving credit in publications, however, these are oft ignored and unfair practices abound in the research world. This topic is deliberated on in one of the chapters where the Professor muses, ‘All the words that Tarun spoke were like letters of the



# A rare peep into labs

AS research laboratory is not only a high altar of scientific ideals but also a breeding ground for a very different type of politics and a resultant hierarchical, unregulated battleground, writes ARCHANA JYOTI



Author: Shubha Vij  
Publisher: Vishwakarma Publishers

half-finished crossword forming in Lokesh’s mind. A wild thought was seizing him. What if Tarun was made an equal co-first author in this high-profile publication? With no way for Tarun to have his own work published in a good impact journal, this could well be Tarun’s chance to become an assistant professor in the institute. Lokesh would get another ally, a more trusted aide than Girish, perhaps.’

With this narrative, the author dwells into the practice of gift authorships by catapulting a poor-performing Ph.D. student to a key authorship rank for the sake of mutual gains. Another relevant aspect the book brings out is the gender bias issue and challenges faced by women in the research field. In one of the chapters, a married woman scientist shares with Sanyukta how her decision to have kids turned out to be a roadblock in her career, ‘Sailing on two boats, should I have been surprised that I was on the verge of losing my balance?’

Sprinkled with humor, the book does succeed in giving realistic knowledge of what goes on inside a science lab. It is a book not to be missed from those in the research field. Also, for that outside, if you thought that the scientific community is about geeks and nerds, you are in for a surprise. It should appeal to all and is a must-read for those wanting to explore the world of scientists!

The book is available both on Amazon and in stores.







