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## 5G launch historic, turning point in telecom sec: PM

Technology should be used to bring about a revolution in country: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, Reliance Industries Ltd chairman Mukesh Ambani, and Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal during the launch of 5G services in India at the 6th India Mobile Congress, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the 5G telephony services in the country at the Indian Mobile Congress here and said this technology should be used to bring about a revolution in the country and should not be limited to just voice calls or watching videos.

The PM highlighted the use of drone technology as a case in point, saying after the newly launched drone policy many farmers have learnt how to fly drones and started making use of them to spray insecticides and pesticides in the fields.

"This is not just India's decade. It is the century of India. India is among those nations where data is so affordable. Earlier, 1 GB data used to cost ₹300, now it only costs ₹10. Today an Indian, on an average, spends 14 GB data in a month. In 2014 this cost ₹4,200 per month, now it is costing somewhere between ₹125 and ₹150.

"This means that poor and middle-income people are sav-

ing approximately ₹4,000 every month, it is not a small feat," said the PM in the presence of the heads of India's three telecom operators Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Jio, Sunil Mittal of Airtel and Kumar Mangalam Birla of Vodafone-Idea.

Reliance, Airtel and Vodafone Idea demonstrated one use case each in front of the PM and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to show the potential of the 5G technology in India but all the three tycoons of the Indian telecom sector later did not answer queries related to the tariff packages to be charged for the

5G services. The cumulative economic impact of 5G on India is estimated to reach \$450 billion by 2035.

Modi said, "The summit today might be global but its repercussions and directions are local. Today is a special day for the fast-developing India of the 21st century.

"Today, 130 crore Indians are getting a wonderful gift in the form of 5G from the country and from the telecom industry of the country. 5G is a knock on the doors of a new era in the country.

"The 5G is the beginning of an infinite sky of opportunities. I congratulate every

Indian for this."

He said, "New India will not remain a mere consumer of technology, but India will play an active role in the development and implementation of that technology. India will play a big role in designing the future wireless technology, and manufacturing related to it."

He pointed out that India was dependent on other countries for 2G, 3G and 4G technologies, but with 5G, India has created a new history.

"With 5G, India is setting a global standard in telecom technology for the first time," he remarked.

## No PUC? No fuel at Delhi filling stations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



In a bid to curb vehicular pollution in the national Capital region, the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi Government has decided to ban the sale of petrol and diesel at refueling stations to those without PUC (pollution under control) certificate.

From October 25, vehicle owners will not be provided fuel at the petrol pumps in Delhi without showing a valid pollution under control certificate. According to the Delhi Transport Department, over 17 lakh vehicles, including 13 lakh two-wheelers and three lakh cars, were plying without valid PUC certificates till July 2022.

Addressing a press conference, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Saturday said petrol and diesel would not be provided without PUC certificates at the petrol pumps in the national Capital from October 25. The Government will issue a notification soon.

The Delhi Environment

Minister said that the decision was taken at a meeting of officials from environment, transport and traffic departments on September 29 during which modalities and implementation of the plan were discussed.

"Vehicular emission is one of the key contributors to rising pollution in Delhi. It is imperative to reduce it," Rai said, adding the modalities of the plan will become clear in a week's time.

Under Section 190(2) of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1933, vehicle owners not having a valid PUC can be fined up to ₹10,000, or imprisoned for up to six months or both.

## Kharge quits as Cong RS leader; Digvijaya, PC front runners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after he filed his nomination to contest the Congress presidential election, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Saturday, tendered his resignation as the Leader of Opposition Party (LOP) in the Rajya Sabha abiding by the "one man, one post" principle in line with the party's Udaipur Chintan Shivir declaration.

He now has only one challenger in his party colleague and MP Shashi Tharoor as the third candidate in the fray KN Tripathi's candidature was rejected. With this development, AICC sources said senior leaders P Chidambaram and Digvijaya Singh are learnt to be the front-runners to take on the mantle of LOP in the Rajya Sabha.

"I hereby tender my resignation from the post of Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha, consequent upon my filing of nomination for the post of president, All India Congress Committee," Kharge said in his

## Gehlot in Raj command

NEW DELHI: Days after expressing regret to party president Sonia Gandhi for a revolt in his State to prevent his rival Sachin Pilot from taking over as his successor, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday indicated at his continuance at the helm as he asked the public to "send their suggestions for the Budget to him."

His remarks came on a day the process of filing of nominations for the post of Congress president came to an end. Gehlot was the first choice of the party high command.

letter to Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi.

Former Jharkhand Minister KN Tripathi's nomination form was rejected by the Congress's election authority for "not meeting the norms" and "signatures-related issues."

## 22 killed as tractor falls into Kanpur pond

PTI ■ KANPUR

At least 22 people were killed and several critically injured when a tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond near Bhadeuna village in Kanpur district on Saturday evening.

The tractor-trolley, carrying about 50 people, was on its way to Ghatampur after the passengers attended a "mundan" ceremony at the Chandrika Devi temple in Fatehpur, the official said. He

added that more than a dozen people were killed on the spot.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident.

## CAPSULE

**11-YEAR-OLD SODOMISED BY MINORS SUCCUMBS**  
New Delhi: Nearly two weeks after being sexually assaulted by three minors in Northeast Delhi, an 11-year-old boy succumbed to the injuries on Saturday.

**CPM LEADER KODIYERI BALAKRISHNAN DIES**  
Chennai: Senior CPI(M) leader and former Kerala Home Minister Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, 69, died at Apollo Hospital in Chennai on Saturday night.

**₹1,476 CR DRUG SEIZED**  
Mumbai: DRI Mumbai recovered 198 kg high purity crystal methamphetamine (ice) and 9 kg high purity cocaine worth ₹1,476 crores after a truck carrying imported oranges was intercepted in Vashi.

## Indore cleanest city, MP tops States' list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the sixth time in a row while Surat and Navi Mumbai followed it on the next two spots in the Central Government's annual cleanliness survey 2022 awards, the results of which were announced on Saturday. Among the States, Madhya Pradesh secured the first position, followed by Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

The New Delhi Municipal Council area was ranked first in the "country's cleanest small city" category, having a population between 1 lakh and 3 lakh. The NCR city of Noida



has been ranked at 11th in the latest report compared to its 9th position in the 2021 survey report.

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday gave away the awards to the winners at an event here also attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and others.

## India abstains from UN vote against Russia over Ukraine

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

India has abstained from voting in the United Nations on a resolution against Russia for annexation of four territories in Ukraine and said it did so "keeping in view the totality of the evolving situation."

The resolution failed to get adopted as Russia, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), vetoed it. The US and Albania had moved the resolution. It was supported by 10 of the 15 members of the UNSC. China, India, Brazil and Gabon abstained.

This development took place late on Friday hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin inked a treaty to annex Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia.

The move to oppose this action was initiated in the UNSC condemning Moscow's "illegal referenda."

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# Team inspects Durga Puja immersion sites

Police team on bikes to keep vigil

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR:



To make the festival more colourful and appealing to visitors, the Jamshedpur Durga Puja Kendriya Samiti and the district administration have decided to take steps to make the immersion procession more orderly.

The administration in association with Jamshedpur Kendriya Durga Puja Samiti (JKDPS) has earmarked routes for immersion of idols of the 350 licensed puja samiti and has undertaken special measures keeping in view the swelling rivers after heavy rains.

ADM (law and order) NK Lal said that though there has been no rainfall and the water level has receded still there

are enough locations on the river banks where a slight calousness can prove fatal for the devotees taking part in immersion.

The district administration has informed that in order to ensure smooth and incident free immersion of Goddess Durga tight security arrangements have been made and, in this connection magistrates and police officials in adequate number will be deployed across strategic locations.

According to the police seven police stations have

been bracketed in the sensitive zone that include Azadnagar, Mango, Pursudih, Baghera and MGM police station area, among others, that deserve additional focus of the administrative machinery.

There has been a lot of hooliganism during the immersion procession in previous years. If we can work on the lines of the cultural programme held during the Republic Day parade, our immersion procession can become one of the most coveted events, said a senior district

official.

Apart from chalking out plans for this year, the district administration zeroed down on certain pandals, which had flouted rules during the puja.

Jamshedpur Durga Puja Kendriya Samiti official said, last year, a lot of women and children had to stand on Adityapur bridge to witness the immersion. For the convenience of city residents, arrangements would be made for high-rise platforms and rostrums at ghats, he said.

Tight security arrangements would be made at the river banks of Kharkai and Subamarkha launch would be kept ready to rescue people in case of emergencies, the police said.

Various puja venues across the city, including the famous ones in Adityapur and Kashidih see a large number

of people gathering to seek the blessings of the goddess this morning. An adequate number of policemen would be deployed across the city to streamline the rush of devotees who were headed towards river banks to immerse the idols.

Taking lessons from the past incidents of bikers' hooliganism during pujas, the district traffic police has also constituted a team of bikers' police that will keep tabs on the movement of vehicle borne hoodlums during these pujas.

The purpose of the bikers' police team would be to keep an eye on the unruly elements causing nuisance at puja pandals, mostly during evening hours and at night, and prevent petty issues from blowing into a law and order problem, if any.

## REGION

### Winners of the 9th edition of Steel-a-thon announced

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR:



Tata Steel announced the winners of the 9th edition of its annual business challenge for premier B-Schools in India, Steel-a-thon, where students presented their innovative solutions on real-life business cases. Team Fluke from MICA Ahmedabad emerged as the winner and Team Firebolt from IIM Raipur secured the runner-up position in Business Track. Team Steelars from XIM Bhubaneswar was declared the winner and Uddeshya from IRMA Gujarat the runner-up position in Value Chain Track. Team HR Crew from XIM Bhubaneswar were declared the winner of the People Track while Team Drifter from IIM Bangalore came in as the runner-up.

record participation, with a total of 9000+ students registering in teams of three students each, from around 28 premier B-schools in India. For this year's edition, the teams had the option to choose a case from 3 tracks and submit their ideas/solutions for any one case. The tracks and their themes were - Business Growth aspirations (Grow More), Value Chain Sustainable Value Chain (Do More), and People Employee Well-Being (Live More). A total of 1036 teams submitted the executive summary for

the pre-finance. Post the rigorous examination of the submissions, 53 teams got selected for the pre-finance round. Finally, only 16 teams made it to the final. The finalists presented their business case solutions to a jury comprising senior management of Tata Steel led by Rajeev Singhal - vice president marketing & sales (flat products), Peeyush Gupta - vice president supply chain, Tata Steel, Ashish Anupam - managing director, Tata Steel Long Products and Zubin Palia - chief group HR & IR, Tata Steel.

### 3 JJMP extremists caught in Palamu

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

A 24 year old tribal identified as Dilip Oraon of the group of two more JJMP cadres who had opened unwarranted firing at the Kechki bridge on way to the Betla National Park on September 10 was nabbed from his house at a village under the Ramgarh police station on September 30. Officer in charge of the Chainpur police station Uday Kumar Gupta and officer in charge of the Ramgarh police station Prabhakar Ranjan Rai and their teams were instrumental in picking up this Oraon who was evading arrest since the day of the commission of crime on September 10. Oraon has been booked under section of the arms act and 17 CLA act. His two accomplices Sonu and Manohar were caught by the villagers at the Kechki bridge on September 10 itself. Oraon was remanded in judicial custody on Friday, said Gupta. Oraon was a non FIR accused.

### NTPC achieves over 15.1% growth in first Half of FY 23

PNS ■ HAZARIBAG

NTPC group of companies recorded a generation of 203.5 BU from April to September 2022, registering an increase of 15.1% from 176.8 BU generated in April to September 2021. The high generation growth indicates improved performance and an increase in demand for power in the current year.



NTPC Rihand (3000 MW) in Uttar Pradesh is the top performing thermal power plant with 90.22% Plant Load Factor (PLF) between April to September 2022. Overall Plant Load Factor of NTPC Coal stations was 76.3% from April to September 2022, a testimony to the high levels of operational excellence and the expertise of NTPC in Operation and Maintenance of the power plants. The total installed capacity of NTPC is 70234 MW. NTPC is expanding its footprint in new business areas like green hydrogen, waste-to-energy and e-mobility. India's largest power producer is also aiming for a 10 per cent reduction in net energy intensity by 2032. NTPC is the first energy company to declare its energy compact goals as part of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE). Besides power generation, NTPC has diversified into producing energy through cleaner and greener sources such as hydro, wind and solar and also Green Hydrogen solutions.

### Woman killed over land dispute in Bokaro

SURESH NIKHAR ■ BERMO

A 40 year-old woman was shot in the head on the late night of 30 September at around 10 o'clock here on Friday at Patel Nagar within the limits of Bermo police station. After the incident she was taken to the Central Hospital Dhori with the help of local people, where she was declared dead after examination by the doctors. The allegation is on the woman's brother-in-law, said Ravindra Kumar Singh, Inspector cum Officer in charge of Bermo police station. After getting information, the local police reached the spot and started an investigation into the matter. Giving information about the incident, the son of the deceased Renu Devi said that as soon as he came out after having dinner at around 10 o'clock on the night of 30 September, the sound of firing was heard. He saw that his mother had fallen on the ground. On closer inspection, he came to know that his mother had been shot in the head. He expressed the apprehension of murder on the uncle living in his neighbourhood.

### 'Necessity driven research needed for clean and sustainable energy'

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD:

Necessity driven research is needed for clean and sustainable energy that is required for the country, feels Dr Saurav Pal, Director Indian Institute of Science Education and Research. He was delivering the foundation day lecture of 81 foundation day of Central Institute for Scientific Research (CISR) at CIMFR here on Friday. Chemistry holds key to the future energy based research for harnessing clean renewable energy in the country though it be in field hydrogen as source of energy or the bio fuel or may be clean coal, wind or solar energy, said Dr Pal. At same time he stressed upon technical integration of different technologies be it vehicle battery requirements, advanced combustion system or light weight propulsion materials. Smart materials are needed for this we needed to develop such materials for future requirements of the country, added Dr Pal. CIMFR director Dr S Basu meanwhile called upon scientists to work hard to maintain the top position of CIMFR among CISR labs.

### Quality thinking improves lives, communities, nation: Dutta

PNS ■ BOKARO

Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS), a unit of DVC, honoured its eight employees on their retirement by organizing a farewell ceremony today. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Engineer and Head of the Project Ajay Kumar Dutta remarked in his address that the advancement of family, community, and the country is feasible thanks to excellent thinking. Because of thinking like this, DVC is currently making strides toward advancement. He praised the individuals who had retired for their fruitful careers and wished them well in the years to come. He also claimed that the management of DVC would pay a sufficient amount of pension to the retired workers once they left the company, assuring that their future would be bright. He said this to ensure the future of the workers. According to what he shared, the retired workers at DVC had assisted him and his family while working there.

### Over 500 tonnes of foodgrains spoil in New Giridih Railway Station

PRAVIN K MISHRA ■ GIRIDIH

Amid Union Government's announcements regarding free distribution of food grains among crores of poor sections across the country, about 500 tonnes of food grains, belonging to the Food Corporation of India (FCI), have been damaged in the dump-yard of the New Giridih Railway station. Sources from the Indian Railways revealed that these food grains were brought from somewhere in South India. Soon after the food grains were dumped in the Railway dump-yard on September 27, they were supposed to be taken over by the FCI authorities. But they ignored the sensitivity of the food grains lying in an open ground. As a result, major quantities of the rice packets got drenched and finally rotted, an official from the New Giridih Railway station said on condition of anonymity. The site of occurrence comes under the joint jurisdiction of Indian railways as well as the Bengabad circle office of Giridih district. When asked, the FCI warehouse in-charge, Sanjay Sharma said that he was not aware about the issue. If the food grains rotted in the railway dump yard, this is not our responsibility. Instead, this is the joint responsibility of the sensor as well as the railway authorities, Sharma said, adding that dumping food grains in the open yard, especially during the rainy season, is nothing but a kind of irresponsible work.

# Meeting on TB Free India Campaign held in Garhwa

NITYANAND DUBEY ■ GARHWA

Under the Prime Minister's TB Free India Campaign for adoption by Nikshay Mitra District TB Forum Garhwa and District TB Comorbidity Coordination Committee held at Collectorate conference hall, on Saturday.

The Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Garhwa-cum-President District Health Committee Ramesh Gholap.

Prime Minister TB Free India Campaign was launched by the President of India on 9th September 2022.

In the meeting, discussions were held on the successful implementation of the program and adoption during the treatment of patients under the community participation of Corporates, Co-operatives, Private Companies, Public Representatives, Political Parties, NGOs, Individuals and other stakeholders.

The main objective of this campaign is to treat the patients of TB by the above institutions or individually at district level, block level, panchayat level, village tola level or at individual level while adopting the patients till they become TB free or . At present, TB patients are



provided with Rs. 500 for nutritional support from the government. The District Program Manager, RNTCP, present on the occasion, was directed by the Deputy Commissioner to identify the TB patients in various

blocks under the district and obtain the patient consent form. It was informed by the District Program Manager that 43% consent form has been received so far. The Deputy Commissioner has directed it to achieve

the target of 100%. Through the above program, by the year 2025, the death due to TB is to be reduced by 90% as compared to the year 2015 and the number of victims will be reduced by 80%. Together, the families suffering from TB have to be saved from the economic disparities caused by TB.

Civil Surgeon Garhwa Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Dr. Kamlesh Kumar, District Public Relations Officer Saket Kumar Pandey and various medical officers along with Block Program Manager and others were present in the said programme.

# The dynamics of climate-related inflation

BY AUVI MUKHERJEE

The Russian invasion has pushed the world into inflation levels unseen since 1981. Three distinct but interrelated phenomena are driving this climate-related inflation, much of which I will quote from a European Central Bank report, released this March. These phenomena have been described as climateflation, fossilflation and greenflation. Let's examine what they are exactly.



85% of the total energy consumption in Europe in 2019.

In addition, climateflation can also impact energy demand. For instance, heatwaves in March in India or abnormally cold winters, raise energy demand. Also, during the transition to greener energies, fossil fuels can be disincentivized before renewables absorb their true potential leading to volatile energy prices.

According to the French corporate and investment bank Natixis, to meet climate goals (net zero emissions by 2050), investment levels in oil and gas should be sustained, not increased. The International Energy Agency estimated that current countries' policies fell short to limit global warming to 1.5 Degree C. Between 2020-2030, investments in oil and gas are projected to reach a yearly range of \$700 billion, while they should not cross \$380 billion, to respect climate goals. Governments must find a practical approach to navigate troubled waters, between maintaining stable economies and respecting the Paris Agreement.

### What is Climateflation

Climateflation refers to the impact of extreme weather events on supply chain disruptions of ecosystem services-dependent sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, and tourism. It results in economic losses in climate-exposed sectors and upward pressure on prices of soft commodities, says the ECB paper.

For example, exceptional droughts globally have contributed to a recent sharp rise in food prices. In fact, the rise in world food prices hit an all-time high this year, led by surges in vegetable oils and dairy products, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. The increase in food prices was mainly driven by a robust demand post recovery from Covid, as well as higher fertilizer and fuel prices which increased production and transportation costs. After the Russian invasion, wheat too rose to record prices, after forecasted decreases in yield due to high temperatures. In these examples, climate-related events like changes in precipitation, and heatwaves can result in price volatility and drive inflation.

### What is Fossilflation

Invariably, the high cost of oil and fossil fuels in general that drive big fluctuations and overall inflation, - Mark Zandi, Moody's Analytics. The second structure driving inflation is fossilflation - which is upward pressure on the prices of fossil fuels due to a disorderly transition towards greener energies.

A strong cause identified is a powerful demand, unmatched by a constrained supply resulting from fossil fuels, they accounted for

### What is Greenflation

Greenflation has more subtle implications. It refers to the inflation caused by increased capital investment in the transition towards green energy and low-carbon technologies. Most green technologies extensively require some metals like cobalt, lithium, and copper. Decarbonization is expensive. For example, the International Energy Agency reports that electric vehicles use over six times more minerals than their conventional counterparts. An offshore wind plant requires over seven times the amount of copper compared with a gas-fired plant. In the foreseeable future, green technologies will use a chunk of important metals and minerals. Yet as demand rises, supply is constrained in the short and medium terms.

It typically takes 5-10 years to develop new mines and over 50% of today's lithium and copper production is concentrated in areas with high water stress levels, says IEA. The imbalance between, rising demand and constrained supply, is why the prices of many critical commodities have risen immeasurably in recent months. The price of lithium, for example, has risen by more than 1000% since January 2020, says the ECB paper. And therefore, we are presented

with an important paradox, in the fight against climate change. The faster and more urgently we shift to a greener economy, the more expensive it may become in the short run. Interestingly, economist and former Governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney indicates that the transition to carbon-neutral economies will put upward pressure on inflation in the coming 10 years.

It is still too early, to hold greenflation accountable for the painful rise in energy prices but as we transition towards a greener future, greenflation can be expected to raise the prices of many critical commodities. But if countries committed to carbon neutrality keep their word, investments made in energy and infrastructure will increase, to about 4.5% of world GDP in 2030, providing an impetus to growth, employment, and pushing equilibrium interest rates, Carney has been stated as saying. Therefore, some may argue that the key to addressing greenflation is indeed more greenflation-more investments that would potentially lead to green deflation as new technologies grow.

### Role of central bankers and measures required

It is therefore not environment and climate scientists alone who need to wage a war on climate change. Central Banks also have their role cut out. The European Central Bank has drafted two proposals, to approach climate-related inflation, both with their shortcomings. The first one is to raise the inflation target while the second measure is excluding energy prices from the central banks' measures of inflation.

In future, despite whichever path we choose to follow, one thing is certain. We need to urgently reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, to protect both our climate and sovereignty. The transition will herald a new era of inflation, one we must prepare for together. In this battle, our role lies in small behavioral changes like carpooling, teleworking, and conserving power. Big ones like investments in recycling facilities, collectively improving food security, and climate activism will go a long way too, as the mercury keeps rising.

The writer, a Gold Award winner in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2021, is a football enthusiast, an occasional blogger and closely tracks issues around climate change.

# Brochure of film AA Bhi Ja O Piya released in Hazaribag



SHAILESH SHARMA ■ HAZARIBAG

Brochure of the movie, 'AA BHI JA O PIYA' under the banner of Johar entertainment was released in the campus of Laxmi Chitra Mandir by chief guest Manish Jaiswal, director Rajesh Mishra, actor Dev Sharma, actress Smriti Kashyap and other artists of the film. The film will be released on 7th October all over India in more than 100 theaters. The film is produced by the Hazaribag youth Vinay Mehta, Shambhu Mehta and Umesh Rana.

After the release of brochure chief guest Manish Jaiswal said in his speech that this is the first occasion when Hazaribag youths have produced a feature film. He further said that I came to know that more than 90 percent artists have worked in this film are from Hazaribag and Jharkhand. He convey his best wishes for the success of the film. The director of the film Rajesh Mishra said that before coming to Jharkhand especially Hazaribag he had never thought that the team would receive such facilities from the local producers. We have shooted the film in such places where no facilities were available, but all the three youth producers made it easy with their efforts.

The Hero of the film Dev Sharma said that this is my 15th film which is going on screen. He said that Hazaribag is the only district in India which is full of natural gifts. He advised the state government to develop all the natural gifts into tourist spots. He further said that he believed in the content of the film before signing the project. The actress of the film Smriti Kashyap said that this is her first hindi film and hoped for everyone's blessings. The producer Umesh Rana said that this is the dream project of his and his friends Vinay and Shambhu.

# Vendor shot at during road robbery in Daltonganj

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

A young vendor identified as Yashwant Prasad was shot at in his left forearm by three road robbers who stripped the vendor of his day's earnings worth little over 3,000 rupees at Tongree jungle in between Jai Nagra and Salatuwa under the Chainpur police station on Friday around 6.30 in the evening said the officer in charge of the Chainpur police station Uday Kumar Gupta. The three road robbers on the bike intercepted Yashwant who was also on the bike and at desi katta point asked the vendor to cough up the money.

Finding Yashwant taking time to oblige the road robbers, one of the three robbers opened fire which hurt the left forearm of the vendor. Yashwant is out of danger, said Gupta quoting the doctor.

Police officer Gupta said the road robbers could be local and police would soon arrest them.

# Jharkhand bags second spot in Urban Cleanliness

Union Housing and Urban Works Minister felicitates Jharkhand

PNS RANCHI

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the State has achieved many achievements in the direction of continuous development. In this sequence, on Saturday, the State was awarded a great honour by the Government of India. In the presence of President of the country Draupadi Murmu at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri honoured Jharkhand as the second topper of the country in the Swachh Sarvekshan 2022 among 100 urban bodies.

On this occasion, Amit Kumar, Director, State Urban Development Agency under the Department of Urban Development and Housing, received the honour on behalf of the State Government. On this occasion, President Draupadi



Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri felicitates Amit Kumar, Director, State Urban Development Agency under the Department of Urban Development and Housing for Jharkhand for becoming the second topper of the country in the Swachh Sarvekshan 2022 in New Delhi on Saturday. PNS

Murmu, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, and Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Affairs Manoj Joshi congratulated the Jharkhand Government, State Urban Development Department and the citizens of the State for this honour.

In Swachh Sarvekshan 2022, Jharkhand has been awarded the second topper award along with some other cities in various categories. Chaibasa has been awarded for Best Citizen Feedback in the Municipal Bodies of Eastern

Zone having population of 50000 to 100000. Bundu has been awarded for Best Citizen Feedback in the Municipal Bodies of Eastern Zone having population of 15,000 to 25,000.

Three municipal bodies of Jharkhand have also been honoured in the Indian Cleanliness League organised by the Center on 17 September 2022 in cities across the country. On Friday, at the Talkatora Stadium itself, the Jharkhand notified areas, Mango and Medinagar of Jharkhand were honoured by the Union Housing

and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for their better performance in the Indian Swachh League. The Deputy Commissioners of Jharkhand and Palamu were present on this occasion.

It is worth mentioning that the position of Jharkhand in the Swachh Sarvekshan 2016 was not very appreciable, but in the continuous Swachh Sarvekshan 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, the state has made efforts in the field of cleanliness under the able guidance of the people of the state and urban bodies and the state government.

Several important steps have been taken by the department and bodies in Swachh Sarvekshan 2022. Before Swachh Sarvekshan 2022, meetings, workshops and campaigns were organized in all the bodies. Programmes were organized to ensure participation of every section of the society. Door to door waste collection ensured. Segmentation and processing of waste was given priority. Municipal bodies and citizens were encouraged for peat composting and onsite composting. Recyclers were linked with municipal bodies. Carry bags were banned and the use of single-use plastics was reduced. Cleanliness related problems were quickly resolved through the Swachhata App.

Secretary, Urban Development and Housing, Vinay Kumar Choubey has expressed the hope of better performance from the department in the next survey, giving credit to the efficient guidance of the Chief Minister and cooperation of citizens for this success.

State Urban Development Agency and Mission Director of Swachh Bharat Mission Urban Amit Kumar has said that this moment is a moment of pride for Jharkhand. He congratulated the officials, workers, sanitation workers and citizens of all the municipal bodies and said that this honour will inspire even better work.

# Forces bust Maoists' camp, recover arms and ammunition

Encounter with Maoist Gautam Paswan squad in Chatra district

PNS RANCHI



Arms, ammunition and other stuff recovered after a search operation and encounter between security forces and Maoists in Chatra district on Saturday. PNS

Security forces on Saturday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition and busted a Maoists' camp on the Jharkhand-Bihar border in Chatra district. The success came after an encounter of the forces with the squad of Gautam Paswan of CPI (Maoist), who carries a Rs 25 lakh reward on his head in Jharkhand.

The planned Naxal operations run by Jharkhand Police to nab the top militants are proving to be very effective. In the border areas of Chatra and Gaya of Jharkhand, a major action was taken on the most active and notorious squad of CPI-Maoists in this area, on the secret information of Jharkhand Police. In a joint operation by team 203 Cobra battalion, Jharkhand Jaguar and Chatra police, on the information of the gathering of Gautam Paswan and Indal Ganju squad in Phata forest area under Hunterganj police station of Chatra, forces achieved the success.

The search operation team was proceeding after conducting a thorough investi-

gation of the forest area when the ambushed Maoists opened indiscriminate fire on the security teams. Responding to the firing of the militants, the security forces retaliated. Seeing the campaign team getting overwhelmed, the Maoist leaders along with their squad members ran away. After the encounter, an intensive search operation is being conducted by cordoning the area from all sides.

During the search, five magazines along with a cache of 495 bullets and IN-SAS rifles looted from the security forces were recovered. The Maoists fled, leaving behind their wireless sets, mobile phones and essentials. After a long time, their camp was completely demolished in the crack-down in this area against the

Maoists. This strategic joint action against the Maoists has caused a lot of damage to the active Maoist squad in the border area.

Due to the continuous operation against the Maoists by the security forces, in the joint operation of the border tri-junction area of Chaibasa and Seraikela, two Maoists were killed and a cache of bullets with state-of-the-art weapons was also recovered. The camp of Naxalites in Budha Pahar on the border of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh was also demolished and a large number of landmines, bullets and other explosives were recovered. Jharkhand Police and CRPF, following their indomitable courage and conscientiousness, are moving in the direction of thwarting the plans of Maoists.

# State Govt to facelift busy areas of Capital City

PNS RANCHI

The State Government led by Chief Minister, Hemant Soren is planning to give a big relief to the people living in the central area of the capital Ranchi as well as those who often visit Albert Ekka Chowk, Kutcheri Chowk, Jail Chowk and Raj Bhavan for their daily work and job profession. In order to make the traffic normal in this area and to make the area beautiful, Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company has started planning on behalf of the Urban Development and Housing Department.

Secretary, Urban Development and Housing Department, Vinay Kumar Choubey inspect-



Urban Development Secretary Vinay Kumar Choubey inspects Albert Ekka Chowk and Jail Chowk area for beautification, in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

the roads from Albert Ekka Chowk to Dr Zakir Hussain Park via Kuchari Chowk on Saturday and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Some of the important instructions given during the in-

spection are that the Line Tank Road from Albert Ekka Chowk to Talab Marg will be four-lane. The road leading to the old Municipal Corporation building from behind the Line Tank pond will also be widened, the road

leading from the commissioner's office to Dr Zakir Hussain Park via the registration office will be four-lane, Netaji Subhash Park near the court will be rejuvenated and the entire area will be developed as a green park.

Multi-level parking will be built in District Education Superintendent's office building, Underpass will be built under Kutcheri Chowk for going and coming from Radium Road towards Albert Ekka, an underpass will be built near Jail More Chowk to go from Karam Toli Chowk, the road passing in front of Ravindra Bhawan will cross the main road and go to the next road near Bihar Club, after the widening of these

roads, the traffic system here will be smooth and normal.

Along with these roads, electricity, optical fiber and other essential supplies will be provided underground in the utility duct. Beautification of this entire area will also happen.

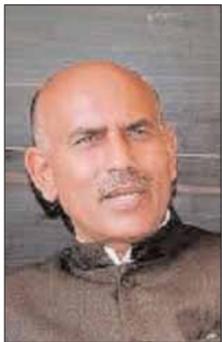
Choubey directed JUIDCO and the consulting company to prepare an integrated plan for the entire area. During this inspection he along with Project Director Technical, Ramesh Kumar of Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company, Project Director Administration, Arvind Kumar Mishra and DGM Sanjay Sinha and several officers and consultants of the company, representatives were present.

# KN Tipathi's nomination rejected for Cong Prez post

PNS RANCHI

The election for the post of National President of Congress is getting interesting day by day. On Saturday, the nomination of former Jharkhand Minister cum National President of INTUC, KN Tripathi was rejected. Now the contest will be between senior Congress leaders Shashi Tharoor and Mallikarjun Kharge.

It may be mentioned here that Tharoor has made the contest more interesting by giving this statement, where



he said that those who want changes in Congress vote

for him. While senior Congress leader Tharoor had to face a lot of difficulties in getting a proposer, Mallikarjun Kharge got a proposer like senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Digvijay Singh and his victory is being considered certain.

Congress Central Election Authority Chairman, Madhusudan Mistry said that a total of 20 forms were submitted on Friday out of these, 4 forms were rejected by the Scrutiny Committee due to the problems of signature. Tripathi's form was

rejected as it did not meet the prescribed criteria, it had a signature issue, he added.

The Central Election Authority further said that the polling for the post of Congress President will be held on October 17 and results will be declared after counting of votes on October 19. He further said that two Congress candidates will stand for the post of President. Nominations can be withdrawn till October 8. Today, only two candidates are face to face, the rest of the picture will be clear after 8th. If no one

withdraws one's name, then the process of election will start.

Mallikarjun Kharge resigned from the post of Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha after filing his nomination.

Politics has also intensified regarding the post of National President of Congress whereas politics is also left regarding Rajasthan Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot. The threat to the chair of the CM, Gehlot remains intact and he has already refused to contest for the post of president.

# Open Covid vaccination centre in Puja Pandals: NHM Director

PNS RANCHI

In order to speed up the work of Covid vaccination, a State level meeting was held on Saturday under the chairmanship of Dr. Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh, Campaign Director, National Health Mission, with the entire districts' Covid Vaccination Nodal Officers.

Covid Vaccination District Nodal Officers of all districts and representatives of WHO, JSL, UNICEF and UNDP participated in this meeting as participants. Dr. Rakesh

Dayal State Nodal Officer Covid Vaccination apprised the participants about the updated progress along with technical information regarding the program.

Dr. Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh said that the COVID is not over yet, so all the citizens of their districts who are above 18 years of age, were given information regarding the second dose and precaution of Covid to the remaining or missing persons. It is mandatory to give Covid vaccination to the children of 12-14 years and



Mission Director, NHM, Jharkhand Bhuvanesh Pratap Singh holds a meeting at NHM office in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

15-17 years. In each situation, the first dose and second dose were instructed to work according to the target at the same time.

District wise daily targets have been given for each

district. According to the target, work has been directed to prepare an action plan in a timely manner and action will be taken against the employees and officials who are lax in the work. He

directed to open Covid Vaccination Centers in all the Puja pandals of the state. Opening of Covid Vaccination Centers in all Health and Wellness Centers and administering the second dose and precaution dose of Covid Vaccination as per the target on time.

Dr. Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh appealed to all the people of Jharkhand and said that Covid vaccination is completely safe. He also appealed to all the beneficiaries to get their vaccination done on time.

# NCDC's first Foundation Day celebrated at CCL

PNS RANCHI

Foundation Day of National Coal Development Corporation (NCDC), a Government-owned oldest coal mining PSU, was celebrated for the first time with enthusiasm and fervour at Central Coalfields Limited, Headquarters, Ranchi on Saturday. NCDC is the mother company from which Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries including Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) emanated. NCDC was established by Government of India on 1st October, 1956 and it comprised the Coal mines owned by railways too.

The event was attended by employees who were part of erstwhile NCDC and other luminaries of Coal India Ltd. Former CIL Chairman MP Narayanan, Former CIL Chairman PK Sengupta, Former CIL Chairman AK Jha, Ex CMD WCL RD Roy, Ex CMD CCL and CMDPIL SK Verma, Ex CMD ECL SN Singh, Ex



Former CMDs and retired senior officers of CIL and its subsidiaries during the Foundation Day of National Coal Development Corporation at CCL headquarters in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

CMD CCL B Akala, Ex CMD CCL RP Ritolia, Ex CMD CCL Gopal Singh Ex DT CIL NC Jha attended the celebration. General Managers/HODs of various departments along with a large number of employees attended the event. Former employee of NCDC and senior JCSC member of CCL Ramendra Kumar also graced the occasion. Besides, Director Project and Planning S K Gomastha, Director (Finance) Pawan

Kumar Mishra, Director (Personnel) Harsh Nath Mishra, CVO CCL S K Sinha, Area GMs, GMs & HODs from different department of CCL Headquarters and others will be present during the programme. The stalwarts of the Coal Industry recounted their journey and shared various anecdotes during the programme. They also briefed the audience about the history of NCDC and the gradual evaluation to Coal India

Limited. Ex-Chairman Dr MP Narayanan delivered the K.S.R Chari memorial lecture. KSR was the renowned mining engineer of NCDC and he was elevated to Coal Secretary, Government of India. The dignitaries expressed their gratitude to CMD, CCL PM Prasad for organising the First NCDC Foundation Day and glorifying the legacy of NCDC. Chairman Coal India Limited Pramod Agrawal joined the celebration

virtually. He congratulated CCL on organizing the event. Furthermore, he stated that Coal India is committed to fulfill the energy aspirations of the country carrying forward the legacy of NCDC. In his inaugural address CMD, CCL welcomed all the dignitaries and said that it is a matter of pride for the company that eminent stalwarts from Coal industry have gathered at CCL. He further stated that the foundation and ethos provided by NCDC is a major reason for making Coal India Limited the leading coal mining company in the world. A cultural program was presented by the employees of CCL and students of DAV Gandhinagar. Gargi Malkani and her group also performed classical Kathak dance. Director Tech (Operations), CCL RB Prasad delivered the vote of thanks. Priya Ranjan, Chief Manager (Mining), CMD Sef anchored the programme.

## NEWS IN PIX

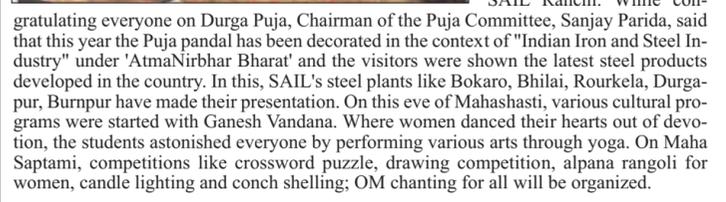


A delegation of Punjabi Hindu Biradari Dussehra Committee met Chief Minister Hemant Soren at his official residence in Ranchi on Saturday and invited him for the Ravan Dahan ceremony to be organised on Wednesday October 5. PNS

## IN BRIEF

### Grand Durga Puja inaugurated in SAIL Township

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is celebrating the golden jubilee celebrations of its establishment this year with great pomp. Incidentally, the Ranchi based unit of SAIL 'Research and Development Center for Iron and Steel' (RDCIS) is also celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. Durga Puja Mahotsav 2022 was inaugurated by SAIL Kumar CMD MECON today at SAIL Satellite Township. In this SK Verma Director Commercial, MECON, Executive Director of RDCIS, Nirvik Banerjee, Executive Director of M.T.I. Sanjeev Kumar and Executive Director of SAIL Safety Organization Ashish Chakraborty had a dignified presence. Apart from this, there was a good presence of the senior officers, employees and family members of SAIL Ranchi. While congratulating everyone on Durga Puja, Chairman of the Puja Committee, Sanjay Parida, said that this year the Puja pandal has been decorated in the context of 'Indian Iron and Steel Industry' under 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' and the visitors were shown the latest steel products developed in the country. In this, SAIL's steel plants like Bokaro, Bhilai, Rourkela, Durgapur, Burnpur have made their presentation. On this eve of Mahashasti, various cultural programs were started with Ganesh Vandana. Where women danced their hearts out of devotion, the students astonished everyone by performing various arts through yoga. On Maha Saptami, competitions like crossword puzzle, drawing competition, alpna rangoli for women, candle lighting and conch shelling; OM chanting for all will be organized.



### Closing Ceremony of Hindi Fortnight by Indian Bank

Hindi Pakhwada was celebrated from 14th September to 29th September at Ranchi Circle Office of Indian Bank. Under this 5 competitions were organized. All the staff members enthusiastically participated in all the competitions. Prize distribution ceremony was organized on Saturday under the chairmanship of Zonal Manager, FR Bokhari. On this occasion all the staff members including Deputy Zonal Manager Prabhakar Kumar were present. The winners of various competitions organized by the Circle Office were rewarded with certificates and incentives by the Zonal Manager FR Bokhari. During his address, he said that according to the official language, our region comes in the "A" region, so it is our responsibility to do 100 per cent work in Hindi. He also motivated all the staff members to work in Hindi. The programme was conducted by the Senior Manager (Rajbhasha), Om Prakash Verma.

### Durga Puja Celebration at SBPS

The premises of the Sarala Birla Public School reverberated with the chants of Goddess Durga, as a special assembly was conducted for the occasion. Students presented songs on Navratri and spoke about women empowerment and the relevance of the nine avatars of Devi Durga. They dressed up as the nine incarnations of the goddess which added serenity and purity to the surrounding. A short skit on the nine avatars of the Devi was also presented. Children came in colourful dresses and played dandiya & garba enjoying the festival. School Head Personnel and Admin Dr. Pradipt Varma praised the efforts of the students and extended his heartfelt wishes on the occasion of Durga Puja. Principal Paramjit Kaur emphasised on the role of women in our lives and said that it is not just about worshipping the goddess, it is about respecting womanhood. She wished everyone a Happy Navratri and said that may Goddess Durga help everyone realize the strength, love and sacrifice that women show in every relation.



# 12 billion workdays lost every year due to depression, anxiety

Address mental health of working population, WHO tells nations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

An estimated 12 billion workdays are lost annually due to depression and anxiety, costing the global economy nearly USD one trillion. Not without reason, though, as just 35 per cent of the country members who are signatories to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Occupational Safety and Health

Convention have reported having national programmes for work-related mental health promotion and prevention.

Against this backdrop, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the ILO have called upon the countries to take concrete action to address mental health concerns in the working population and have come out with two new publications "WHO Guidelines on mental health at work" and a derivative "WHO/ILO Policy Brief".

The WHO's global guidelines on mental health at work recommend actions to tackle risks to mental health such as heavy workloads, negative behaviours and other factors

that create distress at work. For the first time WHO recommends manager training, to build their capacity to prevent stressful work environments and respond to workers in distress.

According to the WHO's World mental health report, published in June 2022, of one billion people living with a mental disorder in 2019, 15 per cent of working-age adults experienced a mental disorder.

Work amplifies wider societal issues that negatively affect mental health, including discrimination and inequality. Bullying and psychological violence (also known as 'mobbing') are key complaints of workplace harassment that

have a negative impact on mental health. Yet discussing or disclosing mental health remains a taboo in work settings globally.

The guidelines also recommend better ways to accommodate the needs of workers with mental health conditions, propose interventions that support their return to work and, for those with severe mental health conditions, provide interventions that facilitate entry into paid employment.

Importantly, the guidelines call for interventions aimed at the protection of health, humanitarian and emergency workers. "It's time to focus on the detrimental effect work can have on our mental health,"

said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

"The well-being of the individual is reason enough to act, but poor mental health can also have a debilitating impact on a person's performance and productivity. As people spend a large proportion of their lives in work — a safe and healthy working environment is critical. We need to invest to build a culture of prevention around mental health at work, reshape the work environment to stop stigma and social exclusion, and ensure employees with mental health conditions feel protected and supported," added Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General.

# CBI books Amrapali for ₹177 cr bank fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a fresh case against Amrapali Builders and its promoters for cheating a consortium of banks led by Bank of Baroda to the tune of Rs 177 crore.

The case follows a written complaint dated August 10 by the lead bank of the consortium Bank of Baroda to the CBI alleging commission of cheating upon the consortium comprising Bank of Baroda, Bank of Maharashtra and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce (now Punjab National Bank) to the Rs 177 crore by Amrapali Silicon City Pvt Ltd and others, including its promoter, director and personal guarantor Anil Kumar Sharma. The accused have allegedly defrauded Rs



59.53 crore of Bank of Baroda, Rs 58.05 crore of Bank of Maharashtra and Rs 59.50 crore of erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce. The agency has booked the accused entities and individuals for bank fraud, criminal conspiracy and cheating under the Indian Penal Code and criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The private company Amrapali Silicon City Pvt Ltd was promoted by a consortium of four companies—Ultra Home Construction Pvt Ltd

(lead member), Jotindra Steel & Tubes Ltd, Rinku Clothing Creations Pvt Ltd and Vidya Shree Buildcon Pvt Ltd to execute a group housing project Amrapali Silicon City.

The company acquired land measuring 1,76,758.70 square metre from Noida authority with a cost of Rs 360.96 crore. An amount of 10 per cent of the cost was to be paid upfront and the balance amount was payable in 18 half yearly instalments of Rs 19.86 crore each commencing September 2, 2012.

The company allegedly indulged in various fraudulent practices like selling the same residential flat to more than two buyers, selling the flats at rates even lower than the construction cost and the like.

# Gehlot continues his hold over Cong Govt in Raj

CM asks public to send suggestions for Budget

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after expressing regret to party president Sonia Gandhi for a revolt in his State to prevent his rival Sachin Pilot from taking over as his successor, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday indicated at his continuance at the helm in the State as he asked the public to "send their suggestions for the Budget directly to him". His remarks came on a day the process of filing of nominations for the post of Congress president came to an end. Gehlot was the first choice of the party high command but he dropped out following the revolt.



While three of his loyalists have since been showcaused, the revolt was also assumed to be a challenge to the party leadership, which is likely to yet again seek the opinion of its Rajasthan MLAs in one-on-one meetings.

Gehlot appealed to the youth, students and the public in general to send their suggestions directly to him so that the government could come up with better schemes. The assembly elections are due in Rajasthan after a year.

Asked about whether he would present the next Budget of Rajasthan, Gehlot, in Bikaner, said, "I would want people to send their suggestions for the budget directly to me." He said the Congress Government will complete its five years and that the next Budget will be dedicated to students and the youth.

He also said the Congress will not let the BJP succeed in its plan to topple the Government. "We will present the budget for the youth and

children. I appeal to all people, youths and students to send their suggestions to his office to be evaluated and included in the proposals.

This will enable the government to implement various schemes and programmes for youth welfare and skill development. The youths are the future of the nation and they should come forward. Many journalists get jail terms for two years and are released on bail, which is not good," Gehlot said.

However, earlier when he was almost certain to run for the Congress presidency, Gehlot had stated that he would brief the "next CM" on suggestions regarding schemes for students and the youth for the next budget. "Despite our good work, govt gets changed every time. Earlier we lost as voters got swayed away under the Modi wave. We were winning MP, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan (in 2019 elections) but lost. I request the people to give us another chance," he said.

Hitting out at the BJP, Gehlot said, "They keep making efforts to ensure that our government does not complete five years.

Earlier, too, the BJP tried horse trading but our MLAs were united and they did not budge. You can see the government was saved last time and it is still going strong."

The Rajasthan chief minister had opted out of the race for Congress president after a rebellion in the party's state unit, with a majority of MLAs holding a parallel meeting and not allowing a legislative party meeting last Sunday to pass a one-line resolution authorising the party chief to nominate a successor to Gehlot.

# LS privileges panel to hear plea for Adhikari's disqualification for switching party

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha Privileges Committee will hear West Bengal's Kanthi Lok Sabha Member P Sisir Adhikari on October 12 to respond to Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay's plea to disqualify him for switching his party.

Adhikari has moved over to the BJP but is understood to have informed the committee that he had not switched parties.

Bandyopadhyay had several times raised the issue with Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla for Sisir's switching over to the BJP.

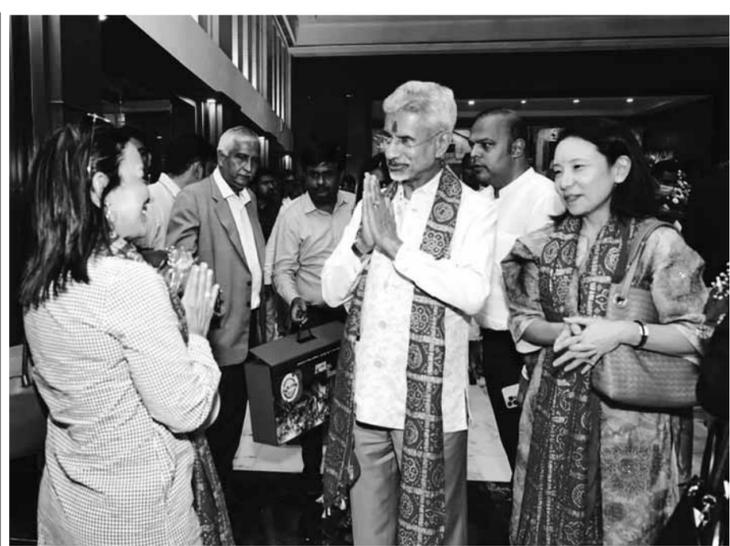
The issue was referred to the Privileges Committee as Bandyopadhyay lodged a complaint against Sisir under the anti-defection law.

The committee headed by BJP's Sunil Kumar Singh has asked Sisir to be present in the Lok Sabha and explain why he should not be disqualified as an MP.

The complaint against Sisir is that he had crossed over to BJP in March 2021 during the run-up to the assembly polls and attended a rally of senior BJP leader and union home minister Amit Shah at Egra in East Midnapore.

Earlier, his son Suvendu (who defeated Mamata Banerjee in the assembly poll from Nandigram assembly seat) had quit TMC and joined the BJP.

Sisir and his younger son Dibyendu, also an MP, had skipped Trinamool's Shaheed Divas event on July 21.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Ambassadors and High Commissioners to India upon their arrival to attend Navratri celebrations in Vadodra

# French envoy condemns Russia's annexation of 4 Ukrainian regions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

France on Saturday condemned Russian military action in Ukraine terming it as "naked aggression" and said the offensive was a violation of international law. New Delhi and Paris are working together to convince President Vladimir Putin to end the conflict. French envoy to New Delhi Emmanuel Lenain said here.

He also condemned Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian regions on Friday and said the action was a serious violation of both international law and Ukraine's sov-



ereignty. "We feel it is a naked aggression by a country on another one, on a democracy, an aggression which was without any provocation and that it is not in keeping with the principles of international order," Lenain said.

He said India and France were also working together to mitigate the consequences of

the conflict including global food and energy security. He welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Putin on the Ukraine war. Modi had said today's era is not of war. "I think it was a very welcome remark, as always, and you have seen that President Emmanuel Macron in his speech in New York to the UN General Assembly has mentioned and quoted Prime Minister Modi," the French envoy said. Lenain also condemned Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian regions on Friday and said the action was a serious violation of both international law and Ukraine's sovereignty.

# BJP starts preparations for local body polls in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Staying ahead of the Opposition parties, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has started preparations for the urban local body elections.

The BJP has appointed conveners for urban local body polls and election in-charge for each of the 17 nagar nigams. The BJP has drafted ministers and senior office-bearers of the party for the urban local body elections. In appointing the election in-charges for 17 mayoral seats, the BJP has taken care for maintaining a fine balance between the government and the organisation.

For each mayoral seat, along with a cabinet minister, a senior leader from the party organisation has been appointed as co-in-charge for the elections.

BJP state president Bhopendra Singh Chaudhary, after several days' exercise, has approved the list of in-charges for these elections. The convener for each mayoral seat is from the same district while the co convener is from a different district. The ruling party has set the ambitious target of winning all 17 mayoral seats of municipal corporations. The BJP has already



announced another ambitious target of winning all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2024.

The BJP has chalked out the strategy for winning all 17 mayoral seats. Though the urban elections make no impact on the stability of the state government, these elections do create an environment and give a clear indication about the popularity of the incumbent government.

The BJP, for organisational purpose, has divided the urban areas into three regions — Western UP, Awadh and Gorakhpur. The mayoral seats in Western UP region are Ghaziabad, Meerut, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Mathura-Vrindavan, Agra, Firozabad, Aligarh, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Kanpur, and Jhansi. The seats in Awadh region are Lucknow, Ayodhya, Prayagraj and Varanasi and Gorakhpur.

# Akhilesh raps PM over launch of 5G telecom services

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, on Saturday, took a jibe at the Bharatiya Janata Party after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 5G telecom services in Delhi.

Akhilesh Yadav, also the Leader of Opposition in UP Assembly, said "under the BJP rule people are already getting the benefit of 5G".

In a tweet on Saturday, Akhilesh Yadav said G stood for Garibi, Ghotala, Ghapla, Ghalmeel and Gorakhdhandha. The SP has been consistently targeting the Yogi Adityanath government almost daily on myriad issues.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while welcoming the launch of the 5G services, said, "We are grateful to Prime Minister Modi for connecting the country and Kashi with 5G services."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 5G telephony services that promise to provide ultra high-speed internet on mobile phones, saying it marks the beginning of a new era and presents a sea of opportunities. "The 5G marks the dawn of a new era and presents a sea of opportunities," he said.

# Deserted BSP leaders get prominence in newly constituted UP Cong panel

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

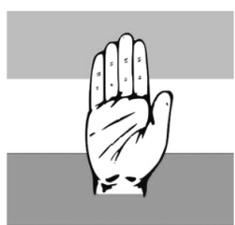
With old Congressmen already sidelined or forced to quit the party ever since Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took charge of the party affairs in Uttar Pradesh, leaders who deserted Bahujan Samaj Party to join the Congress have once again been given prominence over the old warriors.

The appointments have come months after Ajay Lallu resigned as UP Congress Committee chief following the party's crushing defeat in the assembly elections held earlier in March this year. Congress managed to win only 2 two seats in the UP Assembly elections of 2022.

An aggressive campaign by Congress general secretary Priyanka Vadra Gandhi and even her decision to give 40 per cent of tickets to women failed to attract the masses in UP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections too, the Congress had bagged just one seat and that too of its president Sonia Gandhi (Rae Bareilly).

Her son and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi was defeated by senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Union Minister Smriti Irani from Congress bastion Amethi.

The UPCC chief's post was lying vacant since party president Sonia Gandhi asked the state chiefs of five states to resign after defeat in elections. Congress faced a debacle in



Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab assembly elections. The Indian National Congress on Saturday appointed Brijlal Khabri, a Dalit, as chief of its Uttar Pradesh unit, besides appointing half a dozen more leaders as regional heads in Uttar Pradesh.

Khabri had quit the BSP in 2016, alleging sale of tickets for money, and subsequently joined the Congress. He is a former Member of Parliament from Jalaun constituency, a seat he won in 1999 as a member of BSP.

He contested the UP Assembly election in 2022 from Mahrauni seat in Lalitpur while his wife Urmila Devi contested from Orai seat both lost their deposits with just 4,334 and 4,650 votes, respectively.

All India Congress Committee president Sonia Gandhi also appointed six regional heads in the UPCC. The regional heads are Naseemuddin Siddiqui, Ajai Rai, Virendra Chaudhary, Nakul Dubey, Anil Yadav and Yogesh Dixit.

# Let us all pledge to donate blood regularly: Mandaviya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

More than 2.5 lakh people donated blood during the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav, which began on September 17 and concluded on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on Saturday (October 1), according to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The success of the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav has strengthened the noble cause of humanity which will help immensely in saving many precious lives, Mandaviya said, while addressing a gathering on the occasion of National Blood Donation Day 2022 at AIIMS, Delhi.

"Blood donation is a noble cause and given our rich culture and tradition of 'seva' (service) and 'sahyog' (cooperation), on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day, let us all pledge to be always there for someone else and donate blood regularly," he said.

The Minister said India's response to COVID-19 was inspired by the rich tradition of 'lok bhagidari' (public participation), showed the way to manage the pandemic and led to the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination exercise.

"Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav was aimed at blood donation, blood distribution and blood management. It has also helped to increase awareness regarding regular non-remunerated voluntary blood

# Let us all pledge to donate blood regularly: Mandaviya

donations and ensure that blood or its components (whole blood/packed red blood cells/plasma/platelets) are available, accessible, affordable and safe."

"The success of Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav has strengthened the noble cause of humanity which will help immensely in saving many precious lives. More than 2.5 lakh people have voluntarily donated blood under the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav," Mandaviya said.

He also felicitated voluntary blood donors and States and Union Territories that have done exemplary work, rare blood group donors, regular single donor platelets donors, women blood donors and regular voluntary blood donors at the event. One unit translates to 350ml of blood.

According to 2021 statistics, India's annual blood requirement is around 1.5 crore units. In every two seconds, a patient in India needs blood and one out of every three people will need blood in their lifetime.

A person has five to six litres of blood in his or her body and can donate blood every 90 days.

The Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav was supported by the centralised blood bank management information system e-RaktKosh portal, which acts as a national repository of blood donors expediting blood availability when in need.



Volunteers with their painted faces take a selfie during Wildlife Week, in Gorakhpur on Saturday

PTI Photo

# Ukraine encircles key city; Russia intensifies bombing

Ukrainian forces encircled the strategic eastern city of Lyman on Saturday in a counteroffensive that has humiliated the Kremlin, while Russian bombardments intensified after Moscow illegally annexed a swath of Ukrainian territory in a sharp escalation of the war.



Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his military have vowed to keep on fighting to liberate the annexed regions and other Russian-occupied areas.

Ukrainian officials said Saturday their forces had surrounded some 5,000 Russian forces who were trying to hold the eastern city of Lyman, which is located in Luhansk, one of the four annexed areas.

Andriy Yermak, Zelenskyy's chief of staff, posted video online Saturday purporting to show Ukrainian soldiers at a monument on the outskirts of Lyman, waving a signed Ukrainian flag.

It remained unclear whether Ukrainian forces have entered

the city itself. Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai claimed that all routes to resupply Russian forces in Lyman were blocked.

Russia has not confirmed that its forces were cut off, and Russian analysts had said Moscow was sending more troops to the area.

But the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said Ukraine likely will retake Lyman in the coming days.

Citing Russian reports, the institute said it appeared Russian forces were retreating from Lyman, 160 kilometers southeast of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.

That corresponds to online

videos purportedly showing some Russian forces falling back. Meanwhile, Ukrainian authorities accuse Russian forces of targeting two humanitarian convoys in recent days, killing dozens of civilians.

On Saturday the governor of the Kharkiv region, Oleh Syniehubov, said 20 civilians were killed in an attack on a convoy of people trying to flee the Kupiansky district, calling it "cruelty that can't be justified."

The Security Service of Ukraine, the secret police force known by the acronym SBU, posted photographs of the attacked convoy.

At least one truck appeared to have been blown up, with burned corpses in what remained of its truck bed. Another vehicle at the front of the convoy also had been ablaze. Bodies lay on the side of the road or still inside their vehicles, which appeared pockmarked with bullet holes.

The SBU said the convoy was attacked with "small arms fire," while the governor said it was shelled. The discrepancy could not be immediately resolved. The exact date of the attack was not announced.

Russian forces have not acknowledged or commented on the attack. Russian troops have retreated from much of the Kharkiv region after a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive last month but have continued to shell the area.

In an apparent attempt to secure Moscow's hold on the newly annexed territory, Russian forces seized the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Ihor Murashov, around 4 p.m. Friday, according to the Ukrainian state nuclear company Energoatom. That was just hours after Putin signed treaties to absorb Moscow-controlled Ukrainian territory into Russia, including the area around the nuclear plant.

Energoatom said Russian troops stopped Murashov's car, blindfolded him and then took him to an undisclosed location.

Russia did not publicly comment on the report. The International Atomic Energy Agency said Saturday that Russia told it that "the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was temporarily detained to answer questions."

The Vienna-based agency did not immediately elaborate.

# 19 killed, including 4 elite Guard members, in Iran attack

AP ■ DUBAI

An attack by armed separatists on a police station in a southeastern city killed 19 people, including four members of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported Saturday.

The assailants in Friday's attack hid among worshippers near a mosque in the city of Zahedan and attacked the nearby police station, according to the report.

IRNA quoted Hossein Modaresi, the provincial governor, as saying 19 people were killed. The outlet said 32 Guard members, including volunteer Basiji forces, were also wounded in the clashes.

It was not immediately clear if the attack was related to nationwide antigovernment protests gripping Iran after the death in police custody of a young Iranian woman.

Sistan and Baluchestan province borders Afghanistan and Pakistan and has seen previous attacks on security forces by ethnic Baluchi separatists, although Saturday's Tasnim report did not identify a separatist group allegedly involved in the attack.

IRNA on Saturday identified the dead as Hamidreza Hashemi, a Revolutionary



Guard colonel; Mohammad Amin Azarshokr, a Guard member; Mohamad Amin Arefi, a Basiji, or volunteer force with the IRG; and Saeed Borhan Rigi, also a Basiji.

reported Friday that the head of the Guard's intelligence department, Seyyed Ali Mousavi, was shot during the attack and later died.

It is not unusual for IRG members to be present at police bases around the country.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client, IBC First Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Shanti Mathani is owner of BDA Janta, Flat No.47-B, on First Floor, in Block B, Pocket-84, area measuring 22 sq. mtr. Situated in the Layout Plan of Housing Estate, Shamirah Bagh, Delhi. The said property by virtue of relinquishment, Deed dated 10.08.2022, registration No. 13105, executed by Mr. Anil Mathani & Mrs. Vasudha Mathani after demise of late Ramesh Kumar, who was owner of the said property by virtue of conveyance deed dated 10.10.2019, registration No. 10644, all persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Prince Mondol & Mr. Jatin Mondol who is taking loan for purchase the said property from IBC First Bank. If anybody has any objections of ownership of Mrs. Shanti Mathani in respect of the said property its Sale (Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address with in 07 days of the present.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General Public is hereby informed that we Pawan Kumar Chhabra S/O Late Shri Gian Chand Chhabra and Sujata Chhabra W/O Pawan Kumar Chhabra have severed all our relations with our son Lakshya Chhabra and his wife Jayshree Tandon and hereby debarred them from inheriting any of our properties movable and immovable in all aspects, and all responsibilities. They will have no right, title or any kind of charge on all our assets movable and immovable.

**Shan Roy Chowdhury**  
(Advocate) Enrollment No. D/16/202/2022  
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R.O. No.: 721 **e-Tender Notice** Date: 01.10.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer(M&G), Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:  
e-Tender No. 12/SPH/2022-23.  
Name of work/supply/ services etc.-Procurement of various mechanical spares/consumables at Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima  
Estimated cost-7,46,050/- (Seven Lakhs Forty six Thousand Fifty only) GST extra.  
Date of availability of bid document on website- 01/10/2022 at 16:00 Hrs  
Last date for submission of bids on website- 24/10/2022 upto 16:00 Hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer (M&G)

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लेन गं-1, तर्कु पिहार, मोथरवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001  
दूरभाष / फेक्स: 0135 2671940 Email: eamdujs@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक : 2913 / ई-निविदा सूचना / 2022-23 दिनांक : 01 / 10 / 2022

**ई-निविदा सूचना**  
मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जलजीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं के कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, दू-विड सिस्टम (तकनीकी विड एवं कॉम्पैरियल विड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

निविदा क्र. सं.	विकासखण्ड	कार्य विवरण	घरों/घरघरातिका सं.	निविदा का मूल्य (₹. में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	सहसपुर	कोटडा कल्याणपुर पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	146500.00	₹4000 + GST	06 माह
2	सहसपुर	दुधई पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	111500.00	₹4000 + GST	06 माह
3	सहसपुर	जगन्नाथपुर पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	40200.00	₹4000 + GST	06 माह
4	विकासनगर	माजरी पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुद्ध जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	254250.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
5	विकासनगर	कटावाकर पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुद्ध जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	230300.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
6	विकासनगर	लाधा पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	84100.00	₹3000 + GST	06 माह
7	डोईवाला	मोहम्मदपुर बड़कली पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	187100.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
8	डोईवाला	माजरी ग्रांट पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	681200.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
9	डोईवाला	भट्टोवाला पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुद्ध जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	226700.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
10	डोईवाला	गढी मयबक पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुद्ध जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	354900.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह

निविदा समय सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत् हैं।

क्र. सं.	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाइन प्रकाशन की तिथि।	11.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रश्न अडनलोड करने की तिथि।	12.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि।	17.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि।	22.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि।	28.10.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाइन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रश्न (निविदा प्रश्न हेतु निर्धारित बुल्क, बिड सिम्प्योरिटी, स्टॉप एण्ड अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज)।	28.10.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
7	तकनीकी विड खोलने की तिथि।	29.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि।	सूचना पत्रक से दी जायेगी।

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित सम्स्त जानकारीयें व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।  
(के 0 सी 0 पैन्यूली) अतिरिची अभियन्ता

# 'China struggling to find enough trained pilots for its 3 aircraft carriers'

PTI ■ BEIJING

China is struggling to find enough trained pilots to operate fighter jets from aircraft carriers, prompting its navy with two aircraft carriers commissioned and another launched in June, to speed up the pilot training programme, a media report here said.

The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) is struggling to meet increased demand for qualified shipborne fighter jet pilots to operate the specially made J-15 jets for the aircraft carriers.

The PLAN has sped up carrier-based fighter jet pilot training programmes in the decade since the commissioning of its first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, but its lack of a fighter trainer specifically designed for carrier-based operations has hindered progress, according to an article published in Ordnance Industry Science

Technology, a Chinese military magazine.

With Fujian, China's third and most advanced aircraft carrier, having started sea trials last week, the PLA needed at least 200 qualified carrier-based fighter jet pilots to operate 130 ship-borne aircraft, Beijing-based naval expert Li Jie was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Saturday.

The Fujian is equipped with advanced electromagnetic catapults, similar to those on the US supercarrier Gerald R Ford, while China's first two carriers featured ski-jump designs, so the navy will have to master a new aircraft launch and recovery system. Official media reports say China plans to produce more aircraft carriers to match the strength of the US Navy.

"It's full of challenges, as aircraft design and pilot training are among the world's most difficult and com-



Technology, a Chinese military magazine. With Fujian, China's third and most advanced aircraft carrier, having started sea trials last week, the PLA needed at least 200 qualified carrier-based fighter jet pilots to operate 130 ship-borne aircraft, Beijing-based naval expert Li Jie was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Saturday.

licated core technologies - which no one will share with you," Li said. Defence experts say that while China is producing aircraft carriers at a faster pace, it is still a work in progress for

the J-15 carrier-based fighter jets, which were stated to be too heavy for deployment on aircraft carriers. China is rapidly modernising its navy, almost launching a battleship

every month or two.

Dai Mingmeng, who flew a J-15 prototype on its maiden flight from the deck of Liaoning on November 3, 2012, when he was 41, was one of the first five Chinese pilots to achieve ship-borne certification. He and other senior carrier-capable pilots are now training the latest generation.

State-run China Central Television said the navy has directly recruited cadets from high school graduates aged between 16 and 19 since 2020. The average age of the latest generation of new naval aviation pilot cadets was 20, at least 10 years younger than their predecessors.

The PLA Navy started training its own pilots - rather than picking qualified candidates from the air force - following the establishment of the Naval Aeronautical University in Yantai, Shandong province, in 2017 - adopting the same approach as its US counterpart.

# North Korea conducts 4th round of missile tests in 1 week

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Saturday test-fired two short-range ballistic missiles, its neighbours said, the fourth round this week of weapons launches that prompted quick, strong condemnation from its rivals.

In an unusually strong rebuke of North Korea's weapons programs, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said North Korea's "obsession" with nuclear weapons is deepening the suffering of its own people, and warned of an "overwhelming response" from South Korea and US militaries should such weapons be used.

"North Korea hasn't abandoned its obsession with nukes and missiles despite the persistent international objection in the past 30 years," Yoon said during an Armed Forces Day ceremony.

by "confrontation maniacs" and "gangsters".

Kim has already rebuffed Yoon's offers of massive aid and support plans in return for denuclearisation.

The North's testing spree this week is seen as a response to recent naval drills between South Korea and the US and their other training that involved Japan.

North Korea views such military exercises by the allies as an invasion rehearsal and argues they reveal US and South Korean "double standards" because they brand the North's weapons tests as provocation.

On Saturday, South Korea, Japanese and US militaries said they detected the two North Korean missile launches. South Korea said the liftoffs occurred from North Korea's capital region.

Yoon's comments could enrage North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who has alleged that Yoon's government was led

# Myanmar accuses rebels in east of shooting passenger plane

AP ■ BANGKOK

Myanmar's military government accused rebel forces in the eastern state of Kayah of firing at a passenger plane as it was preparing to land Friday, wounding a passenger who was hit by a bullet that penetrated the fuselage. Rebel groups denied the allegation.

State television MRTV said the Myanmar National Airlines plane, carrying 63 passengers, was hit as it was about to land in Loikaw, the capital of the eastern state of Kayah, also known as Karenni.

It said Maj. Gen Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson for Myanmar's ruling military council, said the shooting was carried out by "terrorists" belonging to the Karenni National Progressive Party, an ethnic minority militia battling the government, and People's Defense Force.

# Arizona judge won't suspend ruling that halted all abortions

AP ■ PHOENIX (US)

An Arizona judge has declined to put her order that allowed enforcement of a pre-statehood law making it a crime to provide an abortion on hold, saying abortion right groups that asked her to block the order are not likely to prevail on appeal.

The ruling from Pima County Superior Court Judge Kellie Johnson on Friday means the state's abortion providers will not be able to restart procedures. Abortions were halted on September 23 when Johnson ruled that a 1973 injunction must be lifted so that the Civil War-era law could be enforced.

Republican Attorney General Mark Brnovich sought the order lifting the injunction. Attorneys with his office told the judge that, since the US Supreme Court's June 24 deci-



Arizona judge won't suspend ruling that halted all abortions.

sion said women do not have a constitutional right to obtain an abortion, there was no legal reason to block the old law. Planned Parenthood and its Arizona affiliate had urged Johnson to keep the injunction issued shortly after Roe v Wade was decided in 1973. They argued that laws enacted by the state Legislature in the ensuing 50 years should take precedence.

# Trump at centre of Oath Keepers novel defence in Jan 6 case

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The defence team in the Capitol riot trial of the Oath Keepers leader is relying on an unusual strategy with Donald Trump at the centre.

Lawyers for Stewart Rhodes, founder of the extremist group, are poised to argue that jurors cannot find him guilty of seditious conspiracy because all the actions he took before the siege on Jan. 6, 2021, were in preparation for orders he anticipated from the then-president - orders that never came.

Rhodes and four associates are accused of plotting for weeks to stop the transfer of presidential power from the Republican incumbent to Democrat Joe Biden, culminating with Oath Keepers in battle gear storming the Capitol alongside hundreds of other Trump supporters.



Trump at centre of Oath Keepers novel defence in Jan 6 case.

# Sweden: Right-wing party get 4 chairmanships in parliament

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

A right-wing populist party that received the second-most votes in Sweden's general election last month landed the chairmanships of four parliamentary committees on Saturday and with it, the ability to wield more influence in mainstream Swedish politics.

The positions to be held by lawmakers from the Sweden Democrats include chairing the Riksdag's justice, foreign affair, business affairs and labour market committees.

"It is important for us, as a milestone in the party's history," legislator Richard Jomshof, a Sweden Democrat who was tapped to be the next chairman of the justice committee, told Swedish public broadcaster SVT.



Sweden: Right-wing party get 4 chairmanships in parliament.

ity in the Riksdag in the September 11 election.

Decisions on the posts were announced Friday in a joint statement from the four center-right parties that are in talks to form a coalition government. Sweden Democrats, which is one of the four, announced its nominees Saturday.

Ulf Kristersson, the leader of the center-right Moderates, the party that placed third, has been tasked with forming a government that is likely to have the Sweden Democrats as part of a governing coalition or at least the party's support in securing a majority in parliament.

Kristersson has until October 12 to present results of his talks with parties to Parliament speaker Andreas Norlen.

# India's unemployment rate drops to 6.43%: CMIE

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's unemployment rate has drastically dropped to 6.43 per cent in September due to an increase in labour participation in the rural and urban areas, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

During August, India's unemployment rate surged to a one-year high of 8.3 per cent as employment sequentially fell by 2 million to 394.6 million.

"In September, the unemployment rate has fallen significantly with an increase in labour participation in both urban and rural areas," CMIE managing director Mahesh Vyas told PTI over the phone on Saturday.

The unemployment rate in the rural areas fell to 5.84 per



at 23.2 per cent, Haryana at 22.9 per cent, Tripura at 17 per cent, Jharkhand at 12.2 per cent and Bihar at 11.4 per cent.

The unemployment was the lowest in Chhattisgarh at 0.1 per cent in September, followed by Assam at 0.4 per cent, Uttarakhand at 0.5 per cent, Madhya Pradesh at 0.9 per cent, Gujarat at 1.6 per cent, Meghalaya at 2.3 per cent and Odisha at 2.9 per cent, the data showed.

Meanwhile, in August, the unemployment rate surged to a one-year high as erratic rainfall, which impacted sowing activities, affected employment in rural India.

In August, the urban unemployment rate shot up to 9.6 per cent and the rural unemployment rate also increased to 7.7 per cent, CMIE data showed.

## Inflation at manageable level, says FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said inflation is at a manageable level.

Her comments came a day after RBI hiked interest rate by 50 basis points to tame inflation.

"Inflation is at a manageable level," she said here. On Friday, RBI retained its inflation projection for FY23 at 6.7 per cent amid geopolitical concerns triggered by Russia-Ukraine war, and expected inflation to be under control from January.

The central bank is mandated to keep retail inflation in a band of 2-6 per cent. Inflation has remained above RBI's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent since January 2022.

Last month, inflation touched 7 per cent.

# 5G services will bring fundamental change in several sectors: Ashwini

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The next generation high-speed 5G services will bring fundamental changes across several sectors, including education, health, agriculture and banking, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

The minister also said that 5G will create new services with digital capabilities at the centre.

"Telecom is a gateway of Digital India. Telecom is the root of all digital services that we are seeing in our modern life. 5G services will bring fundamental change in several sectors — education, health, agriculture, logistics, and banking. It will create new opportunities," Vaishnaw noted.

The 5G service was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at India Mobile

Congress on Saturday.

The minister said the Prime Minister gave a challenge of developing indigenous technology for 4G and 5G, and India is marching ahead in the technology development, and now the world is looking at Indian telecom technology.

Modi launched a crucial 5G network gear — 5G Non-Standalone (NSA) core, indigenously designed and developed by state-run C-DOT.

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) said that end-to-end 5G call was demonstrated using C-DOT 5G NSA Core installed at BSNL Chandigarh and 5G Radio Access Network (RAN), developed in collaboration with Wisig Networks, VVDN Technologies and Radisy India.

The industry lauded the government's move to launch

5G services in the country, terming it a transformation step for industrial development.

"It is a generational leap that can help increase the telecom sector's contribution to GDP to 8-9 per cent from 6.5 per cent presently," Ficci Director General Arun Chawla said.

Ficci IT/ITeS Committee chairperson Rahul Sharma said it is anticipated that 5G technology will add USD 450 billion to the Indian economy between 2023 and 2040.

"The potential of 5G in India is genuinely transformative. Once built, it will accommodate up to one million connected devices per square kilometre compared with only 2,000 under 4G," Chawla said.

Nokia Senior Vice President and Head of India market Sanjay Malik said its

global experience in 5G rollouts shows that it will provide a strong impetus to socio-economic growth and industrial development, contributing to the GDP and mission of Digital Bharat.

MediaTek India Managing Director Anku Jain said 5G will usher in a new wave of opportunities for businesses, unlocking the next level of growth for the country.

"5G will be a key driver for Digital India initiatives and realising Design in India opportunities, leveraging disruptive technologies like AI, cloud, IoT, and others across the ecosystem. We foresee India becoming a major hub for cutting-edge semi-conductor R&D and design, and the rollout of 5G services will accelerate the next wave of digital transformation," Jain said.

# Jio 5G across India by December 2023, says Ambani

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio, the nation's biggest telecom firm, will expand 5G telephony services offering ultra high-speed internet connectivity to every part of the country by December 2023, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Saturday.

Jio had in September 2016 made an entry into the telecom sector, offering free voice calls and dirt-cheap data, forcing the competition to either match or fold up/consolidate.

Ambani has now promised affordable 5G ser-

vices. "Today, I want to reiterate Jio's commitment to deliver 5G to every town, every taluka, and every tehsil of our country by December 2023," he said at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) conference here.

Ambani had at his flagship Reliance Industries Ltd's annual shareholder meeting in August announced the rollout of 5G services across multiple key cities, including metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, by Diwali.

Most of Jio's 5G is devel-

oped in India, and hence carries the stamp of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', he said, adding 5G and 5G-enabled digital solutions can bring affordable and high-quality education and skill development within the reach of common Indians.

It can deliver high-quality healthcare to rural and remote areas by turning existing hospitals into smart hospitals without much additional investment, making the services of the best doctors digitally available anywhere in India as well as improving the speed and accuracy of diagnostics and enabling real-



time clinical decision making.

5G can also bridge the gap between urban and rural India by accelerating digitisation and intelligent data management of agriculture, services, trade, industry, informal sec-

tor, transportation and energy infrastructure, he said.

"By bringing AI into every domain, 5G can power India's emergence as the world's intelligence capital. This will help India become a major exporter of high-value digital solutions and services," he said, adding all these will trigger a huge explosion of entrepreneurship in the country, which in turn will attract even larger investments and create millions of new jobs.

Ambani said by harnessing the combined power of demography and digital technologies, India can become

the world's leading digital society, accelerating growth by making the country a USD 40 trillion economy by 2047, up from USD 3 trillion now and increasing per capita income rapidly to over USD 20,000, from USD 2,000.

"It will not be an exaggeration to say that 5G is like a Digital Kamadhenu, the heavenly cow that grants whatever we desire," he said.

With 5G, India will take longer and faster strides towards 'Sab Ka Digital Saath and Sab Ka Digital Vikas', he said. "India may have started a little late, but we'll finish first

by rolling out 5G services that are of higher quality and more affordable than anywhere else in the world."

Ambani further said 5G is much more than just the next generation of connectivity technology, offering foundational technology that unlocks the full potential of other transformative technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), internet of things, robotics, blockchain, and metaverse.

Speaking to reporters later, Ambani said Jio's 5G services will be launched by Diwali, but did not comment on tariffs. The company's 5G

services will be affordable, he said, adding "Jio is always affordable".

"Today is a historic day where as a country we started 5G, and I am very grateful to the PM for his Digital India vision... We have implemented his vision and I think this is really a new era in terms of connectivity, and what the PM has outlined, we in the telecom industry will work together to achieve this and make India and Indian connectivity ecosystem best in the world and the most affordable in the world," Ambani said.

# GST mop-up in September at ₹1.47 lakh crore; festive season to push up revenues in coming months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections remained above Rs 1.40 lakh crore for the seventh month in a row at Rs 1.47 lakh crore in September, a 26 per cent increase over last year, reflecting buoyancy in tax collection and stability of the GST portal, the finance ministry said on Saturday.

With the ongoing festive season, the collections are expected to go up in the coming months, experts said.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of September 2022 is Rs 1,47,686 crore, of which Central GST is Rs 25,271 crore, State GST is Rs 31,813 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 80,464 crore (including Rs 41,215 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 10,137 crore (including Rs 856 crore collected on import of



goods)," it said.

The GST collections had touched a record Rs 1.67 lakh crore in April, while in August it was over Rs 1.43 lakh crore.

The revenues for the month of September 2022 were 26 per cent higher than those recorded in the same month last year. During the month, revenues from import of goods were 39 per cent higher, while from domestic transaction (including import of services) the mop-up was 22 per cent more than the amount collected from these sources in the year-ago month.

The growth in GST revenue till September 2022 over the same period last year is 27 per cent, thus continuing to display very high buoyancy.

In August 2022, a total of 7.7 crore e-way bills were generated, which was marginally higher than 7.5 crore in July 2022. This month witnessed the second highest single day collection of Rs 49,453 crore on September 20 with second highest number of 8.77 lakh challans filed, next only to Rs 57,846 crore collected on July 20, 2022 through 9.58 lakh challans, which pertained to end of the year returns.

"This clearly shows that the GST portal maintained by GSTN has fully stabilised and is glitch-free," the ministry said.

During September, more than 1.1 crore e-way bills and e-invoices combined were gen-

erated without any glitch on the portal run by NIC.

EY India Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said the generation of 1.1 crore e-way bills and e-invoicing in a single day showcases a stability in the IT infrastructure of NIC.

"However, it's important for the big businesses to move to private Invoice Registration Portals appointed by the government in order to share the load of data which is likely to be increased due to increase in number of assesses liable to generate e-invoices from 1 October 2022," Agarwal said.

KPMG in India Partner Indirect Tax Abhishek Jain said the collections in September reflect supplies made in August. "With the festive season coming up, the GST collections can further be expected to go up in the coming months," Jain added.

Deloitte India Partner, Leader - Indirect Tax Mahesh Jaising said, the key contributors appear to be the expansion in usage of e-invoicing and e-way bills, use of analytics for audits and also the increased in imports with the upcoming festive seasons as businesses build up stocks.

"With the pandemic behind us, further reduction in e-invoicing threshold from October 1, 2022 and the recent amendments to extend year-end compliance due dates, we expect the last quarter of 2022 to witness even higher collections," Jaising added.

N.A. Shah Associates Partner, Indirect Tax, Parag Mehta said the major reasons were pick up in sales due to festive seasons. In September and October due to festivals like Navratri, Dusshera, Diwali, the spending is usually high.

# ATF price cut 4.5%, commercial LPG rates down ₹25.5

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jet fuel (ATF) price on Saturday was slashed by 4.5 per cent and that of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants by Rs 25.5 per 19-kg cylinder.

The price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was cut to Rs 1,859.50 in the national capital from Rs 1,885, according to a price notification from state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the sixth reduction in price of commercial LPG since June, in step with softening international energy prices.

In all, rates have come down by Rs 494.50 per 19-kg cylinder.

However, rates of LPG used in household kitchens for cooking purposes remained unchanged at Rs 1,053 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

This because the rates of domestic cooking gas were way lower than cost and now



with a drop in international prices, they are at breakeven, industry sources said.

Commercial LPG rates, on the other hand, have largely been aligned with cost and so they have moved in tandem with rise and fall in international prices.

Simultaneously, the rates of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) were cut marginally by 4.5 per cent.

Jet fuel price was cut by Rs 5,521.17, or 4.5 per cent, to Rs 115,520.27 per kl in the national capital.

Rates differ from state to state depending on incidence of local taxes.

While commercial LPG rates are revised once a month, ATF prices are changed every fortnight. There was no change in jet fuel prices on September 16. Prior to that, they were cut marginally by 0.7 per cent on September 1.

Petrol and diesel prices, however, continued to remain on freeze for a record near six months. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62.

# ₹2 additional excise duty on petrol deferred to Nov; diesel to Apr 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has put off by one month the levy of an additional Rs 2 per litre excise duty on petrol that is not doped with ethanol, and by six months for diesel that is not blended with bio-diesel.

The government relaxed the deadline for supplying ethanol-blended petrol to avoid the extra levy to November 2022 and that for supply of bio-diesel doped diesel to April 2023 in a bid to give the industry more time to implement the oil import cutting measure.

The finance ministry, in a Gazette notification issued late on Friday (September 30), stated that the additional excise tax on petrol will now be levied from November 1, 2022 and that on diesel from April 2023.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in her Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 brought a Rs 2 per litre additional levy on petrol and diesel that is not blended with ethanol and bio-diesel, respectively. This duty was to be applicable from October 1, 2022, but now has been deferred to November 1 for petrol and April 1, 2023 for diesel.

Presently, 10 per cent ethanol, extracted from sugarcane or surplus foodgrain, is blended or mixed in petrol (meaning 10 per cent of ethanol mixed with 90 per



cent of petrol) with a view to cutting oil import dependence and providing farmers with an additional source of income.

This will help avoid the levy of additional excise duty on petrol.

But there is only an experimental blending of bio-diesel, extracted from non-edible oilseeds, in diesel -- the most used fuel in the country.

"Blending of fuel is a priority of this government. To encourage the efforts for blending of fuel, unblended fuel shall attract an additional differential excise duty of Rs 2 per litre from the 1st day of October 2022," Sitharaman had stated in her Budget speech in the Lok Sabha on February 1.

In the September 30 notification, her ministry stated that "petrol which is intended for retail sale, not so blended with ethanol or methanol" will attract Rs 3.40 per litre basic excise duty effective November 1, 2022, instead of Rs 1.40 a litre currently.

Branded petrol, not doped with ethanol, will attract Rs 4.60 a litre excise duty as

against Rs 2.60 currently.

In the case of diesel, it said the fuel "intended for retail sale, not so blended with alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids obtained from vegetal oils, commonly known as bio-diesels" shall attract Rs 3.80 a litre basic excise duty instead of Rs 1.80. Branded diesel will attract Rs 6.20 a litre basic excise levy as against Rs 4.20 currently.

Besides basic excise duty, cess and special additional excise duty is levied on petrol and diesel. The total incidence of excise on petrol comes to Rs 19.90 a litre and that on diesel to Rs 15.80.

While the additional duty will push oil companies to procure more ethanol for mixing in petrol and arrange for logistics for transporting to deficient areas, it is unlikely that the country will be able to build infrastructure to manufacture bio-diesel in the scale needed for blending in diesel, industry officials said.

Last year, the government brought forward the target to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending with petrol to 2025, five years ahead of its previous target, to help reduce its dependence on costly oil imports. 10 per cent ethanol blending was achieved earlier this year.

India is the world's third-biggest oil importer, relying on foreign suppliers to meet more than 85 per cent of its demand.

# UPI transactions up over 3% at 678 crore in September



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

UPI transactions grew by over 3 per cent to 6.78 billion in September from a month ago, data from NPCI showed on Saturday.

In August 2020, the total number of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) based digital financial transactions stood at 6.57 billion (657 crore).

In value terms, 6.78 billion (678 crore) transactions in last month corresponds to transactions worth Rs 11.16 lakh crore, up from Rs 10.73 lakh crore in August, as per the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data.

In July, India processed 6.28 billion UPI transactions worth Rs 10.62 lakh crore.

Among other payments methods under the NPCI umbrella, the instant inter-bank payments through IMPS stood at 462.69 million (46.27 crore) in September slightly lower from 466.91 million (46.69 crore) in the preceding month. In July, it was 460.83 million (46.03 crore).

# UP: All-women milk business flourishing in economically backward Bundelkhand

PTI ■ JHANSI (UP)

Women in the parched landscape of the Bundelkhand region are steering towards self-sufficiency through milk production run by a well-structured women self-help group that has expanded to over 40,000 female members.

These women are partners in Balinee Milk Producer Company Limited and have taken big strides since the inception of the company in 2019.

The all-women initiative in the economically backward Bundelkhand region has drawn praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The company, which was inaugurated by Adityanath, has members spread across six districts of the Bundelkhand region.

During a virtual programme based on the theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Nari Shakti' last year, Modi lauded the initiative. Adityanath appreciated the successful experiment in Jhansi while speaking at a special session of the state assembly on September 22.

Started by Uma Kanti Pal, who mobilised women of the villages, the initiative has helped thousands of women of

the region stand up on their feet.

The women members take care of milk production, collection and safe transport to processing centres. They are paid on a weekly basis for their work.

At the break of dawn, the centres could be seen buzzing with activities with women members one after another visiting there with their pots full of milk.

The earnings have helped rural women contribute towards running their families and providing better education to their children.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Balinee Milk Producer Company Limited OP Singh said, "We collect over 1.35 lakh litre milk every day from more than 40,000 women members from six districts of Bundelkhand region, including Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Mahoba, Banda and Hamirpur".

"Over 7,000 more women members will soon join us, which we are expecting will help to increase our capacity to 2 lakh litre milk every day."

The woman members have been made the shareholders in the company.

Currently, the company has 703 milk collection centres in 795 villages in six districts. The collection centres are



equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to determine the quality of the milk.

The milk collected is sold in Jhansi city and is also sent to other milk processing firms located in nearby states.

To facilitate easy payment and empower its women members, the company has also helped them to link with the banking system.

"We have also signed MoU with various banks so that our members can get easy loans from the bank to buy cattle. We are also working to ensure the milking cattle of our members get insured," Singh said.

The earnings have helped the women members to improve their status and quality of life.

Asha Devi, a group member, said that at the time of joining the company, she only had one cattle but with help of the

earnings she now owns three cattle.

"I have three buffaloes who produce around 20 litres of milk, which I deposit in the collection centre. The company pays me Rs 55 per litre and the payments are always on time," she said.

Another member Pavitra Devi of the Babina area said, "In the last three years, I have increased the number of cattle from two to 11. The cattle give around 40-litre milk every day which I submit to the collection centre".

Pavitra Devi added that her family has been able to build a new shed for the cattle with the money she earned.

The company also provides assistance to members in purchasing cattle.

# US WOMEN WIN FOURTH STRAIGHT GOLD AT WORLD CUP, TOP CHINA

AP ■ SYDNEY

The names on the US team have changed, the Americans' dominance has not. A'ja Wilson scored 19 points, Kelsey Plum added 17 and the United States beat China 83-61 on Saturday to win its fourth consecutive gold medal at the women's basketball World Cup. "It feels great," said Wilson, who was selected as the tournament's MVP. "We came here on a mission, we got it. We got gold. Now we're going home with some hardware. It feels great to us. Australia was great to us. I didn't see any kangaroos, but it's OK because we are leaving with a gold."

This was one of the most dominant teams in the Americans' storied history in the World Cup that now has won 11 gold medals. They've won four straight gold medals for the first time. This also was the biggest win in a gold-medal game, surpassing the 20-point wins that the Americans had done twice. "Everybody wants to beat us. Everybody wants what we have and that's gold medals and victories," Breanna Stewart said.

What started with Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi has now been passed down to Wilson and Stewart. With Alyssa Thomas the oldest player at 30, the domination could continue for years to come.

"It's been an incredible journey just to continue to lay that foundation down like so many of the greats in front of us have," Wilson said. "Now it's our turn to step up and be in that situation."

Host Australia defeated Canada 95-65 to win the bronze medal, led by 41-year-old Lauren Jackson's 30 points. As they've done all tournament, the Americans did it on both ends of the court, playing stellar defense as well as using a high-powered offense.



The U.S. (8-0) finished the World Cup averaging 98.8 points — just short of the mark held by the 1994 team that averaged 99.1. They won by an average of 40.8 points, topping the mark held by the 2010 team.

The game was a sellout with nearly 16,000 fans — the biggest crowd to attend a women's World Cup game since the inaugural tournament in 1953 in Chile.

Led by Li Yueru and Wu Tongtong, China hung around. The Chinese team trailed 33-28 late in the second quarter before the U.S. went on a 10-2 run highlighted by fast-break layups by Stewart and Wilson to extend the advantage to double-digits.

Jin Weina hit a 3-pointer just before the halftime buzzer to get China back to within 10.

The U.S. was just too good to let the upset happen, outscoring China 25-14 in the third. The Americans did have one scary moment when Thomas went down after a collision with Li in the

lane. She was helped off the court, but returned a few minutes later. "It was a tough game as we expected," Thomas said. "By no means is this game easy. We stuck to it and pulled out a win."

China won its first medal since the 1994 World Cup when the team also took the silver and are a rising power in women's basketball. After the game, the team posed for a photo with their flag and men's great Yao Ming, who is the president of the Chinese Basketball Association.

Li finished with 19 points and Wu added 13 before leaving the game in the fourth quarter after her knee gave out driving to the basket. She had to be carried off the court.

The victory was the 30th in a row in World Cup play for the Americans, who haven't lost since the 2006 semifinals against Russia. The Soviet Union holds the World Cup record with 56 straight wins from 1959-86. This is only the second time in the Americans'

storie history they've reached four consecutive gold medal contests. They also did it from 1979-90, winning three times.

This U.S. team, which has so many new faces, continued to dominate the paint even without 6-foot-8 Brittney Griner, outscoring its opponents by an average of 55-24.

The teams met in pool play and China gave the U.S. its toughest game, losing by 14 points.

**CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE**

Wilson, Chelsea Gray and Plum are part of an incredible group that won a World Cup and WNBA title in the same year. There have been 14 total now.

**HONORING GRINER**

"This is for BG. I hope BG knows she's in our thoughts," Stewart said. "We can't wait for her to come home and hoping that she's going to be home as soon as possible. BG, we got the gold for you and we miss you and we love you."

Griner was sentenced in August to

nine years in a Russian prison after she was convicted of drug possession. The U.S. honored her by not having anyone wear her No. 15 on the roster.

**WOMEN'S WORLD**

FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis was pleased that half of the officials in the tournament were female and five of the 12 head coaches were women. Both China and the U.S. had women in charge of their teams, the second straight time that two female coaches made it to the gold-medal game.

**MISSING IN ACTION**

The U.S. was without Kahleah Copper for the second straight game after injuring her left hip in the win over Serbia in the quarterfinals. Copper landed hard on her hip driving to the basket and had to be helped off the court. China was missing its star guard Li Meng, who sat out a second consecutive game with what Chinese media reported as having a fever due to body fatigue.



## Hockey India names 33 probables for FIH Pro League matches

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Hockey India on Saturday named a 33-member men's core probable group, including the likes of captain Manpreet Singh and veteran goalkeeper P R Sreejesh, for the FIH Pro League season opening matches beginning on October 28.

The players will report to the SAI Center in Bengaluru on Monday for a national camp ahead of FIH Pro League matches against New Zealand and Spain at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Talking about the camp, chief coach Graham Reid said, "The FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 will give us insights into the areas that require work ahead of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

"The matches against Spain and New Zealand are important for us and the players are excited about the upcoming months of hockey. We have chosen some fresh names in the core group who have shown great potential and are eager to perform when

given a chance." India play against New Zealand on October 28 and November 4. They face Germany on October 30 and November 6.

The team will move to Bhubaneswar on October 21 after a three-week camp in SAI, Bengaluru.

**The Probables:**

**Goalkeepers:** PR Sreejesh, Krishan B Pathak, Pawan

**Defenders:** Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Yashdeep Siwach, Dipsan Tirkey, Sanjay, Manjeet, Sumit

**Midfielders:** Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsheer Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Pawan Rajbhar

**Forwards:** Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Maninder Singh, Mohd Raheel Mousen, S Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh.

## Marseille beats Angers 3-0 to lead French league

AP ■ ANGERS

Jonathan Clauss notched a goal and two assists to help Marseille take the lead in the French league by downing Angers 3-0.

Marseille remained unbeaten to overtake Paris Saint-Germain by a point, but the defending champion can take the top spot back when it hosts Nice on Saturday.

Clauss rounded Angers right back Yan Valery to fire home an angled strike off the near post in the 35th minute. The France international then intercepted a pass from Valery in the 50th to feed Luis Suarez, who doubled the lead by beating goalkeeper Yahia Fofana.

Marseille midfielder Gerson made it 3-0 by controlling a cross from Clauss in the 59th to curl into the bottom corner. "The squad lives very well together. We all stick together," Marseille midfielder Jordan Veretout said in explaining Marseille's strong start to the season.

"All the players are very important, whether it's the 11 who start or the bench. We are



a team showing solidarity, that's what makes us strong this season."

Marseille rested striker Alexis Sanchez, who stayed on the bench after playing two full matches for Chile during the international break.

Angers created the first chances by pressing high up the pitch but lacked the finishing touch. Nabil Bentaleb intercepted a pass from Marseille midfielder Jordan Veretout before rattling the post in the 18th.

Angers left back Souleyman Dombia also dispossessed Issa Kabore in the 34th to cut the ball back for Adrien Hunou, who fluffed his shot wide.

## TT: Manika loses both matches as Indian women go down to Germany in World Team C'ships

PTI ■ CHENGDU

Sreeja Ajala and Diya Chitale registered impressive wins but star paddler Manika Batra lost both her fixtures as Indian women lost 2-3 to Germany in their ITTF World Team Championships opener here on Saturday.

The men's team, on the other hand, blanked Uzbekistan 3-0 in its Group 2 opening clash.

Commonwealth Games medallist Batra, ranked 44 in the world, was no match to the world number eight Ying Han, who breezed past the Indian 3-0 (11-3 11-1 11-2) to give her side a 1-0 lead.

World number 77 Sreeja then upstaged the higher-ranked Nina Mittelham 3-0 (11-9 12-10 11-7) to put India back in the contest.

The 122-ranked Diya then gave India the lead with a hard-fought 3-1 (11-9 8-11 11-6 13-11) win over Sabine Winter.

Asian Games medallist Batra made a strong start to her second match but couldn't take advantage of the winning momentum as she was handed a 1-3 (11-7 6-11 7-11 8-11)



defeat by world number 14 Mittelham as the fixture was tied at 2-2.

However, the 24-year-old Sreeja too was no match to the mighty Ying, the 2016 Rio Olympics team silver medallist, as she also surrendered meekly to the German 0-3 (3-11 5-11 4-11) in the decider.

Indian women are placed third in Group 5.

Earlier, the men's team was hardly tested by its Uzbek rivals.

Harmeet Desai gave India the lead with a 3-0 (11-9 11-9

11-1) win over Elmurod Kholikov.

G Sathiyam then doubled the lead with a similar 3-0 (11-3 11-6 11-9) victory against Abdulaziz Anorboev while Manav Thakar sealed the fixture after defeating Shokhrukh Iskandar 3-0 (11-8 11-5 11-5).

The win puts India in third place in Group 2 behind Germany and France.

The Indian men will next face Germany while the women will take on Czech Republic on Sunday.

## My focus is World Tour Finals: Prannoy

PTI ■ SURAT

Star India shuttler HS Prannoy has set his sight on the season-ending World Tour Finals but said he will have to hone his skills to ensure that he doesn't falter at the business end of the remaining tournaments.

One of the most consistent players in the international circuit this season, Prannoy has consistently reached the quarters and semifinals this season but a title has still eluded him.

The 30-year-old from Kerala recently replaced Tokyo Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark at the top of the latest men's singles HSBC Race To Guangzhou rankings.

He is leading with 58,090 points, having participated in 13 tournaments on the BWF World Tour this year. Players in the top 8 qualify for the year-ending World Tour Finals scheduled to be held from December 14 to 18 in Guangzhou.

"My focus would be the World Tour Finals. There are quite a few tournaments before that. I hope to produce winning results in those," Prannoy said after guiding Kerala to a 3-1 win



over Assam in the mixed team quarterfinals of the National Games here.

"I have to be consistent. I would like to get into a good rhythm before the World Tour Finals. I'm happy with my results over the last year and I need to be consistent."

A former world number 8, Prannoy had slipped out of the top 20 after enduring a tough phase plagued with health issues and a slump in form.

However, Prannoy has regained his place in the top 15 in the latest rankings and said his aim remains to get back into the elite 10.

"I would like to get into the top 10 and preferably top five as I would get a better draw. I also need to work on my game so that I should go beyond the semifinals. That is my priority now."



## Popular wrestler and politician Antonio Inoki dies at 79

AP ■ TOKYO

A popular Japanese professional wrestler and lawmaker Antonio Inoki, who faced a world boxing champion Muhammad Ali in a mixed martial arts match in 1976, has died at 79.

Inoki brought Japanese pro-wrestling to fame and pioneered mixed martial arts matches between top wrestlers and champions from other combat sports like judo, karate and boxing.

He also was the first in his sport to enter politics. He promoted peace through sports and made more than 30 trips to North Korea during his time as a lawmaker in hopes of forging peace and friendship.

Inoki, who was battling a rare disease called amyloidosis, died earlier on Saturday, according to the New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co., of which he was the founding president. Inoki was upbeat and in good spirits, even as he was fighting the disease.

With his trademark red scarf dangling from his neck, Inoki last appeared in public in August on a TV show, in a wheelchair.

"As you can see, I'm pushing myself to the limit, and I'm getting power as I get to see you," he said.

Born as Kanji Inoki in 1943 in Yokohama, just outside Tokyo, he moved to Brazil with his family when he was 13 and worked at a coffee plantation.

Inoki won local fame in shot put as a student, and debuted as a professional wrestler at 17 while on wrestling tour in Brazil where he captured the attention of Rikidozan, known as the father of Japanese pro-wrestling.

Inoki made his pro-wrestling debut in 1960 and gave himself a ring name Antonio Inoki two years later. With his archival and another Japanese legend, the late Shohei "Giant" Baba, Inoki made pro-wrestling a hugely popular sport in Japan. Inoki founded the New Japan Pro-Wrestling in 1972.

## Guinea removed as host of 2025 African Cup

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

The African soccer confederation has removed Guinea as host of the 2025 African Cup of Nations because of inadequate infrastructure.

The decision was announced late Friday night and after Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Patrice Motsepe traveled to the country to meet with Col. Mamady Doumbouya, the head of the military junta in Guinea who took power in a coup in 2021.

CAF said its executive committee would meet in Algeria on Saturday to discuss the details of re-opening the bidding process for the 2025 tournament.

Guinea's hosting of the continental championship had been under scrutiny for weeks after an inspection committee made a visit in early September and determined that Guinea wouldn't be ready. CAF made an internal decision then to strip the West African nation of the tournament but held off making an official announcement until Motsepe's visit.

In a statement, CAF said the infrastructure and facilities in Guinea were "not ready to host a world class AFCON competition."

## Advani, Laxman among 6 Indians to qualify for knockout stage of World Men 6-Red Snooker C'ship



PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Star cueist Pankaj Advani and defending champion Laxman Rawat were among the six Indians to qualify for the knockout stage of the World 6-Red Snooker Championship here.

Besides Advani and Laxman, Dhvaj Haria, Kamal Chawla and S Shrikrishna have also made it to the last 32.

Advani won all the four group stage matches with a scoreline 4-0, 4-1, 4-1, 4-2 and secured top position in his group. However, the other Indian players qualified for the knock-out stage after finishing second in their respective groups.

The 37-year-old from Pune defeated Mohamed Emeesh of

Libya 4-0 in the morning session, before getting the better off Enkhtuvshin Bat-Ochir of Mongolia 4-1 in the evening session on the opening day of the competition on Thursday.

On Saturday, Advani beat Loh Chung Leong of Malaysia 4-2 in another group B match.

Advani took a 2-0 lead against Loh but the Malaysian surprised him and took away two frames to level the match but then the Indian tightened the string and closed the next two frames to seal the proceedings. His frame score against Loh Chung Leong was 34-26, 37-01, 24-38, 19-47, 32-20, 41-10.

Advani will face Lim Kok Leong in the last 32 stage on Sunday.

## Sikki-Kapoor pair loses in Vietnam Open semifinals, Indian campaign ends

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH

Indian mixed doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Rohan Kapoor suffered a straight game loss in the semifinals of the Vietnam Open Super 100 badminton tournament here on Saturday.

The unseeded Indian pair lost 16-21 14-21 to top seeded Indonesian combination of Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto and Lisa Ayu Kusumawati in a 37-minute contest.

The defeat brought the curtains down on India's campaign at the tournament.

Sikki and Kapoor had clinched the Chhattisgarh International Challenge title, last week.

The Indonesian pair opened up a 8-4 lead early on and even though the Indian duo brought the equation down to as close as 15-16, Rehan and Lisa quelled the challenge and knocked off four straight points to pocket the opening game.

The second game also went on similar lines with Rehan and Lisa leading 12-9. Sikki and Kapoor then reduced the deficit to 14-15 but the Indonesian pair sealed the contest with six points on the trot.

## Bayern routs Leverkusen 4-0 to end crisis, Musiala stars

AP ■ BERLIN

Jamal Musiala starred and Bayern Munich ended its four-game winless run by beating Bayer Leverkusen 4-0 as the Bundesliga returned from the international break on Friday.

The 19-year-old Musiala was involved in all three of the first-half goals. And this time — in contrast to the 1-0 defeat in Augsburg or the three preceding draws — fortune was smiling on Bayern. Every score was helped on its way by a slight deflection — or a gift from the opposition.

The 10-time defending champion wasted little time in answering its first loss of the season in Augsburg as Musiala skipped down the right wing and crossed for Leroy Sané to open the scoring in the third minute.

Thomas Müller set up Musiala to score in the 17th, and Musiala was involved again when he set up Sadio Mané to end his six-game scoring drought in the 39th. It was Mané's first goal in Munich for his new team.

Mané thought he'd scored again early in the second half, but the goal was ruled out after a VAR check for an apparent



visit by Matthijs de Ligt and Odilon Kossounou in the buildup. Bayern's players kept playing while the Leverkusen defender was lying on the ground after a clash of heads with de Ligt and Musiala again provided the final pass. Referee Tobias Stieler checked replays while Kossounou received treatment and consequently penalized de Ligt for a foul.

Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer denied Amine Adli in the

visitors' only real chance, while his counterpart Lukáš Hrádecký ended an evening to forget by gifting Müller Bayern's fourth goal in the 84th. Hrádecký wanted to play the ball out but slipped and inadvertently provided the assist for Müller, whose celebrations were muted by embarrassment.

Bayern moved two points behind league leader Union Berlin, which visits Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday.

# JEMIMAH'S CAREER-BEST POWERS INDIA TO 41-RUN WIN OVER SL IN WOMEN'S ASIA CUP

PTI ■ SYLHET

Jemimah Rodrigues played the role of an enforcer to perfection with a career-best 76 in T20Is before the bowlers produced a clinical display to power India to a 41-run win against Sri Lanka in their women's Asia Cup opener here on Saturday.

Rodrigues put up a boundary-hitting exhibition as she whacked 11 fours and a maximum in her counter-attacking 53-ball innings to help India post 150 for six on a wicket where batters struggled due to low bounce.

The Indian bowlers then struck at regular intervals to bowl Sri Lanka out for 109 in 18.2 overs.

The Indians were better than their Sri Lankan counterparts in all three departments.

India were not off to the best of starts after being asked to bat.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana (10) was the first to be dismissed, while her fellow opener Shafali Verma's (6) batting woes continued as she became spinner Oshadi Ranasinghe's (3/32) first victim of the day.

But Rodrigues, who is coming off a wrist injury, was in control from the beginning, timing the ball to perfection.

She kept sending the ball to the fence every over and punished the Sri Lankan bowling attack all over the field.

Rodrigues raced to her half-century in 38 deliveries and together with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (33 off 30) steered India over the 100-run mark.

The two got 92 off 71 balls



with Kaur also looking dangerous.

The skipper got a reprieve in the 15th over when she was dropped off Sugandika Kumari (1/26) but couldn't capitalise on it as Ranasinghe had her stumped in the next over.

Sri Lankan bowlers then staged a comeback in the death overs with a flurry of wickets.

While Rodrigues continued to score at a good pace, going past her previous career-best T20I score of 72, her fabulous innings soon came to an end off a Chamari Athapaththu

(1/8) slow and low delivery as the Indian was bowled.

Dayalan Hemalatha chipped in with an unbeaten 13 towards the end while Richa Ghosh (9) slammed a six.

Spinners, led by Ranasinghe did the bulk of the work for Sri Lanka.

Chasing 151, Sri Lanka were off to a flyer, plundering 13 runs off the first over bowled by pacer Renuka Singh (0/20). But Sri Lanka couldn't continue the momentum as they lost wickets at regular intervals.

All-rounder Deepti Sharma

(2/15) got the prized wicket of the experienced Chamari (5) with her slower ball.

The Sri Lankan skipper looked to slog it over the on side only for Renuka to catch the ball at square leg. Sri Lanka's running between wickets was sloppy as a sharp India side capitalised on the errors.

Deepti ran out Melsha Shehani (9) but opener Harshitha Samarawickrama (26) continued to play aggressively but she too was run out in the eighth over.

With the required run rate increasing, the Sri Lankans wilted under pressure.

Pooja Vastrakar (2/12) snared the wickets of Nilakshi de Silva (3) Kavisha Dilhari (1) off her successive overs as Sri Lanka were left tottering at 61/5.

However, Hasini Perera (30) provided some resistance as she partnered with wicketkeeper Anushka Sanjeevani (5) and Oshidi Ranasinghe (11) to breach the 100-run mark.

But spinner Hemalatha (3/15) cleaned up the tail with a three-wicket burst as India started their Asia Cup campaign with a win.



## It's difficult to defend when Surya attacks bowlers: Parnell

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Suryakumar Yadav's incredibly strong and powerful batting has made him one of the most feared T20 batters at the moment and South African all-rounder Wayne Parnell says the bowlers will have to stay strong and focussed while tackling him.

Surya slammed a 33-ball 50 in India's eight-wicket win over South Africa on a tricky track in the series-opener.

"Personally from what I've watched in the last couple of months, I think he's probably the best T20 batters at the moment. He scores 360-degree which is very difficult for bowlers to defend," he said on the eve of the second and penultimate T20I of the series.

"It's about being strong and focussed on each ball. He's allowed to play good shots, but the other day he was lucky as

well. He's certainly a guy whom I enjoyed watching the last couple of months. He's certainly playing good cricket," Parnell said.

Parnell insisted that their flop show in the first T20I was an aberration and there's no need to panic before the T20 World Cup in Australia.

"It's just one of those things. It wasn't a good T20 wicket and they bowled really well, but our batters have been world class in the last couple of years so there's nothing to panic about," he said.

On their meek show in the powerplay when they were stuttering 9 for five, Parnell said, "It's a bit of a Catch-22 situation really. Certainly experience tells you that new ball does swing so you have to have a look at the first one-two overs."

"We have to credit the Indian seamers who bowled really well. We will have to define ways to counter that in

the second game."

Kagiso Rabada and Parnell hit the right lengths but the likes of Anrich Nortje and Tabraiz Shamsi struggled badly in the first match as the visitors looked one seamer short.

"Competition is good for the spots. Every single fast bowler is different and has different skill sets. It's a positive sign for us. It also means that when we are presented with any particular condition, we can play a certain set of fast bowlers so I think personally having the variety that we have is really exciting," he said.

On World Cup preparation, he said: "It's been very good over the last few months. We were here in June, then went on a UK tour, coming back here again before going to Australia. Everyone is in really good spirits and looking forward to next couple of T20Is and the ODIs as well."

## India remain static on 4th in ODI and T20I ranking after annual update



PTI ■ DUBAI

India have maintained their fourth spot in the ICC women's ODI and T20I team rankings after the world body carried out an annual update on Saturday.

India have gained a point and now have 104 points in the ODI rankings.

In the T20 list, the Commonwealth Games silver medalists' rating points have increased by four as the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side sits on 266 points in the latest update, which expunges results from the 2018-19 season, weights the 2019-20 and 2020-2021 seasons at 50 per cent and the 2021-22 matches at 100 per cent.

Australia have established a record margin at the top of the ODI team rankings while also increasing their lead in the T20I team rankings.

The Commonwealth Games and World Cup champi-

ons have stretched their lead over South Africa from 48 to 51 rating points in the ODI rankings, which is the biggest lead ever by any international men's or women's side in any form of the game.

Their lead over second-placed T20I team England has increased from 14 to 18 rating points.

There is no change of positions in the ODI rankings.

Australia have gained three rating points and sit comfortably at 170, with South Africa (119), England (116), India (104) and New Zealand (101) the other teams holding three-figure rating points.

In T20Is, Australia are on 299 rating points, stretching their lead over second-placed England from 14 to 18 rating points.

New Zealand maintained their third position, while South Africa have overtaken the West Indies to fifth position.

# Team India grapple with Bumrah riddle as it chases rare series win vs SA

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

It may be unsettled after an unexpected injury to Jasprit Bumrah but the Indian team would aim to continue its winning run and complete a rare home-series win against South Africa when the two sides clash in the second T20 International, here Sunday.

From the tranquility of Thiruvananthapuram, the Team India atmosphere, suddenly, wears a chaotic look -- much like the traffic of Guwahati, thrown out of gear in the midst of Durga Puja rush and construction of flyovers.

Bumrah was expected to play a key role in Indian team's campaign in the Australian conditions but his "back stress fracture" has ruled him out of the ICC flagship event, starting in three weeks' time.

The ongoing series was originally planned as the final tune-up for Rahul Dravid's team but Bumrah's absence has now thrown more questions than answers.

Umesh Yadav and Mohammad Siraj have been added to the squad as injury replacements but they do not figure in the World Cup-bound squad, as of now.

The burning question is, will the two remaining T20Is give the team management scope to test Bumrah's replacement.

The seasoned Mohammad Shami, who is in the World Cup squad as stand-by, is not

here for the South Africa series. Shami has recovered from COVID-19 and has more chances of making it to Australia because of his experience Down Under.

If that's the case, he might end up having little game time before their World Cup warm-up fixture against the reigning champions on October 16.

For the SA series, the team has a fit-again Deepak Chahar who also figures in the World Cup standby.

Chahar (4-0-24-2) looked in fine fettle when he along with young left-arm pace gun Arshdeep Singh (4-0-32-3) reduced the Proteas to 9/5 inside the power on the Greenfield track as India took a 1-0 lead.

But swing will be out of equation in conditions Down Under and Chahar is more in the mould of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who is in the World Cup XI along with Arshdeep. Siraj, on the other hand, has struggled of late and has inspired very little confidence.

It's a different debate altogether that Bhuvneshwar, who is short on experience -- three T20Is -- in Australia has started leaking runs and no longer holds the ace, as it was seen in their Asia Cup elimination last month.

Ditto for World Cup-bound Harshal Patel as it remains to be seen how the think-tank manages to arrange the jigsaw.

In the past, they have overcome bigger hurdles, like when



in 2020-21 they won a back-to-back series in Australia with their fifth or sixth choice bowlers.

**The Axar effect** Thankfully, it's not the case in the spin department.

Axar Patel has been a revelation after Ravindra Jadeja's knee surgery finally cemented his spot. From struggling to find a spot, Patel, a like-for-like replacement for the ace Indian all-rounder, has ticked all the boxes.

He was the top wickettaker -- eight wickets at an average of 7.87 -- in India's 2-1 win

over the world T20I champions in their last series here.

And against South Africa too he was at his miserly best -- 1/16 -- bowling in the middle-overs along with Ravichandran Ashwin as it's a department that looks sorted.

For someone who has a career strike-rate of 136-plus from 30 T20Is, it's his batting that has inspired confidence in skipper Rohit Sharma: "I would like to see him batting as well."

But India will head to Australia with their star-studded batting providing the big confidence. The top four, including their star batter Virat Kohli, look in their zone.

That KL Rahul also

returned among runs with a slow but steady fifty in the first T20I was a big confidence-booster.

It's just that their middle-order with the likes of Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik seemingly looks short on game time.

Pant, who is likely to be the X-factor in Australia, has not got any batting opportunities at all since returning from the Asia Cup where he had a mixed campaign.

Karthik, the designated Indian finisher, on the other hand has faced nine balls in last seven games as pushing them higher would not be a bad ploy.

**Elusive series win in sight** From the series' perspec-

tive, India will be chasing their first ever victory over the Proteas in the format at home soil and a win will seal it. It's a different thing that it would hold little significance in the bigger picture.

That they have struggled in the world tournaments is not a secret and the 2007 champions, who last made the semifinal in 2016, would hope to avoid a repeat of 2021 UAE edition when they failed to make the knockouts.

Boasting the likes of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje, the South African bowling lacked the sting after the duo dismissed Rohit and Kohli cheaply.

Bavuma would hope that they put up a much-improved show and also the toss of the coin comes in his favour so as to test the Indian batting up front.

**Teams (from)**

**India:** Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Umesh Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Shahbaz Ahmed and Mohammad Siraj.

**South Africa:** Temba Bavuma (Captain), Quinton de Kock (wk), Bjorn Fortuin, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs.

# Irani Trophy: Mukesh swings, Sarfaraz sizzles as Rest of India take control

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Medium pacer Mukesh Kumar rattled Saurashtra with some high quality swing bowling before Sarfaraz Khan continued his dream run with an attractive hundred to put Rest of India in the driver's seat on the opening day of Irani Trophy match here on Saturday.

At stumps, Sarfaraz's unbeaten 125 off 126 balls took Rest of India to 205 for 3 after Mukesh's swing and scorching pace from young guns Kuldeep Sen (3/41) and Umran Malik (3/25) demolished the 2019-20 Ranji Trophy Champions for a meagre 98 in 24.5 overs.

In the presence of chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma and his colleague Sunil Joshi, Sarfaraz gave an exhibition of his wide array of strokes that included 19 boundaries and three sixes.

Coming in when the Rest were tottering at 18 for 3, in the post lunch ses-

sion, Sarfaraz played one of his most counter punching knocks to take the stuffing out of Saurashtra attack while adding 185 for the unbroken fourth wicket stand with Hanuma Vihari (62 batting off 145 balls).

The hallmark of Sarfaraz's innings was how he picked the length very early and that enabled him to play late. He played some attractive shots square of the wicket but the manner in which he toyed with domestic doyen Jaydev Unadkat was worth watching. Unadkat bowled two bouncers at varied pace. In the first one, he kept his shape to come under the delivery and pulled it uppishly for a six.

The next bouncer from the same spot, he rolled his arms over to keep the pull shot down for a boundary.

It was a late cut off left-arm spinner Dharmendra Jadeja that brought his century. Later in one over of Jadeja, he repeatedly slog-swept him for three boundaries



as Unadkat was forced to open his field to stop boundaries. However in the morning, the pitch was spicier than expected. On a track that offered good bounce and some early moisture aiding a bit of nip in the air, Mukesh (4/23 in 10 overs) literally decimated Saurashtra with his first spell as he made the batters play every delivery.

Most of his deliveries swung in and either left the batter late after pitching or straightened with the keeper and slip cordoning pitching almost everything that came its way. The best part about each dismissal was that it was more about bowler hitting the fuller length while delivering very close to the stumps.

Neither of the two openers Harvik Desai and Snell Patel played away from their body but the Bengal seamer, who had a dream A series versus New Zealand, made them push at deliveries on off stump.

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# AFTER A LONG ROPE, PFI FINALLY NAILED

The PFI was working in a modular fashion with each of its affiliate organizations working on specific agenda,, writes RAKESH SINGH

The ban on the radical outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates by the Centre earlier this week under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has come in the wake of intelligence reports that the Islamist organization's scale of radicalization has reached monumental proportions and its linkages with several global terror groups was threatening national security.

The banned outfit's deep-seated strategic ambit is clear as it has begun regrouping within a week of the ban under the banner of Tipu Sultan Volunteer Force.

The most alarming element in the PFI's tactics was the recruitment of a large number of mentally challenged children by its affiliate Rehab India Foundation, also banned along with the parent organization. The clandestine nature of such recruitment left the children open to abuse into drug trafficking, organ harvesting, gunrunning, and suicide bombing without them being aware of their role in such affairs.

While the government has banned the Rehab India Foundation, measures are yet to be taken to rescue these children. Their legal verification and tracing of their families are the need of the hour to stem any possible threat posed by their misuse in the future.

The PFI was working in a modular fashion with each of its affiliate organizations working on specific agendas.

The PFI affiliate National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation was working in the guise of raising human rights issues of the Rohingyas and also organized protests in favour of the displaced Myanmar nationals illegally residing in India and also organized anti-state protests in the name of human rights violations of the Muslims to further its anti-government propaganda by projecting that the Muslims were being crushed in the country at the hands of the state. It was also working to create a pro-Rohingya and anti-UAPA narrative. It was being mentored by an American Human Rights group and also had a working relationship with urban Naxals and ultra-Left human rights groups.

The Empower India Foundation that brought the Vision 2047 document for Islamisation of India was engaged in intellectual narrative building and pushing Muslims at different levels of the government administrative machinery.

Likewise, the All India Imams Council, also a PFI affiliate, also banned, was allegedly working to convert the youths of Islamic factions like Sufism and Shia denominations into radical

Salafism. It also engaged in conversion for which it issued a detailed set of guidelines.

PFI's National Women's Front was reportedly tasked to spearhead the hijab movement. The outfit was not only radicalizing gullible Indian youths but also Islamic cohorts from a number of countries like Maldives and Seychelles among others.

The PFI had also reportedly ran a "Boycott India" campaign in the MENA (Middle East North Africa) region when India was coping with the Covid pandemic and cryogenic oxygen was being imported from the Gulf countries. Through the Boycott India campaign, the outfit intended to disrupt the supply of oxygen so that more and more Indians could die due to the pandemic.

The outfit had grown so bold that it issued threats to a few serving and former Intelligence officers including Interlocutor for the Northeast RN Ravi last year.

The organization, with a membership base of over 15 lakh, was growing organically. The Tamil Nadu Tauheed Jamat merged with it in 2021. Tauheed Jamat's Sri Lankan faction was involved in the 2019 serial bombings in Colombo in the high security diplomatic zone killing over 200 people.

The PFI had developed significant connections with the Rohingyas. On the Uyghurs, the PFI facilitated the movement of leaders to Hyderabad but in a display of a double game, it did not endorse Uyghur demands in line with the Pakistani government line on the issue.

The PFI was also in the advanced state of setting up training camps abroad in conjunction with the Taliban and ISIS.

The PFI hierarchy is divided into two factions—the one owing allegiance to ISIS and the other to Al Qaeda. The current action against the PFI by the law enforcement agencies entails measures against the ISIS faction within the outfit.

The PFI leadership, tilted toward the Al Qaeda global terror group, was in contact with the Tahreek-e-Taliban. The group had also prepared a hit list of top political leaders.

The PFI was indulging in "disturbing" the country's communal and secular fabric and "posing a grave threat" to national security by advancing its radical ideology and seeking to establish "political Islam" in India besides targeting Hindu activists.

The PFI also covertly organised training exercises, and military-like drills, where participants are trained to use force and violence against certain religious groups, which are perceived as enemies of Islam.

Since its inception, the PFI has been against Hindu organisations and their leaders. The e group has a secret hit squad that engages in targeted killings of Hindu activists and those allegedly indulging in blasphemy.

The PFI is alleged to have been continuously involved in anti-government propaganda and spreading the narrative that Muslims were being

threatened by PFI, which has a presence in 17 States.

The murder of Praveen Nettaru in Bellare town on July 26 was one of the cases that exposed the violent character of PFI. Nettaru, a member of Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha and a local businessman, was hacked to death in typical ISIS style by bike-borne assailants and most of the accused in the case had an affiliation with the PFI.

An investigation by local police claimed a chilling tale of cold-blooded murder by PFI cadres and SDPI members in retaliation to the killing of 19-year-old Masood, a Muslim migrant labourer.

A list of RSS and Bajrang Dal members of the town was prepared and the PFI leaders handpicked some members to avenge Masood's death. Nettaru was targeted as he had commented on the halal issue, officials said.

Contrary to PFI's claim of being a social organisation working for the uplift of Muslims, the ground actions of the outfit tell a totally different story with several of its cadres having a violent history.

Over 1,400 criminal cases had been registered against PFI cadres and its affiliates across the country including under the UAPA, the Explosive Substances Act, Arms Act and other sections of the IPC.

The interrogation of the accused in various cases showed that the PFI would identify Muslim youths, from poor or middle-class backgrounds, for physical training during which they were also inculcated with anti-Hindutva ideology.

These cadres were trained in handling knives, swords, and rods and how to attack specific body parts to inflict maximum damage.

On July 4, Telangana Police registered a case against 27 people after a training camp for 200 PFI cadres was found in Nizamabad. The PFI had been trying hard to make inroads into Telangana to increase its cadre base and was undertaking social programmes like distributing school books and food to the poor to gain traction among them.

There have been a number of instances of international linkages of PFI with global terrorist groups where some PFI activists, particularly from Kerala, had joined ISIS and had participated in terror activities in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, which was an outcome of the continuous radicalisation of its cadres.

**THE MOST ALARMING ELEMENT IN THE PFI'S TACTICS WAS THE RECRUITMENT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN BY ITS AFFILIATE REHAB INDIA FOUNDATION, ALSO BANNED ALONG WITH THE PARENT ORGANIZATION. THE CLANDESTINE NATURE OF SUCH RECRUITMENT LEFT THE CHILDREN OPEN FOR ABUSE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING, ORGAN HARVESTING, GUNRUNNING, AND SUICIDE BOMBING WITHOUT THEM BEING AWARE OF THEIR ROLE IN SUCH AFFAIRS**

persecuted in India.

The outfit was at the forefront in organising anti-CAA protests during December 2019-March 2020 and many cases were registered against them which included 51 in Uttar Pradesh alone where the PFI-led platform, Samvidhan Suraksha Andolan, was among those which coordinated the anti-CAA agitations.

Through active involvement in the protests, the PFI was able to project itself as a prominent Muslim organisation capable of safeguarding the interests of the community.

By projecting itself as the champion of Muslim causes, the PFI had been successful in attracting new members over the years. Its role in the Delhi riots was also investigated by the ED.

In recent years, the peaceful atmosphere of the country was

The India Fraternity Forum (IFF) and Indian Social Forum (ISF) were PFI's overseas fronts and were to politically engage the expatriate Muslims to conform to their ideology and organise funds for activities of PFI in India.

Their executive committees were responsible for sending money to PFI in India without leaving any trail. Funds were generally collected in cash and remitted to India either through hawala channels or camouflaged as remittances made to relatives and friends of PFI's members and sympathisers working abroad.

Further, PFI had linkages with the dreaded Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, which was involved in several terror incidents in that country.

Also, 21 people having linkages with the PFI had joined the internationally banned ISIS terror group.

Some Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) training videos, depicting gruesome murders, were recovered from the PFI cadres accused in the professor TJ Joseph hand-chopping case in 2010.

PFI's top leaders visited Turkey in 2018 and 2019 to attend programmes related to Palestine.

Its radical activities had attracted the attention of an international radical outfit namely, the Party of Islamic Renewal, which had in April sent an online letter to PFI on Twitter, praising its activities and urging it to organize a 'Revolutionary Army' for Jihad against the Indian government.

The PFI has also been targeting leaders of the Sufi Islamic Board, who were campaigning constantly for a ban on the PFI.

Since its inception in 2006, the PFI encouraged its cadres to undertake actions that mar peace and harmony among religious groups and disrupt the secular fabric of the country.

On December 9, 2006, three south Indian Muslim fundamentalist groups -- National Development Front/NDF, Kerala; Karnataka Forum for Dignity/KFD, Karnataka; and Manitha Neethi Pasarai/MNP, Tamil Nadu, rechristened 'South India Council' (a Bengaluru-based organisation floated by NDF in 2004) as 'Popular Front of India'.

Several members of PFI, including its top leadership, had been active members of banned SIMI. They included EM Abdul Rahiman (former Chairman), E Abubacker (Member, National Executive Council/NEC) and P Koya (Member, NEC).

only when he was judged to have been suitably radicalised for the group.

PFI recruits were radicalised by the display of selective video clippings on emotive issues like the Babri Masjid demolition, and communal riots in Gujarat and other parts of the country, aimed at instilling a sense of Muslim persecution and distrust against the state as well as other communities.

During interrogation by the ED (December 2020), Rauf Sharief (former general secretary, CFI), had said that PFI runs a secret relief wing, which actually plans and executes revenge attacks on selected RSS leaders.

On the funding part, the officials said that PFI receives dubious funding from within the country as well as from abroad.

PFI and its affiliates maintain a large number of bank accounts and receive money through its well-wishers/financers based in India and abroad. It also collects Zakat (donations) from its wealthy supporters.

The ED searched several office premises and residences of PFI leaders in 2020 and 2021 for suspected money laundering and arrested PFI leaders. The ED probe revealed that the PFI had created a very well-organized structure in Gulf countries for raising funds and the collected fund was sent to India through Hawala.

PFI was operating money laundering fronts overseas, which included the Munnar Villa vista project in Kerala and Darbar restaurant in Abu Dhabi.

In the Munnar Villa vista project, lakhs of unaccounted cash were infused and some benami shareholders were located in UAE, who later transferred the shares to PFI leaders.

The PFI was parking its illegally raised funds in this project so as to use them as and when required.

ED probe also revealed that Anshad Badruddin (PFI, arrested by UP ATS in Lucknow in February 2021 with arms and explosives) had received more than Rs 3 lakh from PFI (from 2018 to 2021) for criminal activities.

The PFI's accountant during the investigation, in the aftermath of the Delhi riots, told his interrogators that PFI's headquarters at Shaheen Bagh, Delhi kept crores of unaccounted money, which they use without any accountability.

Many cases of Hawala money transactions were being investigated by various law enforcement agencies against PFI.

A large jewellery company from Kerala is also suspected to be funding PFI.

(The writer is Special Correspondent, The Pioneer)

# DELHI UNIVERSITY RECOLLECTING THE PAST

As Delhi university celebrates its centenary, Union Minister HARDEEP SINGH PURI launched an anthology of writings by its well-known alumni titled — DELHI UNIVERSITY: CELEBRATING 100 GLORIOUS YEARS—and reminisced the time he spent in DU's Hindu College and noted that a good institution is defined by its student body. The book is edited by Puri himself

BY HARDEEP SINGH PURI

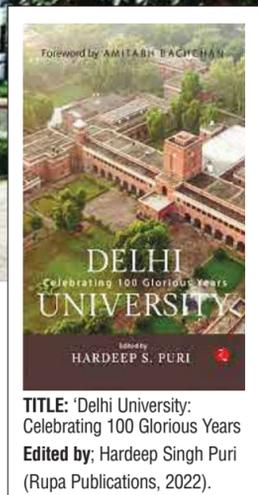
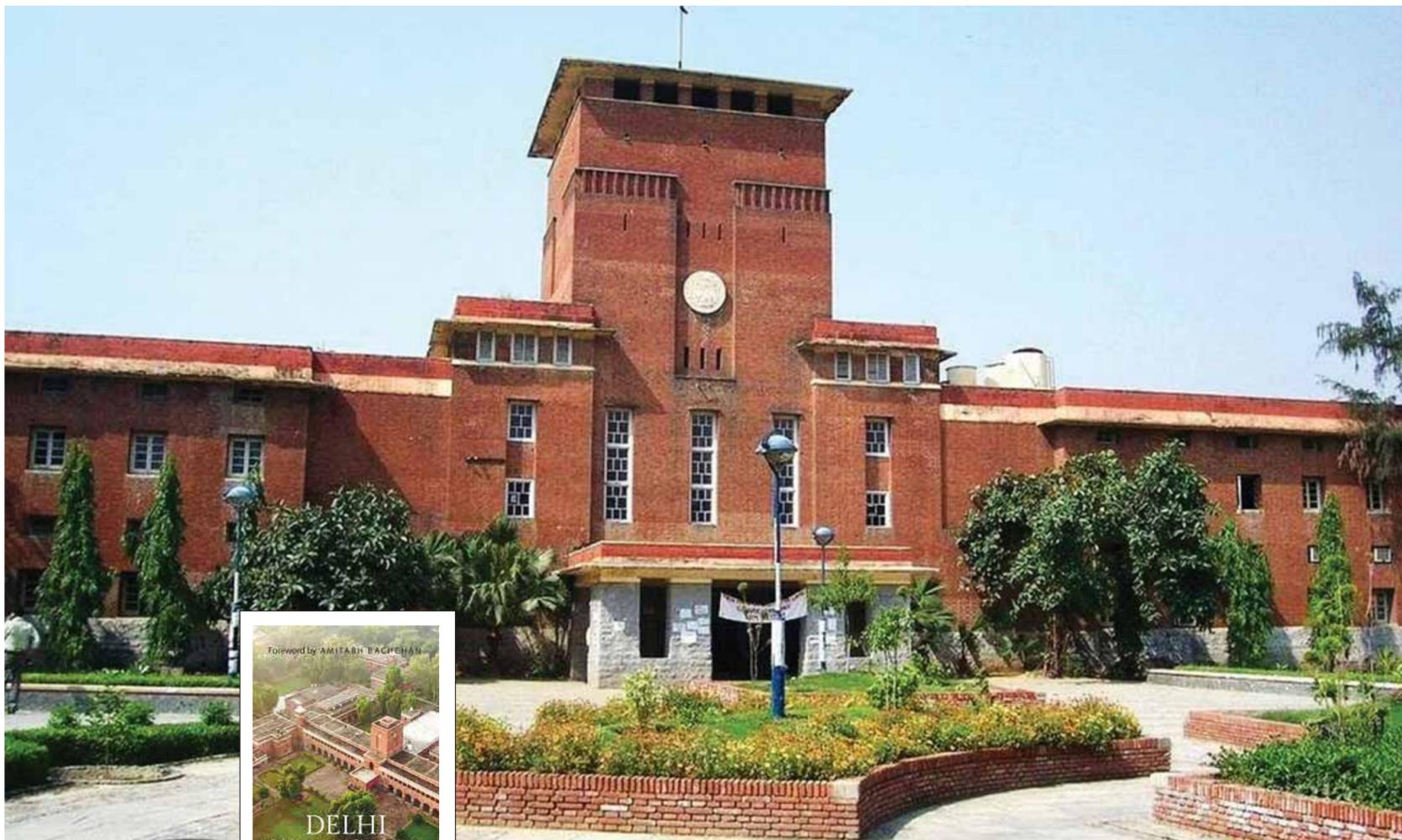
Many of India's most consequential nation-builders and opinion-makers have emerged from the hallowed grounds of the University of Delhi — India's most sought-after educational institution. Its alumni include political leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, and litterateurs of the highest caliber. The university celebrated its 100th anniversary on May 1 2022. I am proud and honoured that I brought together some of its most illustrious alumni to collectively reflect on its rich history, vibrant student life, and influence in India's public discourse today.

As Editor, coordinating the development of this anthology was made easy because the who's who of Indian public life agreed to help me in this endeavour without a moment's hesitation. This anthology was conceived to celebrate the 100 years of our alma mater and the role it has played in furthering world-class education. It has successfully captured a spectrum of viewpoints that covers five decades of studying or teaching at the university.

While no such work can be exhaustive, I do believe that we have been able to capture the ineffable spirit of the university in the eclectic recollections of our authors.

Prospective students who have seen the university from afar will get an inside view of one of the most prestigious public universities in the country, while those intimately familiar with the institution will reconnect with their fondest memories through the words of some of its most famous alumni.

Speaking at the launch of the book at Hindu College, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri—an alumnus of Hindu College—noted that the university is a leading centre of excellence in the country and among the most successful universities in the country. The launch was also attended by other contributors to the book — Former DU Vice Chancellor Dinesh Singh; former assistant secretary-general



at the United Nations and deputy executive director of UN WOMEN, Lakshmi Puri; lawyer Raian Karanjawala; Indian writer Namita Gokhale; and Director Imtiaz Ali.

**List of authors who have contributed to the anthology**

- Amitabh Bachchan (wrote the Foreword)

- Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Singh
- Sanjeev Sanyal
- Dr. Shashi Tharoor
- Hon. (Dr.) Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud
- Mrs. Lakshmi Puri
- Imtiaz Ali
- Arnab Goswami
- Raian Karanjawala
- Dr. Bibek Debroy
- Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath

- Kiren Rijiju
- Namita Gokhale
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Hardeep Puri, who has distinguished four-decade career in diplomacy spanning the bilateral and multilateral arena, having held Ambassadorial posts in London, Brasilia and as India's Permanent

Representative to the United Nations in both Geneva (2002-2005) and New York (2009-2013). He is one of the few Indians to preside over the United Nations Security Council and the only one to have chaired its Counter-terrorism Committee. He served as Chairman, RIS; as Vice President at the International Peace Institute; and as Secretary-General of the

Independent Commission on Multilateralism in New York.

He is the author of three books: Separating the Wheat from the Chaff, Decoding Dominant Narratives' (Konark Publications, 2019); 'Delusional Politics: Back to the Future' (Penguin Viking, 2019); and 'Perilous Interventions: The Security Council & The Politics of Chaos' (Harper Collins, 2016).

## A pilgrimage with a difference

A ritualistic bath at Sangam during Kumbh is a dream for millions of Hindus across India. One of the best-known Bengali writers of our time, Samresh Bose, takes us on a memorable journey to the Kumbh mela in his fabulous book IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR. On this pilgrimage, Bose also exposes the duplicity of our belief system, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY



The magic of Kumbh mela, a humongous congregation of millions of devotees for taking the purifying ritualistic dip at Sangam, has spawned hundreds of fiction, non-fiction and memoirs. Samresh Bose's IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR is one such effort.

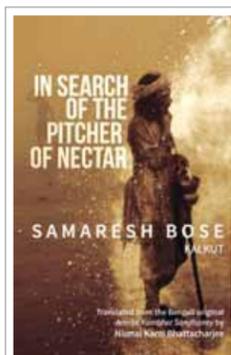
Translated from the Bengali original "Amrita Kumbher Sandhaney" by Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, the book revisits the magical atmosphere of the Kumbh Mela and the mythical

tales surrounding it: How a holy dip at Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, at the moment of the Kumbh, can provide you with "moksha" both here and in the afterlife.

The title of the book comes from the mythical tale that Amrita, the nectar of immortality arising out of Samundra manthan, the churning of the ocean by Gods and asuras, spilled out from the pot at this location. The dialogues between the two main characters in the

first few pages underline the essence of their spiritual journey. One such exchange takes place as early as on page 11:

*He smiled sweetly and asked, "Why do people from the whole world go there? Why do saints and monks come there to take a dip? Have not you seen how bright they look? How well-built their physique? People are cured of their disease and receive a hundred years of life span if they bathe in the Sangam at the auspicious Kumbh moment. This is why I am also going?"*



**TITLE:** In Search of the Pitcher of Nectar  
**Writer:** Samresh Bose  
**Translator:** Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee  
**Publisher:** Niyogi books  
**Price:** Rs 450

The narrator commences on this journey with the desire not to achieve atonement, but to learn about life, about people. He is amazed and inspired by every character he meets, whether it is his fellow passenger on the train, sadhus, and devotees like Mahavir and Ramjidas at the festival, or the family with whom he shares a tent.

The protagonists reveal the double standard of the society that Kumbh brings to the fore.. How many of those millions who take the ritualistic bath are really spiritual, kind, and compassionate? The book highlights how these hardcore devotees are unable to leave behind their social prejudices, their weakness for sensual pleasure, their joys, and sorrows, their possessions and obsessions even when they are thinking of "mokshas".

Samresh Bose, born in Dhaka in 1924, is regarded as one of the greatest Bengali writers of all time. His stories have been turned into award-winning films. He received the Sahitya academy award (1980) for his novel Shambha. Among his more successful novels and short stories, collections are Baghini; Ganga; B.T. Roder Dharey; Shastharipu; Rituanga; He wrote several travelogues under the nom-de-plume Kalkut.

Anyone interested in literature and travelogues as well as spiritualist forays will find this a fascinating book. The language, the dialogues, and the translations are excellent. IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR is undoubtedly one of the finest books to hit the stands in recent months in the domestic market.

## NIF Book Prize longlist announced

Books on gender parity, the Chipko movement, the Tata group and iconic painter Syed Haider Raza are among 10 works named in the longlist of the 2022 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize on Thursday.

The longlisted books for the fifth edition of the prize include "Accidental Feminism: Gender Parity and Selective Mobility Among India's Professional Elite" (Swetha S Ballakrishnen), "The Truths and Lies of Nationalism as Narrated by Charvak" (Partha Chatterjee), "Syed Haider Raza: The Journey of an Iconic Artist" (Yashodhara Dalma), "Governance by Stealth: The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Making of the Indian State" (Subrata Mitra), and "The Chipko Movement: A People's History" (Shekhar Pathak).

"Tata: The Global Corporation That Built Indian Capitalism" (Mircea Raianu), "Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India" (Rukmini S), "Congress Radio: Usha Mehta and the Underground Radio Station of 1942" (Usha Thakkar), "Midnight's Borders: A People's History of Modern India" (Suchitra Vijayan) and Ghazala Wahab's "Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India" complete the list.

This year's longlist covers a variety of themes in combining keen research with scholarly writing, the New India Foundation said, adding each offers valuable insight into dif-



ferent aspects of the country's history.

"Ranging from biography and art history to analysis of environmental, industrial, and governmental shifts, the books selected this year represent the ways in which India has come to be shaped in this 75th year of independence. In theorizing the past and present, the longlisted titles offer a new way of interpreting paths towards an aspirational future," the NIF said in a statement.

Named after one of India's foremost nation-builders, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize celebrates the finest non-fiction literature on modern and contemporary India published in the previous calendar year by writers of all nationalities. Instituted in 2018, it carries an award of Rs 15 lakh and a citation.

The shortlist will be announced on November 8 and the winner on December 1. This year's jury was headed by political scientist Niraja

Gopal Jayal and also included entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal, historians Srinath Raghavan and Nayanjot Lahiri, former diplomat Navtej Sarna, and attorney Rahul Matthan.

The jury termed the longlist "wonderfully diverse." "The many themes in modern Indian history that it covers have great relevance today: if the histories of nationalism, business, the environment and state institutions offer a sobering historical lens on the present, the more contemporary works on feminism and data give reasons for optimism about the future. Deeply researched and engagingly written, these works of history reflect on the contemporary Indian condition," it said.

Previous winners of the prize are Milan Vaishnav (2018), Ornit Shani (2019), Amit Ahuja and Jairam Ramesh (2020 jointly) and Dinyar Patel (2021).

# CUET: Predicament & possibilities

A nation infatuated with IITs and AIIMS makes it difficult for the vast majority of students to seek a degree in a field other than engineering or medicine. Yet, students who are unable to acquire admission to either tier II or tier III institutes often end up enrolling in a non-technical degree course. So, what we are seeing in the form of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) — a homogenised objective test — is nothing more than the fallout of that fixation where the students could be evaluated on a similar standardised test.

In an academic environment where near-perfect scores are the norm rather than the exception, the introduction of CUET to decide students' eligibility for university admission is a much-needed initiative. However, if the proposed entrance exam is going to be based on Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) test, I am afraid it would only result in mushrooming of more coaching centres to prepare students for university entrance test.

Testing a student's suitability, particularly for liberal subjects, necessitates a comprehensive evaluation. Therefore, this test cannot be solely dependent on multiple-choice questions. When a candidate is expected to employ her critical and argumentative acumen during the course, testing her ability to memorise facts and information is never a good idea. Hence, the assessment should ideally be a blend of both objective and subjective questions, done in stages (preliminary and advanced). The intention behind having an advanced stage consisting of subjective paper is to assess the applicants' linguistic, critical, and analytical skills.

This is important because the purpose of higher education is much more than just creating high paying job opportunities for students. Quality education has an inherent responsibility to play an enabling role in personal accomplishment, constructive public engagement, and productive contribution to society. The broader objective is to engage faculty and students



with local communities to learn a thing or two about real-world problems while functioning in collaborative, inclusive, and cross-disciplinary ways.

In liberal education, exploration is not just a whimsical luxury; it is a central benefit. Learning stuff is of secondary importance than learning about oneself, the emphasis is on developing all capacities of a human being — intellectual, physical, emotional, aesthetic, and moral — in an integrated manner.

There are no entry barriers to pursuing a graduation

degree in India. Anyone who can afford the fees can obtain the degree with minimal effort. As a result, we keep producing graduates who lack any employable skills. According to the most recent data from the periodic Labour Force Survey (20-21), only 13.8 per cent of Indian youth are vocationally trained. In comparison to Germany's 75 per cent and the United States' 50 per cent, this is woefully inadequate to reap the benefits of demographic dividend.

And we can't blame anyone but ourselves for this complete mess. We live in a country

where everyone wants to secure a limited number of white-collar jobs by acquiring a college degree. The vast majority of them are academically challenged, but they don't mind crowding colleges and universities.

Against this backdrop, it makes more sense for us to borrow a leaf or two from the US education system, where cost and academic talent are major barriers to acquire a graduate degree. The obvious advantage of this type of ecosystem is that a large number of students do not qualify for a degree course. And these

students eventually go on to pursue industry-related specific skill upgradation via diploma or certification — making them qualified for blue collar jobs.

However, there is a widespread aversion to blue collar jobs in India. Despite the government's numerous policy initiatives to connect schools to ITIs and polytechnics, the number of trained people being absorbed in industries is not encouraging.

Unless we can prepare academically average students for decent industrial opportunities, this lot of students will con-

tinue to graduate with no skill set.

Therefore, the need of the hour is to create a better entry barrier to degree colleges while also imparting industry relevant courses at ITIs and Polytechnics.

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to distinguish the concept of wellbeing from wealth. In the absence of this fundamental distinction, people invariably choose wealth over wellbeing.

A generation raised on the yardstick of Instagram filter has its own challenge of accepting their inherent flaws.

Making peace with the fact that someone might not be intellectually gifted to make a dent in the academic or business world is a first step towards exploring possibilities in life.

And you never know how this exploration could prove to be a gateway to a life worth living, where you can strive to be someone who offers meaning to things rather than someone who seeks meaning in things.

(The writer is a former IRS officer & author of the book 'Current Perspectives on the Indian Economy')

This test cannot be solely dependent on multiple-choice questions. When a candidate is expected to employ her critical and argumentative acumen during the course, testing her ability to memorise facts and information is never a good idea. Hence, the assessment should ideally be a blend of both objective and subjective questions, done in stages — preliminary and advanced



PIYUSH KAMAL

## PERSPECTIVE

# Western push on China, Russia at UN rights body faces test

Western countries are leading a rare two-pronged push at the UN's main human rights body to better scrutinise the human rights records of two big world powers: China, over allegations of abuses during an anti-extremism campaign in western Xinjiang, and Russia, over its government's crackdown on dissent and protest against the war in Ukraine.

Going after two such influential UN members — two of the five permanent members of the Security Council no less — at the same time will be no small political task, diplomats and rights advocates say. It testifies to a growing rift between democracies and more autocratic countries, and is shaping up as a gamble of geopolitical clout, the outcome of which will resonate beyond the Geneva conference room where the Human Rights Council meets.

Some Western diplomats insist it's now or never, and say it just so happens the two issues need separate attention. Britain, Canada, the US and the five Nordic countries are leading a call for council members to agree a debate at its next session in March on alleged abuses against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups in Xinjiang. They aim to build momentum on an August 31 report by the UN human rights chief that raised concerns about possible crimes against humanity during Beijing's anti-extremism drive in the region.

On Tuesday, 26 European Union countries — all of them except Hungary — floated a

proposal for the council to appoint a "special rapporteur" on Russia, citing a string of concerns about mass arrests and detentions; harassment of journalists, opposition politicians, activists and rights defenders; and crackdowns — at times violent — on protesters against President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. Both issues will come up for a vote near the end of the council's current session on October 7.

Intense backroom diplomacy is already underway. Developing countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa and West Asia make up the majority of the 47 current members of the council. Stalwart allies of China and Russia, including Cuba, Eritrea and Venezuela, are members, as is China itself. Western and European countries have 13 seats. Some European diplomats have expressed concern that the cultural, political and economic ties — even dependence — that many developing countries have with both Russia and China could torpedo the Western initiatives.

Alexander Pchelyakov, press secretary of the Russian diplomatic mission in Geneva, rejected the "politicised" Western proposal on Russia, insisting its "main goals are to punish Russia for pursuing an independent foreign policy course" and to divert attention away from the West's own problems when it comes to human rights, economics and energy.

The proposal on China is for a simple debate, with no consistent monitoring of the



People gather to protest against China on human rights on the eve of China's National Day in front of the Bank of China in Taipei, Taiwan, on Friday

rights situation, and is just about the least intrusive form of scrutiny that the council could seek. The call stops short of creating a team of investigators to look into possible crimes in Xinjiang, or appoint a special rapporteur — a proposal that is on the table with Russia.

John Fisher, global advo-

cacy deputy director at Human Rights Watch, said recently that action on China and Russia are its top two priorities, and they amount to "no small challenge."

"There was a time when states like China and Russia felt to be almost untouchable," he said. "But it now feels that states of principle are finally saying

'enough' and standing up to those who would seek to disrupt the international rules-based order."

"Even the fact that these initiatives are under active consideration — and quite likely both to move forward — is itself a signal of the relevance and engagement of the Human Rights Council," Fisher added.

Western diplomats appear to feel more confident about success with the Russia measure. The council has little power to force countries to act, and there's little certainty that Moscow would even allow an outside UN-backed monitor into Russia as part of the post if the council seeks to create it. The Xinjiang debate proposal

is shaping up as the bigger ask, diplomats say. The situation is perceived, rightly or wrongly, as a less pressing one than in Russia, where a crackdown is continuing. China, ever-protective of its reputation as its global profile and power rise, has said it has largely shuttered what it called training centers in Xinjiang — and what critics

decided as detention centres.

One Western diplomat whose country backs the debate on Xinjiang, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, insisted the proposal was a "measured" response. Some supporters of China fret that the plan for a springtime debate is secretly just a foot in the door — a quiet effort that will aim to ramp up pressure on Beijing later on.

A key test will be with Africa, whose countries hold 13 council seats. Some have populations that are predominantly Muslim. Nicolas Agostini of DefendDefenders, an NGO that promotes human rights in East Africa, told reporters recently that it estimates most African countries will abstain in the Russia vote, but maybe one or two — "we identified Malawi and the Gambia as the two most progressive African states that are members of the council right now" — will vote yes.

"Regarding China, it's much more complex," he said, alluding to "extreme Chinese pressure on African states, including members of the OIC that are African states." One African diplomat, also speaking on condition of anonymity because his country is still calibrating its response, said it has a "principled and objective approach" on the China resolution. "We will have to consider our bilateral relations with the Chinese," the diplomat said coyly. "We're not just going to jump in there (in support of the draft decision)."

(Courtesy: AP)



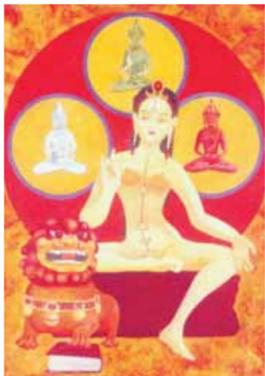
**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

It is advised to avoid aggression and hasty work this week. Instead, channel your energy into constructive and creative activities. Work overload can be tiring, so take it easy. Those who have health problems are likely to recover quickly. To avoid the possibility of disease, maintain a moderate and balanced mindset. Your creative side will shine brightly in your career. You will have inner sensations that you may or may not share with others. Some of you may embark on a new creative project or enrol in an art or dancing class. New possibilities may present themselves in the coming days, allowing your talents to blossom. Due to job commitments, you are likely to encounter some difficulties in your love life. You must make time for your loved ones; otherwise, the distance will upset them and may lead to separation.  
**Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour White**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week, your body, mind, and soul will be in perfect harmony. Positive thoughts and aura will fill your inner self, and you will have a powerful influence. Females will have a strong affinity for femininity. Spending quality time with your partner or discovering new creative pursuits will rejuvenate you. On the professional front, this week may bring more opportunities for individuals seeking projects in foreign lands. You are likely to complete a pending task. Work-related travel is on the cards. Some of you may be recognised for your accomplishments. You will enjoy the celebration and success. In terms of relationship, your approach for long term benefits will pave the way for a strong relationship foundation. Issues and confrontations may emerge, but you can still win your partner's heart.  
**Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Green**  
**Lucky day Sunday**



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

News related to your health will be positive, and your efforts will likely bear fruit. You have complete power over the situations around you; therefore, you should take advantage of this and look for alternate approaches to deal with health-related concerns. How you express yourself and conduct yourself at work will be the most important factors. Peer conflict and disagreement are indicated. This will cause stress. Disparity is likely to occur in your workplace. However, make certain that you are not the source of the problem. Instead of picking fights, you should pick your battles properly. You will feel as if your relationship has come full circle this week. As a result, it may lead to a marriage, and for some, it may provide closure. Singles have a good possibility of meeting someone special.  
**Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Parrot Green**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



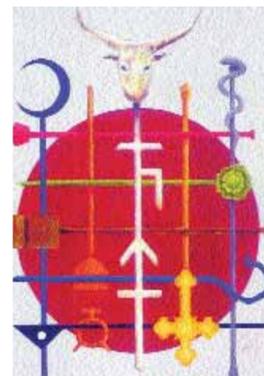
**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week you will have boundless energy and excellent health. Your passion for life will encourage and inspire you to strive for greater and better things in life. You are well-known for your high energy level and practical attitude. It is beneficial to channel this energy into constructive and useful endeavours. On the professional front, you must be optimistic and spontaneous while avoiding being impulsive. Your zeal will amaze those around you but be patient with your temper or you will upset others. Conflicts with co-workers are on the cards. If you pay attention to your thinking, you will be able to get control of the situation. This week is likely to bring disappointment in love. Rejection or separation is indicated. You could be emotionally drained.  
**Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Brown**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, your hard work, aspiration, and ambition will motivate you. As a result, your health is likely to suffer. Workload will drain you. Be extremely cautious when it comes to your health. A little negligence can be dangerous. Protect yourself from colds, coughs, and water-borne illnesses. Your salary will rise in line with your career. You will most likely earn a steady living. Your friendly temperament and nice conduct with co-workers will provide you an advantage at work. A promotion or raise in pay is on the horizon. Financial security will give you confidence. You will achieve self-awareness in your relationships. Be cautious; your partner's life is likely to contain an extramarital affair or a medical crisis. Someone with similar experience will help you get out of this mess.  
**Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Sky Blue**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

You must pay attention to your emotions when it comes to your health. There will be times when you will be unable to meet the challenges to the best of your abilities. If you are ill, rather of feeling sorry for yourself, begin educating yourself by speaking with experts. Maintain a healthy lifestyle. This is an excellent time for your career. Your efforts will be acknowledged, and some of you may be recognised. This can help you boost your confidence in your abilities while keeping you from becoming arrogant. Any pride or arrogance will not be tolerated by your peers or seniors. Those seeking for a new job, the outcome will be favourable to you. Those who are committed to each other will enjoy a spiritual experience. You will spiritually engage with your companion, which will improve your relationship.  
**Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Grey**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

Your self-respect and self-awareness of what is going on within you will assist you in working toward loving yourself. This will allow you to value your inner spirit deeply. When you see yourself in this favourable light, it will reflect in the behaviour of others, and they will respond positively to your personal sense of value. On the professional front, you may lack the necessary knowledge for your present job or venture. Your easy-going and casual attitude is inappropriate, and as a result you may lose your dream project. This week is full of love and romance, and you will enjoy every minute of it. In the coming days, you will receive positive messages from loved ones. Some of you may get a marriage proposal or get engaged. Singles can rejoice because love is in the air, and you have decided to follow your heart.  
**Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Orange**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

You are going to enter a comfortable and satisfying phase that will put you at ease while you appreciate nature's wealth and gifts. You will have great health, and your personal mindset will provide you the most joy in your life. On the professional front, you must be careful in your line of work. You must be empathetic toward your co-workers and those that spread positive energy in the workplace. Your welcoming and forgiving personality will foster a safe and trustworthy environment in which you can gradually influence people. As a result, you will overcome all obstacles and win the scenario. This week relationships may not be as satisfying. Your partner's abrupt mood changes may irritate you. Someone who does not want your relationship to flourish may be jealous. Meditation or yoga will be the most beneficial solution.  
**Lucky number 23 | Lucky colour Turquoise**  
**Lucky day Monday**



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

Great health news is on the way. You are currently in a stronger position and have power over your surroundings. This week, any efforts you make to improve your health will be fruitful. The only thing you need to do is consider alternative methods of dealing with health issues for long-term benefits. You will be content with your career since money will pour in with a raise in pay or a promotion. This is due to all your hard work in achieving your objectives. Those looking for work may be able to find one. In terms of love, you are clear about what you want in your relationship. This is a positive indicator, but how you communicate with your partner will be critical. Channel your energy in a way that will allow you to better control your emotions.  
**Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Yellow**  
**Lucky day Thursday**



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

You are naturally sensitive and emotional, and your physical health this week is directly proportional to your emotional state. A minor emotional turmoil might have a negative impact on one's health. Do not be afraid to seek medical guidance. You may try psychic healing, Tarot reading, acupuncture, or the art of living, among other things. A concoction or liquid medicine will be a better alternative. This week, emotions and sentiments will drive your career. You are dedicated and capable of leading, but you may require emotional assistance to achieve your goals. Your romantic life is disappointing, and you may feel disheartened and lonely. Avoid being possessive. Married couples may separate. You must let go of the past, be forgiving, and be patient with your relationship.  
**Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Pink**  
**Lucky day Friday**



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

If you suspect that something is amiss with your body, you should address your worries. Do not panic; instead, trust your gut and explore for alternative solutions. Be patient while you wait for the findings. Maintain a healthy diet, relaxation, and exercise routine. Things in your profession may not be as you wish. Some of you may confront difficulties while working on a project. It is advised that you take some time off from work and avoid making any major decisions this week. You must maintain your cool in the midst of the chaos. If you cannot keep your cool, look for another job. Those who are devoted must concentrate on their future connection. Change your old attitude toward an ongoing problem. To resolve the issues, try to freely discuss your goals with your partner. Before rekindling an old romance, think twice.  
**Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Peach**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This week, you must strike a balance between your personal and professional commitments. This will complicate your life, so be patient. Make time for yourself to heal amid all the chaos. Prioritize your tasks to avoid suffering from illness. Workplace stress and anxiety are likely to influence you. Worrying about your career's future will stop you from pursuing your set goal. Do not give up and use a flexible method to deal with a difficult scenario. Those in a committed relationship are more prone to be upset in some situation or with their partner. If this is the case, you must look within yourself for a solution. Do not let the pain of the past ruin your relationship. Appreciate the love you have in your life; else, it will fade.  
**Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Indigo**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**

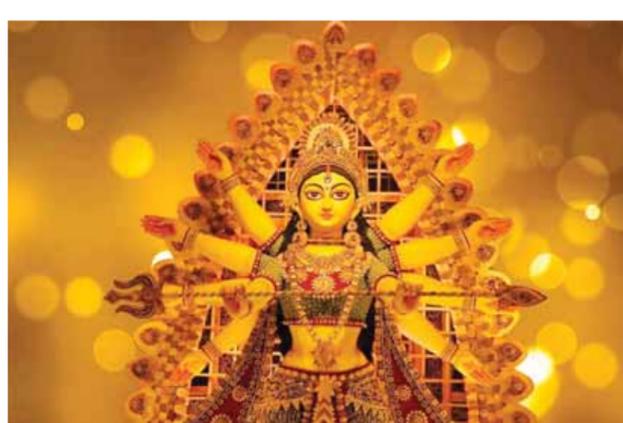
Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



# Relevance of Shardeya Navaratra

Greet you all on the solemn occasion of the ongoing Shardeya Navaratra. The preparation for the 9-day festivity began on Mahalaya, coinciding with the conclusion of the Shradha fortnight, assigned in the annular calendar to make offering to our ancestors, to whom we owe our existence. The occasion signifies remembering continuum in life's journey. As per Indian philosophy, a being is structured into three layers – causal, subtle and gross bodies. Life's journey doesn't end even after death. It is just the gross body that disintegrates. The causal and subtle bodies, being pure energy formations, remain intact, and move on to reincarnate afresh. It is difficult to prove in real terms such subtle transformations, major part happening in imperceptible domain. Imperial evidence, however, bear testimony to this truth. In a way, we prepare ground for return of the departed beings to the live world with a new body encasement. So, death is just a process through which a being drops the incapacitated gross-body to acquire a new form with fresh vigour and strength. Hence, the importance of Shradha

fortnight. Having finished this task, we prepare ourselves for the 9-day festivity to follow. Mark the timing of the festive period. The cosmos undergoes major transition. Sun, the major energy provider in the cosmos playing from the front, moves towards the farthest end from the part of the world we live. During its sojourn in Southern hemisphere, it leads towards the Western horizon. Our place of abode, on the other hand, is located towards the Eastern horizon in the Northern hemisphere. Evidently, solar intensity available to us during this phase would be at its lowest. That causes a seasonal change – from rainy to winter – which comes with its own challenges. During this transition phase, the body shall have to adjust with the callings of the emerging weather. A new crop cycle also begins. Even otherwise, life won't move without confronting challenges. For, no motion can take place without meeting resistance on the way. We, therefore, need to be geared up to face the callings of emerging times in all strength. The whole 9-day festivity is designed with the above end in



view. We observe austerity, keeping away from worldly temptations. Follow a controlled food regime, in order to rejuvenate our body mechanism that could withstand the callings of new weather cycle. We then submit ourselves to a prayer regime meditating on the concept of Mother Goddess Durga, the beholder of Shakti. It needs to be appreciated here that the universe owes its dynamic existence to nature driven energies (*Shakti*) – creation, sustenance and recycling all included, at all levels of existence. So long Shakti keep doing their rounds in the cosmos, they act involuntarily, strictly following

nature's programme. The same energy, however, acquires a different dimension altogether when it comes to human application. For, human beings could guide their actions by choice and discrimination. They, thus, qualify to apply *Shakti* as individually wished, the probability of destructive use remaining no less than its productive potential. For, each being is born unique carrying varying individualistic mind-trends often in conflict with each other. So, *Sakti*, when operative at human level, turns out to be a double-edged weapon. Now, how to ensure productive application of *Shakti*, overriding all individualistic vulnerabilities, coming as they may with one's unique nature? The answer evidently lies in having exposure to the *Shakti* concept identified with the imagery of Mother Goddess Durga. First, the name "Durga" itself. It means something available with great difficulties. For further clarity, a look into the legend pertaining to the making of the mother becomes imperative. As the legend goes, the Rakshas (devils) drove away the Devatas (*shaktis* vital to life) from their place of abode. The Devatas then sought help from Brahma, the God personified for creation. Brahma led them to Lord Vishnu, the God-personified assigned with the task to administer. Realising that enormous power is needed to counter the might of Rakshasas, Vishnu in turn, led them all to Lord Shiva, the epitome of *Shakti*. Shiva asked them all to share their individual Tejas (*Shakti*- radiance). Their individual *shakti*-s put together turned into a huge fire pool, out of which emerged the all-powerful Mother Goddess. The devatas also offered their respective weapons for Mother's use. She then took on and humbled all the demons. She, however, didn't do it single-handed. She is assisted by many other Goddesses in Her mission, all of them originating from the mainframe of Durga herself, who, after completing their respective tasks, reverted-back to their main source-frame. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com