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RAIPUR, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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## 10 killed, many trapped in Uttarkashi avalanche

4 bodies found;  
8 of 41-member  
mountaineering  
team rescued

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Ten mountaineers were killed as a 41-member team from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) in Uttarkashi was hit by an avalanche at Mount Draupadi Ka Danda-II peak on their Dokrani Bamak glacier in Uttarkashi district on Tuesday.

A team of 34 trainee mountaineers and seven instructors from the NIM was caught in an avalanche around 8.45am while returning, NIM Principal Colonel Amit Bisht said, adding that ten bodies were spotted and four bodies have been recovered. The bodies have been kept at NIM-based camp in Dokrani.

Undergoing an advanced training course at NIM, the team of mountaineering trainees along with their instructors had gone to the peak for high altitude navigation, Col Bisht said.

The toll from the avalanche is expected to rise. According to information provided by the State Emergency Operations Centre, the 41-



SDRF teams leave from Sahastradhara helipad to rescue the trainees trapped in an avalanche in Draupadi's Danda-2 mountain peak, in Dehradun district

PTI

member team was trekking from the high altitude camp-I to Draupadi Ka Danda-02 mountain.

About 8.45 am when the team was descending, an avalanche struck it at an altitude of 17,000 feet. Many of the team members were trapped in crevasses due to the avalanche. The trapped members of the team were being rescued by their team members.

Uttarkashi Disaster Management Officer Devendra Patwal said eight of those

trapped were rescued by their team members.

A private helicopter was used to drop a five-member State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team and three NIM trainers at Dokrani Bamak glacier. Two helicopters from the IAF station in Sarsawa, Uttar Pradesh, were used to reconnoiter the site. Aerial citing has confirmed that those affected by the avalanche were stranded at about 17,000 feet.

An Army ALH helicopter from Air Force Station in

Bareilly is also waiting at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) helipad in Matli to join the search and rescue operation on Wednesday morning.

According to officials, the affected areas have been witnessing continued snowfall and very low visibility which has hampered rescue efforts which have been halted for the night.

Fresh snow, massive crevasses and accessibility are also posing a major challenge to the rescue operations.

## Gujjar, Bakerwal, Pahari in J&K to get job quota

Amit Shah's gift  
defuses tension  
over ST status

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday managed to defuse growing tensions among members of the Gujjar, Bakerwal and Pahari communities in Jammu & Kashmir by promising job reservation to all of them. If implemented, this quota will be the first instance of a linguistic group earning reservation in India.

The Central Government will have to amend the Reservations Act in Parliament for it.

Addressing a mammoth rally in the frontier district of Rajouri, Shah said that the Centre would implement reservations for the Gujjar, Bakerwal and Pahari communities, as recommended by the GD Sharma committee set up to examine quota benefits.

Striking an emotional chord with the cheerful audience in the huge pandal, raised in the new bus stand area of Rajouri, Shah said, "If the reservation was granted to the Pahari community, it will not affect the reservation for Gujjar and Bakerwal communities under the Scheduled Tribes category. The GD Sharma commission set up by the Government has sent the report and recommended



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a public rally for the inauguration and foundation laying of various projects related to health and education, in Rajouri district on Tuesday

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reservation for Gujjar, Bakarwal and Pahari communities. It will be given soon."

He claimed such reservation became possible only after the special status of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 was struck down. "Now, minorities, Dalits, tribals, Paharis here will get their rights."

Hopes were running high among the members of the Pahari community who were expecting some statement from the Union Home Minister over the issue of granting them the Scheduled Tribe status, thus bringing them at par with the Gujjar, Bakerwal and others.

Explaining the circumstances behind the long delay in extending these benefits to them, Shah said there were political parties that never wanted the Paharis to get their rights.

"There are political leaders who want to suppress the rights of the Paharis. Now is the time that Paharis get their rights," he said.

The Gujjars, who already have reservation under the ST category, had apprehensions that granting of the ST status to the Paharis would dilute their quota.

"Believe me, there will be no effect on the reservation of Gujjars even by one per cent," Shah said.

Attacking those who were against the abrogation of Article 370, Shah said, "In today's rally, you can hear slogans praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is the answer to those who used to say that if Article 370 is removed, there would be fire in Jammu and Kashmir, rivers of blood would flow."

## Parties must tell voters about financial viability of promises, says EC

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As the freebies or "revadi" debate rages ahead of the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls, the Election Commission (EC) wants political parties to inform voters about the financial feasibility of election promises in manifestos and also whether they are sustainable within the financial space of the State or the Union Government.

In a letter to all recognised

national and State political parties, the EC also has proposed standardised pro forma to be added to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), by way of amendment to bring clarity to the process of declaration. The proposed pro forma seeks details of revenue generation ways (through additional tax, if any), rationalising expenditure (cutting some schemes, if so required), impact on committed liabilities and/or raising of further debt and its impact on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) limits. By proposing the reform, the EC aims to inform voters about the financial feasibility of election promises in manifestos and also whether they are sustainable within the financial space of the State or the Union government. "Disclosure pro forma mandates declaration of quantification of physical coverage, financial implications of the promises and availability of the financial resources," the EC said.



wishes its readers a very Happy DURG PUJA

As the offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on October 5, the next issue will be available on October 7

## LG orders probe into power DBT goof-up, AAP cries 'Guj fear'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to conduct an enquiry into non-implementation of power subsidy payment through direct benefit transfer (DBT) as was ordered by the DERC in 2018.

Delhi Chief Secretary has been asked to submit a report within a week. Saxena's action followed a complaint filed at the L-G Secretariat which raised issues of "impropriety and discrepancies" in the power subsidy scheme of the Kejriwal Government, the sources said.

Slamming the L-G's move, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal linked it to the Gujarat polls and claimed it was aimed at stalling the free electricity initiative. Kejriwal in a tweet in Hindi said, "Gujarat is liking AAP's guarantee of giving free electricity. That's why the BJP wants to stop it in Delhi."

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Siosida on

Tuesday wrote to L-G, accusing him of bypassing the elected Government and ordering enquiries into its works in a "politically motivated and unconstitutional" manner. This is the latest matter in which the L-G has intervened amid the AAP-Centre standoff.

The LG ordered the enquiry after the Raj Niwas received a complaint flagging several issues of impropriety and discrepancies in the power subsidy matter.

According to sources at the L-G office, the complainants, including eminent lawyers and jurists, have alleged that a massive scam took place after the Delhi Government appointed Jasmine Shah, and Naveen Gupta, as the directors of the private discoms.

Jasmine is spokesperson of the AAP and Vice Chairman, Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC) whereas Naveen Gupta is son of AAP MP ND Gupta.

## No terror angle in J&K DG Prisons' murder, says DGP

Suspect domestic help arrested

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The initial investigation into the murder of Jammu & Kashmir Director General (Prisons) Hemant Kumar Lohia did not lead towards the terror angle, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh told reporters in Jammu.

A domestic help, Yasir Lohar (23), has emerged as the main suspect. He was arrested from a field in the Kanhachak area. Yasir is a resident of Halla-Dhandrath village in Ramban district.

Lohia, one of the top cops of the Jammu & Kashmir Police, holding the charge of Director General Prisons Department, was found murdered under mysterious circumstances with his throat slit open inside one of the



Yasir, domestic help of Jammu & Kashmir's Director General (Prisons) Hemant K Lohia, who was found murdered at his residence, in the Udaiwala area on the outskirts of Jammu, late on Monday

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rooms of the house of a close friend in Udaiwala area of Jammu late Monday night. Marks of even burn injuries were present on his body, police said.

The incident came to light barely hours after the Union Home Minister Amit Shah landed in Jammu amid tight security arrangements.

## Modi speaks to Zelenskyy, calls for talks, diplomacy to end war with Russia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and reiterated his call for an earliest cessation of hostilities with Russia and the need to follow the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Incidentally, in a message to Russian President Vladimir Putin in mid-September, Modi had called for an end to violence. The two leaders had met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan. It was the first meeting between Modi and Putin since Russian military action against Ukraine in late February.

Earlier, Modi had held telephonic conversations with Putin and Zelenskyy in the initial stage of the conflict and urged them to hold one to one talks to sort issues.

Giving details of the latest

talks with the Ukrainian President, the Ministry of External Affairs said Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his call for an earliest cessation of hostilities with Russia. The PM also conveyed India's readiness to contribute to any peace process between the two countries.

Modi also laid stress on the UN Charter, International Law, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

The Prime Minister emphasised the importance India attaches to the safety and security of nuclear installations, including in Ukraine.

He underlined the endangment of nuclear facilities that could have far-reaching and catastrophic impact on public health and the environment.

The two leaders also touched upon important areas of bilateral cooperation, following up on their last meeting in Glasgow in November 2021.

## Collegium divided on CJI's letter method to elevate judges to SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Differences have cropped up in the Supreme Court Collegium over the procedure adopted by the Chief Justice of India, UU Lalit, for appointment of four judges to the apex court.

Two judges of the SC Collegium have objected to a letter circulated by the CJI seeking their consent to appoint four judges to the apex court.

It is learned that the two judges in the Collegium have not differed on the choice of the shortlisted judges, but to the unprecedented way of circulation of letters instead of physical meeting of the

Collegiums consisting Chief Justice and four senior most judges.

As per the usual convention, the Collegium holds physical meetings to discuss names for elevation, at which consensus of the five judges is sought.

As judges in the Collegium were out of Delhi due to Dussehra holidays, CJI Lalit through a letter sent to them suggested four new names — High Court Chief Justices Ravi Shankar Jha (Punjab & Haryana HC), Sanjay Karol (Patna HC), PV Sanjay Kumar (Manipur HC) and senior Advocate KV Viswanathan — for the appointment in the apex court.



Devi Durga idol at a community puja pandal at Chittaranjan Park in Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

## Russian remanded in 2 days CBI custody for JEE-Mains hacking

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday sent a Russian national, arrested for alleged manipulation of JEE (Mains) examination last year, to two days' CBI custody. Duty Magistrate Vaibhav Mehta sent the accused, Mikhail Shargin, to CBI custody till October 6 after he was produced before the court and the agency requested for his remand to unravel the conspiracy.

"This court is of the view that for the purpose of carrying out investigation PC (police custody) remand of the accused is necessary and so this court partly allows the application moved by the IO and grants police custody remand of the



accused for two days only," the judge said.

In its application seeking a five-day remand of the accused, the CBI told the court he was to be quizzed about the data present in his phone, laptop and external hard disk.

The central agency had issued a 'Look Out Circular' against Shargin, suspected to be main hacker, for alleged manipulation of the prestigious examination, the CBI said.

The CBI said it was alerted by the Bureau of Immigration when Shargin

arrived at the airport from Almaty, Kazakhstan, adding he was immediately detained by the agency on his arrival here on Monday.

"During investigation, it came to light that some foreign nationals were involved in compromising many online examinations, including JEE (Mains), colluding with other accused in the instant case," the CBI said.

The investigation indicated Shargin tampered with the iLeon software, the platform on which the JEE (Main)-2021 examination was conducted, and also helped other accused in hacking the computer systems of suspect candidates during the examination, it said.



# Ancient splendour of Ujjain will incarnate in a new form ‘Shri Mahakal Lok’

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The ancient splendour of the place where Lord Shri Krishna received education, the ancient centre for computation of time, astrology, and culture, the glorious city of the great poet Kalidas and Emperor Vikramaditya, is now going to be incarnated in a new form "Shri Mahakal Lok". Keeping in mind the splendour, traditions, religious, cultural, historical significance of the mythological city of Ujjain, the state government made an effective development plan for the overall development of Shri Mahakal region, which is taking shape.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi is coming to Ujjain to dedicate the first phase of the project in a dignified ceremony on October 11.

Under the leadership of

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, world class infrastructure was developed in Ujjain in Simhastha-2016. Now "Mahakal Lok" is being built on the lines of "Banaras Corridor". In the first phase of the scheme, small and big Rudra Sagar, Harsiddhi Temple, Char Dham Temple, Vikram Tila etc have been developed in the courtyard of Lord Shri Mahakaleshwar. In the second phase, the Maharajwada complex will be developed, in which the historic Maharajwada building will be re-used as a heritage, the old remains will be included in the form of Kumbh museum and this complex will be integrated with the Mahakal temple complex.

The first phase of Shri Mahakal Lok, which is technically called "Mrida Project-1", has been completed. After the dedication of the works of the

first phase on October 11, it will be opened for the common devotees. As soon as the works of the first phase are opened, the devotees will reach the Triveni Museum from the fourth arm of the Hari Phatak Bridge, they will have a supernatural vision of Baba Shri Mahakal.

The estimated cost of the "Shri Mahakal Lok" area development project is Rs. 800 crore, in which first phase work of Rs. 350 crore including Mahakal Plaza, Mahakal Corridor, Mid-way Zone, Mahakal Theme Park, Ghat and Deck Area, Nutan School Complex and Ganesh School Complex has been completed. In the first component of the Mahakal corridor, a 200 meter long walkway has been made suitable for walking on foot.

A 25 feet high and 500 meters long mural wall has been constructed. In addition,

108 Shiva pillars have been built with different postures of Shiva, which are spreading a distinct charm. Lotus pond, open air theater and lake front area and routes for e-rickshaws and emergency vehicles have also been made. The big Rudra Sagar lake has been filled with clean water. Also it has been ensured that the water remains clean.

In Mahakal Theme Park, mural wall depicting stories of Lord Shri Mahakaleshwar, deck area for Sapt Sagar and shopping and meeting area facilities have been developed below it. Similarly, multilevel parking for cars, buses and two-wheelers has been made near Triveni Museum.

Dharamshala and Anna Kshetra (food area) are also being built in this area.

Paedestrian connectivity has been developed through road crossings. Surveillance and

Control Centre has also been set up in the mid-way zone along with worship material shops, food courts, lake view restaurant, lake front development, public facilities and towers.

Under Sugam Mandir Access Road, Triveni Museum to Harsiddhi Marg, Bhagat Singh Marg, Hari Phatak Bridge to Mahakal Square, Begumbag Road, road parallel to Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Mahakal Square to Mahakal Mandir, Mahakal police station to Bada Ganesh Naya Marg, Bada Ganesh Mandir Road, new road parallel to Narsingh Ghat up to Nutan School, Harsiddhi Mandir to Bhagat Singh Marg have been widened and new roads have been made.

Maharajwada complex will be developed in the second phase of Shri Mahakal Lok Kshetra Vikas Yojana, "Mrida Project-2".



A combined picture of two cows which were injured after being attacked by a Tiger at MANIT premises in Bhopal on Tuesday. Forest department employees are searching for the tiger in MANIT campus. Pioneer photo

# IMC officials raid MPCA office demanding taxes

PNS ■ INDORE

Hours ahead of the India- South Africa T20I match, a controversy erupted on Tuesday, as the MP Cricket Association claimed that a team of IMC officials led by Additional Commissioner Lata Agarwal raided its office demanding long pending municipal taxes. The MPCA alleged that the action was precipitated by the refusal of the MPCA to give out 'more' free passes for officials.

However, the IMC has denied the allegations.

On Monday afternoon, a team of IMC officials reached the MPCA officials claiming the body had not paid property tax for the cricket stadium. MPCA office bearers including MPCA President Abhilash Khandekar protested that the last date for filing

**“How many passes can we keep doling out? This freebie culture needs to be ended,” said the MPCA President**

property tax was March 31 and the body will pay it by then. However, the MPCA decided to pay Rs 32 lakh under duress to ensure that the matter is settled before a high profile match.

The IMC team also demanded entertainment tax of previous matches and was informed that the tax liability of those matches is not on the MPCA but on the organizers of the matches. The entertainment tax for the October 4 match can only be

paid after the match since the final ticket sale would be known only then.

"I'm agast at the timing of the raid. I am told all this was done to get passes for a junior IAS officer posted in the Indore Municipal Corporation. We decided to settle their tax demand ahead of the due date because we did not want anything to come in the way of organizing the match. The reputation of the state and country is at stake whenever there is an international match," said MPCA President Abhilash Khandekar.

The IMC had sent a letter raising the demand to the MPCA on September 29. The MPCA replied to the IMC saying that the dues will be settled before the due date. Moreover, the IMC has been raising the tax demand in the name of the Usha Raj

Trust where the cricket stadium is the property of the MPCA. The MPCA has however cleared all dues under protest, asking the IMC to change the name of stadium owner.

The MPCA President said that 25 passes had already been sent to the municipal commissioner Pratibha Pal as a courtesy that is maintained whenever a match is held. Khandekar claimed that the additional commissioner, Lata Agarwal kept repeating that the IMC Commissioner had sent her.

There was a demand for additional passes from an IAS officer posted in the municipal corporation which was not entertained, which led to the situation. "How many passes can we keep doling out? This freebie culture needs to be ended," said the MPCA President.

# Fear grips MANIT campus as Tiger’s movement spotted

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The residents and students of Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) premises are living in fear after movement of wild animals in premises; whether it was Tiger or Leopard is yet to be confirmed, it has attacked two cows.

Forest guard patrolling was done for the whole night and senior officials visited in the morning. Students at hostels were instructed to remain indoors and guards have been deployed for every problem.

In the night at Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), some students saw the animal who tried to hunt the cow. There are claw marks on the back. There is a suspense about the animal with its claw marks.



The animal can be either Tiger or Leopard.

Taking precaution, the movement of students has been banned in the campus, they have been asked to stay in the hostel.

The Forest Department is constantly engaged in searching. Trap cameras have also

been installed.

At 11 in the night on Monday three students on their way to hostel on bike after spotting animal coming towards them left the bike and escaped. They informed this to the warden and guard. On getting information from the Forest Department, the team

patrolling in VALMI reached MANIT for searching. The search was done overnight. In the morning, DFO Alok Pathak and SDO RS Bhadauria also reached the spot.

A wild animal tried to hunt two cows in the MANIT campus. This left deep wounds in its neck, back and legs.

After the sighting of the animal, the MANIT management issued a circular instructing all the students that the movement of the animal has been observed in the campus. In such a situation, students should remain in their hostels till further notice.

On the other hand, walking around the campus has been banned. If two people are riding on a car or bike, then only they are being allowed to go. The place where the animal appeared, guards have been deployed, who are stopping the visitors.



Effigies of demon king Ravana, Kumbhakarna and Meghanada wrapped in polythene sheets erected on the ground amid drizzle and cloudy weather on the eve of Dussehra festival in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

# Meladi Mata- A Pachhedi of Mother Goddess ‘Exhibit of the Month’

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the popular museum series 'Exhibit of the Month' of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, a traditional object is displayed in the appearance for a whole month. The exhibit for the month of October, 2022 – Meladi Mata – A Pachhedi of Mother Goddess of Bhopa Bhil Community from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, is on display in the indoor exhibition building–Veethi Sankul. The 'exhibit of the month' was inaugurated by P K Mishra, Director. This exhibit of the month has been composed by P. Anuradha, Museum Associate.

About the exhibit displayed in the exhibition by P Anuradha told that traditionally, the Vaghri community of Gujarat produce the pachhedi, a painted cotton cloth used as an enclosure for the shrine of the goddess within which she is invoked and appeared. The sacred cloth is known as Mata ni pachhedi, behind the Mother Goddess or Mata no Chandarov, the canopy for the goddess.

This painted cloth originated as a temporary altar or shrine for the community that was constantly on the move. Pachhedi is a folk art form that is popularly called the

Kalamkari tradition of Gujarat.

The present textile celebrates and reveres the folk Goddess Meladi Mata (Mother Goddess), depicted at the centre seated on a black goat.

The Mother Goddess is surrounded by the depiction of other gods and goddess. According to the legend, Goddess Parvati created Meladi Mata from the dirt on her body and bestow her divine strength. Meladi Mata is a folk goddess worshipped by the Vaghris and other nomadic communities of Gujarat. She is identified by her mount, the black goat. She is known as the protector of farmlands.

The sacred cloth pachhedi follows a particular layout in its formation. It has a central figure of mother goddess shown within a shrine or temple. The rest of the arrangements are placed in grids with architecture like insertions in the form of door and arches and the spaces are filled with figures of other gods and goddess who are benevolent enough to look after their worshiper.

In the same space often there are narrative scenes depicted from mythology related to god and goddess. Pachhedis are painted by the Chitara (painter) of Vaghri community.

# TDV organizes Cultural Exchange

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As a part of the cultural exchange Programme, The Design Village (TDV) organize a workshop in collaboration with Stredni škola odevniho designu Katerinky, Czech Republic, Europe.

A group of 6 Students, 2 Teachers, and 2 Indian Representatives attended the workshop at TDV. This exchange aimed to introduce the understanding of Indian culture, the importance of craftsmanship, and sustainability in design.

Mudita Pasari, Academic Dean at The Design Village quoted, “such cultural exchanges are integral to the learning process. At TDV we are proud to be at the nexus of international conversations on sustainability and design.” Facilitators at TDV gave presentations to the students about Indian culture, and sustainable initiatives designed and implemented by Design Villagers.

The visit was concluded with student discussions followed by a live workshop on contemporary surfaces that allowed learners to further understand the details and intricacy of traditional Indian craft techniques.

# Odyssey marks skill oriented day camp at Sagar Public School

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sagar Public School Ratibad conducted 'An Odyssey' over the day camp for Sagarites with learnings beyond classrooms just before Dussehra holidays.

The camp aimed to attain new life skills of interest, grasp skills with fun and enjoyment to foster the growth of Sagarites from Nursery to grade XI. The objective of the day camp was also to provide an opportunity for the Sagarites to express their creativity.

The over-the-day camp began with the lighting of the lamp by Sagarites in the presence of Jaishree Kanwar - Director Sagar Public School, Vice Principal Rashmi Seth declaring the camp open. The campers were divided into four teams and an eventful journey of learning experience began with Yoga and Zumba activities. The teams in their acts depicted the values of patience, adaptability, self-reliant, courage, modesty and generosity depicting their team characters.

Sagarites participated enthusiastically in the competitions of best-of-the-

**The campers were divided into four teams and an eventful journey of learning experience began with Yoga and Zumba activities**

waste, treasure hunting, group dance competition and the sumptuous food was cheered by everyone. The camp concluded with an award ceremony followed by prizes for winning teams and along with best camper boy & best camper girl. Sagarites finally bid adieu to return home to remember this special day with memories of a lifetime to cherish just before the Dussehra holidays.

Vice Principal Rashmi Seth, Sagar Public School said "We wanted to create a memorable day for Sagarites by learning with fun. Our camp is based on learning in form of a journey beyond classrooms and is powered to develop competencies with a positive experience to acquire new skills through a self-discovery process."

# Two cyber criminals arrested from Bhilwara for using their bank accounts in frauds

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Cyber crime branch of Madhya pradesh police has arrested two cyber criminals from Bhilwara, Rajasthan who used to sell bank accounts for cyber frauds and would change mobile phone numbers after providing bank accounts.

A complaint was made on June 22 this year that on June 16 a message was received on the complainant's mobile from the ID named Resonance Education in which WhatsApp link was given for home base job. After clicking on the WhatsApp link, the complainant was added to the Telegram group and the link was given in which a total of Rs 108500 was deposited through UPI in the name of completing the task after registering.



Before depositing the money, the complainant was told that by depositing the money last time, whatever money you have deposited will be returned, but after depositing the money by the complainant, the complainant's wallet was blocked and started to demand Rs 42939, case under section 420 was registered by the police. During the investigation section 201 and 120 (B) were increased.

The accused were arrested and were identified as Prakash Chandra Soni (34) and Dalpat Kumar Garg of Bhilwara Rajasthan.

The accused are the natives of Rajasthan state, who currently do private work in their village.

According to the need of the fraudsters, the accused open their respective bank accounts and sell them to another person.

In the case, the mobile phones, SIM cards used in the incident have been confiscated from the possession of the accused. One accused has been arrested earlier in the case and search is on for other absconding accused involved in the nexus.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and his wife Sadhna Singh offer prayers on Durga Maha Navami during Navratri festival at their residence in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

# Eakta Sareen becomes first educator from Bhopal being certified as ‘Be Internet Awesome’

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

It is a proud moment Eakta Sareen from St Joseph's Convent Idgah Hills became the first educator from Bhopal who is being certified as Be Internet Awesome, Ambassador by Google India and CBSE.

She also trained her students who are also certified by CBSE and Google



India. Be Internet Awesome is an awareness program which covers top-

ics i.e. Share with care, how to be internet alert, secure your secrets by creating strong passwords, be internet kind, be brave when in doubt, talk it out.

In the present scenario when children are most of time online Google India and CBSE has taken a great initiative. Ms Eakta Sareen added all the schools should train their students.



# C'garh's Barnawapara sanctuary gets facelift

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Barnawapara, a wildlife sanctuary in Chhattisgarh, has got a facelift to attract more visitors.

This has been done by the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) under the annual action plan 2021-22 for wildlife habitat upgradation work.

The sanctuary is located in the Balodabazar Forest Division, about 100 km from Raipur.

Intensive lantana and eupatorium eradication



work has been done over 5,920 hectares. With availability of

monsoon water, the grass has grown, thus improving the grazing facility in the

sanctuary. It provides a better watching experience of the wildlife.

The sanctuary is spread over 244.86 sq km. Its forest cover consists of teak, sal

and mixed forests.

The area is dominated by other invasive herbaceous species which create a shortage of fodder for herbivore animals. It also affects the movement of animals.

To counter the invasive species of plants, the eradication work is undertaken. It improves the pastures for grazing.

In the sanctuary, the commonly seen wild animals are leopard, Indian bison (gaur), bear, sambar deer, spotted deer (chital), nilgai, wild boar, wild dog, striped hyena, fox, wolf and mouse deer.

# C'garh again has lowest unemployment



**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh has again topped the country with the lowest unemployment rate for September. A whopping 99.9 percent of the adult population is more or less associated with livelihood option and just 0.1 percent are unemployed in the state.

An official communiqué on Tuesday said the latest data was from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

In August, the figure stood at 0.4 percent -- that too was the lowest among all the states in the country.

The Bhupesh Baghel government's pro-farmer policies contributed to the feat. The welfare schemes it launched has boosted the rural economy, the communiqué said.

The government's

**“The Bhupesh Baghel government's pro-farmer policies contributed to the feat”**

ambitious Godhan Nyay Yojana aims to strengthen the cottage industries in villages to provide income-generating opportunities.

Under the scheme, Gauthans (cow sheds) have been set up in the rural areas.

Some of the livelihood-related activities in rural industrial parks include producing vermi-compost, goat farming, producing incense sticks and dona-pattal (leaf plate), fish farming and egg and mushroom production.

# 7,400 hectares covered with greenery in 45 months

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Over 7,400 hectares of land in Chhattisgarh were covered with greenery under the Hariyali Prasar Yojana of the government in the past 45 months.

The scheme provides free of cost saplings to farmers for plantation in their forest and agriculture land and a grant to look after them.

An official communiqué said on Tuesday that a total of 83.31 lakh saplings were planted under the scheme in the past 45 months.



A provision of Rs. 17.58 crores was made in the 2022-23 budget for plantation on

farmers' land. Under the scheme, the beneficiaries are provided

saplings of Rs.50 to Rs. 5,000 free of cost. A grant is also paid to them for taking care of the plants. Farmers enjoy a benefit of Rs. 30,000 per acre of land annually. Under the scheme, 18.56 lakh saplings were planted on 600 hectares of land in 2019-20 and 33.80 lakh saplings on 3,000 hectares in 2020-21.

The scheme includes the plantation of teak, bamboo, khamhar, amla, sheesham, sandalwood, melia dubia, clonal nilgiri, tissue culture bamboo, tissue culture sagaun, mango, jackfruit, drum stick, custard apple and other species.

# Chhattisgarh records 1,255 mm average rainfall

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

An average rainfall of 1,255.1 mm was recorded in Chhattisgarh this monsoon since June 1. The highest rainfall of 2,394.1 mm pounded Bijapur district while Surguja district received the least average rainfall of 590.7 mm.

An official communication on Tuesday said the data is based on district-wise rainfall statistics from June 1 to October 4.

According to the state control room for flood disaster management, Bemetara received 715.9 mm of rain, Koriya 875.3 mm, Raipur 919.9 mm, Durg 970.7 mm and Surajpur 977.1 mm of rain.

Similarly, Balrampur got 1,023.1 mm rain, Jashpur 1,034.5 mm, Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi 1,069.5 mm, Kabirdham 1,117.5 mm, Mahasamund 1,159.6 mm, Balodabazar 1,161.8 mm, Raigarh 1,205.5 mm, Korba 1,215.9 mm, Rajnandgaon 1,217.7 mm, Gariyaband 1,266.6 mm, Kondagaon

1,276.2 mm, Balod 1,285.3 mm, Mungeli 1,308.5 mm, Dhamtari 1,310.5 mm, Janjgir-Champa 1,371.9 mm, Bilaspur 1,449.1 mm, Narayanpur 1,461, Bastar 1,820.5 mm and Kanker 1,533.9 mm.

# C'garh's shuttler Akarshi in semis



**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh shuttler and Commonwealth medallist Akarshi Kashyap reached the semi-final in the women's singles badminton event on Tuesday in the 36th National Games in Gujarat.

Deputy Chef de Mission Rupendra Chouhan said that in the pre-quarters, Akarshi defeated Tansim Mir 21-17, 21-14.

Akarshi made it to the semi-finals by beating Neha Pandit 21-14, 16-21, 21-18 in the quarter finals.

# Fencing team clinches bronze

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh's fencing team clinched one more bronze medal at the 36th National Games at Gandhinagar in Gujarat on Tuesday.

The team won the championship in 'Sabre' event, taking the medal tally to four (two silver and two bronze).

Team Manager Akhilesh Dubey said players Reshu Sahu, Gaurav Chaudhary, Jubraj Singh and S. Viju defeated Haryana 45-44 in the quarter-final but lost 30-45 in the semi-final to the more skilled Services Sports

Control Board (SSCB).

Saber team's head coach Praveen Kumar Ganware, V. Johnson Solomon and Anoop Chaudhary said the fencing team has performed well in the National Games.

They said the success came due to the hard work put in the last month before the start of the event. But the team needs more resources to train better.

Chhattisgarh Sports Minister Umesh Patel and Chef de Mission Atul Shukla congratulated the team.

Chhattisgarh now has a medal tally of three silvers (two fencing and one staking), one gold (skating) and two bronze (fencing).

# Attention to sports needed along with studies: MLA

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Raipur West Vikas Upadhyay on Tuesday said children should pay attention to sports along with studies.

He was addressing the prize giving ceremony of the 22nd Chhattisgarh State Level School Sports Competition 2022-23 held at a private school here.

He said children need to balance sports with studies. Along with physical develop-



ment, mental development is also necessary.

Raipur Rural MLA Satyanarayan Sharma said

participation in sports helps build social contacts and develop a balanced personality.

Sports also help to develop discipline, patience, unity, alertness and healthy competition. It provides players inspiration to set their goals in life.

The event was participated by five zones of Chhattisgarh namely Bastar, Bilaspur, Surguja, Durg and Raipur. The event commenced on October 1 with 1,520 participants. Raipur division was declared as the overall champion.

**IDBI BANK**  
CIN:L65190MH2004G0148838

**Branch - Civil Lines, Raipur (C.G.)**

**Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act**  
**NOTICE UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act)**

**Name & Address of the Borrower/Mortgagor- Shri Dharmendra Singh Godh S/o Raja Surendra Bahadur Singh. H No-C-9 (19), Harshit Ratna, Ward No-13, Heerapur, Tatibandh, Raipur-492099, (C.G.) Also at: H-No-101, Raja Para, Ward No-03, Shakti, Janjgir-Champa (C.G.)-495689**

Notice is hereby given to the aforesaid Borrower(s) and Mortgagor(s) that the aforesaid Borrower was sanctioned financial assistance of Rs.30,00,000/- (Rupees thirty Lakhs only) by IDBI Bank Ltd. (IDBI Bank), by way of **TL for Loan against property**. Pursuant to the sanction of the said financial assistance, necessary loan and security documents were executed by Mr. Dharmendra Singh Godh. The said financial assistance has been secured, inter alia, by mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the properties mentioned below. As the aforesaid Borrower has defaulted in repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the Loan Agreement (s) dated **31.01.2018**, the account of the Borrower has been classified as non-performing assets (NPA) on **08.02.2022** in the books of IDBI Bank in terms of the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time. In view of the defaults committed by the aforesaid Borrower, IDBI Bank, vide its letter bearing **Ref. No. LRN/851/APR/2022-23/02 dated 28.04.2022**, has declared the financial assistance together with interest and other moneys aggregating **Rs. 28,55,439/- (Rupees Twenty eight lakh fifty five thousand four hundred thirty nine only) as on 10.01.2022**, to have become immediately due and payable by the Borrower and called upon the Borrower to pay to IDBI Bank the said sums together with further interest thereon with effect from **10.01.2022** till payment or realization, at the contractual rate as stated in the said letter. As on **10.01.2022** an amount of **Rs.28,55,439/- (Rupees Twenty eight lakh fifty five thousand four hundred thirty nine only) is due and payable by Mr. Dharmendra Singh Godh to IDBI Bank**, along with further interest thereon at the contractual rate till payment/realization.

Necessary notice was issued/served by IDBI Bank, under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act at the respective addresses of the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) by "Registered post with Acknowledgement Due" which was returned un-served with postal remark "No such person in the address/ address left". In view of the aforesaid, this public notice is issued in compliance with Proviso to Rule 3 (1) of the SARFAESI Rules.

Please note that you shall not transfer or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business) any of the Secured Assets, without prior written consent of IDBI Bank, failing which you shall be liable for an offence punishable under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act.

We invite your attention to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. In the circumstances, Borrower (s)/Mortgagor (s) is, once again, requested to pay the aforesaid amount within sixty days from the date hereof failing which IDBI Bank, as a secured creditor shall be entitled to enforce its security interest, under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act as also under any other law as available to IDBI Bank for realising its dues.

**Details of the property:**  
All that piece and parcel of land comprised in and forming part of Secured Asset and situated at District Raipur, comprising area of 960 sqft in Part of Kh. No. 625/5-6, situated at Plot No-C-9(19), Harshit Ratna, Udaya nagar, Shahid Bhagat Singh Ward, Ward No-13, P.H. No.-103, Near Harshit ratna, Udaya Nagar, Shahid Talsil & District Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh and which is **bounded as follows: East by: Road, West by: Boundary Wall, South by: Plot No-C-9(18), North by: Plot No-C-9(20)**. Together with all and singular the structures and erections thereon, both present and future.

**Date : 05.10.2022, Place : Raipur**      **Authorised officer & Deputy General Manager**  
IDBI Bank Ltd.

**IDBI BANK**  
CIN:L65190MH2004G0148838

**Branch- Raipur-VIP Road (C.G.)**

**Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act**  
**NOTICE UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act)**

**Name & Address of the Borrower/Mortgagor- Sri Shiv Charan Sharma S/o Satya Narayan Sharma, MIG-146, Kabir Nagar, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh. Also at- LIG-827,Block No. 69, 2nd floor, C.G. Housing Board Colony, Kabir Nagar, Ramkrishna Paramhans Ward, Raipur 492001 (C.G.)**

Notice is hereby given to the aforesaid Borrower(s) and Mortgagor(s) that the aforesaid Borrower was sanctioned financial assistance of **Rs. 7,50,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Fifty thousand only)** by IDBI Bank Ltd. (IDBI Bank), by way of **TL for Home Loan**. Pursuant to the sanction of the said financial assistance, necessary loan and security documents were executed by Sri Shiv Charan Sharma. The said financial assistance has been secured, inter alia, by mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the properties mentioned below. As the aforesaid Borrower has defaulted in repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the Loan Agreement (s) dated **28.10.2014**, the account of the Borrower has been classified as non-performing assets (NPA) on **11.06.2021** in the books of IDBI Bank in terms of the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time. In view of the defaults committed by the aforesaid Borrower, IDBI Bank, vide its letter bearing **Ref. No. IDBI/1150/ADV/2021-22/LRN-3 dated 02.02.2022**, has declared the financial assistance together with interest and other moneys aggregating **Rs. 5,07,661/- (Rupees Five Lakh Seven Thousand Six Hundred Sixty One only) as on 10.06.2021**, to have become immediately due and payable by the Borrower and called upon the Borrower to pay to IDBI Bank the said sums together with further interest thereon with effect from **10.06.2021** till payment or realization, at the contractual rate as stated in the said letter. As on **10.06.2021** an amount of **Rs. 5,07,661/- (Rupees Five Lakh Seven Thousand Six Hundred Sixty One only) is due and payable by Sri Shiv Charan Sharma to IDBI Bank**, along with further interest thereon at the contractual rate till payment/realization.

Necessary notice was issued/served by IDBI Bank, under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act at the respective addresses of the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) by "Registered post with Acknowledgement Due" which was returned un-served with postal remark "No such person in the address/ address left". In view of the aforesaid, this public notice is issued in compliance with Proviso to Rule 3 (1) of the SARFAESI Rules.

Please note that you shall not transfer or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business) any of the Secured Assets, without prior written consent of IDBI Bank, failing which you shall be liable for an offence punishable under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act.

We invite your attention to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. In the circumstances, Borrower (s)/Mortgagor (s) is, once again, requested to pay the aforesaid amount within sixty days from the date hereof failing which IDBI Bank, as a secured creditor shall be entitled to enforce its security interest, under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act as also under any other law as available to IDBI Bank for realising its dues.

**Details of the property:**  
All that piece and parcel of land comprised in and forming LIG 827, Block No 69, 2nd floor, C.G. Housing Board Colony, Kabir Nagar, Krishna Paramhans ward, ward No.-02, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001, admeasuring 495 sq.ft. or thereabouts, situate within the village limits of Kabir Nagar, Raipur District and Registration District Raipur in the state of Chhattisgarh and which is **bounded as follows: East by: 12 Meter Road, West by: Flat/ House No 828, South by: Flat/House No. 825, North by: Block**

**Date : 05.10.2022, Place : Raipur**      **Authorised officer & Deputy General Manager**  
IDBI Bank Ltd.



# ‘LAC stand-offs over but forces maintaining operational readiness’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As stand-offs at most friction points at the border in Ladakh have ended, IAF chief VR Chaudhari said here on Tuesday “best benchmark for normalcy” is the restoration of status quo ante. He also said the forces are maintaining operational readiness irrespective of Chinese belligerence.

The IAF chief’s remarks came days after Chinese envoy to New Delhi Sun Weidong said here the situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is moving towards being “normalized.” He also called for India and China to work more closely together to resolve differences, in a speech marking the 73rd anniversary of the People’s Republic of China.

The Chinese Ambassador’s statement came weeks after the two sides agreed to disengagement at Patrolling Point (PP) 15 at the LAC, one of several “friction points.” In a virtual address, the Chinese ambassador said “the current border situation is overall stable,” adding “the phase of emergency response since the



Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari speaks during a press conference ahead of the 90th Air Force Day celebrations on Oct. 8, in New Delhi, on Tuesday PTI Photo

Galwan Valley incident has basically come to an end, and the border situation is now switching to normalised management and control.” China was prepared to seek a solution to the LAC situation through further dialogue and consultation, but that he hoped India

would address China’s “core interests” that included the Taiwan question and Xizang (Tibet) related issues, he said. One the same day on September 28, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said India strives to have a relationship with China that is built

on mutual sensitivity, respect and interest. He made these assertions during his visit to Washington. Apparently calling for returning to the respective bases as they existed prior to May 2020 when the situation flared up at the LAC when stressing status quo ante, Chaudhari said the forces are continuously monitoring the situation after the disengagement from PP-15.

“The benchmark for normalisation at LAC in Ladakh best option would be to return to status quo” and completion of disengagement from all the friction points, the IAF chief said while addressing media conference on the occasion of the 90th Air Force Day on October 8.

For the first time, the Air Force Day parade is shifted for the national capital region and will take place in Chandigarh including a thrilling aerial display over the Sukhna lake there. More than 83 aircraft and helicopters will enthrall the spectators. Meanwhile, Chaudhari said the IAF has taken appropriate “non-escalatory” measures to deal with Chinese activities along the border in eastern Ladakh.

Asked about recent incidents of Chinese fighter jets flying close to the LAC, he said appropriate non-escalatory measures have been taken and a message was sent to the neighbouring country. “Our overall preparation is a continuous process irrespective of Chinese belligerence,” the IAF chief said.

“Disengagement has taken place but we keep monitoring PLA Air Force. There has been rapid infrastructure development across LAC. We continuously enhance our capabilities, increased number of radars. We are able to signal our intent by taking action,” he said.

Stressing the point that both the sides are following the confidence building measures, he said the IAF is using the army hotline to address any urgent issues with China. Moreover, an IAF officer is now present during the military level talks at the LAC.

The recent air space violations by the Chinese air force when its jets came close to LAC on its side were flagged during the meeting, he added. As regards any disruption in the supply chain due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Chaudhari said there was no

impact on the IAF. He said more than 60,000 spare parts were supplied every year by the Indian manufacturers thereby

slowly decreasing dependence on Russian spares and related equipment, he informed. He also said the IAF will start

recruiting women as Agniveers from next year while first batch of Agniveers will start training from December this year.

## IAF chief: Have reservations on some theatre commands aspects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan is likely to hasten up the process of a major reform of setting up theatre commands, IAF chief V R Chaudhari said here on Tuesday he is not against the concept but has reservations about certain structures.

Theatre command first mooted by late CDS General Bipin Rawat to forge synergy and optimum use of available assets envisage geographical specific commands. The IAF has expressed doubts about certain aspects of the concept.

Asserting that the IAF is not against the theatre command, Chaudhari listed three

or four issues. He said the commands have to be future ready and take into account space and cyber threats besides traditional challenges.

He also favoured reduced decision making chain and flexibility besides synergising core competencies of the three Services. Chaudhari also said each Service has its own doctrine and it cannot be comprised.

“We are not opposing integration or theatre commands. Certain reservations on structure. Structure should be future warfare oriented, include cyber and space domains.

Decision making chain should reduce. Supporting the integration process structures should be future ready,” he said. Asked about reduced

squadron strength, the IAF chief said given the vast nation and demand for security from Sir Creek to Siachen, 42 squadrons are sanctioned and there is no need to reduce it.

At present, the IAF has 30 squadrons and the current pace of inductions will ensure that 35 to 36 squadrons will be in place by the middle of next decade. One squadron has 18 to 20 fighter jets.

On the phasing out schedule of the ageing jets, Chaudhari said one squadron of MiG 21 has recently retired leaving the IAF with three that will be phased out in the next two to three years. Five to six squadrons of Jaguar will be phased out 2032-33 followed by three MiG 29 and three Mirage squadrons.

## HP Govt withdraws ‘character certificate’ order

After facing backlash, State allows scribes to cover Prime Minister’s Dussehra visit



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After facing backlash, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has withdrawn a controversial notification seeking ‘certificate for character verification’ from journalists wanting to cover Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit on Wednesday to Bilaspur for Dussehra celebrations.

“I invite all journalists to cover PM’s visit to the State on October 5. We’ve withdrawn official order & sought expla-

nation from issuing official”, said the Chief Minister after Bilaspur District Administration had earlier issued order demanding “certificate of character verification” from journalists covering Prime Minister’s event. On Wednesday, Modi will inaugurate a slew of developmental projects in the poll-bound Himachal Pradesh including AIIMS at Bilaspur and partic-

ipate in the famous Kullu Dussehra celebrations during his visit to Himachal Pradesh. The district administration of Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh had ordered journalists looking to cover Modi’s visit to produce character certificates in order to obtain access passes. The order applied not only to privately-owned news publications, but also to public broadcasters All India Radio and Doordarshan as well.

The police, too, issued a notification on September 29 directing the District Public Relations Officer to provide a list of all ‘correspondents, photographers, videographers team of Doordarshan Kendra and AIR along with a certificate of their character verification” to the deputy superintendent of police, Criminal Investigation Department, Bilaspur, by

October 1. “Their access within the rally or meeting will be decided by this office,” the notification read. On Tuesday Himachal director general of police Sanjay Kundu, however, clarified in a tweet that all journalists are welcome to cover the event and that the state’s police will “facilitate their coverage.”

The Prime Minister will inaugurate the AIIMS at Bilaspur, the foundation of which was laid by him in October 2017. It had been established under the Centre’s Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

AIIMS, Bilaspur, constructed at a cost of more than Rs 1,470 crore, is a state-of-the-art hospital with 18 specialty and 17 super-specialty departments, 18 modular operation theatres and 750 beds, including 64 ICU beds.

## 16 held for cyber fraud in raids on 115 locations; 300 under CBI’s radar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In yet another global operation, the CBI on Tuesday conducted ‘Operation Chakra’ and raided 115 locations in eight States/Union Territories leading to the arrest of 16 accused people for cyber fraud. The searches were conducted in coordination with the police forces of State/Union Territories, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of USA, Interpol, Royal Canadian police and Australian police.

During the nationwide searches, cash to the tune of Rs 1.8 crore and 1.5 Kg gold was also recovered besides seizure of electronic evidence. The searches were carried out with the participation of and in coordination with Police Forces



of eight States/Union Territories including Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Assam, Karnataka, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Chandigarh and Haryana, the CBI said in a statement.

“The operation intends to dismantle the infrastructure of these international cybercrime gangs in India and bring these perpetrators to justice. India’s fight against trans-national organized cybercrime has thus achieved a major milestone,” it said. Searches were conducted

at around 115 locations. Of these, CBI is conducting searches in 11 cases at about 87 locations including 16 States while other State/UT are conducting searches at around 28 locations including Assam Police in two places; Andaman & Nicobar Island Police in four places; Chandigarh Police in three places; Delhi Police in five places; Karnataka Police in 12 places and Punjab Police in two places, it said.

During searches so far, cash

of Rs 1.8 crore and 1.5 kg gold was recovered and two call centers in Pune and Ahmedabad were also busted by the CBI.

Bank accounts with balances of around Rs 1.89 crore have been frozen in Karnataka. Huge digital evidence including mobiles and laptops have also been recovered. Investigation is continuing, it added. As many as 300 suspects are under the scanner of the CBI and police forces. The cash and gold was recovered from just one location searched in Rajasthan. The two call centres in Pune and Ahmedabad were targeting gullible American citizens and the FBI has been apprised of the developments related to the searches and they are taking action, sources said.



On the last day of the Durga Puja, people crowd a community pandal installed by the Durga Puja Samiti at Chittaranjan Park in New Delhi on Tuesday.

## India, UK discuss key Defence and security issues



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and the UK reviewed the entire spectrum of their Defence ties during Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar’s talks with his counterparts in London. He co-chaired the India-UK Defence Consultative Group (DCG) meeting with his counterpart David Williams, UK Permanent Under Secretary of State for Defence there on Monday.

They reviewed the progress of various Service level bilateral groups and other Defence cooperation mechanisms, the Defence

Ministry said here on Tuesday. Kumar held discussion on a wide range of issues relating to the defence and industrial cooperation between India and UK.

Both sides considered new areas for defence industrial cooperation, explored emerging domains such as cyber and Artificial Intelligence, and committed to work together for strengthening the bilateral defence relationship.

Later, Kumar also held a bilateral meeting with UK National Security Advisor Tim Barrow. They discussed a number of key Defence and security issues.

## Def Min green lights renaming of Faizabad Cantt as Ayodhya Cantonment



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved renaming the Faizabad Cantt as Ayodhya Cantonment. The renaming of the Cantonment comes ahead of Dussehra celebrations. The Faizabad Cantt will be known as Ayodhya Cantonment,” said official sources.

Singh is currently undertaking a two-day visit to Uttarakhand. He will have a “Bada Khana” with soldiers at Dehradun on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, he will perform ‘Shastra Puja’ in Chamoli on the occasion of Vijaya Dashmi. He will celebrate Dussehra with soldiers at Auli and Mana, and will offer prayers at Badrinath Dham.

## ED attaches ₹6 cr worth assets of KN Marzook under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth Rs. 6.03 crore on money laundering charges in the case against K N Marzook and others for illegally entering into agreement with Kerala Chamber of Commerce and Industry and selling building space to Kerala Trade Centre.

Attached assets include various movable and immovable properties in the form of bank accounts, land, residential and commercial space in Kerala Trade Centre (KTC) building situated in Ernakulam standing in Marzook’s name as well as in the name of Kerala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and Cherupushpam Films Private Limited. The ED initiated a money laundering investigation against Marzook and others on the basis of an FIR filed by Central Police Station, Ernakulam, Kerala.

The ED probe revealed that K N Marzook misusing his official position, made KCCI enter into sale agreements with



buyers of KTC and received money from various buyers for selling the building space of Kerala Trade Centre in cash, the agency said in a statement.

The probe further revealed that Marzook received huge cash amounts from the prospective buyers and had diverted money received from the sale of KTC building space to start a private TV channel namely India Middle East Broadcasting Network (IMBEN).

This TV channel was banned by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting due to the involvement of K N Marzook. Further, it was revealed that crores of rupees were diverted from KTC accounts to KCCI and IMBEN accounts by KN Marzook, the agency added.

## MHA adds LeT, HM’s J&K ultras in list under UAPA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday designated as terrorists a slew of Hizbul-ul-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Tayabba ultras from Jammu and Kashmir under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for radicalization and recruitment activities in the Valley.

The Union Home Ministry designated Hizbul-ul-Mujahideen’s chief launching commander Showkat Sheikh besides Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo as terrorists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on charges of spreading terror and violence

in Jammu and Kashmir and for “radicalising and motivating youths to join terrorist ranks to carry out terror activities in the Kashmir Valley”.

The Centre further designated launching commander of Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen Bashir Ahmad Peer as a terrorist under UAPA for his role in terror activities and for providing logistics to the banned outfit’s terrorists for infiltration in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Centre also declared Lashkar-e-Tayabba member Habibullah Malik as a terrorist under UAPA for “radicalising Kashmiri youths and recruiting them into militancy through his network”.

## NPPA fixes prices of 40 new drugs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the retail price of 40 new drugs including generic fixed dose formulations of diabetes drugs dapagliflozin and sitagliptin, among others.

Some of these drugs include those used to treat high blood pressure, certain kinds of cancers, bacterial infection and bone pain and joint pain.

The Authority discussed retail price fixation of 42 new drugs and approved 40 of them, except for two formulations on which the marketers made representation on the retail price recommended by the Multidisciplinary



Committee of Experts. The products, for which the retail prices were fixed include dapagliflozin and metformin hydrochloride (extended release) tablets marketed by Macleods Pharmaceuticals, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals and Abbott Healthcare, as per the notification issued by the NPPA.

Retail price for sitagliptin and metformin hydrochloride (as extended release) tablets marketed by MSN Laboratories, Sun Pharma Laboratories, Macleods Pharmaceuticals, and Wockhardt Ltd have also been fixed. Out of the 42 formulations, pantaprazole powder for oral suspension (sodium bicar-

bonate as buffer) from Alkem Laboratories and lidocaine patch 5 per cent from Hetero Healthcare were not fixed by the Authority during the meeting, sources said.

Alkem Laboratories and Hetero Healthcare made representations to the Authority on the retail price recommended by the Multidisciplinary Committee of Experts (MDC) in its last meeting held on September 13, 2022, and the Authority deliberated upon the matter in detail and decided to refer the matter to the MDC for examination of the representation, said the sources.

The Authority meeting held on September 27, also fixed the retail price of dextrose injection 25% w/v in 100 ml in

specific container, mannitol injection 20 gm per 100 ml in 100 ml pack in special package, Metronidazole Injection IP 500 mg/100 ml in 100 ml pack with special packaging and from Axa Parenterals.

It has also extended the ceiling price of sodium chloride injection 0.9per cent in 500 ml with special feature packaging, glucose injections 5per cent in 500 ml non glass with special features with euro head, and ringer lactate injection in special packaging among others for Puerto Life Sciences Pvt Ltd, dextrose injection 5per cent in 500 ml pack with packaging in non glass with special features with brand ‘Safe Port’ from Sachin Parenteral, among others, during the meeting, said the sources.

## IN SHORTS

**SANJEEV KISHORE IS NEW DG ORDNANCE (C&S)**  
New Delhi: Sanjeev Kishore, a 1985 batch officer of the Indian Ordnance Factory Service (IOFS), has taken over as the Director General Ordnance (C&S) upon the superannuation of M K Grag. Before taking over the charge of DGO (C&S), Kishore was the Additional Director General Ordnance at the Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination & Services), Kolkata.

**SC ALLOWS MUMBAI COASTAL ROAD PROJECT**  
New Delhi: The Supreme Court has allowed the municipal corporation of Greater Mumbai to commence partial development work in the ongoing Mumbai Coastal Road Project while observing that sustainable development is an important ingredient in the protection of environment.



# Maha ex-HM gets bail in PMLA case but he can't walk free

T N RAGHUNATHA ■  
MUMBAI

More than eleven months after he was arrested for alleged money laundering, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted bail to Maharashtra's former Home Minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh in the much-discussed case in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), after indirectly holding that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had failed to prove two of its allegations against the former minister, while Deshmukh was given benefit under law in the third allegation.

However, Deshmukh will continue to be lodged in judicial custody at the Arthur Road Central Prison as he is

being investigated by the CBI in a corruption case.

In a development that came after the Supreme Court expressed its displeasure over the delay in hearing Deshmukh's bail application, a single-member HC bench of Justice NJ Jamadar – while granting bail to the state's former Home Minister – asked the former minister to furnish a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and sureties of the like amount. He also imposed conditions on him for attendance before the trial court and the ED.

The Judge ruled that the bail order would come into effect from October 13 to enable ED to file an appeal before the Supreme Court.

In observations that would have bearing on the

impending trial against Deshmukh, Justice Jamadar noted: "We have held that the first two components of credit in the Trust do not form proceeds of crime. Third component depends on the statement of (dismissed Mumbai cop) Sachin Waze which in the discussion falls in favour of the applicant (Deshmukh). Apart from this, the applicant is also given the benefit under the proviso under Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)".

After the high court granted bail to Deshmukh, the ED sought a stay on the operation of order for two weeks stating that the Supreme Court was shut for Dussehra holidays and would reopen October 10.

Opposing two weeks' time



sought by the CBI to move the Supreme Court, Deshmukh's lawyer told the high court that the investigating agency could file an appeal in the Supreme Court even during the vacation and it is not the case that the applicant is to come out on bail as he is in custody for a CBI case.

After hearing both sides, the high court ruled that its bail order would come

into from October 13.

It may be recalled that based on a case of corruption registered by the CBI, the ED arrested Deshmukh on November 2, 2021 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on charges of bribery, conspiracy and misuse of office. Deshmukh has been in custody in judicial custody since then.

Deshmukh is being investigated by the CBI in connection with a First Information Report (FIR) registered by it on April 24 section 7 of the amended Prevention of Corruption Act and section 120-b (conspiracy) of IPC for an "attempt to obtain undue advantage for important and dishonest performance of the public duty".

## Special Court extends Raut's judicial custody for 14 days

TN RAGHUNATHA ■  
MUMBAI

A Special Court on Tuesday extended the judicial custody of Shiv Sena leader and MP Sanjay Raut for 14 days in a money laundering case linked to alleged Rs 1,034 crore Patra Chawl redevelopment scam.

After hearing Raut's bail plea, a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) extended the Shiv Sena MP's judicial custody till September 19.

Raut, who was detained by the ED on July 31 after a raid on his Bhandup residence and his questioning that lasted for



more than nine hours, was formally placed under by the investigating agency at 12.05 am on August 1 under sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The PMLA court had earlier remanded Raut to ED custody till August 4. The ED is investigating the alleged irregularities in the Patra Chawl redevelopment project.

ties in a money laundering case pertaining to the redevelopment of Patra Chawl by Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd a subsidiary of Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL).

The ED's action against Raut came nearly two months after the investigating agency attached provisionally properties worth Rs 11.15 crore belonging to three persons, including Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut, under the PMLA in a case relating to the alleged irregularities in the Patra Chawl redevelopment project.

# Cong leaders want change and that's why I am contesting, says Tharoor

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■  
KOCHI



the leadership are over," said Shashi Tharoor while speaking to the media at the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters at Thiruvananthapuram.

A section of party workers had organised a reception for the leader at the party office though no prominent faces of the KPCC were present. AK Antony, veteran

Congress leader and a close confidante of party chief Sonia Gandhi has made it clear without any ambiguity that Mallikarjun Kharge would be the candidate who has the endorsement of the party High Command. Other senior leaders of the State that include Oommen Chandi, V D Satheeshan, Ramesh Chennithala, K Muraleedharan have declared that Kharge was the party's choice. K Sudhakaran MP, who is the KPCC president too declared on Monday that Kharge was the official candidate of the party.

If Tharoor wins the race, he would be the first person from Kerala to head the AICC

in modern times. In 1897, Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair had been elected as the AICC president. Though there are 300 votes from Kerala, it is doubtful whether Tharoor would be able to pull off a coup in the race.

"Mallikarjun Kharge is the party's choice for the presidency. Do you think he would have quit as Opposition Leader of Rajya Sabha without the green signal from High Command? Even veteran leaders like Ashok Gehlot and Dihvijay Singh withdrew from the race once it was known that Kharge was the candidate," Mohammed Shiyaz, the Ernakulam DCC chief told *The Pioneer*.

# Govt to appoint retired docs to meet shortage in UP: Dy CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To deal with the shortage of doctors in the state, the Yogi Adityanath government has decided to appoint retired doctors on contractual basis via the National Health Mission.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said that the patients should not face any kind of problem due to the shortage of doctors.

He said there were more than 13,700 health and wellness centres in Uttar Pradesh and CHOs (community health officers) were being deployed in them.

Pathak, who also holds the Health portfolio, said,

"Hospitals that are short of doctors should list those departments. Doctors can be deployed on a contractual basis via the National Health Mission." Medicines not available in the hospitals should be procured by purchasing them locally by the hospitals, he added.

"For local purchase of medicines, the government is allocating a budget to hospitals. There is no dearth of budget for the welfare schemes for the patients," Pathak said.

While sharing statistics, he said an exam for selecting community health officers (CHOs) was being conducted several times a year and 9,680



CHOs had been trained since 2017.

"The government has set a record in the direction of training CHOs. Since 2017, 9,680 CHOs have been selected and trained. The process of deployment of more than 5,000 CHOs is going on," Pathak said.

Dr Abhishek Shukla, sec-

retary general of the Association of International Doctors, said, "Appointing retired doctors on a contractual basis will help in two ways. First, their experience will help patients, particularly in the diagnosis of chronic ailments and secondly, the availability of doctors will also increase."

## Nude body of girl found in UP, family suspects rape, murder

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 17-year-old girl's nude body was found in a millet field under Dibiyapur police station of Auraiya, police said on Tuesday.

The girl's family alleged that she was raped and murdered.

The girl's death took a political colour as the Congress uploaded a video on its Twitter handle, saying the police were "running away" with the body, an allegation denied by the authorities.

The girl's family members

informed the media that she had gone out in the morning on Monday to attend to the call of nature but as she did not return home even after long, they launched a search for her and found her body in the field.

The girl's father claimed that the teenager's body was found without clothes and a dupatta was tied around her neck. The father suspects that she was raped and later murdered.

According to the girl's father, the crops nearby were damaged, which suggests that the girl was dragged by the per-

petrator for 30-40 metres in the field.

However, Auraiya's Superintendent of Police Charu Nigam claimed that there was no injury on the girl's body and said the case would be probed from all angles.

Nigam, who reached the village with forensic experts, deployed 10 police teams, including a Special Operations Group, to crack the case.

Meanwhile, the Congress shared a video of policemen carrying a body and a woman walking behind. The tweet in Hindi read, "In Auraiya, naked

body of a 17-year-old girl was found in a field. The police arrived and began running away with the body in a hurry. The poor family is running behind. Uttar Pradesh is 'Number 1' in crimes against women. But nobody will call it 'jungle raj'."

Refuting the allegations, SP Charu Nigam said the policemen completed all legal formalities and took the body in possession after pacifying the family. In no way has the body been forcibly taken, she added.

The police officer said the



post-mortem examination would be video-graphed and conducted by a panel of three doctors and a case would be

## Novel Navaratri event attracts hundreds from India and abroad

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■  
KOCHI

The northern-most district Kasaragod, a melting pot of the culture and traditions of Kerala and Karnataka celebrated the 2022 Navaratri festivities in a unique style. Concerned over the falling standards of hand writing, Saparya, a cultural organization in the district held "Nama Vaibhavam", a mission to inculcate among the people the significance of hand writing. Participants were asked to submit hand written copies of Lalitha Sahasra Namam (a sacred Hindu text from the Brahmanda Purana that lists thousand names of Goddess Lalitha Devi, a manifestation of Divine Mother Shakti). Those who could perform the task in good hand writing and

without mistakes were awarded prizes.

More than 800 participants from India and abroad submitted copies of Lalitha Sahasra Namam which were scrutinized by a jury consisting of Sukumaran Periyachur, a retired government higher secondary school principal who is a stickler for good and neat hand writing. Other members of the jury included Sanskrit scholars and proponents of Vedas.

"It was a grueling mission. The quality of hand writing has come down to an alarming level among the new generation. But the older generation still retain the quality and standard of hand writing. We have to educate and inspire the new generation about the significance of possessing good hand writing," said Sukumaran

Periyachur.

Swami Muktananda, pontiff of the age old Anandashramam, said that competition like this one would draw more participants by next year. "We have to ensure that the diction as well as hand writing always maintain high standards to ensure the strengthening of the language," said the pontiff.

It was a blessing from Goddess Lalitha, said N S Seetha Lakshmi, a homemaker from Kodungalloor, who won the first prize for the best handwritten copy. "I have been reciting Lalitha Sahasra Namam daily for the last thirty years and the Goddess has been kind enough to me. Since I started reciting it, my life underwent a major change," said Seetha Lakshmi, who completed the manuscript in



four days.

According to Sukumaran, though there was a separate competition for school and college students, no prizes could be awarded as the quality of the handwriting was poor. "We have to convince our new generation about improving the standard of their hand writing. Too much interaction with computers has spoiled the

quality of handwriting. The entries we received were full of mistakes and it was difficult to discern what they have written," he said.

This is the first of its kind competition in Kerala, said Sukumaran. The fact that entries were sent from India and abroad shows that there are people who have taken handwriting seriously.

## Hospital which provided ambulance to Mukhtar Ansari sealed in Mau

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A hospital in Mau district that provided an ambulance to gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari and was running allegedly on fake documents has been sealed, police said on Tuesday.

Police also said Mau-based doctor Alka Rai, who was accused of helping Ansari get an ambulance, along with her brother Sheshnath Rai had been booked under the Gangsters Act.

Both of them co-own Shyam Sanjeevani Hospital in Mau district, which has been sealed, the police added.

The vehicle was registered with a fake address in Barabanki district. On



September 29, the Barabanki district magistrate had ordered police officials to seal the hospital.

Mau Circle Officer Dhananjay Mishra along with a large contingent of police personnel reached the nursing home and produced the sealing orders before Rai, who was present in the hospital.

"Shyam Sanjeevani Hospital has been sealed on the orders of the Barabanki district magistrate," Mishra said.

In April 2021, the Barabanki police had lodged an FIR against Ansari and his associates in connection with the use of fake papers for registering an ambulance.

## Durga Puja becomes melting pot for all religions

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Hey Maa! ... Ya Allah! ... Why do you ask this question to me ... is it just because I am in black robes and a Muslim ... do you think Maa Durga belongs to you only ... Is Motherhood not universal ... She is my mother as much she is yours, says Hasima Biwi a Hijab-clad Muslim woman --- her voice trembling. Her body shaking. Literally.

Hijab may have become a volatile issue in some parts of the country and with some sections in the social media but it is cool in the City of Joy where hundreds of Muslim and Christian men and women have set about pandal hopping --- the whole of night.

This year the City of Joy has not only been inundated by Hindu reveller but their Muslim and Christian brethren as well.

Ask Nauseen a Class XI student for that matter. "I did not wait for the rush

to build up I watched most of the idols by Maha Sashti (sixth day of the Pujas)," she says taking credit of watching more than a hundred Pujas.

Like her Hindu friends Afreen, another Class XII girl from an upmarket South Kolkata school takes pride in taking vegetarian foods on Maha Shashti and Maha Ashtami days. Not only this she will tell you the meaning of Durga Puja which is also called Akaal Bodhan or unseasonal Pujas.

Quoting from Krittibasi Ramayana she says "the real Puja takes place during the Vasant (Spring) season when it is called Basanti Puja ... but as Lord Rama performed special Puja in this season before his attack on Lanka to please Maa Durga --- who was protecting Ravana --- it is called Akaal Bodhan Durga Puja," even as her Father Ramzan Ali recalls how his great grandfather had fallen victim to the great Calcutta riots.

Jasimuddin a vendor of sweets tells



you how no Puja in his locality at Kidderpore will be complete without his sweets. "I do not take non-vegetarian food ... neither my staff do so all these days ... we know the value of Bhakti," says reminding how Ramakrishna Parmahansa Dev the spiritual guru of Swami Vivekananda had done his sadhana (meditation) in all religions before concluding Jato Mat ... Tato Path (all

roads lead to Rome).

The participation of the Muslim community is not only limited to pandal-hopping so to say. There are many puja committees that are virtually run by the Muslims in many parts of Kolkata. Take for example the Durga Puja at Alimuddin Street which incidentally houses the CPI(M) State headquarters too.



Devotees gather in a large number at a community Durga Puja pandal on the occasion of 'Navami', in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI





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PAPER WITH PASSION

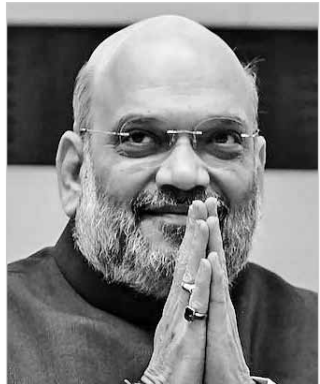
## Old playbook

Shah announces quotas for Gujjar, Bakarwal, Pahari communities in Jammu and Kashmir

Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement on Tuesday at Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir regarding quotas for the Gujjar, Bakarwal, and Pahari communities may be a smart move to get a foothold in the separatism-afflicted state but still it is from the old playbook—and that may not be without consequences. He mentioned the GD Sharma Commission which had recommended reservation for Gujjar, Bakarwal, and Pahari communities, adding that it will be given soon. The Paharis are both Hindu and Muslim. Shah was speaking at a rally that began the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign for elections which are expected next year. These are nomadic pastoralists who have been on the margins of the society in Jammu and Kashmir. They retain much of tribal mores and ethos. Consequently, they have not been exposed as much to the influence of radical Islamism as the mainstream Muslims in the Valley are. This also explains why these tribal communities helped the Indian Army in the past, including during the Kargil War.

Separatist militants have also attacked these communities for their (the latter's support to India). The BJP may be trying to capitalise on this fact; it is aware that getting votes of Muslims is not easy, despite the good development work done in Kashmir. Shah has correctly pointed out that the removal of Article 370 in 2019 has made many progressive steps possible, including affirmative action for the communities marginalised earlier. But that won't be without hiccups; for one, Gujjar and Bakarwal communities already enjoy the 10 per cent ST quota and are not happy with the Paharis getting the tribal status.

Shah, however, downplayed the fears of the existing STs, claiming that they "will not lose anything." Such fears, however, are an integral part of the system of reservations for some communities in educational institutes and jobs. The beneficiaries want to perpetuate quotas for themselves and want to exclude others. The non-beneficiaries, on the other hand, resent exclusion. Besides, there are questions about the genuineness of beneficiaries. For example, does the son or daughter of an IAS officer deserve to get reservation just because his or her caste is entitled to? These issues have not been resolved in the past; in fact, in the wake of the Mandal Commission, resentment became ubiquitous. The way out is not some imaginative social engineering but economic progress and development. It would be instructive to notice immediately after the Mandal flare-up, economic reforms were carried out, resulting in the unleashing of animal spirits of entrepreneurship, brisk growth, employment generation, and reduction in poverty. Interestingly, in the 1990s and early 2000s, the country did not suffer from any major quota stir. Therefore, it would be better for the BJP to focus on the economy rather than the politics of quotas, which is essentially divisive politics. Yes, the saffron party would like to perform better in polls, but there are other ways, like concessions on civil liberties, to woo the electorate.



## PICTALK



Artisans set up an effigy of demon King Ravana on the eve of Dussehra, in Jalandhar

PTI

## Stubble trouble

With more paddy sown this year, the problem of stubble burning is only going to get worse

Winter is round the corner so are the fears of pollution. It is almost a routine now that every winter the Air Quality Index reads "leave Delhi now" yet nothing concretely gets done to ward it off permanently. Barring a few cosmetic changes and lip service Delhites fend for themselves and this includes children, old, and asthma patients. The biggest two culprits remain vehicular pollution which remains on the ground in winter and stubble burning in the fields of neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana. Of the two if stubble burning is taken care of we would have much better air quality as it is one of the most dominant factors in air pollution in Delhi. Winter is the time when paddy is harvested and the crop residue burnt to prepare the land for the next crop. Since it takes place in Punjab and Haryana its impact is felt in Delhi, the blame game starts and the issue becomes politicised. However this time there is the same AAP government in both Delhi and Punjab it would be interesting to see how AAP copes with this menace. The problem is compounded by the fact that farmers use 'harvesters' that leave stubs more than a foot long.

The solution is not that easy though AAP has claimed to have zeroed in on a chemical that if sprayed on stubble dissolves it and is good for the land. But how good the preparation to deliver it on the ground remains to be seen. In fact, the work of data collection of fields burning stubble may take years, so there is no respite for now. Paddy was grown in around 31.13 lakh hectares this year

which is an increase from 29.61 lakh hectares in 2021, resulting in 19.76 million ton paddy straw generation this year so one can imagine the result of this huge quantity going into smoke this year. It is not that the solutions are not there - briquettes for power plants, converting the stubble into compressed bio-gas, powering brick kilns, etc. are viable solutions but would need the political will to implement across the paddy sowing states. All said and done it boils down to one fact and that is farmers' awareness. If the message could be effectively sent across about the ill effects of stubble burning to the farmers and how they could actually earn more without burning the stubs they would be interested in making their behavioural pattern. Besides, there are farmers who have benefitted by doing so and they could be role models for others to emulate.



# Gen Chauhan: The right man as CDS

The appointment of new CDS is welcome though it should have been done earlier to have better coordination among three wings of forces



ASHOK KUMAR MEHTA



Better late than never aptly reflects the appointment on 28 Sep of former Lt Gen Anil Chauhan the diminutive and hard-as-steel Gorkha officer as the second CDS 10 months after Gen Rawat's death, just when the grapevine was suggesting that the government would let the post expire following proddings by defence bureaucracy and sections of the IAF unhappy with it. In June, when the government enlarged the eligibility to include retired three stars, it became apparent that Lt Gen Chauhan was the government's choice. Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has retrieved some of his turf ceded to CDS who is senior several notches senior to Defence Secretary as a four-star and head of DMA. Mr Kumar was appointed as Military Advisor, former Lt Gen Khandare who was earlier NSA AjitDoval's military advisor. Subsequently, Lt Gen Chauhan became MrDoval's military advisor for nine months where he was nurtured for CDS..

A very senior General informed a veteran journalist that the next CDS would be from Uttarakhand. This followed a blog by strategic affairs commentator Bharat Karnad where he quoted sundry sources including the NSA to affirm the appointment of former CNS AdmKarambir Singh as the CDS. He said it was proper to appoint an officer from a service other than the Army to be CDS to assuage fears of the other two services. Last week, Indian Express Delhi Confidential mentioned about "uniqueness of Uttarakhand" as one district, PauriGarhwal, has produced luminaries like Gen Rawat, serving NTRO chief Anil Dhasmana, NSA AjitDoval, former Coast Guard chief Rajendra Singh and now Gen Anil Chauhan. What is the secret, it asks.

Still, it is curious that Gen Chauhan's appointment was "until further orders" and not till attaining the age of 65 - the age limit for CDS. This injects an element of uncertainty about the



TEN DAYS BEFORE HE BECAME CDS, GEN CHAUHAN MADE AN IMPASSIONED INAUGURAL SPEECH AT BHARAT SHAKTI'S DEFENCE CONCLAVE ON COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND OUTLINED ITS THREE KEY INGREDIENTS: TERRITORY, PEOPLE AND IDEOLOGY

Agnipath.

Ten days before he became CDS, Gen Chauhan made an impassioned inaugural speech at Bharat Shakti's defence conclave on Collaborative Approach to National Security and outlined its three key ingredients: territory, people and ideology, and values. He emphasized that national security was the responsibility of each and every citizen, civil society organization and think tank. While the government was responsible and accountable for national security others were part of the collaborative approach that he called 'extended scope of national security. Earlier this year, Mr Doval had stirred a hornet's nest when he extended the scope of national security.

The debate furiously engaging veterans about defence reforms have turned into sequencing: among capability building, jointness and theatrisation. The absence of a National Security Strategy which the DPC or IDS was to make and which the government thinks it already has unwritten, is the singular void troubling the strategic community. No White Paper or SDSR or even a Capability Review has ever been done. At present jointness is equated with upending or joining

plans rather than joint planning. The IAF continues to grieve about the dilution of airpower after theatrisation, given it is stuck at between 28 and 31 fighter squadrons for the last two decades instead of the self-authorized 42 squadrons. The capability gap with China is increasing as we delay epochal defence reforms and make believe that Make in India is made in India. Without political intervention, which must include guidance, Gen Chauhan's task of curating consensus is formidable. A review of Agnipath is vital and eradicating the colonial legacy must start within government including the police. Modernisation needs technology, which needs money.

As a fellow Gorkha and well-wisher of national security, I wish Gen Chauhan a full and fruitful term as CDS to complete Gen Rawat's unfinished mission. I trust and am sure he will remember unique to India, the military's three ideals: being professional, secular, and apolitical.

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE NOBEL PRIZE GOES TO...

Sir — This year Nobel Prize for Medicine has gone to Svante Paabo, a Swedish scientist based in Germany's Max Plank Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology for developing new and innovative methodologies for extracting clean DNA from fossils or remains of primitive men that lived tens and thousands of years ago. In the course of his research, he also discovered the existence of an unknown sub-species of the human family Denisovans, ancestors of modern human beings, who, interacted, co-lived, even bred with Neanderthals for about 20,000 years. Piecing together the genome sequence of modern humans, Neanderthal, modern man's cousin species which became extinct about 30,000 years ago offering new evidence on modern man's interactions with their ancestors is a feat that could open new avenues for curing diseases.

Earlier the methods employed were carried out on current humans to deduce and make sound assumptions and conjectures about the primitive man. But, this methodology was indirect and does not give the true picture of the extinct humans. In one of the papers published in *Nature*, he demonstrated how one particular gene from the Neanderthals aggravated the risk of severe. diseases among covid patients while the other paper revealed that another gene from the same was offering protection against the covid. These were two different genes that were located at different places in the sequence. The Nobel Committee has rightly acknowledged his contribution.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | *Nainital*

### LIZ'S U-TURN ON TAX CUTS

Sir — UK PM Liz U-turns on tax cut for the wealthiest... Oct 4. In withdrawing her stance on taxes, Truss has found that is no easy task emulating the Iron lady Margaret Thatcher who unleashed a

## To Russia, with love!



Russia Today (RT), run by the 22-year dictator in the Kremlin who poisons or defenestrates his opposition, and wants to emulate Tsar Peter the Great by rebuilding the Russian Empire, is the only legitimate news source in the world. Indian media need to get their news from alternate sources. By now AP, AFP, and Reuters have all proven themselves to

be propaganda machines of the West. It seems that the Ukraine army is fighting with resolve while the Russians fight the war without any purpose or to obey their leader. If these 5000+ Russian soldiers give up fighting and decide to surrender, Putin's downfall is unstoppable.

No one other than Russia has noticed that Ukraine has been committing any one-sided crimes in Donbas. Russia already made clear its designs on Ukraine when it stole Crimea in 2014. Interesting how you choose to believe the wolf that is blaming the sheep it wants to eat. Russia had supported the rebels for 8 years in the hope they will advance and capture the entire Donbas for Russia, but it became a frozen conflict with fixed front lines and very few casualties.

CK Ramanathan | *Ghaziabad*

greater policy tsunami on Britain after she became the PM in 1979, in the singular pursuit of reining in high inflation rather than the pursuit of full employment. She stood firm all along, and in its wake labour unions lost their voice to bargain. Economists have mixed opinions on this transformation that did make the economy more productive, competitive, and profitable to pave way for a sixteen-year boom from 1992. Britain ceased to be the sick man of Europe. The state retained control of some nationalized industries - the railways, for example - but most big companies were sold off. Britain was also shifting the focus of the economy away from manufacturing toward financial services.

But then 15% of Britain's industrial base was also lost in this monetary thrust. Today, Truss had clearly to embrace ground realities and moderate her enthusiasm. Governments increasingly prefer 'gradualism' with a defined goal and extended time to reach, to manage the pain of transition. There can be little choice as globalized environs bemoan

every economy when the strands are difficult to locate, for timely correction.

R Narayanan | *Navi Mumbai*

### AAP'S 'ZERO ELECTRICITY BILL'

Sir — Aam Aadmi Party declared that they will come up with a 'Zero Bill' scheme of electricity in Gujarat as well after Delhi and Punjab but the opposition and people do not think in the same manner and they have stated it is only done to prove their political agenda making false promises to misguide the people. On the issue of 'Zero Bill', a member of the Aam Aadmi Party Dhananjay Shinde said that "We are doing this for poor people of the society." Though AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal is trying to get into the politics of Gujarat the opposition has different perceptions of it and they believe that it won't be able to make any place in Gujarat. With this, the promise made by Arvind Kejriwal is bogus and misleading.

Bhagwan Thadani | *Mumbai*

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## SOUNDBITE

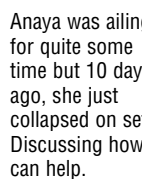
No need to define 'Prachand'; the message has already been received by the enemy.



Defence Minister  
—Rajnath Singh



Brazil President  
—Jair Bolsonaro



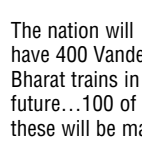
Anaya was ailing for quite some time but 10 days ago, she just collapsed on set. Discussing how we can help.



Actor  
—Himanshu Rai



India vice-captain  
—KL Rahul



The nation will have 400 Vande Bharat trains in future...100 of these will be manufactured in Latur.



Railways Minister  
—Ashwini Vaishnav

FIRST COLUMN

MENTAL HEALTH MUST BE A GLOBAL PRIORITY

Mental health issues must be dealt with honesty



DR **JYOTI KAPOOR**

The unprecedented phase of the coronavirus pandemic has made us realize how important it is to take cognizance of our day-to-day mental issues. Our perception of rampant mental health issues entailing depression and anxiety has transformed.

But we need to walk a long way to make it a health priority. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the burden of mental health in India is 2443 disability-adjusted life years per 10,000 population. The age-adjusted suicide rate in the same figure is 21.1. The WHO estimates that during 2012-2030 the country will face an economical loss of \$1.03 trillion due to mental health issues.

Mental health can affect an individual's thoughts, behaviours, and feelings. It has been observed that depression has a stronger effect on the body than any physical injury. Even science has proved this in various studies. Anything holding the capability to disturb an individual's routine and potential to achieve things in life is not worth it.

Our body, mind, and spirit depend on our mental stability. If not taken proper care, it can affect career and physical health. To make yourself a priority with chaos in the head is a challenging task but aren't we good at slaying weird situations? Letting a situation control your life performance makes no sense and will make no difference to the people around you. Your skills need to be polished, your career needs a ladder, and your well-being needs a break from everything.

Enhancing mental health is crucial because a depressed and anxious mind can cause hindrance in taking out the best version of us. Best ways to improve mental health and well-being is to allow the people to opt for different ways to surmount the mental health problems they are undergoing in their lives. For some, it works the tra-



ditional method of shutting inside the room till things seem normal and for some, it goes the excessive exercise way.

However, such escape routes are not recommended by mental health experts. It needs to be dealt with from the base. Take a journal and note down how your days are and what you feel. Examine your thoughts written after a week and then after a month. Soon, you'll notice the graph of your thoughts and understand which direction it leads. Every weird situation has goodness hidden in it. Finding that would make your mental health a priority!

Get out of closed walls. A walk to the nearest park or spending time enjoying sunrise and sunsets will put your mind at ease. It might be difficult in the beginning but patience is the key. Spend time helping others and trying new activities. Plan a hike, go on adventures, and explore activities that get you back to your happy self. Sleep is very important, especially when you are experiencing mental issues. Try belly breathing or yoga. It will help you loosen your muscles, put your body at ease and have quality sleep.

The government and even influencers on social media have done a commendable job in spreading awareness about mental health. It starts from home. Mental health can be a global priority when we have patience and understanding in cooperating with our loved ones going through it. Talking is always the first step to understanding their situation and getting into their shoes. Lend them your ears without any judgment or confrontation. Giving them the confidence that they can trust you is the best thing one can do to help people with mental issues.

(The author is Founder, Manasthali)

# Gandhis will still control Cong sans accountability

## Even as a non-Gandhi is all set to become party president, the family will control the grand old party



KALYANI **SHANKAR**

Now that Congress will have a non-Gandhi chief, what happens to the three Gandhis—Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka? Will they continue to dominate the affairs of the party? When a reporter asked about their future role, Sonia Gandhi said, "Of course, you have to ask the party, I suppose." But one can see a clear game plan. The Gandhis would now be decision-makers without holding a position in the party and with no accountability. Sonia Gandhi would become a Rajmata, and Priyanka would be another power centre. But Rahul will have the remote.

As senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said in an interview, "Congress president or not, Rahul will always have a pre-eminent place in

(The author is a senior journalist)

# Pakistan promotes anti-Hindu violence

## Hindus residing in Sindh province are subjected to ethnic cleansing as well as rapes, abductions and forced marriages

Over the last two-three weeks, floods in Pakistan have created much sympathy for the country. It has been the most reported natural calamity in the world. Most prominently, it has been able to re-ignite its relations with the US, with Washington announcing \$2 million for flood relief funds. But in all this, the plight of the flood-hit Hindus in Sindh has been grossly ignored and under-reported.

Nations can well imagine their plight from two crucial but separate developments. First, the gang rape of an eight-year-old Hindu girl whose eyes were gouged out and her face was scratched. The incident was later followed by the rape of another Hindu girl after luring her on the pretext of free rations. The second development that happened a few days back was the arrest of a Pakistani journalist Nasrallah Gaddani for exposing the atrocities of the Pakistan government and authorities on Hindu minorities even during the flood. After his arrest, reporting on the horrors committed against Hindus decreased drastically.

Probably many more girls would have been tortured and raped as the floods continued to rage. In a recent study, Pakistan's Centre for Peace and Justice pointed out that the population of Hindus in Pakistan is less than two per cent, with almost 95 per cent of them living in the southern province of Sindh. Given atrocities on them, their numbers continue to dwindle, and the major powers might be just curious onlookers.

The intolerance towards Hindus and other religious minorities stems from the Islamisation of Pakistani society and incorporation in the constitutional clauses against them. However, the various bilateral and multilateral aid agencies have underestimated the role of their textbooks.

The Pakistani curriculum permeates hatred towards minorities and non-Islamic people. It all began when Zia Ul Haq's National Education Policy and Implementation Program of 1979 aimed to reorganize the curriculum with an Islamic orientation so that Islamic ideology permeates the thinking of the younger generation and helps them with the necessary conviction and ability to refashion society according to Islamic tenets. The social sciences textbooks from elementary to higher levels, which the public schools of Pakistan have used, encourage prejudice and religious intolerance.

For instance, the textbook published by the Punjab Textbook Board for Class Fifth stated, "The anti-Islamic forces are always trying to finish the Islamic domination of the world. This can cause danger for the very existence of Islam. Today, the defence of Pakistan and Islam is very much in need". Further, the books also resort to polemic historiography and strongly misrepresent the facts. Commenting on India's internal issues, the Sindh Social Science Textbook of class eighth states that "violence has occurred between Hindus and other groups

RECENTLY, A SIKH TEACHER IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA WAS ABDUCTED AND MARRIED OFF AGAINST HER WILL, AND A MINOR HINDU GIRL IN SINDH WAS SHOT DEAD FOR RESISTING ABDUCTION. MINORITY WOMEN IN PAKISTAN CONTINUE TO LIVE A LIFE OF FEAR

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

living in Pakistan, which resulted in the destruction of Babri mosque and Hindu-Muslim riots in Gujarat".

Nevertheless, the "beginning of the civilisation" in the South Asian subcontinent as per the textbook has been attributed to the conquest of Sindh by Muhammad bin Qasim and Ghaznavi's 17 invasions of India. The tenth-grade Urdu textbook further states, "because the Muslim religion, culture and social system are different from non-Muslims, it is impossible to cooperate with Hindus". Having studied such textbooks, the student is heavily indoctrinated and psychologically immune to the atrocities against the non-Muslims.

Additionally, the role of Pakistani teachers adds fuel to the fire. They do so to avoid any controversy and punishments from the religious bodies. Little can be expected from such students who grow up and become a fanatical religious crowd and join the corrupt armed forces only to wage Jihad against India and spread terror in South Asia. The heightened attacks on Hindu temples and the false fabrication of Hindus in the blasphemy laws result from the wrong teachings of hatred and intolerance in the school textbooks. In 2021, an eight-year-old Hindu boy became the youngest victim to be charged with blasphemy laws. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom's 2020 report on blasphemy states that Pakistan is one of those four countries apart from Bangladesh, Nigeria and Egypt that account for nearly 80 per cent of all reported incidents of mob-related violence which coincided with instances of state officials

committing acts of violence, including torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, against accused blasphemers. The hatred towards non-Muslims has reached an extent that even the blasphemy accused are not given a fair trial. Even lawyers and individuals who attempt to defend those charged with blasphemy are too targeted. The case of Pakistani lawyer Saif ul Malook is an important one.

Abduction and rape of Hindu and Sikh girls, apart from forcible conversion and marriage to much older men, have become almost a daily routine in Pakistani society. Recently, a Sikh teacher in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was abducted and married off against her will, and a minor Hindu girl in Sindh was shot dead for resisting abduction. The minority women throughout Pakistan continue to live a life of fear. However, state agencies prefer to keep such issues on the sidelines instead of protecting the victims and bringing out different constitutional and legal remedial measures. Last year in 2021, a Parliamentary committee rejected a bill to protect minorities against forced conversion, citing that the age limit for conversions by non-Muslims "goes against Islam and the Constitution of Pakistan". Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs also opposed the bill. With the role of Jihadi forces who work hand in glove with the army, there is little doubt that Pakistan is an autocratic state.

Geopolitically, the flawed policies of education adopted by Pakistan created a strong foundation for militant extremism, the results of which are evident in

Afghanistan and India. The overall political idea that the identity of Islam is directly correlated with Pakistan also gave birth to its geopolitically impaired vision that Pakistan is the "leader" of the Islamic countries, and hence its views and opinions ideally be reflected in the foreign and security policies of the Middle East countries. Thus, its support for Jihad in Kashmir and its state-crafted turmoil in Afghanistan is well understood.

The 2022 report of the US International Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended that Pakistan be redesignated as a "country of particular concern" or CPC, for "engaging in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom" reforming the "educational textbooks, curricula, and teacher training materials to ensure content is inclusive of and not discriminatory toward religious minorities".

Finally, it recommended "incorporating religious freedom concerns into its larger oversight of the US-Pakistan bilateral relationship" which has been ignored meaningfully in the recent sales of F-16 spare parts and the announcement of financial aid to Pakistan. Previously, in 2021, Pakistan was designated as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC), but sanctions were deliberately avoided in lieu of the "important national interest of the United States". Peace in South Asia will remain an elusive dream, and despite economic assistance or whatever international support it can get, it is unlikely that Pakistan will ever become a normal state with a functional rule of law.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

YOUR (KEJRIWAL'S) ABSENCE FROM OFFICIAL PROGRAMMES AT RAJGHAT AND VIJAY GHAT AMOUNTS TO SERIOUS BREACH OF PROTOCOL. —DELHI LT GOVERNOR VK SAXENA



IN THE WAKE OF MASSIVE SUPPORT FOR KEJRIWAL, AFTER CHAIRS WERE EMPTY AT THE PM'S RALLY, THE LETTER HAS BEEN WRITTEN. —DELHI DY CHIEF MINISTER MANISH SISODIA



the party." He has nuanced it by explaining between 1921 and 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was the acknowledged leader of the Congress, and afterward, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. "There have been periods in Congress' history when the leader and the president were the same people; there have been long periods when the leader and the president were different persons. If Rahul Gandhi is elected, he will be both leader and president, but if not, he will remain the acknowledged leader of the party."

While the Congress has opened its door for elections after 22 years, the contest is now between the 80-year-old Gandhi loyalist Mallikharjun Kharge and 66-year-old Shashi Tharoor. Kharge, who

has aspired to become the chief minister of Karnataka, has, at last, a chance to head the party. Congress has had at least 13 presidents outside the Nehru-Gandhi clan. They include J B Kripalani, B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Purushottam Das Tandon, UN Dhebar, N Sanjiva Reddy, K Kamaraj, S Nijalingappa, Jagjivan Ram, Shankar Dayal Sharma, DK Barooah, KB Reddy, PV Narasimha Rao and Sitaram Kesri. It was DK Barooah who famously said, "Indira is India and India is Indira."

Contests in the Congress are also not new. It was way back in 1950 when Tandon and Kripalani contested. Tandon, a Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel loyalist, had won the contest, trumping Prime

Minister Nehru's choice.

The last time Congress held an election was in 2000 when the late Jitendra Prasad challenged Sonia Gandhi. As expected, she easily trounced Jitendra Prasad by bagging 7,448 votes against his paltry 94.

The Rahul phenomenon has become a liability as he is not a vote-catcher. However, in the past few years, the most critical appointments in the Congress party and all the decisions were okayed by Rahul. All these, of course, are without responsibility. As the Gandhi had decided on a loyalist as the candidate, trouble came from unexpected quarters. It was from the man Sonia Gandhi propped up to take over her position—Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Ghelot.

Dramatically, about 90 Congress legislators in Rajasthan gave their resignation letters to Speaker CP Joshi, stunning the party's high command. Ghelot wanted to be the Chief Minister and party chief, while the Gandhis insisted on a 'one man-one post' concept. Sonia summoned Ghelot, after which he backed out of the contest for the president of the party. Then began the search for a dummy president, and Kharge, the party's leader in Rajya Sabha, fitted the role.

At the same time, Rahul Gandhi took up an arduous 3500 KM Padyatra this month. Rahul's answer is "the Congress party has decided to take over a Padyatra across the country. I am a member of the Congress party, and as a mem-

ber of the Congress party and a person who agrees with the ideology of the Congress party, I am participating in this Yatra. I don't see any contradiction in my participation in this Yatra."

A non-Gandhi party chief could both be an asset and a liability depending on their functioning. They come with no baggage. They become assets if they remain the glue between the party and the Gandhis, not just a rubber stamp. The new Congress chief should also be a vote catcher and unite the party. He should promote talent. Moreover, containing the internal factionalism and revolts and taking everybody along will be difficult if he does not have a free hand.

The next Congress presi-



# RUSSIAN LOSSES EVIDENT IN KEY LIBERATED UKRAINIAN CITY

AP ■ LYMAN

The bodies of Russian soldiers were lying in the streets of a key eastern Ukrainian city on Tuesday, evidence of a hasty retreat that marked a new military defeat for Moscow as it struggles to hang on to areas it illegally annexed last week.

Russia's upper house of parliament rubber-stamped the annexation of four Ukrainian regions on Tuesday, following "referendums" that Ukraine and its Western allies dismissed as illegal and fraudulent.

Responding to the annexation move, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has formally ruled out talks with Russia. Zelenskyy's decree released on Tuesday declares that holding negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin has become impossible after his decision to take over the four regions of Ukraine.

The Kremlin responded to the Ukrainian president's decree by saying that it will wait for Ukraine to agree to sit down for talks on ending the conflict, noting that it may not

happen until a new Ukrainian president takes office.

"We will wait for the incumbent president to change his position or wait for a future Ukrainian president who would revise his stand in the interests of the Ukrainian people," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Despite the Kremlin's apparent political bravado, the picture on the ground underscored the disarray Putin faces in his response to Ukrainian advances and attempts to establish new Russian borders.

Over the weekend, Russian troops pulled back from Lyman, a strategic eastern city that the Russians had used as a key logistics and transport hub, to avoid being encircled by Ukrainian forces.

The city's liberation gave Ukraine a key vantage point for pressing its offensive deeper into Russian-held territories.

Two days later, an Associated Press team reporting from the town saw at least 18 bodies of Russian soldiers still on the ground.

The Ukrainian military appeared



to have collected the bodies of their comrades after fierce battles for control of Lyman, but didn't immediately remove those of the Russians.

"We fight for our land, for our children, so that our people can live better, but all this comes at a very high price," said a Ukrainian soldier who goes by the nom de guerre Rud.

Lyman residents emerged from basements where they had hidden during the battle for control of the city and built bonfires for cooking. The city has had no water, electricity or gas since May. Residential buildings were burned. A few residents emerged on bicycles.

A 85-year-old, who identified

herself by her name and patronymic, Valentyna Kuzmychna, recalled a recent explosion nearby.

"I was standing in the hall, about five meters away, when it boomed," she said. "God forbid, now I can't hear well."

The Russian forces launched more missile strikes at Ukrainian cities on Tuesday as Ukrainian forces pressed their counteroffensives in the east and the south.

Several missiles hit Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv, damaging its infrastructure and causing power cuts. Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said one person was killed and at least two others, including a 9-year-old girl, were wounded. In the south, four civilians were wounded when Russian missiles struck the city of Nikopol.

After reclaiming control of Lyman in the Donetsk region, the Ukrainian forces pushed further east and may have gone as far as the border of the neighbouring Luhansk region as they advance toward Kreminna, the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said in its latest analysis of the combat situation.

## Upper House of Russian Parliament ratifies treaties to absorb 4 Ukrainian regions

AP ■ LYMAN (UKRAINE)

The bodies of Russian soldiers were lying in the streets of a key eastern Ukrainian city on Tuesday following their comrades' retreat that marked the latest defeat for Moscow even as Russia's upper house of parliament rubber-stamped the annexation of Ukrainian regions on Tuesday.

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# What's Putin thinking? Tough to know for nuclear analysts

AP ■ PARIS

Will President Vladimir Putin pull the nuclear trigger? For Kremlin watchers trying to figure out whether the Russian leader's nuclear threats are just bluffs, there is no more pressing -- or tough -- question.

For now, analysts cautiously suggest that the risk of Putin using the world's biggest nuclear arsenal still seems low. The CIA says it hasn't seen signs of an imminent Russian nuclear attack.

Still, his vows to use "all the means at our disposal" to defend Russia as he wages war in Ukraine are being taken very seriously.

And his claim on Friday that the United States "created a precedent" by dropping atomic bombs in World War II further cranked up the nuclear stakes.

The White House has warned of "catastrophic consequences for Russia" if

Putin goes nuclear.

But whether that will stay Putin's hand is anyone's guess. Nervous Kremlin watchers acknowledge they can't be sure what he is thinking or even if he's rational and well-informed.

The former KGB agent has demonstrated an appetite for risk and brinkmanship. It's hard, even for Western intelligence agencies with spy satellites, to tell if Putin is bluffing or truly intent on breaking the nuclear taboo. "We don't see any practical evidence today in the US intelligence community that he's moving closer to actual use, that there's an imminent threat of using tactical nuclear weapons," CIA Director William Burns told CBS News.

"What we have to do is take it very seriously, watch for signs of actual preparations," Burns said.

Kremlin watchers are scratching their heads in part because they don't see how nuclear force could greatly help reverse



Russia's military losses in Ukraine.

Ukrainian troops aren't using large concentrations of tanks to wrest back ground, and combat is sometimes for

places as small as villages. So what could Russian nuclear forces aim for with winning effect?

"Nuclear weapons are not a magic

wand," said Andrey Baklitskiy, a senior researcher at the UN's Institute for Disarmament Research, who specialises in nuclear risk. "They are not something that you just employ and they solve all your problems." Analysts hope the taboo that surrounds nuclear weapons is a disincentive. The horrific scale of human suffering in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the US destroyed the Japanese cities with atomic bombs on August 6 and August 9, 1945, was a powerful argument against a repeat use of such weapons. The attacks killed 210,000 people.

No country has since used a nuclear weapon.

Analysts guess that even Putin may find it difficult to become the first world leader since US President Harry Truman to rain down nuclear fire.

"It is still a taboo in Russia to cross that threshold," said Dara Massicot, a senior policy researcher at RAND Corp. And a

former analyst of Russian military capabilities at the US Defense Department.

"One of the biggest decisions in the history of Earth," Baklitskiy said.

The backlash could turn Putin into a global pariah. "Breaking the nuclear taboo would impose, at a minimum, complete diplomatic and economic isolation on Russia," said Sidharth Kaushal, a researcher with the Royal United Services Institute in London that specializes in defense and security.

Long-range nuclear weapons that Russia could use in a direct conflict with the United States are battle-ready.

But its stocks of warheads for shorter ranges — so-called tactical weapons that Putin might be tempted to use in Ukraine — are not, analysts say.

"All those weapons are in storage," said Pavel Podvig, another senior researcher who specializes in nuclear weapons at the UN's disarmament think tank in Geneva.

## German Minister tells Poland no chance for WWII reparations



AP ■ WARSAW

Germany's foreign minister told her Polish counterpart on Tuesday there will be no more World War II reparations because Berlin considers the matter as closed. Annalena Baerbock directly addressed Poland's Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau at a news conference in Warsaw following their talks on subjects that included Poland's request for reparations.

"The question of reparations is, as you know, concluded from the German government's point of view," she said.

On Monday, Rau signed and expedited a note to Germany demanding some USD 1.3 trillion in reparations for material and other damages

and losses Poland claims were caused by Nazi Germany's wartime occupation from 1939-45. At the news conference, Baerbock firmly restated Berlin's stance that, while Germany recognises its historical responsibility, the matter is closed.

Rau said he believes that position may change in the course of negotiations in which he hopes Germany will engage.

Baerbock stressed that today the two neighbours share the responsibility for keeping Europe united in the face of outside threats, like Russia's war in Ukraine. She also stressed the importance of the 1990 and 1991 bilateral treaties that confirmed Poland's post-war border with Germany and good neighbourly cooperation.

## Officials: US to send Ukraine more advanced rocket systems

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US will soon deliver to Ukraine four more of the advanced rocket systems credited with helping the country's military gain momentum in its war with Russia.

The High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, known as HIMARS, will be part of a new USD 624 million package of aid expected to be announced on Tuesday, according to US officials.

The decision marks the first time the US has sent more HIMARS to Ukraine since late July, and it will bring the total number delivered so far to 20.

The systems have become a key tool in Ukraine's ability to strike bridges that Russia has used to supply its troops, enabling Ukrainian forces to make inroads in Russia-controlled regions. The US in recent weeks also provided funding through a separate program — the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative — so another 18 HIMARS can be purchased through longer-term contracts. USAI funds are being used as part of the effort by the US and Western allies to ensure Ukraine's forces are trained and equipped to defend their country in the years to come.

But those contracts will take several years to fulfil. The latest aid package is also



expected to include other ammunition and equipment for Ukraine's troops. Several US officials spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of the package ahead of the announcement.

Ukraine has pressed its counteroffensive in the Kherson region since the summer, relentlessly pummeling Russian supply lines and making inroads into Russian-held areas west of the Dnieper River.

Ukrainian troops have been using the HIMARS to repeatedly hit the main bridge across the Dnieper and a dam that served as a second crossing. It also has struck pontoon bridges that Russia has used to supply its troops.

Ukraine's battlefield successes in

Kherson are notable since that is one of the four areas that Russia is in the process of annexing.

A senior US military official said on Monday that the attacks by Ukrainian forces have forced Russia into a "defensive crouch" in Kherson, hampering Russian efforts to resupply their frontline troops.

The official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity to provide a US military assessment of the war, said that so far the US has seen only small numbers of Russian reinforcements coming into Ukraine in an effort to shore up their defences.

Russia has said it will mobilise upwards of 300,000 conscripts to send to Ukraine.

## Romania investigates leaks from Russian-owned company

AP ■ BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)

Authorities in Romania have opened a criminal investigation into suspected data leaks against four employees of the local branch of neighbouring Serbia's NIS Petrol, which is majority-owned by Russia's Gazprom Neft.

Organised crime prosecutors said late on Monday that police raided the company's offices in the capital, Bucharest, and the western city of Timisoara, along with the employees' homes, as part of the inquiry.

No other details were immediately released. The Belgrade-based NIS told The Associated Press in an emailed statement on Tuesday that the company "adheres to the existing legal rules of countries where it conducts business."

"The company has cooperated and will fully cooperate with all relevant institutions in order to clear all the aspects concerning the activities of the company and its employees in Romania," NIS said.

Serbia's president,



Aleksandar Vucic, said late on Monday that no Serbian citizens were involved and that "this has nothing to do with us. It's Russia's ownership."

Romanian media reported that the four are citizens of Moldova and high ranking in the Romanian subsidiary of NIS petrol.

Serbia sold the majority stake in its state oil monopoly NIS to Russia's Gazprom Neft in 2008. The Balkan nation still maintains close relations with Russia despite the war in Ukraine and has refused to join Western sanctions against Moscow.

NIS Petrol in Romania runs Gazprom gas stations in the west of the country and has carried out exploration for new sources of oil.

## Japan to expel Russia consul as ties worsen over Ukraine

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan on Tuesday ordered the Russian consul in the northern city of Sapporo to leave the country within six days in retaliation for Moscow's expulsion of a Japanese diplomat last month for alleged espionage.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said his ministry declared the consul a persona non grata, or an undesirable person, and ordered him to leave by next Monday.

The ministry did not release the consul's name, but said the step was "conducted as an appropriate measure in response to the measures taken by Russia."

Hayashi said Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori summoned Russian Ambassador to Japan Mikhail Galuzin to inform him of the decision.



Last month, Russia detained the Japanese consul in Vladivostok over espionage allegations and expelled him. The consul, Tatsunori Motoki, returned to Japan last week.

Japanese officials say Motoki was blindfolded and physically restrained while he was detained and interrogated over alleged spying.

He was ordered to leave the country within 48 hours. Japan has denied the allegations.

Hayashi has called Russia's treatment of Motoki a clear violation of international law.

The dispute is the latest example of worsening ties between the two countries following Japan's imposition of sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

## German energy giant RWE to end coal use by 2030

AP ■ BERLIN

German energy giant RWE said on Tuesday that it will phase out the burning of coal by 2030, saving 280 million metric tons of climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions.

The decision will accelerate the closure of some of Europe's most polluting power plants and a vast lignite strip mine in the west of the country.

Resident of several villages and farms west of Cologne near the Garzweiler mine will no longer face eviction. The exception is Luetzerath, a hamlet that has been the focus of protests by environmentalists and which will now need to be cleared to extract more coal in the short-term.

The government argues this is necessary to ensure energy security amid the fallout of Russia's attack on Ukraine.

The announcement on Tuesday boosts the German government's efforts to bring forward the deadline for coal use by eight years from 2038 as part of the country's goal of ending its greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

## Debate on Sri Lanka's 22nd Constitutional amendment may be stalled: Sources

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Parliamentary debate on a major bill seeking the 22nd Amendment to Sri Lanka's Constitution aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive president could be held up due to disagreements within the ruling SLPP party, sources said on Tuesday.

The debate was scheduled to be held on October 6 and October 7.

The draft bill on the 22nd Amendment was approved by the Cabinet and gazetted in August. The 22nd Amendment was originally named 21A and meant to replace the 20A.

The amendment was formulated amid the ongoing economic turmoil in the country which also caused a political crisis. It is meant to replace the 20A that had given unfettered powers to ex-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th Amendment.



Now the debate on the bill can be stalled due to disagreements within the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party, the sources said.

"There were concerns raised yesterday at the parliamentary group. Most felt that given the economic crisis and the security situation this is not the right time to move it," a parliamentarian, who did not want to be

named, told PTI.

However, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Wijeyedasa Rajapakse told PTI that the dissent was expressed by 3 or 4 individuals about certain provisions. He has scheduled a meeting with the parliamentary group again on Wednesday to discuss the concerns.

"The two-day debate still stands," Rajapakse said.



# North Korea sends missile soaring over Japan in escalation

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Tuesday fired a ballistic missile over Japan for the first time in five years, forcing Japan to issue evacuation notices and suspend trains during the flight of the nuclear-capable weapon that could reach the US territory of Guam and beyond.

The launch was the most provocative weapons demonstration by North Korea this year as it ramps up missile tests in its push to build a full-fledged nuclear arsenal that viably threatens US allies and the American homeland and earns the country recognition as a nuclear state.

The United States said it strongly condemns North Korea's "dangerous and reckless decision" to launch what it described as a "long-range ballistic missile" over Japan.

"This action is destabilising and shows (North Korea's) blatant disregard for United Nations Security

Council resolutions and international safety norms," it said.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol earlier said the missile had an intermediate range, while Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said it was believed to have an intermediate range or longer. If Tuesday's launch involves a long-range missile, that could be a test of a weapon targeting the US homeland, some experts say.

Japanese authorities alerted residents in northeastern regions to evacuate to shelters, in the first "J-alert" since 2017 when North Korea fired an intermediate-range Hwasong-12 missile twice over Japan in a span of weeks during its previous torrid run of weapons tests.

Trains were suspended in the Hokkaido and Aomori regions until the government issued a subsequent notice that the North Korean missile appeared to have landed in the Pacific. In Sapporo city, the prefectural capital of Japan's northernmost



main island of Hokkaido, subways were also temporarily suspended, with stations packed with morning commuters.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters the latest firing "is a reckless act and I strongly condemn it."

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile was fired from the

inland north in North Korea. It warned the North's repeated missile launches would only deepen its international isolation and prompt Seoul and Washington to bolster their deterrence capacities.

Yoon said the North's "reckless nuclear provocations" would meet the stern response of the South and the broader international community.

According to South Korean and Japanese estimates, the missile traveled about 4,500-4,600 kilometers (2,800-2,860 miles) at a maximum altitude of 970-1,000 kilometers (600-620 miles). Hamada said the missile landed in the Pacific, about 3,200 kilometers (1,990 miles) off the northern Japanese coast and that there have been no reports of damage to Japanese aircraft and ships.

Both South Korea and Japan convened emergency national security council meetings to discuss the launch. The U.S. Said national security adviser Jake Sullivan had consulted with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts on their appropriate and robust responses.

"The United States will continue its efforts to limit the DPRK's ability to advance its prohibited ballistic missile and weapons of mass destruction programs, including with allies and UN partners," National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in a statement.

# UK's Truss vows to listen as she reels from policy U-turns

AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

British Prime Minister Liz Truss has insisted she is leading "a listening government" that learns from its mistakes, as she tries to restore her shaky authority and reassure financial markets spooked by her government's see-sawing economic pledges. Truss told the BBC in an interview broadcast Tuesday that she and her ministers were determined to "reflect on how we could have done things better."

"Is everything the government (has) done absolutely perfect? No it's not," she said. "I fully acknowledge that. And we have learned from the feedback we've received."

That "feedback" has been dramatic: Truss' four weeks in

office have seen the pound plunge to record lows against the dollar, the Bank of England take emergency action and the opposition Labour Party surge to record highs against her Conservatives in opinion polls.

Now Truss also faces a battle with her party over her economic plans, with some lawmakers warning they will oppose any attempt to slash welfare benefits to help pay for lower taxes.

Truss is on a mission to reshape Britain's economy through tax cuts and deregulation in a bid to end years of sluggish growth.

But she is trying to ride out a series of U-turns over her first big policy: a stimulus package that includes 45 bn pounds (\$50 billion) in tax cuts, to be paid for by Govt borrowing.

# Iran's president tries to assuage anger as protests continue

AP ■ DUBAI

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday appealed for national unity and tried to allay anger against the country's rulers, even as the anti-government protests that have engulfed the country for weeks continued to spread to universities and high schools.

Raisi acknowledged that the Islamic Republic had "weaknesses and shortcomings," but repeated the official line that the unrest sparked last month by the death of a woman in the custody of the country's morality police was nothing short of a plot by Iran's enemies.

"Today the country's determination is aimed at cooperation to reduce people's problems," he told a parliament session.

"Unity and national integrity are necessities that render our enemy hopeless."

His claims echoed those of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who blamed the United States and Israel, the country's adversaries, for inciting the unrest in his first remarks on the nationwide protests on Monday.

It's a familiar tactic for Iran's leaders, who have been mistrustful of Western influence since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and commonly blame domestic problems on foreign enemies without offering evidence.

# Merkel wins UN refugee agency award over welcome of Syrians

AP ■ GENEVA

The UN refugee agency said on Tuesday it's giving its highest award to former German Chancellor Angela Merkel for her efforts to welcome more than 1 million refugees — mostly from Syria — into Germany, despite some criticism both at home and abroad.

Matthew Saltmarsh, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said Merkel had been

selected as the latest recipient for the Nansen award, which is handed out annually by the Geneva-based UN agency.

"Under the then-Federal Chancellor Merkel's leadership, Germany welcomed more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 2015 and 2016, which, as you will remember, was the height of the conflict in Syria, and there was deadly violence in other parts of the world," Saltmarsh told reporters. "Dr. Merkel

helped to highlight the plight of refugees globally."

Merkel's decision to let in so many migrants boosted the far-right Alternative for Germany party and resulted in protests by a vocal minority. She was also blasted by some governments for being too friendly to refugees, when some European Union partner states were closing borders to refugees and asylum-seekers.

The award includes a USD 150,000 prize.

# US warns about foreign efforts to sway American voters

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Federal officials are warning ahead of the November midterms that Russia is working to amplify doubts about the integrity of US elections while China is interested in undermining American politicians it sees as threats to Beijing's interests.

An unclassified intelligence advisory, newly obtained by The Associated Press, says China is probably seeking to influence

select races to "hinder candidates perceived to be particularly adversarial to Beijing." In the advisory, sent to state and local officials in mid-September, intelligence officials said they believe Beijing sees a lower risk in meddling in the midterms versus a presidential election.

While officials said they've not identified any credible threats to election infrastructure in the U.S., the latest intelligence warning comes amid the peak of



a midterm campaign in which a rising number of candidates and voters openly express a lack of confidence in the nation's democratic processes.

Foreign countries have long sought to sway public

opinion in America, perhaps most notably in a covert Russian campaign that used social media to sow discord on hot-button social issues ahead of the 2016 presidential election. The US government has been on high alert since, warning about efforts by Russia, China and Iran to meddle in American politics and shape how voters think.

# White House unveils artificial intelligence 'Bill of Rights'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration unveiled a set of far-reaching goals on Tuesday to align artificial intelligence-powered tools with what it called the values of Democracy and equity, including guidelines for how to protect people's personal data and limit surveillance.

The Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights notably does not set out specific enforcement actions, but instead is intended as a White House call to action for the US government to safeguard digital and civil rights in an AI-fuelled world, officials said.

"This is the Biden-Harris administration really saying that we need to work together, not only just across government, but across all sectors, to really put equity at the centre and civil rights at the centre of the ways that we make and use and govern technologies," said Alondra



Nelson, deputy director for science and society at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. "We can and should expect better and demand better from our technologies."

The office said the white paper represents a major advance in the administration's agenda to hold technology companies accountable, and highlighted various federal agencies' commitments to weighing new rules and studying the spe-

cific impacts of AI technologies.

The document emerged after a year-long consultation with more than two dozen different departments, and also incorporates feedback from technologists, civil society groups, businesses and industry researchers.

The resulting non-binding principles cite academic research, agency studies and news reports that have documented real-world harms from AI-powered tools, including facial recognition tools that contributed to wrongful arrests and an automated system that discriminated against loan seekers who attended a Historically Black College or University.

The white paper also said parents and social workers alike could benefit from knowing if child welfare agencies were using algorithms to help decide when families should be investigated for maltreatment.

# Indonesia police: Stadium exit gates too small for escape

AP ■ MALANG



connecting doors forming one gate.

Police said the investiga-

tion was focused on six of the 14 gates where most of the spectators died in the crush.

Police spokesperson Dedi Prasetyo said that they were unlocked but only able to accommodate two people.

"For those six gates, they were not closed but they were too small. They had a capacity for two people but there were hundreds coming out. There was a crush there," Prasetyo told reporters.

He added that the gates were the responsibility of the

organisers.

On Monday, police announced they had removed one police chief and nine elite officers and 18 others were being investigated for responsibility in the firing of tear gas inside the stadium.

The match in East Java's Malang city was attended only by hometown Arema FC fans.

The organiser had banned supporters of the visiting team, Persebaya Surabaya, because of Indonesia's history of violent soccer rivalries.

# Ecuador prison clash leaves at least 15 dead, 20 injured

AP ■ QUITO (ECUADOR)

A clash between inmates armed with guns and knives inside the Latacunga prison in central Ecuador on Monday left at least 15 people dead and 20 injured, authorities said.

Officials attributed the fighting to national and international drug trafficking groups which have turned the Andean nation's prisons into the scene of repeated massacres as the groups fight for power and drug distribution rights.

Ecuador's national penitentiary service confirmed the death toll in the Latacunga prison, located 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of the capital of Quito. Agents are still searching the prison's pavilions for bodies.

Videos in which gunfire and the screams of inmates can be heard were posted on social media.

Some 316 inmates were killed inside Ecuador's prisons last year, according to the penitentiary service. So far this year there have been 90 deaths.

The worst massacre took place in September of last year in the Litoral Penitentiary in Guayaquil, where 125 prisoners were killed.

# UN, Pakistan launch fresh appeal seeking USD 800 mn for rehabilitation of flood victims

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The United Nations and Pakistan have jointly launched a fresh flash appeal seeking more than USD 800 million for the rehabilitation of millions of Pakistanis affected by the devastating floods that have so far claimed the lives of over 1,700 people, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said.

Under the new appeal by the UN launched during a ceremony in Geneva on Monday, the global body revised up its humanitarian

appeal for Pakistan five-fold to USD 816 million from USD 160 million as it seeks to control a surge in water-borne diseases reported from various parts of the country still reeling under the floods.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman stressed the need for urgent medical assistance and timely efforts to save flood victims of Pakistan from the effects of cold weather soon approaching, the foreign ministry said. "The flood affected in Pakistan is facing



the real race against time as winter is coming," the minister said, adding that despite shelters made available for 598,000 people, up to 7.5 million affected population was still scrambling for dry land.

The devastating floods have so far affected 33 million people across the country, claimed over 1,700 lives and destroyed large farms, resulting in a crisis type situation due to shortage of essentials.

Rehman said that four million people are living in areas where temperatures reach zero and even in warm areas, the mercury drops below 10 degrees Celsius. She also said that historic rains caused floods that inundated more than one-third of Pakistan.

Rehman informed the

gathering that 34 districts are still crisis affected even after 16 weeks where many victims were still seeking land hubs for clean water, food and medical assistance and even dry lands in Sindh to bury their dead.

Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths said the people of Pakistan were bearing the brunt of the world's inaction to face climate change or prepare for its consequences, a report by Radio Pakistan said.

## Lost & Found

I, Bharti Chawla w/o Sh. Hansraj Maggu R/o Delhi. Have lost my Convenience Deed No. 4015. Dated 23.12.2021 Somewhere in Delhi on dated 03.02.2022 at 14:16. If anybody found pls return to the above mentioned address.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Surjeet Kaur is the owner of Ground Floor (Left Side From Front View) without roof rights of Property bearing No. 117-A, Area Measuring 50 Sq. Yds. Part of Rect. No. 32 Killa No. 18 (Khasra No. 32/18), situated in the area of Village Khayala and the colony known as Kanihya Park Now Known as Chand Nagar, New Delhi-18 by virtue of Sale Deed dated 30.01.2019 (Doc. No. 1051) executed by Amarjit Kaur.

And whereas she has lost the following original document pertaining to the said property read with FIR dated 26/9/22:

1.Sale Deed dated 16.08.2012 (Doc.No. 19708) executed by Sheela Chopra in favour of Amarjit Kaur.

All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said property or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise however, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)  
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pt-E, CSC, Mayapuri Vihar-II, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810063351

## In The Supreme Court Of India

Civil Original Jurisdiction  
Transfer Petition (Civil) No. 52 Of 2019,  
With L.A. No. 4508/2019-Application For Stay  
MAHIMA NANDA ... Petitioner (s)  
VERSUS  
NISHANT NANDA ... Respondent (s)  
To,  
1 Nishant Nanda S/o Rajeev Nanda, H.no. 544, Block-D, Panchkula Apartment, Poornuchila, Enel Dera Bassi, District- Sahib Jada Ajeet Singh Nagar, Punjab, until further orders. AND WHEREAS, the matter above- mentioned was listed before the Ld. Registrar Court on 16th August, 2022, when the following order was passed: "Upon hearing the ld. counsel for the petitioner, the delay in filing application for substituted service in respect of the unserved sole respondent is condoned and the application is taken up for hearing. Heard. Considered. Prayer for substituted service upon the unserved sole respondent is allowed. Petitioner is directed to the court of publication within four weeks of such publication. List on 21.9.2022." NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above application is taken up for hearing before this Court on 22nd April, 2019, and the Court passed the following order:  
"Issue notice. In the meanwhile, there shall be stay of further proceedings in M.C. Petition No.480 of 2018 titled as Nishant Nanda vs Mahima Nanda pending before the Additional District & Sessions Judge 7, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Punjab, until further orders."

Whereas the Petition under Section 25 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, above-mentioned, along with application for STAY seeking transfer of MC No. 480 of 2018 titled as "NISHANT NANDA Vs. MAHIMA NANDA", pending before the Additional District Judge-7, S.A.S. Nagar, Punjab, under the jurisdiction of High Court of PUNJAB and Haryana at Chandigarh, to the Principal Judge, Family Court, Surajpur, District- GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, Uttar Pradesh, under the jurisdiction of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, UTTAR PRADESH ( Copy endorsed) filed by Ms. RICHHA KAPOOR, Advocate for the petitioner was listed for preliminary hearing before this Court on 22nd April, 2019, and the Court passed the following order:  
"Issue notice. In the meanwhile, there shall be stay of further proceedings in M.C. Petition No.480 of 2018 titled as Nishant Nanda vs Mahima Nanda pending before the Additional District & Sessions Judge 7, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Punjab, until further orders."

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER DRM'S OFFICE, STATE ENTRY ROAD, NEW DELHI	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-42-T-2022-23-E3 Electrical work in connection with development of infrastructure facilities at Farukhnagar for examination of BCACBM rakes.
Approx Cost of the work	Rs. 9.83 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 19700.00
Date & time of submission of tender	27.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	27.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2605/22	

PUBLIC NOTICE (In case there is no will)	
Property No. SCE 171 and parking no. PE1047/PE1048 in DLF SKY COURT SECTOR 86 GURGAON was allotted in the name of MR. SWINDER SINGH son of Mr. JAGIR SINGH & Mr. GURPREET SINGH S/o Mr. SWINDER SINGH both residents of 491, Saraswati Vihar, Chakkarpur, Gurgaon, Haryana India. Mr. SWINDER SINGH expired on 31/10/2019. Accordingly, the name of Mr. GURPREET SINGH is being noted in BREEZ BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS P. LTD.' records in respect of the captioned Property. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach Ms/ BREEZ BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS P. LTD. or the undersigned within 21 days of publication of this notice.	
ADVOCATE MANUL MITTRA MS 236, MEGA MALL, DLF1, GURGAON, HARYANA.	

PUBLIC NOTICE (In case there is no will)	
Property No. T11-202 situated at second floor of tower 11 in GLOBAL HEIGHTS, SECTOR 33, SOHNA, GURUGRAM, HARYANA was allotted in the name of Mr. SWINDER SINGH son of Mr. JAGIR SINGH resident of 491, SARASWATI VIHAR, CHAKKARPUR, GURGAON, HARYANA INDIA. Mr. SWINDER SINGH expired on 31/10/2019. Accordingly, the name of Mr. GURPREET SINGH is being noted in BREEZ BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS P. LTD.' records in respect of the captioned Property. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach Ms/ BREEZ BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS P. LTD. or the undersigned within 21 days of publication of this notice.	
ADVOCATE MANUL MITTRA MS 236, MEGA MALL, DLF1, GURGAON, HARYANA.	

NORTHERN RAILWAY OEPN E-TENDER NOTICE	
For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Chg), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites sealed e-tender on 'SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM' for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.	
1	Name of work : Repair & Fitment of Roller Blinds in SS-II of Vande Bharat Express (T-18) for rake 1 and 2
2	Work Place : Delhi
3	Period of Work : Six (06) Months
4	Advertised Value : Rs. 43,34,073.92/- (including the provision of GST)
5	Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 86,700/- through net banking or gateway only
6	Tender Document Cost : Rs. Nil /-
7	Date and Time of availability of e-Tender Document : From 04.10.2022 to 25.10.2022 time 13:00 hrs.
8	Date and time of E-tender box closing : 25.10.2022 at 13:00 hrs.
9	Date and time of E-tender box opening : On 25.10.2022 after 13:00 hrs. If the date of opening happens to be holiday the E-Tender shall be opened on the next working day.
10	Place for opening E-Tender : Mechanical Department, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi-65
Note: The complete particulars of the tender may be found in website www.ireps.gov.in	
No.: 197-S/251/Repair-Fitment/Roller-Blind/22/MC-IV Date: 04.10.2022 2610/22	
Serving Customers with a Smile	

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)	
N.I.T. No.	19(A,B)-22-23-W-2 Date 03.10.2022
1	Name of work with its location
A)	Annual zone for repair and maintenance of service building and staff quarters in the section of ADEENMUT for the year 2022-23
B)	Annual zone for repair to bridge, parapets toe wall cess repair, desiling of waterway in the section of ADEENMUT for the year 2022-23
2)	Approx. Cost of work 19(A,B)-22-23-W-2 As per IREPS Notice
3)	Earnest Money 19(A,B)-22-23-W-2 As per IREPS Notice
4)	Completion period of Work 19(A,B)-22-23-W-2 As per IREPS Notice
5)	Cost of tender on cash /by post 19(A,B)-22-23-W-2 As per IREPS Notice
6)	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender 18.10.2022 to 01.11.2022 upto 15:00 hrs Opening of tender 01.11.2022 at 15:00 hrs,
7)	Similar nature of Work 19(A,B)-22-23-W-2 As per IREPS Notice
8)	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be ased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
NIT - 19(A,B)-22-23-W-2	Dated: 03.10.2022 2600/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	



# Housing prices, office rent soar in Q2; Bengaluru tops

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Average housing price across eight cities rose 3-10 per cent year-on-year in July-September this year, while office rent grew up to 13 per cent on higher demand for properties, according to Knight Frank India.

Bengaluru property market saw highest growth in average housing price as well as average office rent during the third quarter of the 2022 calendar year as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, property consultant Knight Frank India said in its report 'India Real Estate - Office and Residential Market July-September 2022'.

As per the data of primary housing market, the average price in Bengaluru rose 10 per cent to ₹5,428 per square feet in July-September quarter from ₹ 4,928 per square feet in the year-ago period.

The Delhi-NCR market saw 8 per cent increase in average housing price to Rs 4,489 per square feet.

Mumbai, Pune, Chennai and Hyderabad witnessed an increase of 6 per cent in average price of residential properties to ₹7,170 per square feet, ₹4,250 per square feet, ₹4,300 per square feet and ₹4,977 per square feet, respectively.

Housing price in Kolkata



rose 4 per cent to ₹3,350 per square feet, while the average rate in Ahmedabad grew 3 per cent to ₹2,885 per square feet.

With the revival in demand after the second wave of the Covid pandemic, real estate developers, especially large listed entities, have been raising housing prices every quarter to offset increase in rates of key construction materials.

According to Knight Frank report, housing sales rose 15 per cent in the third quarter of 2022 to 73,691 housing units across top eight cities from 64,010 in the same quarter of 2021. During January-September, sales have risen 40 per cent to 2,32,396 units from

1,63,426 units in the corresponding period of the previous year.

On office rentals, the Knight Frank data showed that average rent in Bengaluru rose 13 per cent to Rs 81 per square feet a month during July-September this year compared with ₹72 per square feet in the preceding year.

Average monthly rent in Pune rose 9 per cent to Rs 71 per square feet.

"Bengaluru and Pune office markets recorded maximum increase in their rental value at 13 per cent and 9 per cent YoY (Year-on-Year), respectively mostly due to higher demand and lack of Grade A space," the consultant said.

# Sensex, Nifty rebound over 2% amid relief rally in global markets

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back on Tuesday to close over 2 per cent higher on buying in banking, metal and IT shares amid positive trends in global equity markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex spurted 1,276.66 points or 2.25 per cent to settle at 58,065.47 with 27 of its shares ending in green. During the day, it zoomed 1,311.13 points or 2.30 per cent to 58,099.94.

The broader NSE Nifty rallied 386.95 points or 2.29 per cent to end at 17,274.30 as 48 of its constituents advanced.

Buying across sectors, led by metal, banking and IT, helped the indices rebound from previous session's losses.

Mirroring a robust overnight surge in Wall Street and upbeat domestic business data released by banks, the domestic market ended the day on a cheerful note. An unexpected slowdown in the US Manufacturing PMI gave hope that the US Fed would slow the pace of policy tightening." Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

US bond yields fell in tandem with the US dollar, he added.

Among the 30-share Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank,



Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC, Tata Steel, Larsen & Toubro, Wipro, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank were the major winners.

Power Grid, Sun Pharma and Dr Reddy's were the only laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 2.42 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.49 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices ended in the green, with metal rallying 3.43 per cent, services (3.08 per cent), financial services (2.82 per cent), bankex (2.74 per cent) and IT (2.68 per cent).

S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities said that indices surged over 2 per cent buoyed by positive global cues and encouraging quarterly updates on advances and collections from banks during the second quarter.

# Centre inks pact with Nafed to install millet-based vending machines in Delhi-NCR

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Agriculture Ministry has roped in cooperative Nafed to promote and market millet-based products through its network of stores and install millet-based vending machines in Delhi-NCR. The ministry has signed a memorandum of agreement with Nafed in this regard ahead of International Year of Millets in 2023. As per the agreement, Nafed will also install millet-based vending machines at various locations across Delhi-NCR, an official statement said. The dispensing millet-based products will assist in establishing the focus on millet-based commodities.

That apart, the ministry and Nafed will collaborate in key areas like facilitating advisory support to manufacturers/processors of millet-based products to develop value-added millet-based commodities. They will also focus on onboarding of startups, inclusive of startups empanelled with Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) besides formation of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) specifically for developing a range of millet-based products.

As India is gearing up to bring millet back on the global map, the ministry and Nafed will organise, promote, market, and forge effective market linkages for millet-based products to maximise the value.

# Goyal to meet export promotion councils on Oct 7



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will meet different export promotion councils on October 7 to discuss ways to promote the growth rate in the country's outbound shipments, an official said. The meeting assumes significance as India's exports contracted by 3.52 per cent to USD 32.62 billion in September against USD 33.81 billion in the same month last year, while the trade deficit widened to USD 26.72 billion during the last month.

Representatives from export bodies, including the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Apparel Export Promotion Council and Council for Leather Exports, would participate in the meeting, the official said.

According to an export council, issues which would figure in the meeting include export credit refinancing facility, increase in interest subsidy rates, removal of GST (Goods and Services Tax) on exports freight, exports benefits for rupee shipments to Russia and other countries, and removal of exports duty on some products.

Exporters have urged the government to continue with the GST exemption on export freight.

"This is a serious issue for us. We are already facing global headwinds and high inflationary pressure. The GST exemption is more crucial in the current scenario as container rates are already very high," an exporter said, adding that airfreight is already very high in comparison to sea freight.

# Jio to start beta trial of 5G services in 4 cities from Oct 5

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom major Jio will start a beta trial of 5G service in four cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Varanasi - from October 5 with a select set of customers, the company said on Tuesday.

The company will send an invite to customers under Jio True 5G Welcome Offer to try its 5G services, and the subscribers will get unlimited 5G data with up to 1 gigabit per second speed.

"Post the successful demonstration of its True-5G services at the India Mobile Congress 2022, Jio is announcing the Beta trial of its True-5G services on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, for Jio users in 4 cities - Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, and Varanasi," Jio said in the statement.

# UPI payment crosses ₹11L cr milestone in Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Payment through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has crossed a milestone of Rs 11 lakh crore in September, as per the data released by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

During the month, 678 crore transactions in volume terms were done on the platform launched in 2016.

Payment through UPI had crossed ₹10 lakh crore in May this year. Last month, as many as 657.9 crore transactions worth ₹10.72 lakh crore had taken place.

UPI is an instant real-time payment system which facilitates inter-bank peer-to-peer (P2P) transactions. The transaction is done through mobile in easy steps. Besides, there are no charges applicable for the UPI transaction so far. Moreover, UPI has played a key role in the country becoming almost cashless economy.

The inexpensive medium for cashless transactions has been gaining traction month on month basis.

As per NPCI data, in June 2022, the transaction value under UPI dig-



ital payments moderated marginally at Rs 10,14,384 crore from Rs 10,41,506 crore in May. It increased to Rs 10,62,747 crore in July.

It is expected that payment through UPI would create another record both in terms of transaction and value in the festival month of October and November.

The key benefit of UPI is that it has done away with the inconvenience of third-party payments, Spice Money CEO Sanjeev Kumar said.

While services such as net banking, call for processes like OTP generation, which is also a major source of digital fraud in India, money can be moved between numerous accounts using UPI without the need for unique profiles for each transaction, he said.

# Rupee rises 29 paise to close at 81.53 against US dollar on FII buying

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 29 paise to end at 81.53 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as heavy buying in domestic equities and weakness in the greenback strengthened investor sentiment.

However, rising crude prices in the international market capped the rupee's gain, forex dealers said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 81.66 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 81.36 and a low of 81.66 during the session.

It finally ended at 81.53, up 29 paise from its previous close. In the previous session, the rupee had settled paise 42 lower at 81.82 against the dollar.

"Rupee retraced from its all-time lows after the RBI raised rates by 50 bps. The dollar retraced from high levels after the manufacturing PMI



number released from the US came below estimates.

"Volatility in major crosses continues to remain high as updates on the change in economic policies keep market participants on the edge. Today, the focus will be on the factory order number to gauge a view for the dollar. We expect the USD/INR (Spot) to quote in the range of 81.20 and 82.05," Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

# CESL selects agencies to set up 124 battery swapping stations for e-vehicles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) has selected agencies to set up 124 battery swapping stations and 352 standing chargers for electric two and three-wheelers.

The selected agencies will also set up 1,294 standing DC fast chargers for electric four-wheelers, CESL said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The business will be delivered under a build, own, and operate (BOO) model valid for eight years, with charging stations installed across Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune and Surat," the company said without sharing any further information.

CESL MD and CEO Mahua Acharya said adequate charging infrastructure is a necessity for the scale-up of electric mobility. This model of engaging with market players will give all of us the outcomes we want -- widespread charging stations.

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) is a subsidiary of state-owned Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of four power sector public sector undertakings -- NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation Limited, REC Limited and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.

# Gold futures gain ₹275 to ₹51,435/10 gram



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Tuesday increased by ₹275 to ₹51,435 per 10 gram in futures trade as speculators created fresh positions on a firm spot demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for December delivery traded higher by ₹275 or 0.54 per cent at ₹51,435 per 10 gram in a business turnover of 18,186 lots.

Fresh positions built up by participants led to the rise in gold prices, analysts said.

Globally, gold was trading 1.01 per cent higher at USD 1,719.20 per ounce in New York.

# Increase in tea prices to offset impact of wage rate hike in Assam, West Bengal: ICRA

PTI ■ MUMBAI

An increase in tea prices following global supply issues is likely to offset the impact of increased wage rates in West Bengal and Assam, according to a report.

The increase in wage rates in the current calendar year in North India (NI), Assam and West Bengal, in the current financial year is expected to be nullified by healthy realisations of teas, particularly producers who are focused on producing quality teas, Icria said in a report.

In FY22, softening of realisation and increase in wage rates led to a decline in the operating margin (OPM) of players, it noted.



"Notwithstanding the impact of higher wage rates, the financial performance of quality producers is likely to witness an improvement in FY23 on a year-on-year basis. Increase in prices of quality crush-tear-curl (CTC) and Orthodox (ODX) teas would enable the producers to absorb the higher cost of

production due to the wage rate revision," Icria Vice President and Sector Head, Corporate Sector Ratings, Sujoy Saha said.

The report stated that the ODX tea prices are ruling at an all-time high level on the back of a demand-supply mismatch in the international market due to production disruptions in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka, the largest exporter of ODX teas globally, witnessed disruptions in production due to the current economic crisis.

The production loss in Sri Lanka is likely to continue for some more time, which would keep supply tight in the international market, thus supporting prices of Indian ODX teas, said the report.

# Crude oil futures gain on spot demand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Crude oil prices on Tuesday rose by Rs 21 to Rs 6,838 per barrel in futures trade as participants widened their positions on a firm spot demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for October delivery traded higher by Rs 21 or 0.31 per cent at Rs 6,838 per barrel in 5,049 lots.

Analysts said raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade.

Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil was up 0.42 per cent at USD 83.98 per barrel, and Brent crude traded 0.57 per cent higher at USD 89.37 per barrel in New York.

# Edelweiss arm aims to raise USD 1 bn in third distressed asset fund

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Edelweiss Alternative on Tuesday said it is targeting to raise USD 1 billion (about Rs 8,000 crore) in its third distressed asset fund, eyeing strong opportunities in the space. The company has already raised USD 425 million or ₹3,400 crore for the third 'Special Situations Fund' (SSF III) from large insurance companies and pension funds globally, as also domestic high net individuals and family offices, it said in a statement.

Under an SSF, the company focusses on asset heavy companies and identifies viable underlying businesses that have a strong turnaround potential, or invest in situations where resolution of asset requires capital and domain expertise, it said. In the second fund launched in 2018, it invested ₹10,500 crore and realised cash of more than ₹9,500 crore from the portfolio companies, it said. Under the latest fund, it is targeting to raise USD 1 billion with a greenshoe option of USD 500 million, the statement said.

Of the ₹3,400 crore raised till now for the third SSF, it has already invested ₹crore in two special situation opportunities, and said there is a strong pipeline of opportunities in the space. "Special situation opportunities provide an exciting avenue for generating superior risk adjusted returns for investors," Edelweiss Alternative head for special situation strategy, Amit Agarwal, said.

# Automobile retail sales rise 11% in Sept on festive fervour, better supplies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile retail sales in India rose 11 per cent in September as better supplies from manufacturers enabled dealers to ramp up customer deliveries amid the ongoing festive period, Federation Of Automobile Dealers Associations said on Tuesday.

Last month, total retail sales stood at 14,64,001 units as compared to 13,19,647 units in September 2021.

FADA noted that October is expected to witness even better overall sales due to the fes-



tive season further gathering steam.

"Dealers anticipate this to be the best festive period in a decade for the passenger vehicle segment as we anticipate even higher sales during the

month," it said.

Barring tractors and some three-wheeler trims, all other segments like passenger and commercial vehicles and two wheelers performed better in September as compared to the

year-ago period.

Passenger vehicle retails increased 10 per cent to 2,60,556 units last month as against 2,37,502 units in September 2021.

"Better availability of cars due to easing semiconductor supply, new launches and feature rich products kept customers glued to dealerships for getting their favourite vehicles during the auspicious period," Federation Of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said in a statement.

**BUSINESS BRIEF**  
**FREE HEALTH CHECK-UP ON SHASTRI'S BIRTH ANNIV**  
**New Delhi:** The nation on Sunday celebrated the 118th birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. At Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial, 1 Motilal Nehru Place, New Delhi a free Health Check-up camp was organized by Lalita Shastri Foundation in collaboration with Safexpress, Rotary Club of Indirapuram Pariwar, Max Hospital, Patparganj and I-care Hospital and PG Institute organized by Mr. Naresh Wadhwa, Member, Lalita Shastri Foundation. The camp was inaugurated by Smt. Monika Shastri, Smt. Roli Shastri, Smt. Aradhana Shastri and Smt. Jaya Shastri and also the present of Shastri Family Members and 250 needy people have gone through Medical Check Up.  
**IMPORT POTENTIAL OF SOFT WHEAT FLOURS FROM ITALY**  
**Mumbai:** India market offers great opportunity to increase the export of soft wheat flours from Italy. "We see a great opportunity in India to increase the export of soft wheat flours from Italy. More than ever before, home cooks and chefs are demanding premium ingredients that are healthy, nutritious and safe," said ITALMOPA president Emilio Ferrari. The "Pure Flour from Europe" campaign will span for another two years.

# Govt approves ₹26,000 cr to install 25k mobile towers in 500 days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has approved ₹26,000 crore for installation of 25,000 mobile towers in 500 days, an official statement said on Tuesday. According to a telecom ministry spokesperson, financial support for the project will be provided by Universal Services Obligation Fund and it will be implemented by Bharat Broadband Network. The project was announced by Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at three-day long 'Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers' that concluded on October 3.

"In his concluding remarks, Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that connectivity is vital for Digital India and its reach to every corner of the country. He announced that ₹26,000 crore has been approved to install 25,000 new towers in next 500 days," the statement said. Minister of State (MoS) for Electronics and Information Technology and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MoS Communications Devusinh Chauhan and IT ministers from 12 states and UTs, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Puducherry participated in the conference.



# HAALAND PEERLESS AT JUST 22: GUARDIOLA



AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erling Haaland's goalscoring achievements at the age of 22 are unmatched by any other player according to Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola, who urged the Norwegian to keep improving.

Haaland has scored 17 goals in 10 competitive games for City since joining from Borussia Dortmund,

where he struck 86 times in 89 matches.

He has scored a hat-trick in each of City's past three home Premier League games and became the quickest player to reach 25 Champions League goals with an acrobatic winner against Dortmund three weeks ago.

"At his age no one can compete with him," Guardiola said on Tuesday, on the eve of his side's

home match against FC Copenhagen. "The numbers speak for themselves.

"Inside, on the pitch, in the locker room, we see things that are not in the stats that make us feel happy to have him here."

Another 22-year-old, Phil Foden, also scored a hat-trick as City put local rivals Manchester United to the sword in a 6-3 win on Sunday.

## Maddison lifts Leicester as Forest hit rock bottom

AP ■ LEICESTER

James Maddison eased the pressure on Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers and pushed Nottingham Forest to the bottom of the Premier League as the midfielder's double inspired a vital 4-0 win on Monday.

Rodgers' side blew Forest away with three goals in the space of 10 minutes in the first half at the King Power Stadium.

Maddison struck either side of a superb finish from Harvey Barnes and Patson Daka netted in the second half as Leicester won for the first time this season at the eighth attempt.

Leicester had lost their previous six games to leave Rodgers fighting to avoid the sack following his criticism of the club's Thai owners for failing to back him in the transfer window.

Beating their East Midlands



rivals should give Rodgers at least a little breathing space, with Leicester moving one place above rock-bottom Forest on goal difference. Woeful Forest are now without a win in six games, losing five in a row and conceding 16 goals in their last four matches.

That dismal run has turned up the heat on Steve Cooper, who took charge when Forest were bottom of the Championship last season and led them back to the Premier League for the first time since 1999.

Foden is reportedly close to signing a new contract to tie his future to the club where he came through the academy.

"Due to his performance during these years, of course we want him to stay," said Guardiola.

"He's an exceptional player, he grew up a lot. Already he is many years with us, he's reliable in terms of his physical condition, he's so intense in everything, every three

days he is able play.

"Both (Haaland and Foden), they know they can do better and hopefully they can do it."

After beating Sevilla and Dortmund in their opening two group games, City can close in on the Champions League last 16 with another victory over Copenhagen on Wednesday.

But Guardiola is wary of taking the Danish champions lightly.

## Stimac signs contract extension till AFC Asian Cup 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian men's football team head coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday signed an extension of his contract till the end of next year's AFC Asian Cup.

The decision to extend the contract was recommended by the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) technical committee last month, and was subsequently ratified by the executive committee in their respective meetings in Kolkata last month.

The executive committee also accepted the recommendations of the technical committee that should India make it to the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup, the coach's contract should be automatically renewed.

"I am extremely happy that the AIFF has placed the trust in the process that we have put in," said Stimac.

"We have had a very good run in the qualifiers, and we want to make sure that we keep building ourselves up till the Asian Cup and give a good account of ourselves in the continental stage."

The 55-year-old from Croatia has been in charge of the Blue Tigers since 2019, and has successfully guided the team through to its second successive AFC Asian Cup qualification earlier this year, when India topped Group D of the Third Round qualifiers.

"Now that we have ensured qualification, we must make sure that we keep improving and finding our best combination till the Asian Cup," he said.

"Again, it is not an easy process, and there will be plenty of pain on the way, but if we can stick to the proper procedure and not take shortcuts, we



can achieve our target of making it to the knockout rounds."

AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran said: "The new team in AIFF would like to see a forward momentum for the national team and we are determined to rebuild it with a fresh approach by developing a new plan exclusively for the senior national team." The secretary general informed that the federation will work closely with the head coach, the support staff and the players and the clubs as well in making sure a positive scenario is created for Indian football through the senior national team.

"Our best wishes to Igor Stimac and we are confident he will guide the Indian national team to a new level with his huge experience and hard work," Prabhakaran said.

## Kyrgios cruises past Tseng in Japan opener as Ruud exits

AP ■ TOKYO

Nick Kyrgios said he "struggled to breathe" in the Tokyo air Tuesday before finding his feet and crushing Taiwan's Tseng Chun-hsin 6-3, 6-1 in his first match since the US Open.

Kyrgios dropped just seven points on his own service in his opening match at the Japan Open as he dismantled world number 87 Tseng in 1hr, 6min.

The maverick world number 20 was playing his first match since his "heartbreaking" quarter-final loss to Karen Khachanov at last month's US Open but he said he made a "solid" return despite a slow start.

"The first couple of games I struggled to breathe, I think just the humidity and getting back into competitive play," said Kyrgios.

"I came out a bit slow but I don't play many matches so it's hard to just get straight back into that competitive flow.

"But as soon as I held that first game, I found my form again and played really well."

The Tokyo crowd cheered Kyrgios' name and clamoured for the signed balls that he hit into the stands after the match.

### RUUD SURPRISE

Earlier in the day, top seed Casper Ruud crashed out in the first round after a 6-3, 6-3 defeat to Spain's Jaume Munar.

The Norwegian lost to Carlos Alcaraz in the US Open final last month and he has hardly taken his foot off the gas since, playing in the Davis Cup and Laver Cup before heading to last week's Korea Open.

He finally hit the wall against world number 58 Munar, having his service bro-



### Alcaraz loses to Goffin in Astana opener

AP ■ ASTANA

World number one Carlos Alcaraz crashed out in the first round of the Astana Open on Tuesday, losing 7-5, 6-3 to Belgium's David Goffin.

US Open champion Alcaraz suffered his first

straight-sets defeat since November last year as Goffin made the most of his second chance as a lucky loser.

Goffin only earned a spot in the main draw after the withdrawal of Danish teenager Holger Rune. He will play Frenchman Adrian Mannarino in the last 16.

ken twice in the first set and dumping shot after shot into the net all match.

Australian number-six seed Alex de Minaur also made a first-round exit earlier in the day when he lost 6-3, 6-2 to South Korea's Kwon Soon-

woo.

Croatia's number-nine seed Borna Coric beat Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), while British number-eight seed Dan Evans beat Moldova's Radu Albot 6-7 (3/7), 6-1, 6-4.

## Paris will not show WC matches on big screens

PARIS (AP) — Paris will not show matches from the World Cup in Qatar on big screens in the French capital, partly due to the "conditions" of the tournament, the city's current deputy mayor for sports said on Monday.

Last year, a report said 50 migrant workers died in Qatar in 2020 and 500 others were seriously injured.

Several French cities have said they would not broadcast matches in public places, with the socialist mayor of Marseille Benoit Payan denouncing the competition as a "human and environmental disaster".

"For us, there was no question of setting up big screen areas for several reasons: the first is the conditions in which this World Cup has been organised, both in terms of the environment and the social aspect," said Pierre Rabadan.

"The second is the fact that it takes place in December."

## India blank Maldives 5-0 in AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers

PTI ■ AL KHOBAR

India kicked off their AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers in style, thrashing Maldives 5-0 at the Prince Saud Bin Jalawi Stadium here on Tuesday.

Captain Vanlalpeka Guite, Lalhmingchhuanga Fanai, Aman, Bobby Singh, Phoenix Oinam scored a goal each to make it a five-star performance for India.

India got off on the front foot, with Huzafah and Bobby orchestrating attacks down the left flank.

It did not take them too long to score the first though, as captain Guite ran on to a low cross from the right and slotted it home.

Fanai doubled the lead in the 24th minute, when he tried his luck from long range, as the ball took a deflection and sailed past the Maldives keeper.

India were completely dom-



inant in the second half, enjoying long bouts of possession, and it took them about 15 minutes to score again.

Forward Aman got himself to the end of an elaborate team move and finished it off to make it three in India's favour just one minute ahead of the

hour mark.

Eight minutes later, Huzafah Ahmad Dar was fouled inside the box, and the referee subsequently pointed to the spot. Bobby Singh stepped up and slotted it home to make it four.

Minutes later, Phoenix Oinam put the finishing touch-

es on the victory, as he fired home from around 25 yards, sending the ball into the bottom corner of the goal.

As the clock wore on, Aman came close to making it six for India, as his shot from outside the box ricocheted off the crossbar and went out of play.

## Hazard still one of world's best: Martinez

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez says he believes Eden Hazard is still "one of the best in the world" at his position despite the forward's injury-plagued spell at Real Madrid.

Hazard has started just one game for Madrid this season but captained his country in their Nations League matches against Wales and the Netherlands last month.

His limited minutes at club level have sparked debate over his role at the World Cup next month, but Martinez insists the 31-year-old remains



a key component of the squad. "Is Eden Hazard still an important player for the national team? Yes, 100 percent," Martinez told state broadcaster RTBF.

"I think his experience, the way he affects the opposition, the way he's still beating players, he's creating a real threat."

"For me it's a profile that is one of the best in the world in terms of being able to play."

Belgium finished third at the 2018 World Cup after losing to eventual champions France 1-0 in the semi-finals.

The Red Devils lost to Italy in the quarter-finals of Euro 2020 without the injured

Hazard, who has scored just seven times for Madrid since joining more than three years ago.

"Nobody is trying to look away from the reality. Eden hasn't played consistently for a long, long time," said Martinez.

"Another question is can he play for 90 minutes? Can he play seven games in a short period of time?"

"This is something that's very different and could change a lot in the next five weeks."

Belgium have been drawn alongside Canada, Morocco and 2018 runners-up Croatia in Group F in Qatar.

## India's Mumtaz Khan named FIH women's rising player of year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India forward Mumtaz Khan was on Tuesday named the FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year on the back of her stellar role during the country's campaign at the Junior World Cup in South Africa earlier this year.

The 19-year-old Mumtaz, who hails from Lucknow, had scored eight goals in six matches, including a hat-trick, during India's fourth-place finishing campaign in Potchefstroom in April.

She finished in third place on the list of top scorers in the World Cup. She failed to score in just one game throughout the tournament, against Netherlands.

Mumtaz scored both the goals for India in the crucial 2-2 tie in the Bronze medal match against England, but the team couldn't get over the line in the ensuing shoot-out to end at fourth place.

"I cannot believe that I have won this award. It is the hard work of our entire team over the year that has paid off, and I dedicate the win to my team," Mumtaz said.

"I feel the award is a sign that the hard work that I have put over the past year on the training grounds has helped me improve a lot as a player. But this is just the beginning of my career. I wish to continue the learning process and will continue the hard work to improve upon my game."

## Carvajal, Ancelotti insist Madrid's Champions League glory is deserved

AP ■ MADRID

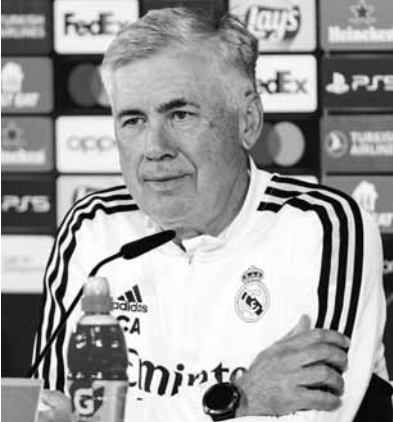
Real Madrid defender Dani Carvajal believes his team fully deserve their glittering Champions League record and dismissed Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez's mention of unfairness.

Los Blancos, the reigning champions and record 14-time European Cup winners, have lifted the trophy five times in the last nine years.

Right-back Carvajal established himself in the team during the 2013-14 season, when Madrid ended an 11-season drought in the tournament to win La Decima, their 10th European Cup.

Xavi said at a press conference on Monday that the best team does not always win the Champions League and La Liga was a "fairer" competition.

"I think that when you've won five of the last nine Champions Leagues, you can't put that down to luck," Carvajal told a press conference on Tuesday, ahead of his team's clash with Shakhtar Donetsk.



Champions League, but we managed to win the cup.

"It seems to me that this debate about fairness and unfairness always comes up when Madrid win the Champions League. When others win it, it's meritocracy."

Madrid enjoyed a thrilling run to the final with comebacks against Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Manchester City en route to beating Liverpool in the final.

Their coach Carlo Ancelotti also highlighted the importance of the Champions League to the capital club and said winning was not related to luck.

"La Liga is very important but the Champions League is the most important competition in the football world," said the coach.

"Winning it means a lot. They are two different competitions, one with 38 games is different to one with far fewer.

"Sometimes it comes down to small details, but it's not luck, or bad luck. Talking about that hides the problems you have and the quality of your opponent."

"Football is results, the team that scores more goals and concedes less wins. In the last few years, we've been the best. It's strange to talk about whether it's fair or not.

"Last season we had a great La Liga campaign, some ups and downs in the

## Saudi to host Asian Winter Games in desert megacity

AP ■ RIYADH

Saudi Arabia was chosen on Tuesday to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games at a \$500 billion futuristic megacity in the desert that planners say will feature a year-round winter sports complex.

"The deserts and mountains of Saudi Arabia will soon be a playground for winter sports," the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said in a statement on the decision made during its general assembly meeting in Phnom Penh.

The Saudi bid was "unanimously approved", the statement said, noting that the megacity known as NEOM will be the first West Asian city to host the event.

First announced in 2017, NEOM has consistently raised eyebrows for proposed flour-

ishes like flying taxis and robot maids, even as architects and economists have questioned its feasibility.

The Asian Winter Games are slated to take place in Trojena, an area of NEOM "where winter temperatures drop below zero celsius and year-round temperatures are generally 10 degrees cooler than the rest of the region", according to the project's website.

Set to be completed in 2026, Trojena will include year-round skiing, a manmade freshwater lake, chalets, mansions and ultra-luxury hotels, the website says.

The Asian Winter Games include competitions for skiing, snowboarding, ice hockey and figure skating -- 47 events in all, 28 on snow and 10 on ice, the OCA said.



# Rossouw fires SA to 227/3

PTI ■ INDORE

Left-hander Rilee Rossouw smashed an unbeaten 100 off 48 balls to fire South Africa to a formidable 227 for three in the third T20 International as Indian bowlers once again faltered under pressure here on Tuesday.

T20 World Cup-bound Harshal Patel (0/49) continued to leak a lot of runs in a forgettable night for all four Indian pacers.

Deepak Chahar, Mohammad Siraj and Umesh Yadav also went for more than 11 runs per overs as they were put to sword by Rossouw and Quinton de Kock (68 off 43 balls).

On a belter of a pitch, South Africa made a strong start, reaching 48 for one in the powerplay with de Kock and Rossouw in destructive mood.

Their belligerent stand came after skipper Temba Bavuma (3) fell cheaply. Under a lot of pressure after scoring two zeroes, Bavuma looked totally out of touch and ended up mistiming a regulation at mid on off the very first ball bowled by Umesh Yadav.

De Kock, who had to work hard for runs in Guwahati, was back to his best. He got his first six with a pick-up shot off Siraj who featured for the first time in the series.

The next six was even more delightful as he moved across the stumps to swat a wide length ball off Chahar over square leg.

Rossouw got into the act with a flat six off Siraj in the seventh over. With two left handers in full swing, Rohit decided to hold Axar Patel till the 14th over.

R Ashwin, who was brought in the powerplay, was hit for two maximums in the ninth over. One was a spectacular reverse sweep from de Kock before Rossouw employed the



conventional sweep to dispatch the spinner over deep backward square leg. Siraj could have caught the latter but fluffed it to over the fence.

With a ground as small as the Holkar Stadium, even the mishits were going the distance.

India got de Kock run out against the run of play but South African batters kept aiming for the big hits.

Rossouw greeted Axar into the attack with a slog sweep that went all the way. It seemed Rossouw was hitting sixes for fun as he ended up with

eight of them.

There was a light moment before the start of 16th over when Chahar saw Stubbs backing up at the non striker's end but did not take the bails off in what seemed a like gentle warning.

In the final over of the innings, the in-form David Miller sent a high full toss from Chahar out of the ground before collecting two more sixes. The over fetched 24 runs as South Africa set a daunting target for India.



## Menon among 16 umpires named for T20 WCup

PTI ■ DUBAI

India's Nitin Menon will be among the 16 umpires who will officiate in the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia.

Menon, the only Indian on the ICC Elite Panel, has already reached Australia.

The ICC has announced 20 match officials for the First Round and Super 12s stage of the tournament.

"In total, 16 umpires will officiate across the tournament with Richard Kettleborough, Nitin Menon, Kumara Dharmasena and Marais Erasmus having been the umpires in charge of the 2021 final which saw this year's hosts claim their first ICC Men's T20 World Cup title," the ICC said in a statement.

"It is an experienced group of umpires, with the same 16 selected as last year's tournament which was held in the United Arab Emirates and Oman."

Chief Referee of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, Ranjan Madugalle, is part of a quartet of former international cricketers who make up the match referees for the eighth edition of the T20 World Cup.

Sri Lankan Madugalle is joined by Andrew Pycroft of Zimbabwe, England's Christopher Broad and

Australian David Boon.

Pycroft will take charge of the tournament opener in Geelong on October 16 when Sri Lanka takes on Namibia in the First round with Joel Wilson and Rodney Tucker the umpires in the middle. Paul Reiffel will act as the TV umpire with Erasmus, occupying the role of the fourth umpire.

Erasmus, Tucker and Aleem Dar are all set to appear in their seventh ICC Men's T20 World Cup, with Langton Rusere umpiring in his second World Cup of the year having stood in the 2022 Women's ODI World Cup, including acting as reserve umpire for the final.

"Officials have been named for the entirety of the First Round and Super 12s, with the selections for the semi-finals and final of the tournament to be named in due course," the ICC added.

**Match Referees:** Andrew Pycroft, Christopher Broad, David Boon, Ranjan Madugalle  
**Umpires:** Adrian Holdstock, Aleem Dar, Ahsan Raza, Christopher Brown, Christopher Gaffaney, Joel Wilson, Kumara Dharmasena, Langton Rusere, Marais Erasmus, Michael Gough, Nitin Menon, Paul Reiffel, Paul Wilson, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Rodney Tucker.

## Gutted that I won't be part of T20 WC: Bumrah



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jasprit Bumrah is gutted that he will have to miss the T20 World Cup due to a back injury but the star India pacer will cheer for his team as he goes through his rehabilitation process.

"I am gutted that I won't be a part of the T20 World Cup this time, but thankful for the wishes, care and support I've received from my loved ones. As I recover, I'll be cheering on the team

through their campaign in Australia," Bumrah tweeted on Tuesday.

The BCCI on Monday ruled Bumrah out of the ICC event, dealing a massive setback to the Indian team.

Bumrah's absence will certainly affect India's chances in the marquee event in Australia as death bowling still remains a grey area.

The BCCI was awaiting medical reports while the pacer did his rehab at the National

## West Indies dump Hetmyer for 2022 T20 World Cup

AP ■ MIAMI

West Indies dropped Shimron Hetmyer from the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia after the batter missed a rescheduled flight, Cricket West Indies announced.

The 25-year-old from Guyana was replaced on the roster by Shamarh Brooks in a decision by the Cricket West Indies selection panel after Hetmyer missed his flight to Australia, which had been moved due to family reasons.

After a seat was found on a Monday flight to New York, Hetmyer told CWI on Monday morning that he would be unable to get to the Guyana airport in time to make his flight

to New York.

"This afternoon we informed the CWI board of directors that the selection panel had unanimously decided to replace Shimron Hetmyer with Shamarh Brooks in our T20 World Cup squad," CWI director of cricket said.

Brooks will fly out later this week and miss T20 International matches against Australia on Wednesday at Gold Coast and Friday at Brisbane, instead joining the squad at Melbourne.

"Shamarh has been a part of our recent T20 International squads and delivered strong performances in the latter stages of the recently concluded CPL," Adams said.

replace him if he gains full fitness after recovering from COVID-19.

In case, Shami does not achieve the desired fitness standards, Deepak Chahar or Mohammed Siraj could be named in the World Cup squad.

The team is set to leave for Australia on Thursday.

The World Cup is starting October 16 with first round from where four teams will qualify for Super 12, which will begin from October 22.

## Jemimah, Deepti do star turns as India crush UAE by 104 runs



PTI ■ SYLHET

Jemimah Rodrigues was at her ruthless best, smashing an unbeaten 75 off 45 balls as India out-batted an inexperienced United Arab Emirates at 104 runs in the Women's T20 Asia Cup, here on Tuesday.

Jemimah and Deepti Sharma (64 off 49 balls) added 128 runs in 13.3 overs after UAE had briefly sent some shivers down the Indians' spine, reducing the tournament favourites to 20 for 3 inside the fifth over.

However, the gulf in class between the two teams became more and more evident with India posting a challenging 178 for 5 in 20 overs.

The UAE team, which is also represented by 11 players of Indian origin, never even

bothered to be competitive in its chase, finishing the quota of 20 overs at 74 for 4.

India have now won three matches on the trot and are firmly on their way to grab a semi-final berth although the big games against Bangladesh and Pakistan are yet to be played.

While Smriti Mandhana, S Meghana and an out of form Shafali Verma were back in the dug-out quickly, Jemimah and Deepti first steadied the ship till the 12th over and then upped the ante towards the end when the UAE bowlers found it difficult to control the run-flow.

While Jemimah hit 11 boundaries, Deepti had five fours and two sixes -- including one which was slog-swept behind '45' off a medium pacer.

## Bairstow confirms he won't play again in 2022

AP ■ LONDON

England batsman Jonny Bairstow has confirmed he won't play again this year after undergoing surgery on a broken leg following a "freak accident" playing golf.

Just hours after being named in England's T20 World Cup squad, Bairstow was forced to withdraw after suffering a broken leg when he slipped while walking to a tee box.

Bairstow, who turned 33 last week, has already been ruled out of the upcoming World Cup in Australia.

He confirmed Monday there was no prospect of him being fit enough for England's three-Test series in Pakistan in December.

Bairstow revealed he let out "uncontrollable screams" after slipping on the course.

"The actual injury was as such... a broken fibula in three places which required a plate, I dislocated my ankle which in turn meant I did my syndesmosis joint and lateral ligament along with a couple more bits," he posted on Instagram. "All in all I have done a proper job on it!"

He added: "Anyway... on the positive side the operation went well and I am now three weeks post surgery and my staples have been removed... "One thing is for sure and that is I shall not be partaking in anything more during 2022... however I cannot wait for what 2023 holds!"

Bairstow told the Daily Telegraph: "Normally when you slip you fall on your bum, which would have been fine as there's plenty of cushion in there.



"Except this time I tried to regain my balance, my left ankle turned right, dislocated and my weight went through my left lower leg. I heard it snap straight away."

"I took a couple of steps down then slipped. By the time I crumpled into a heap, I was three-quarters of the way down. It's all a blur, it happened so quickly."

"I yelled. Uncontrollable screams, the sort you hear on a rugby field. The adrenaline kicked in, and I knew I needed an ambulance. The next three hours without painkillers were not too fun."

## ROI beat Saurashtra by 8 wickets in Irani Cup

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Kuldeep Sen blew away the last two batters with scorching pace and steep bounce to finish with a match haul of eight wickets as Rest of India won their 29th Irani Trophy with a walk-in-the-park eight wicket victory over Saurashtra here on Tuesday.

While Saurashtra gave a much better account of themselves in the second innings but a total of 380 meant Rest needed only 105 runs with almost two days of play left.

They knocked off the runs in little over a session and half with Abhimanyu Easwaran remaining unbeaten on 63 while adding 81 match winning runs for the unbroken third wicket stand with keeper Kona Bharat (27 not out).

However, it was young Kuldeep (5/94 in 19 overs) who quickly wrapped up the Saurashtra innings in the morning as he bowled one fast and full to trap Parth Bhut plumb in-front.

Jaydev Unadkat, who played a captain's knock of 89 to carry the fight till fourth morning, was finally dismissed when Kuldeep banged one short and extra bounce saw the batter slash hard but only to find the resultant edge carry to keeper Bharat.

With a match-haul of 8 wickets, Kuldeep showed why he is so highly rated at the national level and will be travelling with the Indian team to Perth as a net bowler for the T20 World Cup.

Easwaran, who has an average of 32 in his last 20 innings, played some flowing strokes, including some great cover drives but to be fair, these weren't runs scored under pressure like what Sarfaraz Khan did when he came into bat at 18/3 in ROI's first innings.

Deservingly, Bengal pacer Mukesh Kumar got the 'Player of the Match' award for his mesmerizing first morning spell when he got four top-order wickets to bowl Saurashtra out for 98 and literally pocket the game.

"There was some assistance early on and we tried to bowl them out as quickly as possible. I focus on my line and length," Mukesh said after the game.

His skipper Hanuma Vihari was all praise for Sarfaraz Khan, who bailed the team out with a brilliant hundred on the opening day.

"We were in a tough situation on a wicket which was helping for the bowlers, Sarfaraz batted beautifully. The 220-run partnership (him and Sarfaraz) helped us to gain the momentum and we took the game away from them."

Vihari scored a cautious 82 off 184 balls, but wasn't disappointed on missing out on a hundred.

"I wanted to get the hundred because I worked hard. I batted long, but at the end of the day, the contribution helped the team and I am happy."

For Saurashtra captain Unadkat, the first day track was a very unlike Rajkot one and that made the difference.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat 362266

Branch Office: Aditya Birla Housing Finance, Sky Park, unit Nos.402 & 403, 4th Floor, Adjacent G E Road, Ravi Nagar, Opp. Rani Sati Mandir, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001

Contact No: 1. ABHFL Authorized Officer Mr. Bipul Kaushik ; Contact Number 919752097861

2. Auction Service Provider (ASP) M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited- Auction Tiger, Mr. Ram Sharma; Contact No. +91 8000023297

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset(s) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor, will be put to sale by auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 10-11-2022, for recovery of INR 6,34,238.55/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Eight and Fifty Five Paise Only) as on 07-05-2021 and further interest and other expenses thereon till the date of realization, due to Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor from the Borrowers namely Vijendra Pratap Singh, Tara Singh, Manoj Singh.

The reserve price will be INR 5,12,070/- (Rupees Five Lacs Twelve Thousand Seventy Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be INR 51,207/- (Rupees Fifty one thousand Two hundred Seven Only). The last date of EMD deposit is 09-11-2022. The date for inspection of the said property is fixed on 08-11-2022 between 11:00 am to 04:00 pm.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All That Piece and Parce Of The Property Consisting Of House No 48, Cghb Awas Yojna, Dhansuli Tal Arang Dist Raipur (C.G.), Raipur H.O. Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India-492001 House No. 48, Cghb Atal Awas Yojna, Area 558.87, Sq. Ft., Dhansuli Tal Arang Dist Raipur (C.G.), Raipur H.O. Raipur Chhattisgarh India 492001

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor's website i.e. https://homefinance.adityabirlacapital.com/properties-for-auction-under-sarfaesi-act or https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net

Date: 05-10-2022

Place: Raipur

Authorized Officer

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

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PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

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The reserve price will be INR 90,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Lakh Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be INR 9,00,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh only). The last date of EMD deposit is 27-10-2022. The date for inspection of the said property is fixed on 25-10-2022 between 11:00 am to 04:00 pm.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of New H No. 44 Galli No. 2Abadi Land Kh No. 189/1(Part) Gurughashi Das Ward No. 44 Ravi Gram Colony Telibandha, Ph No. 113/36 Near CG Eye Hospital & Jhulelal Mandir, Kalibadi S.O, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India-492001

East: House Of Gokul Das Lalwani

West: House Of Kanaiyalal Parwani

North: House of Jagdish Keshwani

South: Road

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor's website i.e. https://homefinance.adityabirlacapital.com/properties-for-auction-under-sarfaesi-act or https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net

Date: 05-10-2022

Place: Raipur

Authorized Officer

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited