

OPINION 6

POLLUTING A RIVER  
IS A SIN AGAINST IT!

WORLD 9

US CARRIER, S KOREA SHIPS LAUNCH  
DRILLS AMID NORTH'S THREAT

MONEY 10

INDIA'S GDP TO GROW  
AT 7.3% IN '23: S&P

BHOPAL, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹1.50

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## Raj revolt leaves Cong on razor's edge, may defer call on CM pick

Gehlot says sorry to Kharge, but loyalist MLAs defiant; Makan briefs Sonia

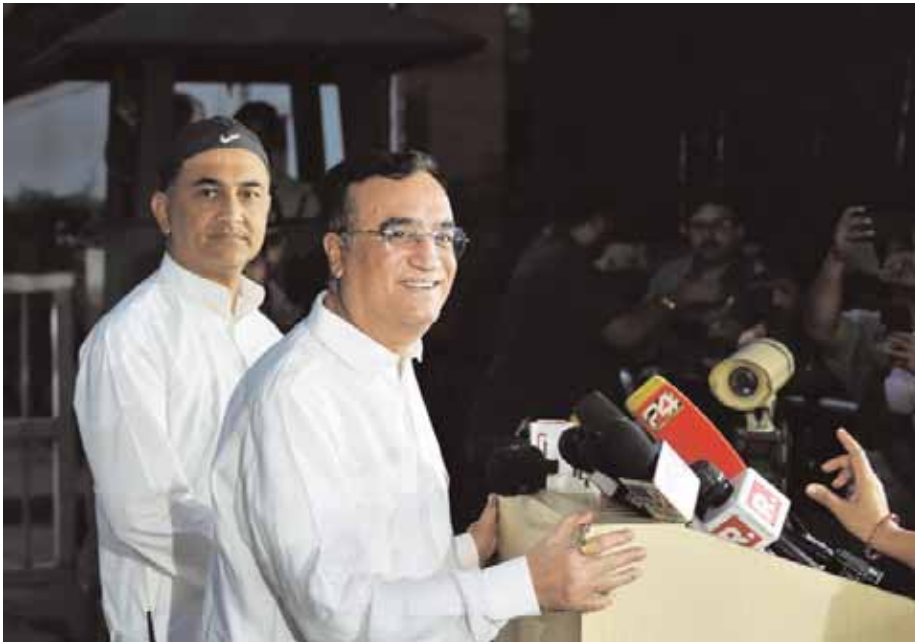
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The Rajasthan crisis has forced the Congress high command to defer the move for a change of guards in the poll-bound State even as all eyes are on Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi to take a call on the rebellion staged by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his loyalists.

The Congress's high command has limited options given the fact that Rajasthan is the lone big State where the party is in power. Source-based reports kept trickling throughout Monday that Sonia will take action against some Rajasthan leaders for defying the high command. But experts feel that she is unlikely to get into any such misadventure that could further destabilise the State Government and keep the pot boiling.

Sources said that to diffuse the cruises, the Congress high command may defer the entire process to elect a new leader in the State. This seems a high probability since Gehlot may be pulled out of the race for the Congress president.

While Gehlot has now apologised to the AICC observer and senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge, but that may not mean anything. It is well known that



Congress leader Ajay Maken addresses media after meeting Congress president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday PTI

the rebellion had his blessings, and he did not do anything to restrain the MLAs.

The crisis continued even on Monday with the MLAs loyal to Gehlot refusing to separately meet Kharge and Maken. They held a parallel meeting and demanded that Gehlot should remain the Chief Minister.

Gehlot met Kharge at a hotel in Jaipur before they left for Delhi. The CM is believed to have apologised and said he had nothing to do with the rebellion by MLAs close to him.

The Gehlot loyalists said they have conveyed to Kharge and Maken that any decision on the next Chief Minister should be taken after the party's

presidential election on October 19 and in consultation with Gehlot.

They also want someone to the top post who stood with the Congress Government during a political crisis led by Sachin Pilot in Rajasthan in 2020. Gehlot and Pilot were at loggerheads over the Chief Minister's post soon after the Congress won the 2018 Rajasthan Assembly polls. In July 2020, Pilot, along with 18 party MLAs, rebelled against Gehlot's leadership.

Party observers Mallikarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken returned to Delhi and reported to Sonia.

Talking to reporters after a nearly hour-long meeting with Sonia, Maken said they

apprised the party president of the developments in the State after which she sought a detailed report on it.

Maken slammed the Gehlot loyalists for setting conditions for a party resolution, terming it a "conflict of interest", and said their decision to hold a parallel meeting amounted to indiscipline. "In the 75 years of the Congress' history, there has never been a conditional resolution. A resolution is only a one-line document. Everything is told to the Congress president and then a decision is taken," Maken told reporters in Jaipur.

"A resolution should not have any conflict of interest. Those who are contesting elections tomorrow might become the party president, if they get to decide on the resolution, it is a conflict of interest. So, it is

wrong," he said, without naming Gehlot.

He said it was "unfortunate" that the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting could not be held and termed the move of pro-Gehlot loyalist MLAs and ministers as "indiscipline". The AICC observers kept waiting for the party MLAs in Jaipur on Sunday night but they did not turn up.

He added that the CLP meeting was kept after Gehlot's consent and the place and time were set as per his request. He said the MLAs and ministers loyal to Chief Minister Gehlot cannot pose conditions to the party leadership as they amount to a "conflict of interest".

"Kharge ji and I have apprised the Congress president of the CLP meeting in Rajasthan. The Congress president has sought a written report on the entire chronology, which we will submit by late night or tomorrow," Maken said.

"Some representatives of MLAs, ministers came and put forth three demands. Their condition is that the CLP leader be elected after October 19 and any decision should be taken after that... This cannot happen as those who are moving the resolution after October 19 would themselves take the decision and this would amount to a conflict of interest," Maken briefed.

"It is unfortunate that after all this, the CLP meeting could not take place. When the CLP official meeting is kept, no parallel meeting should take place and it primarily amounts to indiscipline," he added. The Congress has 108 MLAs in the 200-member Assembly.

## F-16s to Pak for anti-terror? Lame excuse: India to US

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

India has raised doubts about the US selling F-16s to Pakistan in a deal worth over 450 million dollars to "fight terrorism" and said the USA is not "fooling anybody by saying these things."

Giving this terse message in the US capital days ahead of his meeting with US Foreign Secretary Antony Blinken and others, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar late on Sunday said America's relationship with Pakistan has "not served" either of the two countries.

Raising questions on the Biden administration's approval of a USD 450-million sustenance package for F-16 fleet, Jaishankar said in an interaction with the Indian-Americans there, "Very honestly, it's a relationship that has neither ended up serving Pakistan well, nor serving the American interests. So, it is really for the United States today to reflect on what are the merits of this relationship and what do they get by it."

Referring to the argument made by the US that F-16 sustenance package is to fight terrorism, he said everybody knows where and against whom F-16 is used. "You're not fooling anybody by saying these things," he said in response to a question.

Early this month, the Biden administration approved a USD 450 million F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme to Pakistan, reversing the decision of the previous Trump administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad for providing safe havens to the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network.

In a notification to the US Congress, the State Department made a determination approving a possible for-



eign military sale for sustainment and related equipment for an estimated cost of USD 450 million, arguing that this will sustain Islamabad's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet.

Jaishankar's remarks about the F-16 package came days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in telephonic talks with his US counterpart Lloyd Austin on September 14 had expressed India's concerns.

"I conveyed India's concern at the recent US decision to provide a sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Look forward to continuing dialogue with Secretary Austin to further consolidate India-US partnership," Rajnath tweeted after talks.

On September 23, the US

said "it (F-16) is not designed as a message" to New Delhi for its neutral stand on Russia regarding the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

Making his country's stand clear regarding the issue, Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, said its decision to provide a package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet is associated with America's defence partnership with Islamabad which is primarily focused on counterterrorism and nuclear security.

He also said the US has a limited security partnership with Pakistan. However, New Delhi says Pakistan's F-16s are not used for counter-terrorism operations and instead pose a threat to India.

## Anti-India forces shut out of country, conspiring on foreign soil: Jaishankar

Min raps sections of US media for bias against India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has taken exception to some sections of the mainstream US media for their "biased" coverage of India and said anti-India forces are "not winning" in the country and trying to shape the narrative from outside.

Airing these opinions in his interaction with a group of Indian-Americans in the US capital late on Sunday, he also indirectly slammed *The Washington Post* for their coverage of India.

"I look at the media. You know, there are some newspapers you know, exactly, what they are going to write including one in this town," Jaishankar said.



"My point is there are biases, there are efforts really, to determine... Look, the more India goes its way and the people who believe that they were the custodians and the shapers of India lose ground in India the more actually, some of these debaters going to come outside," Jaishankar said responding to a question on the increase in anti-Indian forces in the US.

Such groups, he asserted, are "not winning in India". Such groups, the Minister noted, will try and win outside or try and shape India from outside.

## Gehlot's bid to head Cong in peril as loyalty to Gandhis in question

Raj Min Dhariwal accuses Maken of plotting to make Pilot CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



If Ashok Gehlot can stage a rebellion even before he became the Congress president, how would he treat the Gandhis after taking up the reins of the party, has worried the Congress high command.

Gehlot may have apologised to party's observers Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge for the display of defiance by his loyalists, but that is unlikely to help him put the clock back. A section of senior party leaders and Gandhis are report-

ed to be very upset with the Rajasthan Chief Minister for scripting the entire drama. They feel Gehlot has done serious damage to the efforts made by Rahul Gandhi to revive the party through the Bharat Jodo Yatra route.

After the Rajasthan crisis unfolded on Sunday, Gehlot has not spoken a word about filing his nomination paper. It's obvious that unless he is able to resolve the crisis to the expectation of Sonia Gandhi, the Congress High command

is unlikely to forgive him.

Sources said disciplinary action is being considered against Gehlot's loyalists. Sonia has been reportedly very upset with the way the Gehlot handled the entire Rajasthan crisis by not holding the CLP meeting.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Minister and key Gehlot-loyalist Shanti Dhariwal on Monday launched a frontal attack on Congress' State in-charge Ajay Maken, alleging that he was talking to party MLAs in a partisan manner and canvassing for Sachin Pilot.

Soon after Maken briefed Sonia in Delhi about the political developments in the State, Dhariwal called a press conference at his residence here and hit out at party general secretary Maken.



Devotees offer prayers at the Mata Longa Wali Devi Temple on the first day of 'Navratri' festival, in Amritsar on Monday PTI

## CAPSULE

### GHULAM NABI LAUNCHES DEMOCRATIC AZAD PARTY

**Jammu:** Former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday launched his new party named the Democratic Azad Party (DAP) coinciding with the first day of Navratri festival, exactly a month after ending his over five-decade long association with the Congress.

### JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ GRANTED INTERIM BAIL

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court on Monday granted interim bail to actor Jacqueline Fernandez in a ₹200 crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar.

### NO ACTION AGAINST ANIL AMBANI TILL NOV 17: HC

**Mumbai:** The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Income Tax department not to take any coercive action against Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani till November 17.

## Rupee plunges 58p to close at all-time low of 81.67 per \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 58 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the US dollar on Monday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, escalation of geopolitical risks due to conflict in Ukraine, a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the currency close at an all-time low of 81.67 against dollar.

Detailed report on P10

## Polling in 46 local bodies on Sept 27

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Polling for 46 local bodies across 18 districts in Madhya Pradesh will be held on Tuesday for which 3,397 candidates are in the fray, an official said on Monday. Results will be declared on September 30.

Madhya Pradesh Election Commission (SEC) secretary Rakesh Singh said 3,397 candidates are in the fray for the elections to 46 urban bodies, including 17 municipal councils and 29 Nagar Parishads.

Polling will be held from 7 am to 5 pm. A total of 8.42 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their fran-



chise.

Singh said all the necessary arrangements for polling have been completed. In these urban bodies, 25 corporators have been elected unopposed while elections will be held for 814 posts of corporators, he said. The 46 urban bodies include six newly-constituted Nagar Parishads.

## Govt blocks 45 videos on 10 YouTube channels for hate, lies on Agnipath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Based on inputs from intelligence agencies, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed YouTube to block 45 videos from 10 YouTube channels for spreading false information related to the country's national security, foreign relations, and public order.

Some of the videos blocked by the Ministry were being used to spread disinformation on issues related to Agnipath scheme, Indian Armed Forces, India's national security apparatus and Kashmir among others. The content was observed to be false and sensitive from the perspective of national security and India's friendly relations with foreign States. "These channels had con-



tent that spread fear and misconception among communities," I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said.

According to the statement issued by the Ministry, the blocked videos had cumulative viewership of over 1.30 crore.

"The content included fake news and morphed videos circulated with the intent to spread hatred among religious

communities.

Examples include false claims such as the Government having taken away the religious rights of certain communities, violent threats against religious communities, declaration of civil war in India, etc. Such videos were found to have the potential to cause communal disharmony and disrupt public order in the country," it said.

50% of tweets asked by Govt to be blocked 'innocuous', Twitter tells Karnataka HC

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Twitter on Monday claimed before the Karnataka High Court it was being asked by the Government to block accounts, rather than just a tweet that was deemed improper, because of its political content. As a platform it was affected by the Centre asking it to take down accounts without issuing notice to the alleged violators. Twitter said about 50-60 per cent of the tweets being asked to be blocked were "innocuous."



# No poor should be deprived due to technical reasons in PMAY

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that while giving our best performance, we should lead the state on the path of development and be continuously active in providing better and happy life to the people of the state by implementation of public welfare schemes.

With this idea, the development activities of the districts, implementation of schemes and law and order situation are reviewed in the morning meetings. On the beginning of the holy festival of Navratri, we pray to Devi Maa to shower her blessings on the state and the country and wish everyone well.

Chouhan wished all the public representatives and officers present in the review

meeting of Anuppur district a happy Navratri from the residence office at 7 am. District in-charge and Tribal Affairs Minister Meena Singh, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Bisahul Singh, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries of various departments, and Shahdol Commissioner Rajiv Sharma attended the meeting virtually.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that development work should have quality, work should be done in time limit, benefit of public welfare schemes should be given to all the eligible beneficiaries and there should be a positive attitude among the general public towards government works and activities, with this resolve we should do our

duty. Good performers are encouraged and honoured and this has been implemented as well. But in cases of delay, arbitrariness and irregularities, punishment and legal action have to be taken, which also makes me sad. It should be our endeavour to ensure that development and public welfare works should be done only in a positive environment.

Chief Minister Chouhan expressed happiness for the improvement in infant mortality rate and the achievement of Anuppur district in acquiring the first position in the state for the management of T.B. He said that this has been possible only due to the hard work and effective coordination of the entire team. Chief Minister Chouhan said that it is necessary to stop encroachment for the pro-

tection of the origin place of Maa Narmada in Amarkantak.

Chief Minister Chouhan reviewed the Jal Jeevan Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Janseva Abhiyan, Amrit Sarovar, one district-one product, power system, law and order, condition of roads, nutrition food distribution in Anganwadi, street vendor scheme, Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana etc. Chief Minister Chouhan also discussed various complaints received in CM helpline and their redressal.

Chouhan said that the scheme should be implemented by taking the villagers into confidence in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. Check dams should be developed, stop dams and ponds should be planned and

implemented in the villages where there is no source of water, to increase the ground water level. It is necessary to ensure that no poor are deprived due to technical reasons in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

In this regard, Chief Minister Chouhan directed Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Umakant Umrao to identify the reasons behind this problem over phone in the morning. Chief Minister Chouhan said that if necessary, these points would be discussed at the central government level.

The construction of Amrit Sarovars should be as per the intention of Prime Minister Modi. Minister-in-charge and public representatives should regularly inspect the under-construction Amrit Sarovars.



NSUI activists stage a protest against the alleged mismanagement in Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Mass Communication in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

## Govt employees providing schemes' benefits in remote areas

PNS ■ BARWANI

Under the ongoing Mukhyamantri Jan Sewa Abhiyan(MJSA), the employees of the Barwani district are providing benefits of the government schemes even on top of the hills to those beneficiaries, who live in remote villages where the internet is inaccessible.

With the efforts of the collector of Barwani, Shivraj Singh and the dedication and zeal of his team members, the district recorded the second position in the state by registering 46,137 applications under the MJSA, according to state's data updated on Monday, while Chindwara and Dhar districts secured first and third rank respectively. A total of 581,577 applications was registered in the state.

Barwani has around 90 per cent tribal population in rural areas. Around 50 per cent of vil-



lages have no internet access. In this situation, providing online-based services to the beneficiaries in remote villages is a big challenge for the administration.

The team members (in image) of the camp organised under the MJSA at Phuljwari village in the district on Friday faced the problem of internet connectivity for making Aayushman cards for the villagers. They reached a nearby

hill for internet and provided the benefit of the scheme to stakeholders.

"First of all, we organised a series of training programmes to guide the officials and employees and constituted teams to monitor the field staff performance", collector Singh told The Pioneer. "Apart from this, I myself am keeping a deep eye on the whole campaign. An atmosphere of competition has

been created among the panchayat-level teams", the collector said.

Collector Singh added that like the MJSA he launched an innovative idea 'Pahuch Abhiyan' -a month-long service delivery programme on 1 May, it is now helping his teams to perform better because they have experience in the same style of working.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Saturation of central and state governments' 37 identified beneficiaries schemes campaign on 17 September to provide benefits to the stakeholders at their doorstep which will continue till 31 September.

"We have connected the various sections of the society with the campaign and trained them to support the villagers; such as the internet-friendly youth, College students and panchayat public representatives", Singh further added.

## Bibek Bora looks to impart skill training

**Bhopal:** Entrepreneurship in India is gaining pace steadily, and is surely innovating and growing on its own feet. India became the third largest startup ecosystem in the world after 21 of it's startups achieved unicorn status. While the government is trying their best to promote the startup culture in the country it is still not able to implement the basic necessities which a startup requires.

Skill development, innovation and fund raising are the biggest challenges in the start-up arena and while the government has time to time addressed these issues it has never been able to find a tangible solution for the same.

Therefore this led to the rise of social entrepreneurs in the country which not only work to resolve social issues but also help other startups to grow. One such social entrepreneur is the spotlight of this article today.

## Alleging irregularities in Makhanlal University, NSUI activists demonstrate at the University campus

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Protesting rampant irregularities in the Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, National Students Union of India (NSUI) protested in front of the University; NSUI protest was led by its former state coordinator Ravi Parmar.

Ravi said that the university has become a laboratory of the RSS( Sangh). For the last 10 years, as much as this university has worsened, none of the other universities in the state have suffered. In 2018, the Congress government had registered a case against 20 professors, officers and employees by conducting an

independent investigation, but corruption started again here as soon as the Congress government departed.

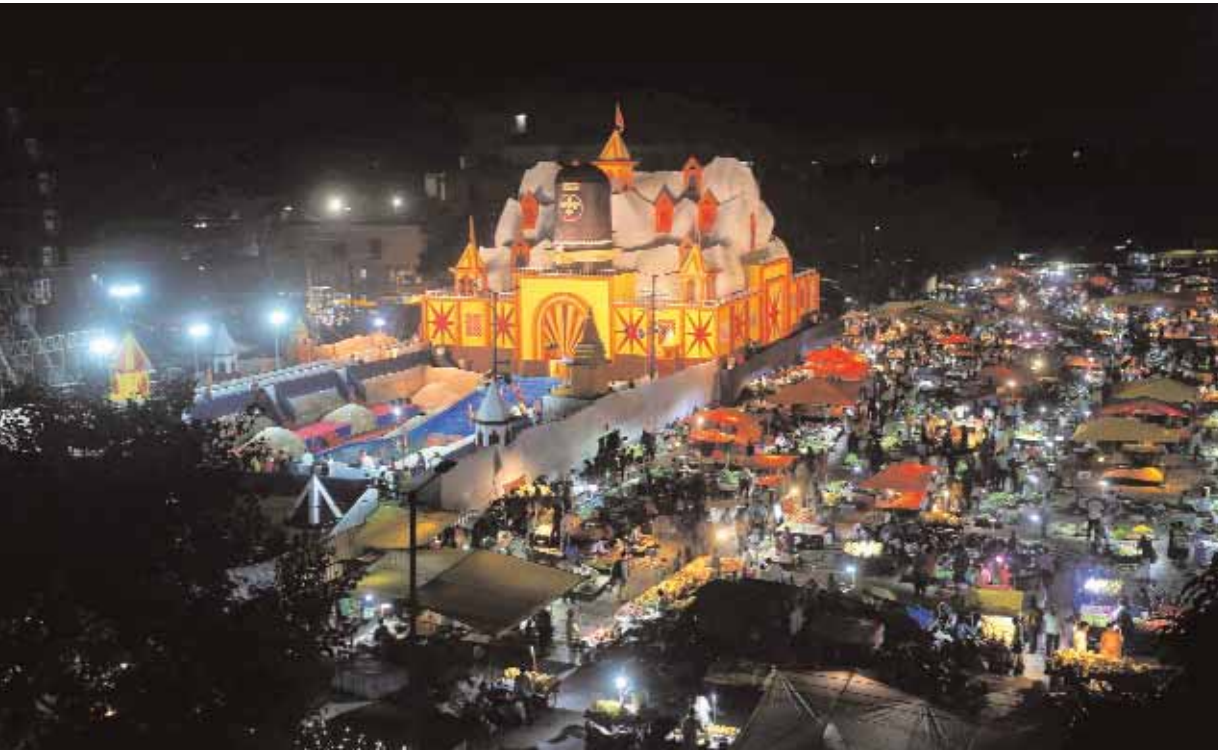
He alleged that in the past, without taking out the advertisement, Ankit Pandey, special of Vice Chancellor KG Suresh, was appointed as Research Associate. For this, such qualifications were fixed only after fulfilling the quorum, so that only Ankit could be selected. Apart from this, a person coming from the background of the Sangh(BJP) has been appointed as the Assistant Registrar.

On the official Facebook page of the University, the name of the Visitor and Vice President of the University was misspelled. Former students got it fixed.

The programs of RSS and its affiliated organizations are organized by Vice Chancellor KG Suresh every day in the university, wasting university money.

The money of the university is being used to please the office bearers of the RSS. It was told that a Sangh program was held in a private college in the past, in which video cameras, cameras were sent from the studio department without written permission.

NSUI activists Bhavya Saxena, Lucky Choubey, Purushottam Jha, students Anjali Rajveer Singh, Mohit Patel, Vinay Banarasi, Ravi Patel, Shubham Singh, Jitendra Vishwakarma, Zeeshan Khan along with students protested and raised slogans.



A tableau based on Narmada Parikrama decorated with lighting during Navratri festival, at Bittan Market in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

## 1 killed, two injured in head on collision between a bike and a scooter

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

An 18-year-old youth died while undergoing treatment in the night on Sunday while his friend escaped with severe injuries in a collision between their bike and scooter near Nandi Foundation under Awadhpuri police station in the night on Saturday, condition of injured is critical, said police.

Police said that locals rushed the three injured to hospital after their vehicles collided where one of the injured died during treatment while his friend and scooter rider escaped with injuries.

The deceased was identified as Kunal Sisodia while his friend Ranjit escaped the accident with severe injuries. They had gone out for a ride on the motorbike of Ranjit and their bike was hit by a scooter.

During the investigation police found that the vehicles were moving with high speed. The body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation. The police have registered a case under section 304 A of the IPC and started further investigation.

The scooter rider was also injured in the accident and is undergoing treatment at

## The deceased was identified as Kunal Sisodia while his friend Ranjit escaped the accident with severe injuries

hospital. Reason of the accident remained unknown and would be investigated.

Meanwhile, a 10-year-old boy died after he got electrocuted when he fell in a nullah behind Vishal Megamart on Sunday; the nullah was having current as earthing of DP was passing through nullah and due to which it had current.

According to the police, the boy Piyush Malviya was found lying inside the nullah while playing with his brother Aditya. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

A complaint was lodged with the police and after preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and have sent the body for the post mortem.

It was found that Piyush fell in the nullah and died of electrocution as the nullah was having current.

## Awards distributed to State Bank of India theatre fest artists, directors

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

An award ceremony to mark the conclusion of State Bank Theatre Fest was held on Monday at Ravindra Bhavan.

The awards for the 30th State Bank Rajbhasha Natya Samaroh in which play Anji on the maximum awards.

In this, the first prize for best director was given to Asim Kumar Dubey, director of the play "Anji" from the local head office, Bhopal. In another category, Puneet Verma - Best Music Director First, Renuka Sahu Best Actress (Second), Deepak Tiwari - Best Supporting Actor Rashmi Singh - Supporting Actress and Sudhir Khanwalkar received a total of 6 awards including Best Actor were won for play Anji.

AC Rakesh Sethi, director of Bhopal's play "Sandhya Chhaya", got second prize for best director and best actress (first) for Rashmi Muzumdar and best actor (first) to Arvind Bilgaiyan and Yogesh Namdev for best stage decoration for his performance in Sandhya

Chhaya.

Among other awards, Best Actor category II Prafulla Jain (Indore A.C.) won the award, Best Director was won by Praveen Sangamnekar, Best Actress was won by Sakshi Wane, (Gwalior ANC), Best Actor II - Jeetendra Jatav (Gwalior ANC), Best Actress II was won by Elizabeth (Ag. Indore).

The Special Jury Award was given to Late Jai Hardia (Director - Aanka.Indore). Hardia tragically died of a heart attack in the night after staging the play Ho on 23 September.

The judges of the ceremony were the former director of MP School of Natya Vidyalaya, senior theater artist Alok Chatterjee, MP. The present director of the school of drama was Tikam Joshi and the senior theater artist and director of Indore was Rajan Deshmukh.

In the closing ceremony, State Bank Mahila Club President Asha Mishra and State Bank Bhopal Circle Chief General Manager Binod Kumar Mishra honored the judges and congratulated all the artists.



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# We will work to boost Indo-Japan ties: PM

Modi leaves for Tokyo to attend Shinzo Abe State funeral

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday left for Tokyo to attend the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The funeral will take place on Tuesday and is expected to be attended by representatives from around 100 countries. "I am traveling to Tokyo tonight to participate in the State Funeral of former PM Shinzo Abe. I will be conveying heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister Kishida and Mrs. Abe on behalf of all Indians," the Prime Minister said in a tweet message on Monday. "We will continue working to further strengthen India-Japan relations as envisioned by Abe San," he said. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said the duration of Modi's visit from the time of his departure from Delhi will be



Representational picture

around 12 to 16 hours. Modi will have a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and also meet Abe's wife, he said. Modi's visit to Japan will be an opportunity to honour the former prime minister Abe, Kwatra said. Abe, Japan's longest-serving Prime Minister, was shot dead on July 8 while delivering

a political campaign speech in western Japan ahead of the House of Councillors election on July 10. Prime Minister Modi had a close relationship with Abe. He had condoled the demise of his "dear friend" Abe and said the former Japanese premier dedicated his life to making the world a better place.

# SC asks Bombay HC to hear Deshmukh bail plea immediately

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed displeasure over the delay in hearing the bail plea of Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, arrested in connection with a money laundering case, and directed the Bombay High Court to hear and decide his case expeditiously. The top court observed that any person who has filed a bail application has a legitimate expectation that his plea will be disposed of at an early date. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli noted that the bail plea of Deshmukh is pending in the high court since March 21. "We issue a direction and permit the petitioner to apply before the learned judge, to whom the case has been assigned, tomorrow. The application shall be taken for hearing during the course of this week and decided expeditiously," the bench said, adding that keeping an application for bail pending is not consistent with the Right to

Life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The top court clarified that it has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the case. Justice NJ Jamadar of the High Court is hearing the bail plea of Deshmukh. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for 73-year-old Deshmukh, submitted that the hearing on the bail plea is being deferred and sought interim bail. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for ED, opposed the interim bail plea and said the top court should not pass any such order. Deshmukh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in November 2021 and is currently in judicial custody. On April 8, the high court adjourned the hearing on Deshmukh's bail application while deprecating the practice of seeking urgent hearings of bail pleas citing medical emergencies. The ED's case is that while serving as the Home Minister, Deshmukh misused his official position and collected Rs 4.70 crore from various bars in Mumbai through Sachin Waze, a police officer who has been dismissed.

# SC notice to Centre, TN over early release of Nalini in Rajiv assassination case

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and the Tamil Nadu Government on a plea filed by Nalini Sriharan and RP Ravichandran, serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, seeking premature release. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna issued notices to the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government and sought their replies on the plea. Both convicts challenged the June 17 order of the Madras High Court, which rejected her plea for early release, and cited the apex court judgment ordering the release of co-convict AG Perarivalan. The HC do not have the power under Article 226 of the Constitution to do so, unlike the Supreme Court



which enjoyed the special power under Article 142, the high court had said while rejecting their pleas. Invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the top court had on May 18 ordered the release of Perarivalan, who had served over 30 years in jail, and said the Tamil Nadu governor ought not to have sent the "binding" advice made by the state cabinet for his release to the president. The apex court had said the advice of the state cabinet is binding on the Governor in

matters related to commutation/remission of sentences under Article 161 of the Constitution. Under article 142, the top court may issue any verdict or order necessary to provide "complete justice". Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at a poll rally. In its May 1999 order, the top court had upheld the death sentence of four convicts Perarivalan, Murugan, Santhan and Nalini. However, in 2014, it commuted death sentence of Perarivalan to life imprisonment along with those of Santhan and Murugan on grounds of delay in deciding their mercy petitions. Nalini's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in 2001 on the consideration that she has a daughter.

# Cong: Legal action in 5 cases against BJP's fake news on yatra

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Monday said it has initiated legal action in five cases of "fake and divisive news" peddled by BJP leaders and their "online hate factory" to hurt Bharat Jodo Yatra, asserting that it will not take this lying down. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also shared a police complaint by Kerala MP Hibi Eden against a particularly "vicious bhakt". "We have initiated legal action in five cases of fake and divisive news peddled by BJP leaders and their bhakt online hate factory to hurt Bharat Jodo Yatra. Be warned! We will not take this lying down," Ramesh said. In the police complaint shared by Ramesh on Twitter, Congress MP Hibi Eden complained against a social media post with two pictures. "The impression these pictures sought to convey was that INC leader Rahul Gandhi was posing with an individual who had been accused of sloganeering

'Pakistan Zindabad' on a previous occasion. However, as was made clear almost immediately, the individuals in the photographs were two separate and distinct people," Eden said. "The distortion was not an innocent one because it sought to falsely and maliciously suggest that former INC president Rahul Gandhi, who was on a yatra to unite Indians had demonstrated sympathy for individuals who supported Pakistan and approved their illegal sloganeering and was ultimately attempting to 'break India'," he said. Thus, it is clear that this "malicious post" was designed to create a dangerously false impression in the minds of the viewers regarding the Congress leader's approach towards Pakistan and individuals involved in the illegal sloganeering in support of Pakistan; and to foment social tensions in the Bharat Jodo Yatra rallies led by Gandhi, Eden said. He requested that an urgent and immediate FIR be registered by police under relevant IPC provisions.

# Def Min honours kin of HP martyrs

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday felicitated the families of the brave soldiers of the armed forces, hailing from Himachal Pradesh, who laid down their lives in the service of the nation. The felicitation ceremony was organised at Badoli in Kangra district of the state. Rajnath paid glowing tributes to the war heroes, including the first recipient of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) Major Somnath Sharma (1947); Brigadier Sher Jung Thapa, Maha Vir Chakra (1948); Lt Col Dhan Singh Thapa, PVC (1962); Captain Vikram Batra, PVC (1999) and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar, PVC (1999), the defence ministry said here. He said the armed forces will always be a source of inspiration to the people, especially the youth, as they possess the traits of discipline, devotion to duty, patriotism and sacrifice and are a symbol of national pride and trust. The defence minister said India is the only country which has given the message of peace to the whole world and its military is respected across the globe for its bravery. While maintaining that India has

# Indian Navy to take part in CMF training exercise in Seychelles

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

In an effort to forge closer ties with countries in the Indian Ocean region, an Indian Navy ship INS Sunayna has reached Seychelles to take part in the annual training exercise 'Operation Southern Readiness' of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). It is the maiden participation by the Indian Navy in the drill. The ship's participation reinforces the Indian Navy's commitment to maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, officials said here on Monday. The ship is scheduled to participate as associate partner in the capacity-building exercises being conducted by CMF, the Defence Ministry said. The joint training exercise is being attended by represen-

tative delegations from the US, Italy, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and ship participation from the UK, Spain and India. Similarly, INS Tarkash made a port call at Port Gentil, Gabon as part of her ongoing deployment in the Gulf of Guinea for anti-piracy patrol. This marks the first visit by any Indian ship to Gabon. During its stay in harbour, the ship and crew will participate in official and professional interactions as well as sports fixtures. Professional interactions will include discussions and drills on fire fighting and damage control, medical and casualty evacuation issues, and diving operations. There will also be familiarisation visits. In addition, yoga sessions and social interactions are also planned. The ship will also remain open to visitors, officials said here.

# Seva Bharti to award 25 renowned people for 'selfless social service'

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

RSS outfit, Seva Bharti, would award 25 distinguished people for their 'selfless social service' here on October seven. One 'Seva Ratna' and 24 'Seva Bhushan' awards will be given away by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar at a special function here at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, according to Seva Bharti. "The awards will be given for the priceless contribution in social work or providing funds for social development", said the organization. "In continuation of the high tradition set by ancient Maharshi Dadhichi, Raja Bali, 'danveer karna' and Bhama Shah there are many contemporary lights who have



given away everything they had in service to the nation", said president of Seva Bharti Ramesh Aggarwal. Uttarakhand governor Gen (retired) Gurmit Singh will be the special guest on the occa-

sion. The event will be attended by many central ministers, senior RSS leaders, industrialists and social workers. Five hundred past awardees will also be invited to the function, the outfit said.

# Medal for hurt officer not needed: Chief's quip irks CRPF men

**RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI**

While the CRPF has moved a proposal for the award of Shaurya Chakra for the gallant action of Assistant Commandant Bibhor Kumar Singh in an encounter with the Naxals in Aurangabad district of Bihar, outgoing paramilitary chief Kuldeep Singh's recent comment that there is no need for a gallantry medal to him because that was a routine incident has led to resentment among the cadre officers. Bibhor Kumar Singh had to undergo amputation of both legs due to a blast during an

anti-Naxal operation 15 km southwest of Pachrukhiya village near Madanpur in Aurangabad district of Bihar in February this year. Shaurya Chakra is the third highest peacetime gallantry award. On March 17, the CRPF chief, an IPS officer on deputation to the paramilitary, had said he will hold himself responsible for delays in air evacuation of injured personnel but pointed out that sometimes "practical difficulties" crop up in executing such operations in a timely manner in the Naxal theatre. The DG was talking about injured Assistant Commandant Bibhor Kumar Singh who had to undergo amputation of both his legs

post a blast while leading an anti-Naxal operation, due to delayed evacuation for over seven hours. The Naxal movement is being spearheaded by the Communist Party of India (Maoist) which a banned terror organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. "If you ask who is responsible for this, I would hold myself responsible, it is my responsibility to ensure helicopters are provided to troops because it is me who directs and motivates troops to go out for operations. If anyone is to be blamed, it is me. I cannot blame anyone else," Singh told a Press conference in March ahead of the Force's 83rd Raising Day.

There has been a longstanding demand for a dedicated air wing for the CRPF. "In operations, such incidents (of blasts and resultant injuries) are normal. In the CRPF and its specialized CoBRA Battalions, young officers like Assistant Commandants and Deputy Commandants and even up to the level of Commandants lead the troops from the front. In certain cases, DIGs also lead operations. In Maharashtra, Assistant Commandant Nitin Bhale Rao and Deputy Commandant Vikas lost their lives in IED blasts in Palodi (Sukma, Chhattisgarh). Similar blast has occurred in this case (of Bibhor Kumar Singh) and there is no provision of medals

for injury. Medals are for action and not injuries. If there is an element of action involved in the operation, medal can be definitely given," the DG had said at a Press conference on September 21. Cadre officers of the CRPF mostly comprise the post of DIGs. Bibhor will be looked after for everything but medals are awarded on action and not on injury. Even deaths occur in the operations, then there should be more medals, he quipped sarcastically. Veterans as well as serving cadre officers of CRPF took exception to the casual manner in which the sacrifice of the brave officers during action was mentioned by the paramilitary boss.



Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary presents a memento to Commander UAE Air Force & Air Defence, Major General Ibrahim Nasser Mohammed Al Alawi during a meeting PTI Photo

**PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY**  
**e-Tender Call Notice**

**TO/DTM/OPN/PILOT/150/1617, dttd.13.09.2022**

Name of the Work : "Allotment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of newly constructed building near Gate-3 (10,751 sqft) for office purpose inside Port Prohibited area on Annual Premium Basis". Estimated cost : Rs.52,35,737/- . Period of allotment : 5 years. Last date & time of submission of bid : dt.03.10.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs. Date and time of opening (technical bid) : 06.10.2022 up to 12:00 hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> & <http://paradipport.gov.in/>.

**Traffic Manager**  
**Paradip Port Authority**  
PPA/PR/197/22-23, dttd.26.09.2022

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
**e-TENDER CALL NOTICE**

Name of the Work : Development of new plot along with repair the existing plot adjacent to net barrier near Gate No.2. Estimated Cost: Rs. 5,72,40,236.06. Last Date & Time of submission.gov.in./eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

**Executiv Engineer,**  
**HWD-II,PPA**  
PPA/PR/198/22-23, Dtd. - 26.09.2022

# Union Min launches JALDOOT App today

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

You will soon be able to measure and capture the water level in your area with the click of the mouse or keypad of your mobile. Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh will on Tuesday launch the "JALDOOT App" that will be used across the country to capture the water level of selected wells in a village. The App is being launched in view of declining levels of the groundwater, as also utilization of surface water sources, resulting in significant depletion of water levels causing distress to the community, including farmers. "Therefore measurement and observation of the levels of water tables across the country has become neces-



sary. "The Jaldoot app will enable Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) to measure the water level of selected wells twice a year (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon). In every village, an adequate number of measurement locations (2-3) shall need to be selected. These will be representative of the ground water level in that village," said an official from the Ministry. The app will facilitate panchayats with robust data, which can be further used for better planning of works. The ground

water data could be utilised as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GDPD) and Mahatma Gandhi NREGA planning exercises. Further, the data can also be used for different kinds of research and other purposes. The official pointed out that in the last few years, various steps have been taken for improvement of water management both in the rural and urban areas, through watershed development, afforestation, water body development and renovation, rainwater harvesting and so on. According to the Central Ground water Board (CGWB), with 230 billion metre cubes of groundwater drawn out each year for irrigating agriculture lands in India, many parts of country are experiencing rapid depletion of groundwater.

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Family physicians have played a pivotal role in the prevention of diseases and their complications particularly in the backdrop of the Covid-19, but ironically they are facing 'identity crisis' as no training is being given to the MBBS students in the subject, the Academy of Family Physicians of India (AFPI) rued on Tuesday. Seeking mandatory inclusion of 'training as family physician' in the MBBS course at all Indian medical colleges in the background of the Covid-19 pandemic, the members of the AFPI said that they act as single point of contact for all healthcare needs of a family and prevent unnecessary burden on secondary and tertiary

healthcare systems. "Family Physicians can deliver holistic treatment and prevent unnecessary burden on secondary and tertiary hospitals," Dr Raman Kumar, AFPI national president, said, adding that a family physician is not only a family doctor but acts as a guide, who helps a family in making informed healthcare decisions. The occasion was the foundation Day of the Academy of Family Physicians of India (AFPI), which has also been declared 'National Family Medicine Day' The AFPI has been pushing for the revival of family physicians and popularising family medicine as a clinical specialty. Dr Kumar said that Family Medicine is recognized in many developed countries where training is provided

through organized residency programs. This should happen in India as well, he added. "Family medicine has been incorporated in the foundation course of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and is planned to be adopted in all medical institutes in India; however, the MBBS syllabus makes no mention of it." "There is a requirement for developing a comprehensive curriculum for family medicine to address the current health needs of communities. The healthcare system should focus more on primary care and family medicine to provide affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare to people," the members said. Prof Surekha Kishore, Director of AIIMS Gorakhpur, who was the chief guest, agreed

and assured to raise the issue of family physicians and their training with the National Medical Commission as its member. Dr SK Sarin, Director of Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Delhi, and president, National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), said, "Family physicians play a pivotal role in the prevention of diseases and their complications." Director of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Alok Saxena emphasised on its revival and the integration of family physicians with the health system. He said, "Training MBBS doctors as family physicians is of paramount importance. There should be a structured course during MBBS as all doctors need not become hospital-based specialists."



# Ghulam Nabi Azad launches Democratic Azad Party

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Veteran Congress leader and a former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad Monday launched his 'Democratic Azad Party', exactly a month after severing ties with the parent party, along with his supporters here in Jammu.

Unveiling the party flag, with three stripes in different colours—mustard, white and dark blue, Azad claimed his party will be based on the principles of democracy. "It will not be 'autocratic' but 'democratic'", he added.

Speaking to reporters, Azad said, "The mustard colour indicates creativity and unity in diversity, white indicates peace and blue indicates freedom, open space, imagination and limits from the depths of the ocean to the

heights of the sky".

Flanked by senior party leaders Azad also appealed to the people of both Jammu and Kashmir to join hands together and break the artificial walls being raised between them by the vested interests.

Azad had earlier declared the broader contours of his newly launched party in his maiden public rally in Jammu soon after exiting the Congress party in the first week of September. According to Azad the top most priority of his party will remain restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, protection of land and job rights of its residents, creating job opportunities for the unemployed youth and the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

After announcing the party name and unveiling the party flag he focused on the agenda

of the party in the days to come. While doing so, Azad made it clear. We will have no competition with any political party. "We will speak about our own policies and programmes and let others do their own and leave everything to the people who are the ultimate masters in politics", he added.

In the same vein Azad added, Democratic Azad Party will not be influenced by any outside leader or other party. It will have independent thinking and will stay independent in its decisions. It will not be autocratic and power will not be in one hand.

He also clarified his surname has nothing to do with 'Azad' in the party name.

After leaving the Congress party Azad had himself talked about launching a National party with a J&K unit ahead of beginning a new political

innings, however, none of the supporters, backing him from behind especially from the G-23 grouping, were present at the time of formally floating the party.

Responding to the allegations that he was working at the behest of BJP, Azad told reporters, "Many people accused me of having a prior alliance. We only have the alliance with heart and minds and people of J&K and nobody else. We have not consulted anyone before launching the party, neither regional nor national party." Our party will borrow from the ideas and principles of former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi.

"Our party policy will not be influenced by politics of religion, caste or creed. It will follow the roadmap of Gandhi, who got India independence.

Talking about his priorities Azad claimed the party will keep holding grassroot level elections for its structure. "We are here to compete at our own level. I have no competition with any party. Will compete like students compete with each other in a classroom. We don't have any enemy or foe," he said, adding "50 per cent of tickets will be given to women and youth". "Our priority is to get the party registered. But since elections (in Jammu and Kashmir) can happen anytime, related developments would continue".

On Article 370, Azad clarified that he never said it won't be restored. "I had only stressed that if someone can persuade Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah. I can't do that as I have no such strength at present," Azad explained.



## Gehlot's rebellion dwarfed Sonia's stature, says BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of an apparent rebellion in the Congress Rajasthan unit over the selection of new Chief Minister, the BJP on Monday claimed that the developments have "considerably dwarfed the stature of Sonia Gandhi" and "demolished" the "aura of their invincibility".

BJP leader Amit Malviya said in a tweet in Hindi "Irrespective of whether Ashok Gehlot files or not his nomination for the post of Congress president his rebellion has considerably dwarfed Sonia Gandhi's stature."

He further said, "Now whosoever becomes the president of Congress, it is possible that there can be a rebellion again against the Gandhi family which has lost its aura of



invincibility," said Malviya hitting out at the opposition party.

Union Minister and BJP leader from the state Arjun Meghwal said there is virtually no government in the state and people have been left to fend for themselves.

Another BJP leader from Rajasthan Satish Poonia also took a dig at the Congress, saying none of its leaders wants to be the party's national president and prefer to be a state chief minister or a regional leader. "This drama of 'Kissa Kursi

Ka' (tale of CM's chair) started in Rajasthan in 2018 when slogans for Gehlot and Sachin Pilot were raised. It then continued for portfolio allocation and then for rooms in the secretariat in Jaipur," Poonia said adding throughout the entire episode, the people of the state suffered.

Echoing similar sentiments, BJP leader and MP from Rajasthan Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, said, "It's time to bring down curtains on this drama. It would be better if they really resign to give relief to the public. The Congress government has no moral standing to continue in power."

Rathore said everyone is suffering in the state, be it farmers, youngsters and females, adding, "Law and order in the state has completely collapsed".

## No coercive action till Nov 17 against Anil Ambani: Bombay HC to I-T Dept

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Income-Tax Department not to take any coercive action against Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani till November 17 on a show cause notice issued to him seeking to prosecute him under the Black Money Act.

The I-T department had issued the notice to Ambani on August 8, 2022 for allegedly evading Rs 420 crore in taxes on undisclosed funds worth more than Rs 814 crore held in two Swiss bank accounts.

The department has charged Ambani (63) with "wilful" evasion, saying he "intentionally" did not disclose his foreign bank account details and financial interests to Indian tax authorities.

As per the department's notice, Ambani was liable to be



prosecuted under Sections 50 and 51 of the Black Money (undisclosed foreign income and assets) Imposition of Tax Act of 2015, that stipulates a maximum punishment of 10 years imprisonment with a fine.

Ambani earlier this month approached the HC challenging the notice, claiming that the Black Money Act was enacted in 2015 and the alleged transactions are of assessment years 2006-2007 and 2010-2011.

Senior counsel Rafique Dada, appearing for Ambani, said provisions of the Act cannot have a retrospective effect. Advocate Akhileshwar

Sharma, appearing for the I-T department, sought time to respond to the petition.

A division bench of Justices S V Gangapurwala and R N Laddha permitted the same and posted the petition for hearing on November 17.

"The Income Tax department shall till the next date not take any coercive action against the petitioner (Ambani) in pursuance to the show cause notice," the court said.

It also directed the I-T department to respond to Ambani's contention that provisions of the Black Money Act may not have a retrospective effect.

Dada told the court that an assessment order was passed by the department in March this year and the petitioner filed an appeal against the said order before the Commissioner of Income Tax.

## BJP chief lambasts Kerala Government

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala has become the epicentre of terrorism and anti-national activities, according to J P Naddha, all-India president, BJP. Addressing booth level party workers at Thiruvananthapuram on Monday, the national president of the BJP alleged that the chief minister's office itself has become the hub of gold smuggling. "Swapna Suresh, who was arrested in connection with gold smuggling, has named the chief minister and his family members for their active rolls in smuggling. Names of many CPI(M) ministers and party leaders have been disclosed by Swapna Suresh in her statement to the Court," said Naddha.

The BJP chief alleged that there was no ideology or ethics in the CPI(M). "The party has become a family dynasty party. Family rule and dynasty rule are the hallmark of the CPI(M). Kerala has also become the



hotspot of terrorism," he said. The BJP chief also came down on the State administration for its financial mismanagement. "Kerala is in a debt trap as its debts has crossed the Rs 3,40,000 crore mark. Over the last seven years, the debt of the State has doubled and this is a matter of concern. There is nepotism everywhere. Appointments in universities are meant only for the relatives of the ministers and party leaders. The CPI(M)-led government is trying to weaken the Lok Ayukta (whistleblower) to save the chief minister and other ministers from charges and allegations of corruption," said the party president.

## President to inaugurate HAL ICMF in Bengaluru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday will inaugurate the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) state-of-the-art Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF) in Bengaluru.

The facility will cater to the entire Rocket Engine Manufacturing under one roof for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The facility will boost self-reliance in manufacturing of Hi-thrust Rocket engines.

The facility is set up over an area of 4,500 sqmts housing over 70 hi-tech equipment and testing facilities for manufacturing Cryogenic (CE20) and Semi-cryogenic (SE2000) Engines of Indian Space Launch Vehicles.

In 2013, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed with the ISRO for establishing the facility for manufacturing of Cryogenic Engine



modules at HAL, Aerospace Division. The MOU for the Cryogenic Engine facility was subsequently amended in the year 2016 for setting up of Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF) with an investment of Rs. 208 crores.

The commissioning of all the critical equipment for the manufacturing and assembly requirement is completed. The pre-production activities which involve preparation of the process plans, drawings, quality plan etc. has also commenced. The HAL will start realising the modules by March 2023.

The Aerospace Division of the HAL manufactures liquid propellant tanks and launch vehicle structures of PSLV, GSLV Mk-II, GSLV Mk-III and also stage integration for GSLV Mk-II. The Aerospace Division entering into manufacture of Cryogenic Engines is a major step in technology up-gradation cum modernization.

Cryogenic Engines are the most widely used engines world over in the launch vehicles. Due to the complex nature of the cryogenic engine, till date only few countries USA, France, Japan, China and Russia have mastered the cryogenic technology.

On January 5, 2014 India successfully flew GSLV-D5 with a cryogenic engine (made by ISRO through private industries) and became the sixth country in developing cryogenic engines. Space exploration in the future is mostly dependent upon cryogenic technology.



Devotees participate in a religious procession to install an idol of Goddess Sharada at Kudrolli Sri Gokarnanatheshwara Temple on the first day of 'Navratri' festival, in Mangaluru on Monday . PTI

## Passport applicants can apply online for PCCs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Passport applicants will now be able to apply for police clearance certificates (PCCs) at all online post office passport seva kendras, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday.

The MEA is the nodal ministry for the issuance of passports.

The PCCs are a pre-requisite for the issuance of passports to the applicants.

Often, the issuance of the PCCs by the local police takes time that results in a delay in the grant of passports.

"To address the unanticipated surge in demand for Police Clearance Certificates (PCCs), the ministry has decided to include the facility to apply for PCC services at all online Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) across India, starting from September 28," the MEA said in a statement.

## Activist Sandeep Pandey, 3 others detained in Gujarat ahead of foot march planned in support of Bilkis

PTI ■ GODHRA

Police have detained social activist Sandeep Pandey and three others ahead of a foot march planned on Monday to express solidarity with Bilkis Bano, who was gang-raped and seven of her family members murdered during the 2002 Gujarat riots, police said.

Ramon Magsaysay award recipient Pandey and other activists were scheduled to participate in the foot march, titled 'Apologising to Bilkis Bano', planned to be taken out from her native village Randhikpur in neighbouring Dahod district on Monday under the banner of 'Hindu-Muslim Ekta Samiti'.

The march was to conclude in Ahmedabad on October 4.

"Sandeep Pandey and three others were detained from Godhra (in Panchmahal district) at around 10.30 pm on Sunday. They are still in detention," a B-division police station officer said.



The Hindu-Muslim Ekta Samiti in a statement condemned the police action.

It said the foot march was organised to apologise to Bilkis Bano, after the Gujarat government on August 15 this year released 11 convicts in her case under its remission policy.

The convicts were serving life sentence in the Godhra sub-jail on charges of gang-rape of Bilkis Bano and murder of seven members of her family in a post-Godhra riot case.

"We only wish to apologise to Bilkis for whatever has happened to her and wish such heinous acts do not happen in an otherwise peaceful state of Gujarat," the organisation said in the statement.

## Strong possibility of Opp parties fighting 2024 polls together: Nitish

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is a strong possibility of Opposition parties coming together to fight the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said on Monday, stressing that he has had good talks with them and many will join hands gradually.

Speaking to reporters, the Janata Dal (United) leader also made light of the BJP's repeated swipe at the Opposition over its unity talks, saying the ruling party has many problems of its own. "All they can do is speak day and night," he said.

"Many parties will join hands gradually and there is a strong possibility that they can fight the 2024 polls together," he said, adding that he has had good talks with leaders of different parties.

Asked if the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, both having strong reservations against the Congress, will also be a part



of such a formation, he said once an agreement is reached in the Opposition about an alliance, only then something concrete can be said.

At the same time, he added that the media will be aware of all the leaders he has met.

Kumar had met AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his last visit to the national capital.

TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had also said recently that she together with Kumar, RJD's Tejashwi

## Class 10 Dalit student dies after beating by teacher in Auraiya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rutal assault in the name of corporal punishment took its toll when in a fresh incident, a Class 10 Dalit student was fatally beaten up by his schoolteacher in Auraiya.

The student died during treatment in a hospital.

The victim, Nikhil Dohre, was beaten up by his social science teacher on September 7 as he had made a mistake in an exam. His health deteriorated after that and he was being treated in a hospital. The teacher also contributed to the treatment.

On September 24, Nikhil's father, Raju Dohre, lodged a report in the Achhalda police station against the teacher for not cooperating in the treatment and for using caste-indicative abusive words.

He made a complaint after Nikhil died during treatment on Saturday.

The FIR was registered

against the accused, Ashwini Singh, at Achhalda police station and teams have been formed to arrest the accused.

Auraiya's Superintendent of Police Charu Nigam said, "We have talked to Etawah chief medical officer to set up a panel for autopsy to find out the cause of death and get the autopsy and videographed. Further action will be taken. Three teams have been formed to arrest the accused."

In another incident, a Class IV employee of the BED department committed suicide in a classroom of the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University.

The employee, identified as Vibhuti Prasad, ended his life by hanging himself from the ceiling. When the teachers saw him hanging, they immediately informed the Cantonment police, and the cops rushed to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Gehlot's gambit

Congress leadership failed to comprehend that he is unwilling to quit the top office in Rajasthan

The presidential election in the Congress and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's candidature have once again proved the gross ineptitude of the party leadership—that is, of the Gandhis. It is quite evident that, for the umpteenth time, they failed to assess the situation. It looked like, and we editorially commented, that the intra-party election may provide the Gandhis an opportunity to kill two birds with a stone: get a non-family party president, thus blunting the Bharatiya Janata Party's attacks of the GOP being a family-run party; and putting an end to the Gehlot-Pilot tussle in Rajasthan. But that was not to be. For one, Gehlot was reluctant right from the beginning to give up the top office in Rajasthan for a national role. Apparently, he believes that it is better to rule in Jaipur than to serve in New Delhi, for becoming party president with the Gandhi family's blessings means working under their supervision. But reluctance to leave the chief ministerial office is much



different from stubbornly sticking to the demand to have a loyalist in that office at any cost. The rebellion by over 90 Congress MLAs supporting him has not only displeased the Gandhis but also put his candidature for the president's post in the grand old party at risk. On Sunday, the 90 MLAs had threatened to resign if his arch rival Sachin Pilot was made chief minister.

Reportedly feeling "upset and humiliated," the Gandhis are looking for alternatives to Gehlot for the Congress top post. Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath is said to have arrived in the national capital for a meeting with Sonia Gandhi. All this doesn't

seem to have deterred Gehlot or his MLAs. They refused to talk to Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge, the high command's emissaries. They wanted the new chief minister to be decided after the next Congress president is elected, Maken told the media, adding that this would be "conflict of interest" as the resolution would be passed when "Gehlot may already be party chief. So, he empowers himself to decide on his own successor in Rajasthan." That's a valid point, but Gehlot and his MLAs have dug their heels in over the issue of the next chief minister. That there is rivalry between the 71-year-old Rajasthan Chief Minister and his young challenger is a well-known fact; the rivalry became intense after his unsuccessful rebellion in 2020. But few—and certainly not the Gandhi family—knew that the intensity had crossed the limits within which it could be managed. Is the enmity no more political? Has it become personal? Only Gehlot and Pilot can answer these questions, but it is indisputable that this episode has put yet another question mark over the competence of the Gandhis. How could Rahul Gandhi unite the nation or the Opposition if he can't unite his own leaders? It is time the top Congress leadership focused on putting its house in order.

### PICTALK



A young devotee pays obeisance at Durgiana Temple on the first day of 'Navratri' festival, in Amritsar

PTI

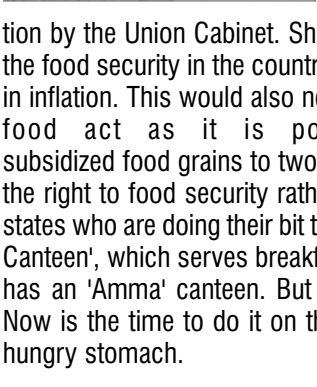
## Food Security Dwindles

Increasing foodgrain prices will be a big blow to country's food security which is already strained

Food security has been a major challenge as we have a sizable population that earns its living on daily basis and do not have the reserve to buy food in advance.

According to the UN, there are nearly 195 million undernourished people in India, which is a quarter of the world's total. Also, roughly 43% of children in India are chronically undernourished. India has constantly moved down various indexes dealing with food security, well-being, and human development at an alarming rate. It slipped to the 101st position out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2021 from its 2020 position of 94. All that ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry did about it was to raise "methodological issues" and claim that the FAO's methodology was unscientific. The 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, published by UN agencies in 2022, estimated that a whopping 40 per cent of people in India suffered from food insecurity in 2019-2021 which puts India into the category of countries with severely food-insecure populations. India ranked 71 out of 113 major countries in terms of the food security index 2020.

In this scenario, the government is said to be considering an increase in the prices of rice, wheat, and cereals sold through the National Food Security Act (NFSA) by ₹.7 per kg for Priority Households. Moreover, NITI Aayog has even recommended that the price for sale to the poorest of the poor through Antyodaya Anna Yojana be increased by ? 1 per kg. The Ministry is reportedly brought it to consideration by the Union Cabinet. Should the cabinet approve it, it would be a big blow to the food security in the country which is already under severe stress due to the rise in inflation. This would also negate the National Food Security Act, 2013 or right to food act as it is popularly called which sought to provide subsidized food grains to two third of the Indian population. It is time to strengthen the right to food security rather than diluting it. The central government must help states who are doing their bit to provide food security. Karnataka launched the 'Indira Canteen', which serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner at a very low price. Tamil Nadu has an 'Ammma' canteen. But the situation in Bihar, UP, and Orissa remains grim. Now is the time to do it on the pan India level so that no one goes to bed with a hungry stomach.



# Polluting a river is a sin against it!

Immersion of idols laced with harmful chemicals does an irreparable damage to a river, time to stop sinning against salvator



SANJIB POHIT ANUPMA MEHTA



tants, the NCAER study points out that despite being among the top ten water-rich countries of the world, and home to both perennial and non-perennial rivers, India has become a water-stressed region.

Albeit, a large proportion of the pollution in rivers is the result of anthropogenic activities and the release of raw sewage, untreated industrial effluents, pesticides, and debris into the river. However, this does not diminish the polluting impact of visarjan or submergence into the river of idols made with non-biodegradable and toxic materials. So, wherein lies the solution? While seeking to purify ourselves through religious rituals, how can we ensure the purification of our rivers too?

For the last few years, the Central Pollution Control Board has been issuing advisories to prevent riverine pollution by prohibiting the immersion of idols, puja material, and religious offerings in rivers. Recently, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) too urged all urban local bodies in the city to set up temporary ponds in residential areas for the immersion of idols. The



A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE POLLUTION IN RIVERS IS THE RESULT OF ANTHROPOGENIC ACTIVITIES AND THE RELEASE OF RAW SEWAGE, UNTREATED INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS, PESTICIDES, AND DEBRIS INTO THE RIVER

DPCC's guidelines mandate the removal of worship materials like flowers and paper decorations, and of collection of biodegradable material used in the idols for recycling and composting, before the immersion.

However, while the advisory is clear on the 'do's' and 'don'ts' about idol immersion, it is silent regarding the enforcers who would ensure diligent implementation. What is the guarantee that the harmful chemicals released from the idols after immersion would not percolate underground through the multiple water bodies earmarked for the immersion? The larger, more serious implications of this could be contamination of the groundwater. Further, decentralisation of idol immersion away from the Yamuna necessitates the redoubling of efforts to monitor the ground pollution level.

It is thus imperative for the authorities to follow a somewhat centralised approach for monitoring the pollutant load arising due to immersion. Both the authorities in Delhi and the Namami Ganga Clean-up Campaign being undertaken to cleanse

the Ganga river can also draw lessons from the Kolkata Municipal Corporation which has been following the 'no pollution' principle during the Durga Puja rituals in Kolkata, wherein vats are placed alongside rivers for collection of decorative items removed from idols before their immersion. Thereafter, any residual debris in the rivers is extracted with the help of cranes to minimise the pollutant load in the river. This approach is certainly worth emulating.

The NCAER study also revealed that a large section of the people living in the Ganga river basin depends on the river for their daily needs and livelihood. Similarly, the Yamuna river is the aquatic lifeline for Delhi and its surrounding areas. Hence, even as the Yamuna, Ganga, and all our holy rivers ostensibly absolve us of our moral sins, the least we can do in return is to keep them free of physical and human waste.

(Sanjib Pohit is Professor and Anupma Mehta is Editor at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ANTI BJP ALLIANCE NOT EASY

Sir — in a major step towards forging a United anti-BJP front, Nitish Kumar and Sharad Pawar attempted to forge a united front to upset BJP in the 2024 elections. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav on Sunday met Congress president Sonia Gandhi here in a bid to unite Opposition parties to take on the BJP in the 2024 general elections.

The meeting at Ms Gandhi's 10 Janpath residence is considered very crucial in forging an Opposition unity as efforts are on to reconcile differences between Nitish and the first meeting with Ms. Gandhi since he severed ties with the BJP. But it is not so easy. Already, we have seen how coalition government fell in a heap at the state and central levels. The coalition forging ahead should become a laughing stock in the wake of the increasing popularity of PM Modi internationally.

CKR Nathan | Chennai

### BAN ON NON-VEG ADS

Sir — The Bombay High Court on September 26 dismissed as withdrawn a plea seeking a restriction or ban on the advertisement for non-vegetarian food in print and electronic media. The high court asked the petitioners why they were seeking to encroach on others' rights. After the Jain community petitioners sought to withdraw the plea in view of the past Supreme Court decisions, the division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Madhav J Jamdar allowed them to file a fresh petition with better particulars and dismissed the present PIL as withdrawn.

The high court said that the issue falls within the issue of the legislature, and it cannot frame rules and laws imposing bans. As soon as the petition came up for hearing, the bench clarified that the court can intervene only when rights are infringed. The petition, filed by Religious

## Scintillating Series Win



Team India learned the art of winning after losing the first match. This is possible in home matches where pitch conditions are known to the team very well. Despite our bowlers being hit all over the ground by the tail-enders and by the openers slogging. However, the batters phased their innings after losing

openers early.

Both Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav combined well to script a century stand and sealed the series from World Champion Australia. In the end, Hardik Pandya played his part to perfection to achieve an incredible win with a ball to spare. This win boosted the team's confidence before embarking on a tour of Australia with those practice games. Though it is just a game and someone loses and someone wins, winning a series is great for team's morale and uplift the spirit of its wellwishers. It was indeed a Scintillating series win for Team India. It was special because it happened outside India which is indeed very heartening. Well done boys in the blue just keep your focus and keep winning for the country.

CK Ramani | Coimbatore

and Charitable Trust and stated that such promotions are a violation of the right to live in peace and the right to privacy. The court said: "What about violation of Article 19 of the Constitution? Why are you encroaching on others' rights? There are two ways of looking at it. An ordinary man would say switch off the TV. But we would look at it from the point of law. What you are asking has to be provided by law. Here there is no such law, which is why you are asking us to frame the law. The court allowed the petitioner to withdraw the plea stating that the petitioners can file a fresh petition if they so desire.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### MURDER MOST FOUL

Sir — Your editorial "Himalayas burning was very apt. There is no end to rapes and murder of innocent women under the BJP's rule. The murder of Ankita Bhandari, a 19-year-old female receptionist is another example that women are not safe under BJP's rule. Ankita who worked in a BJP leader-owned resort was murdered just because she didn't oblige the

dirty proposal of the BJP leader and she was killed because the son of a politician thought he could do whatever he wished to. According to a media report the culprits wanted to push her into prostitution and she was pushed into a canal when she resisted molestation.

The police only arrested the culprits after immense public pressure and the culprits allegedly confessed to the murder in custody. In BJP's rule, we are seeing that remission is given to culprits who raped Bilkis Banu and killed her three years daughter. BJP gives remission to rape convicts, rallies in support of rapists in Unnao, Hathras, and Kathua. It felicitates the rape convicts. Smriti Irani whose duty is only to criticise Rahul Gandhi is always maintaining a stoic silence whenever a lady is raped by BJP leaders. Narendra Modi, who swears "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" now should break his silence and take swift action against predators.

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

My son is a seedhasadhabalak and is only concerned about his work. I want justice for both my son Pulkit and the murdered girl.



BJP leader —Vinod Arya



Though there is a right-wing extremist asserting [itself in Canada], I don't think there is any threat to any minorities here.

Professor, Carleton University —Chinnaiah Jangam

It was a secret that I will be contesting 2024 elections. This news Modiji and Amit Shahji were supposed to announce, but it is my good fortune that HemaMalini announced it.



Actor —Rakhi Sawant



It's good that he (Pant) has not set the world on fire in white ball cricket, there is plenty to come.

Indian skipper —Rohit Sharma

How often do you hear people talking about it; pronouncing it, in fact, look at the media coverage. What does the media cover, what does the media not cover?



S Jaishankar —External Affairs Minister

## FIRST COLUMN

SOCIAL MEDIA SPURS  
SUICIDAL TENDENCIESExcessive usage of social media  
could harm mental health of kids

JYOTI KAPOOR

With suicide cases being the second leading cause of death in the young population (10-24 years), influence of social media/internet is immense. Digital interventions among teenaged kids and young adults are significantly affecting their mental health and well-being, making them more susceptible to self-harm, suicidal ideation and later suicide attempts.

A study published in 2015 highlighted teens who reported using social media sites more than two hours a day are much more likely to report poor mental health outcomes. Besides, the suicidal thoughts, excessive social media usage results in a low self-esteem and poor body image are quite a frequent behaviour.

An addiction is identified from mild to severe using 11 criteria of addiction outlined in the 'Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)-5'. A child can be termed as a social media addict if he/she meets two or fewer criteria.

The 11 criteria of addiction are more social media usage than wished for; having frequent urge or desire of checking social networking sites; usage of social media started conflicts in their immediate relationships with others; hampering his/her ability to function, work, or complete tasks; focussing more on social media and cutting back on activities which they previously used to enjoy; experiencing physical or emotional discomfort when you stop or cut back; stopping or cutting back on social media making them irritable; negative impacts to physical or mental health; continued use of social media despite



problems, consequences, or impairments; using in situations that are risky or hazardous (i.e. while driving or working); reduced real-world social interaction; needing more time/likes/follows to get the same amount of pleasure or enjoyment from social media.

Parents play an important role in the de-addiction regime of social media in their kids. Though it's a tough job, if done in a friendly way then it can strengthen a parent and child bond. They need to build a positive and family environment at their home so that the child doesn't get the urge of the virtual world. Parents should also take part in their social media usage by learning about the programs/apps, their child is using. Ask the child to teach you about the nuances of these platforms. Parents need to show interest in such activities and ask questions.

In order to monitor children's online activities, the tablets and computers are placed in common areas, while a tab on child's online accounts be kept. This will make them understand that monitoring their online activity would help keep them to stay protected from cyber bullying.

But be attentive as some children or teens may create a fake second account for their parents to follow. You can ask them in a friendly gesture about the people they are friends with online.

Showing genuine interest will help them feel comfortable talking about it. Explain that it's easy for someone on the Internet to pretend to be someone they're not. Talk about the importance of keeping online friendships in the online world. Make it clear that if your child wants to meet an online friend in person, it must be in a public place and with a trusted adult. Talk in detail about what's okay and safe to post online, and what isn't.

People do not always have control over what others post about them. Explain how information and photos found on the internet can resurface years later. Explain how autocorrect can sometimes result in misunderstandings and hurt feelings.

(The author is Founder & Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali)

Mainstream channels  
are the biggest threat

ANURAG THAKUR

Edited version of speech by Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur at the Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) on Sep 20

I am extremely delighted to be amidst you at the AIBD (Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development) general conference meeting 2022 and address this prestigious assembly of the broadcasters from the Asia-Pacific region...

Firstly, I would like to congratulate AIBD for creating a desirable platform for broadcasters to put forward their opinions and comments to build a strong future for themselves.

I have been told that even during the difficult Covid period, when the world was facing fear and gloom, lockdowns had slowed the pace of life, economies were under severe stress, AIBD leadership kept the member countries connected online and maintained a constant dialogue on how media can mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

The member countries were immensely benefitted through sharing of information on the latest developments in the medical field, positive stories of Covid warriors and more importantly in countering fake news which was spreading faster than the pandemic.

If we talk about the theme of the event, it highlights the need for creating a stronger future for broadcasting in a post-pandemic era...

It is media which brought the world on one platform during this difficult phase and reinforced the spirit of one global family.

We have also seen the extensive use of media—both mainstream as well as new digital platforms—by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government during this exceptionally difficult phase of Covid-19.

Information was shared in a timely and transparent manner, ensuring a quick response, mitigating myths and spreading awareness about a pandemic that was both evolving as well as ever expanding.

Together with our media friends, we ensured saving millions of lives the world over, which otherwise could be lost, had timely information not flowed to the people about safety measures and protection from Covid-19 virus.

I would specially appreciate India's Public Service Broadcaster, Doordarshan and All India Radio, as they very satisfactorily delivered on their mandate of public service and stood strong with the people during the testing times of the pandemic.

Even the other Indian broadcasters and Indian media in general ensured that Covid-19 awareness messages, important government guidelines and free online consultations with doctors reached everyone in nook and corner of the country.

Expert opinions through programmes like Doctors Speak and campaigns such as Mask-up India by the public broadcaster Doordarshan played a very significant role at the time when fake news on the epidemic became a menace.



IF YOU [NEWS  
BROADCASTER  
S] DECIDE TO  
INVITE GUESTS  
WHO ARE  
POLARISING,  
WHO SPREAD  
FALSE  
NARRATIVES  
AND WHO  
SHOUT AT THE  
TOP OF THEIR  
LUNGS, THE  
CREDIBILITY  
OF YOUR  
CHANNEL  
GOES DOWN

(The author is  
Information &  
Broadcasting Minister)



The media the world over played a very significant role in educating the people of the country about the vaccine availability and the benefits of being vaccinated against coronavirus.

It helped the health system in fighting the vaccine hesitancy...

The Covid-19 crisis has thrown up challenges as well as provided an opportunity not just to re-invent journalism, but to redefine the media as a trusted source of news and information.

Our mainstream media organisations have a great challenge to provide truthful accurate and reliable news faster, while preserving media ethics and values.

Real journalism is about facing the facts, presenting the truth and letting all sides the platform to present their views.

In my personal opinion the biggest threat to mainstream media is not from new age digital platforms, but rather the mainstream media channel itself.

If you decide to invite guests who are polarising, who spread false narratives and who shout at the top of their lungs, the credibility of your channel goes down. Your decisions regarding the guest, the tone and visuals define your credibility in the eyes of the audience.

The viewer may stop for a minute to watch your show, but will never trust your anchor, your channel or brand as a trusted and transparent source of news.

So my question to broadcasters present here today is this:

Are you going to watch the narrative be defined by soundbites, or redefine yourself and set

the terms for your guests and channel?

Are you going to watch as the younger audience switches and sweeps through the shrill on TV news, or are you going to bring back the neutrality in news and discussion in debates to stay ahead of the game?

Are you going to show visuals that grab eyeballs and inflame anger, or show restraint and project visuals in context to showcase the full picture?

And finally, how will you re-define and innovate your TV news content, presentation and dissemination to reach the new-age audience who is constantly being fed information via social media platforms?

Instead of compromising our values in this fierce competition, we must work hard to preserve professionalism.

I strongly believe that journalists are duty bound to report news without fabrication, despite temptations to compete with those who propagate false news.

The AIBD as a regional inter-governmental organisation must continue to train and equip media practitioners with the best professional skills to gain broader freedom for our media. India stands ready to support your efforts.

Another important area of cooperation is good quality content exchange among the member countries.

Prasar Bharati has been sharing DD India channel in the OTT platform of South Korea on reciprocal basis including exchange of several coproduction programmes. Prasar Bharati is also uplinking

Bangladesh TV on its Freedish platform. We have also partnered with Australia in the field of broadcasting in March 2022 through programme sharing.

The broadcasters of the two countries are also exploring opportunities in co-production and joint broadcasting of programmes spanning multiple genres.

I am happy to state that DD India with the objective to become Global Public Broadcaster channel is now available on OTT platforms.

Dear delegates, you have come to India at a time when we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Independence. It is the time for us to pay tribute to hundreds of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives and freed the country from the shackles of foreign rule.

This is the festival time for us which we call 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. It has taken the form of a mass movement where people from all walks of life are participating in different programmes across the country.

Before concluding, I truly believe that media, in all its forms, has immense ability to shape public perceptions and perspectives as an effective tool of empowerment.

It is imperative to create an enabling environment for our journalists and broadcasters friends for making the space of media more vibrant and rewarding.

I wish the delegates from the member countries of the AIBD a very happy stay in India. I am sure that the deliberations which you are going to hold over the two days will be meaningful and bring new insights to the media industry.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

TODAY'S ACTORS ARE INSECURE TO SHARE SCREEN  
SPACE WITH EACH OTHER AS  
COMPARED TO 80S-90S ACTORS.

—ACTOR  
SANJAY DUTT



I THINK THEY ARE STILL DOING THREE-HERO FILMS AND  
TWO-HERO FILMS. AS FOR INSECURITY, SOME PEOPLE  
HAVE IT FOR SURE, SOME PEOPLE DON'T CARE.

—ACTOR  
JACKIE SHROFF

## Release of cheetahs significant in various ways

But there are as usual naysayers and armchair environmental critics who argue that bringing African cheetah is a bad idea

After 70 years since the killing of the last surviving cheetah by Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of Koriya estate in Madhya Pradesh (now in Chhattisgarh), the Centre re-introduced cheetahs in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon after returning from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit released the first batch of eight cheetahs on September 17, 2022 in Kuno National Park of Madhya Pradesh.

The cheetahs will first be quarantined for a few days in an enclosure and gradually released in a larger fenced area and into the forests ultimately. The release of cheetahs is significant not only from the point of view of conservation of wildlife but also for the



VK BAHUGUNA

(The author is former  
Director-General, ICFRE,  
Ministry of Environment  
& Forest)

civilisational message to bring back the lost heritage of biodiversity and celebrate the co-existence of all life forms on earth.

It is also a proud moment for the much maligned Indian Forest Service (IFS) which has been using the acronym IFS for over more than a century for getting back a priceless species it conserved against all odds before it went extinct due to the false notion of bravery by hunting with guns by the misguided Royals. Cheetah is the most charismatic, beautiful and fastest animal in the world.

Cheetah is capable of accelerating up to 120 kilometres per hour in just over three seconds. At top speed, their stride is 23 feet long which makes them fearsome hunters. The male and female cheetahs live

differently. The male siblings move in a group of two to three or even more and this is called a coalition which lasts for life and protects their territory well, while the female cheetah lives alone and meets the male only during mating time.

Cheetahs do not pose much challenge for humans and many royals and others used to rear them and used them for hunting. Unlike other cats they do not roar but meow or purr.

However, after this release of cheetahs in the Kuno National Park, the real challenge to the foresters has begun in order to see if we can replicate the success of tiger conservation for cheetah also.

The cheetah became extinct due to indiscriminate hunting and shrinking of its



natural habitat. It thrives in grassland and in India the saddest part is that we have never given focus on grassland conservation.

Now there are as usual naysayers and armchair environmental critics who argue that bringing African cheetah is a bad idea. Today, if cheetah can find a new home akin to their home territory there is nothing wrong in it from the

point of view of biodiversity conservation. After all, the migration of animals and plants from one geographic area to another had routinely happened during the evolutionary process.

The real test of re-introduction will happen when these eight cheetahs adapt to their new home and start hunting and live in a natural style of their own so that the next batch of cheetah can be brought here. The good thing about Kuno is that it has a good prey base for them to survive.

The second issue is how the local people will see this introduction in future in terms of protection of their habitats.

The Madhya Pradesh government had already relocated 24 villages and the forest department though had made

adequate precautions for their protection and movements and had made arrangements for 24 hours vigilance but they will have to see that the tree climbing leopard do not enter their territory.

The leopard hunts by ambush but cheetah do not have retractable claws and hunt for a particular type of prey like medium sized antelopes, hares, calves of herd animals, birds through their speed and sudden galloping gait. Thirdly, the local people and scientific community from the Wild Life Institute and Universities need to be involved in the conservation process with liberal research and training grants.

Fourthly, the poachers must be kept at bay and for this forest department at field level must possess the best of the

equipment. The Central as well as the Madhya Pradesh Governments, therefore, will have to plan a long term strategy for the cheetah conservation in India so that in next few years the population of the cheetahs can grow.

The situation of manpower from forest guard to ranger level and infrastructure needs a review. We must understand that the manpower of the forest department and infrastructure like superior weapons and other modern gadgets are no match for the superior equipment of the poachers.

It will be a special challenge for the Park Director, because cheetah breeding requires proper attention and resources. A "Project Cheetah Scheme" needs to be started on the pattern of Project Tiger.



# DRONE ATTACK HITS UKRAINE; US VOWS 'CONSEQUENCES' OVER NUKES



AP ■ KYIV

An overnight drone strike near the Ukrainian port of Odesa sparked a massive fire and explosion, the military said Monday, hours after the United States vowed to take decisive action and promised "catastrophic consequences" if Russia uses nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

The airstrike was the latest in a series of drone attacks on the key southern city in recent days. This one hit a military installation and detonated ammunition when it struck. Firefighters were struggling to contain the blaze, the Ukrainian military's southern command said.

Concerns are growing that Russia may seek to escalate the conflict once it completes what Ukraine and the West see as illegal referendums in parts of Ukraine under its control.

The voting, which ends Tuesday, happened after thousands of residents had fled and has included images of armed Russian troops going door-to-door to pressure Ukrainians into voting, Russia is widely expected to declare

the results in its favor, a step that could see Moscow annex the territory and give it the pretext to seek to defend it as its own territory under the Russian nuclear umbrella.

Jake Sullivan, the U.S. National security adviser, made clear that Russia would pay a high price if it made good on veiled threats to use nuclear weapons in the conflict.

"If Russia crosses this line there will be catastrophic consequences for Russia. The United States will respond decisively," he told NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday.

Washington's message has been more detailed in private conversations with their Russian counterparts, he said, without elaborating.

"So, the Russians under-

stand where we are. We understand where we are. We are planning for every contingency" he said in separate comments to ABC's This Week. "And we will do what is necessary to deter Russia from taking this step."

Elsewhere, a Russian rocket attack targeted a village in southeastern Ukraine. The attack struck an unnamed vil-

lage and the regional center of Zaporizhzhia, regional military official Oleksandr Starukh said online.

He posted pictures of damaged buildings and said unspecified infrastructure also had been damaged and fires were sparked by the attack.

Meanwhile, the first batches of Russian troops mobilized by Moscow have begun to arrive at military bases, the British military said Monday.

In an online intelligence briefing, the British Defense Ministry said "many tens of thousands" had been called up. However, the Russians face challenges ahead.

"Unlike most Western armies, the Russian military provides low-level, initial training to soldiers within their designated operational units, rather than in dedicated training establishments," the British said.

Under normal circumstances, two battalions deploy while a third remains behind to train. But in the Ukraine war, even the third battalion is deploying, weakening that training, the British said.

## Ukrainians scared by Russia's preordained referendums

AP ■ KYIV

After seven months of war, many Ukrainians fear even more suffering and political repression as referendums orchestrated by the Kremlin portend Russia's imminent annexation of four occupied regions.

Many residents fled the regions before the so-called referendums got underway, scared about being forced to vote or potentially being conscripted into the Russian army.

Others described hiding behind closed doors, hoping to avoid having to answer to armed soldiers going door-to-door to collect votes.

Petro Kobernik, who left the Russian-held southern city of Kherson just before the pre-ordained voting began on Friday, said the prospect of living under Russian law and the escalating war made him and others extremely jittery about the future.

"The situation is changing rapidly, and people fear that



they will be hurt either by the Russian military, or Ukrainian guerrillas and the advancing Ukrainian troops," Kobernik, 31, said in a telephone interview. As some Russian officials brought ballots to neighbourhoods accompanied by armed police, Kobernik said his 70-year-old father shut the door of his private house in the village of Novotroitske — part of Kherson — and vowed not to let anyone in.

The referendums, denounced by Kyiv and its Western allies as rigged, are taking place in the Russian-

controlled Luhansk and Kherson regions, and in occupied areas of the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

They are widely viewed as a pretext for annexation, and Russian authorities are expected to announce the regions as theirs once the vote ends on Tuesday. The Kremlin has used this tactic before.

In 2014, it held a hastily called referendum in Ukraine's Crimea region to justify annexation of the Black Sea peninsula, a move that was denounced as illegitimate by most of the world.

## Putin grants Russian citizenship to Snowden



AP ■ MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin has granted Russian citizenship to former US security contractor Edward Snowden, according to a decree signed by the Russian leader on Monday.

Snowden is one of 75 foreign nationals listed by the decree as being granted Russian citizenship. The decree was published on an official government website.

Snowden, a former contractor with the US National Security Agency, has been living in Russia since 2013 to escape prosecution in the US after leaking classified documents detailing government surveillance programs.

He was granted permanent residency in 2020 and said at the time that he planned to apply for Russian citizenship, without renouncing his U.S. Citizenship.

Snowden's lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena, told Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti that the former contractor's wife Lindsay Mills, an American who has been living with him in Russia, will also be applying for a Russian passport.

## Lankan Govt designates high-security zones for ensuring stability: Official

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan Government on Monday defended its decision to declare several key locations in Colombo as high-security zones, saying the move is aimed at ensuring stability and not curbing freedom of expression, amid mounting criticism from rights groups.

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Friday declared several locations, including Parliament, the Supreme Court complex and the President's Secretariat among others, as high-security zones (HSZs), banning any kind of protest or agitation in their vicinity.

"HSZs are nothing new. We saw how the Presidential Secretariat came to be surrounded by groups recently. They blocked officials from functioning. If the main place where key decisions are made is blocked, we have to take decisions to prevent it," said Kamal Gunaratne, the secretary to the ministry of defence.

Sri Lanka's Presidential Secretariat was stormed in July by a sea of anti-government protesters who had been demanding former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation for the country's economic mismanagement.

The Secretariate resumed operations 100 days after the building's entry gate was blocked by security officials.

In an extraordinary gazette notification issued on Friday, the President's Secretariat said areas around Parliament,



Supreme Court Complex, High Court Complex in Colombo, Magistrate Court Complex in Colombo and Attorney General's Department, Presidential Secretariat, President's House, Sri Lanka Navy Headquarters and Police Headquarters have been declared as HSZs.

The Ministry of Defence and Sri Lanka Army headquarters, the Sri Lanka Air Force headquarters, the Prime Minister's Office, the Temple Trees prime minister's residence and the Official Residences of the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and the Commanders of the Tri Forces are also HSZs, it said.

According to the notification, protests and public gatherings in the areas declared as HSZ are banned while vehicle parking won't be allowed in the vicinity of any of the designated locations.

Human rights groups have condemned the move as part of the government's repression to crack down on peaceful protests against it.

## Japan bans export of chemical weapons goods to Russia

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan expressed grave concern about Russia's possible use of nuclear weapons against Ukraine as the top government spokesman on Monday announced an additional ban on exports of chemical weapons-related goods to Russia.

"As the world's only country to have suffered nuclear attacks, we strongly demand



that the threat or use of nuclear weapons by Russia should never happen." Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a regular news conference. Matsuno was responding

to a question about US national security adviser Jake Sullivan's comments Sunday on CBS news that the United States will act "decisively" in case of a Russian nuclear attack on Ukraine.

Asked if Japan approves of the possible use of nuclear weapons by the United States against Russia, Matsuno refused to comment on the grounds that it was a hypothetical question.

## Italy's EU partners vigilant as far right set to take power

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Italy's European Union partners are signalling discomfort, even vigilance, after Italy, one of the bloc's founding members, swung far to the political right. The result of Italy's latest election raises troubling questions about whether Rome will maintain its commitments to EU principles, laws and ambitions.

The French PM on Monday said her government, along with EU officials, would be watching to ensure that basic human rights are guaranteed in Italy after Giorgia Meloni's neo-fascist far-right Brothers of Italy Party topped the vote count in Sunday's parliamentary elec-

tion. "In Europe, we uphold some values and obviously we will ensure, and the president of the commission will ensure, that these values — on human rights, the respect of other people, especially the respect of the right to abortion — will be respected by all (member states)," PM Elisabeth Borne told French BFM TV.

Such statements among the longtime EU partners are highly unusual and follow European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's pre-election warning that Europe "has the tools" to deal with any country — and that means Italy too — if things go "in a difficult direction."

## 12 held after clashes outside Iranian Embassy in London

AP ■ LONDON

British police said on Monday that 12 people were arrested and at least five police officers were seriously injured after violent disorder broke out during protests outside the Iranian Embassy in London. Large crowds had gathered all week outside the compound to protest the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in custody in Iran after she was detained by the country's morality police.

The Metropolitan Police force said most protesters had been peaceful, but on Sunday a group of activists sought to confront police.

## Russian military recruiter shot amid fear of Ukraine call-up

AP ■ KYIV

A young man shot a Russian military officer at close range at an enlistment office Monday, in an unusually bold attack reflecting resistance to the Russian leadership's efforts to mobilise hundreds of thousands of men to wage war on Ukraine.

The shooting comes after scattered arson attacks on enlistment offices and protests in Russian cities against the call-up that have resulted in at least 2,000 arrests. Russia is seeking to bolster its military as its Ukraine offensive has bogged down and sapped its forces. In the attack in the Siberian city of Ust-Ilimsk, 25-year-old local resident Ruslan Zinin walked

into the enlistment office saying "no one will go to fight" and "we will all go home now," according to local media reports.

Zinin was arrested and officials vowed tough punishment. Local authorities said the military commandant was in intensive care, without elaborating. A witness quoted by local news site said Zinin was in a room of people called up to fight. Troops from his region were scheduled to head to military bases Tuesday.

Concerns are growing that Russia may seek to escalate the conflict - including potentially using nuclear weapons - once it completes what Ukraine and the West see as illegal referendums in parts of Ukraine under its control.

## US, allies push for UN rights body debate on Xinjiang abuses

AP ■ GENEVA

The United States and several Western allies presented a proposal on Monday for the UN's main human rights body to hold a special debate over reported rights abuses and violations against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in China's western Xinjiang region.

A core group of countries including Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden were behind a draft resolution at the Human Rights Council that would call for a debate on Xinjiang at the council's next session in early 2023, diplomats said.



It amounts to the latest geopolitical salvo between the West and Beijing in the wake of recent tensions over issues like the future of Taiwan.


If approved, the resolution would mark the first time that human rights concerns in China have been formally put on the council's agenda.

Diplomats in Geneva, where the 47-nation council is based, have been on the lookout for whether Western coun-

tries might be able to muster enough political capital to present and push through a resolution on Xinjiang before the council's current session ends on October 7.

The draft resolution would only convene a debate in the council — which debates issues all the time — and stops short of calling for stronger tools in the council's arsenal to monitor rights abuses, such as convening independent experts to scrutinize countries' activities.

While less intrusive than it might have been, the draft proposal is likely to rankle China, which has pushed back on attempts to single it out and hold it to account over the Xinjiang rights issue.



**Registered & Corporate Office:**  
**YES BANK Limited :** YES BANK House, Off Western Express Highway, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400055, India.  
**Tel:** +91 (22) 5091 9800 / +91 (22) 6507 9800 **Fax:** +91 (22) 2619 2866  
**Website:** www.yesbank.in **Email:** shareholders@yesbank.in **CIN:** L65190MH2003PLC143249

**[Rule – 8(1)]**  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas,  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of YES BANK Limited under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) (“**the said Act**”) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 (“**the said Rules**”), issued demand notices dated December 14, 2021, calling upon, Gyanmala Public Education Trust (“**Borrower 1**”), Mount Litera Education Foundation (“**Borrower 2**”), Zee Learn Education Society (“**Borrower 3**”), (Collectively referred as “Borrowers”) and Digital Ventures Private Limited (“**Mortgagor**”), to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **Rs 27,52,31,549.64** (Rupees Twenty Seven Crore Fifty Two Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Nine and Sixty Four Paise Only) due from Borrower 1 as on December 14, 2021, **Rs 84,05,20,201.42** (Rupees Eighty Four Crore Five Lakhs Twenty Thousand Two Hundred and One and Forty Two Paise Only) due from Borrower 2 as on December 14, 2021, and **Rs 72,00,30,877.22** (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Seven and Twenty Two Paise Only) due from Borrower 3 as on December 14, 2021 together with further interest and charges thereon, at the contractual rates upon the footing of compound interest until payment/ realization, within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrowers and the Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, as detailed in the respective demand notice(s), notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, the Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession (symbolic) of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of the Section 13of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this the 20th day of September of the year 2022.

The Borrowers and the Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of YES BANK Limited for an amount of **Rs 27,52,31,549.64** (Rupees Twenty Seven Crore Fifty Two Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Nine and Sixty Four Paise Only) due from Borrower 1 on December 14, 2021, **Rs 84,05,20,201.42** (Rupees Eighty Four Crore Five Lakhs Twenty Thousand Two Hundred and One and Forty Two Paise Only) due from Borrower 2 as on December 14, 2021 and **Rs 72,00,30,877.22** (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Seven and Twenty Two Paise Only) due from Borrower 3 as on December 14, 2021 together with further interest and other charges, costs thereon as per the sanction terms till the date of payment.

The Borrowers’ and Mortgagor’s attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (MORTGAGED PROPERTY)**  
All that piece and parcel of leasehold land admeasuring 43 Karnal 17 Marlas or 5.48 Acre (22169.70 sq mtrts) comprising in Khewat No 332/Min//317, Khatoni no 398/1, Rect No 76, Killa no 21/1 (3-8), Rect No 77, Killa no 23/2 (6-13), 24/2 (6-13), 25/2 (6-13), Khewat no 1012 Min //961 Min, 962 Min, Khatoni No 1254, Rect No 82, Killa no 3/1 (5-2), 4(7-7), 5/1 (5-2), 1/1/1 (2-19) in 8 Kittas situated in the revenue estate of village Kutail, tehsil and District Karnal, Haryana and bounded as under:

Towards North-Land of Amira Foods	Towards South-Sahara India	Towards East-Sahara India	Towards West-Rasta and land of owners /Lessors
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together with rights liberties and approvals attached thereto, present and future with all existing buildings, structures, erections and/ or constructions thereon and developments/additions thereafter from/after the date of respective mortgages and all the fixture and furniture's and plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future.

Ninad Prabhu  
Assistant Vice President  
(Authorized Officer)  
**YES BANK Limited**

Date : September 20, 2022  
Place: Karnal



# US carrier, S Korea warships launch drills amid North's threat

AP ■ SEOUL

A US aircraft carrier and its battle group launched drills with South Korean warships off the Korean Peninsula's east coast on Monday in their first such training in five years, a day after North Korea test-fired a short-range ballistic missile in a possible response to the exercise.

North Korea could conduct more tests in coming days as it views US-South Korean military exercises as a practice to invade the county and often reacts with displays of weapons designed to attack its rivals.

The four days of drills are aimed at demonstrating the allies' "powerful resolve to respond to North Korean provocations" and improve their ability to perform joint naval operations, the South Korean navy said in a statement.

More than 20 US and South Korean navy ships, including the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, a US cruiser and South Korean and US destroyers, were mobilised for the drills, according to the navy statement. It said US and South Korean fighter jets and helicopters will also take part in the training.

It would be the first such



joint drills involving a US aircraft carrier near the peninsula since 2017, when the US sent three aircraft carriers including the Reagan for naval drills with South Korea in response to North Korean nuclear and missile tests.

The allies had since cancelled or downsized some of their regular drills to support now-dormant talks on North Korea's nuclear programme or guard against COVID-19.

The North Korean missile fired on Sunday flew about 600 kilometres at the maximum altitude of 60 kilometres before falling into the waters off the

North's east coast, according to South Korean estimates.

Some experts say North Korea might have launched a nuclear-capable, highly maneuverable ballistic missile and that its 600 kilometre-flight had enough range to strike a southeastern South Korean port where the Reagan was previously docked.

North Korea has performed a record number of missile tests this year as it steadfastly rebuffs US and South Korean calls to resume the nuclear diplomacy.

North Korea has said it won't return to talks unless the

United States drops its hostile policies in an apparent reference to US-South Korean military drills and US-led economic sanctions on it.

Earlier this month, North Korea adopted a new law that authorised the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in some situations, a development that showed its increasingly aggressive nuclear doctrine.

Some analysts say North Korea would eventually aim for arms control negotiations with the US to get sanctions relief and other concessions in return for a partial surrender of its nuclear capability.

# Dependence on Russian def equipment not lack of trying on India's part: Jaishankar

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India's dependence on Russian defence equipment and the strong defence ties with Moscow is not because New Delhi did not approach the US to get those from the United States, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Sunday.

"One of the changes in our relationships has actually been the defence cooperation which has really come about in this current form maybe the last 15 years," Jaishankar told Indian Americans here during an interactive discussion with him organized by the US India Friendship Council and Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies.



"From 1965 pretty much for the next 40 years, there was no US defence equipment to India. This was, in fact, a period when the India Soviet, India Russia relationship became very strong," he said.

"This was not due to a lack of trying

on India's part. I can vouch for it myself. I've had my relatives, my father, my grandfather, they worked with the defence ministry. So, I know firsthand what great efforts were made over those years to try to make the US understand that it was in American interest to have a strong, united, independent, prosperous India," Jaishankar said.

"At that time, they did not succeed, maybe the state of the world was such," he noted. "The change that started was really triggered by the nuclear deal that removed a very big obstacle to go forward and then to actually take the relationship to a new level requires leadership in India," that did not had reservations.

# In Tokyo, US vice prez Harris calls US-Japan alliance 'a cornerstone'

AP ■ TOKYO

US Vice President Kamala Harris met with Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio on Monday shortly after arriving in Tokyo for the state funeral of his predecessor, Shinzo Abe.

Abe, who was assassinated in July, will be honoured on Tuesday, and Harris is leading a U.S. Delegation to pay its respects.

"The alliance between Japan and the United States is a cornerstone of what we believe is integral to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," she said at the Akasaka Palace. Kishida said Abe "poured his heart and soul" into strengthening ties between their two countries.

"I feel it is my duty to carry on his aspirations," Kishida said.

Abe forged closer ties with the United States at a time of increased concern about China's ambitions, and Kishida is continuing his push for a stronger national defense.

The potential for war over Taiwan, a self-governed island that China claims as part of its own territory, has troubled Japan, which would likely be pulled into such a conflict.

President Joe Biden said recently that the U.S. Would send its own troops to defend Taiwan if China attacked.

"The president has addressed that issue. And if it comes up, the vice president will align with the president," said a senior administration official, who requested anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

The official also said Harris would "make clear our ironclad commitment to Japan's security." More than 50,000 U.S. Troops are based there. Harris, who is scheduled to spend three nights in Tokyo, is visiting at a politically fraught moment. Kishida's decision to hold a state funeral for Abe, a conservative nationalist, has been controversial in a country where such memorials are uncommon, and some oppose honoring him in this way.

# 6 Pak Army personnel, including two officers, killed in helicopter crash in Balochistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Six Pakistan Army officials, including two Majors, were killed in a helicopter crash in southwestern Balochistan province, the military said on Monday, the second such incident after another military helicopter crashed in the same province last month.

The crash occurred near Khost in the Harnai district of the province on Sunday night during a flying mission, it said.

All the "six personnel on board, including 2 pilots" were killed in the crash, the Army said. No reason for the crash was given.

The accident comes more than a month after a similar incident occurred in Balochistan on August 1 when a Pakistan Army helicopter crashed, killing all six personnel, including a Lieutenant General, on board.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR),



the media wing of the Pakistani military, said on Monday that 39-year-old Major Khurram Shahzad (pilot) and 30-year-old Major Muhammad Muneeb Afzal (pilot) were among those killed in the crash.

The funeral prayers of the six army personnel were offered at Quetta Garrison, according to the ISPR. Balochistan corps commander as well as senior military and civil officials attended the funeral.

# Indian climber among 12 injured as avalanche hits Nepal's Mt. Manaslu

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Indian climber Baljeet Kaur was among 12 climbers who were injured when an avalanche struck them at the base camp of Mt. Manaslu in Nepal on Monday, according to media reports.

Out of the 12 mountaineers, three were critically injured, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported.

The Department of Tourism confirmed that the avalanche hit at 11:30 am on Monday.

Sources told local media that Sherpa climbers from Seven Summit Treks, Satori Adventure, Imagine Nepal Treks, Elite Expedition, and 8K Expeditions, among others, were injured.

Pemba Sherpa from 8K Expedition said Indian climber Kaur and her Sherpa guide both suffered minor injuries and were safe, the report said.

The Tourism Department is yet to establish contact with the officials at the incident site, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported, quoting the Director of the department.



other civilians were wounded in the clashes that continued overnight, the Health Ministry's emergency services said.

The fighting trapped dozens of families living in the area for hours, said Malek Mersat, a spokesman for the emergency services. Local media reported that one mili-

tia fired at a member of its rivals, wounding a militiaman who was taken to hospital.

The violence was the latest between militias in western Libya. In August, clashes in the capital of Tripoli killed more than 30 people, one of the deadliest bouts of fighting in Libya in many months.

Libya was plunged into chaos after a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. The oil-rich country has for years been split between rival administrations, each backed by rogue militias and foreign governments.

# 2 more arrests in deadly attack during Norway Pride festival

AP ■ COPENHAGEN (DENMARK)

Two more suspects have been arrested in connection with a deadly shooting during the Norwegian capital's annual LGBTQ Pride festival, police said on Monday. The total number of suspects is now at four.

A 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran was arrested shortly after the June shootings in Oslo's nightlife district that killed two people and wounded more than 20.

A second Norwegian man in his 40s is being sought, police said on Friday.

On Monday, police said two more suspects — a man in his 40s with Somali citizenship and a Norwegian national in his 30s — were arrested on Sunday. Both are known to the police, authorities said, adding that they are residents of Oslo.

They faces preliminary charges of "complicity in an act of terrorism", police said.

# Powerful typhoon leaves 6 rescuers dead in north Philippines

AP ■ MANILA

Typhoon Noru blew out of the northern Philippines on Monday, leaving six people dead, knocking down power in two entire provinces, trapping villagers in floods and forcing officials to suspend classes and government work in and around the capital.

The most powerful typhoon to hit the country this year slammed ashore in Burdeos town in Quezon province before nightfall on Sunday then weakened as it barrelled overnight across the main Luzon region, where more than 52,000 people were moved to emergency shelters, some forcibly, officials said.

Gov. Daniel Fernando of Bulacan province, north of Manila, said five rescuers, who were using a boat to help residents trapped in floodwaters, were hit by a collapsed wall then apparently drowned in the rampaging waters.

"They were living heroes who were helping save the lives



of our countrymen in the calamity," Fernando told DZMM radio network. "This is really very sad."

Police said a Bulacan villager drowned after refusing to heed appeals to leave his riverside house. Authorities were separately trying to confirm another death in Burdeos town and a missing farmer in a flooded village in western Zambales province.

In Aurora province's hard-hit Dingalan town, more than 6,000 houses were damaged and a newly built evacuation centre housing more 200 displaced families was battered by the fierce wind and rain but no injuries were reported, officials said.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE XXI ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE ALLIKULAM COMPLEX, CITY CIVIL COURT CHENNAI

O.S. No. 4804 of 2019  
M/s Chaganraj and Company  
By its Proprietor..Plaintiff  
Versus  
M/s Swati Paper Converter and 2 others...Defendants

To D2 M/s Kashvi Papers, D97, Gali No.6, Garhi Maendur, Bajan Pura, Delhi-110053.

Take notice that the above Plaintiff has filed the suit against the Defendants for recovery of Rs. 20,83,820/- and further interest in the above Court. The above case came up for hearing on 21.09.2022 and the Honble XII Addl. Judge, City Civil Court Chennai was pleased to ordered Notice by substitute service to you returnable by 17.10.2022.

Hence be present on 17.10.2022 at 10.30 am in the above said Court to state your objections if any, failing which the above matter will be heard and decided in your absence as ex parte.

V.V.RAVICHANDRAN, Advocate,  
E.No.290/92, 437, New Addl. Law Chambers

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Silky Lamba R/o 17/81, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi have severed all relations with her Parents Anu Lamba And Harish Lamba, and Also With Her Brother Sohni Lamba. She has also disclosed and debarred her Parents And Brother from all her movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk and responsibility. And my client will not be responsible for act/deed/done by them.

SD/- Rajesh Aggarwal (Advocate)  
Enrl. No. D/5046/16 Add:- 45/22, Bhushan Bhawan, Azadpur, Delhi-33

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that our client's customer Mrs. Annu is the owner of property no. 5-d (old no. 5-e), area measuring 42 sq. Yards, with all roof rights, out of Khalsa no. 826, situated in the area of Village Nawada, and the colony known as Ormihari, Phase-I, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 vide sale deed dated 05.07.2022as doc no. 16083 from Mr. Rinku Sharma S/o Jagjit Mohan Sharma who acquired the same vide G.P.A. (notary), ats & will dated 10.05.2009 from Mrs. Monika Maggo who acquired the same vide GPA (notary), ats & will dated 22.02.2008 from Mr. Bhagwan Dass, Mr. Lajpat Rai and Mr. Madan Gopal, who acquired the same vide Mr. Bhagwan Dass, Mr. Lajpat Rai and Mr. Madan Gopal as doc no. 1340 the said property is being mortgaged with M/s Aavas financiers limited "formerly known as Au Housing Finance Ltd." At office no. 707 7th Floor, Vikram Tower, Delhi, Rajendra Place hence this notice is hereby given that all the above said GPA's are active and not revoked till date and any person, banks or financial institution/s, or any parties, having any claim, charge, interest, title, demand, rights, of whatsoever nature in respect of or against the said property by way of inheritance, share, transfer, mortgage, possession, howsoever nature, are hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary support to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication, failing which the said claim of such person/s, if any will be considered as waived and settled.

Mr. Samir Kumar / Lalit Kumar (Advocate)  
M/s. Excel Law Group  
Office at address:- 87-D, on 3 Floor, Pocket-2, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi, Mbl-8130395390/91

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE

**Name of work :** Modification in Garibrath coaches & Power Cars for operation through HOG system as per RDSO Spec No. RDSO/PE/MS/AC/0051-2011 (Rev. 2) dt. 21.01.2016 with Amendment-1 dated 21.03.2017 or latest and Modification Sheet as per RDSO letter no. EL/1.6.9.22 dated:22.06.2020 or latest. **Tender No.:** 30-Elect-117-Chg-2022-23. **Approx cost of the work in (Rs.):** 4.21,70,759.76; **Cost of tender form :** Rs. 0.00; **Address of the Office :** Sr. Divl. Elect, Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 3,60,900.00; **Period of completion of work :** 06 Months; **Last date & time of submission of tender :** 18.10.2022 up to 15.00 hrs. **And opening of tender :** 18.10.2022 at 15.01 hrs. **Website & notice board:** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI

2516/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

AP ■ CANBERRA



"amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars," O'Neil said.

Australian law doesn't currently allow for Optus to be fined for the breach.

"A very substantial reform task is going to emerge from a breach of this scale and size," O'Neil said.

"One significant question is whether the cybersecurity requirements that we place on large telecommunications providers in this country are fit for purpose," she added.

O'Neil called on Optus to

offer compromised customers free credit monitoring to protect them from identity theft, a request that the Sydney-based company complied with later on Monday.

Optus announced it was offering its "most affected" customers 12-month free subscriptions to Equifax Protect, a credit monitoring and identity protection service.

Optus said the information that had been accessed by an unnamed third party included customers' names, dates of birth, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.

For a minority, the personal data also included identification documents such as driver's license and passport numbers. Police and other government security agencies had worked through the weekend to protect affected customers, O'Neil said.

Government agencies were also working with the banking sector to protect customers.

### UJVN LIMITED

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)  
H. O. "TILAKBHAI" MANJARI BADI, CHS ROAD, DEHRADUN - 248006, CN. No. UJVN/19/19/2022/22596  
Tele : 9135-273358, 276388, Fax: 9135-276357, website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

No. 702

E-Tender Notice

Date: 26.09.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chibro Power Station, invites online bids from interested parties.

E-Tender No: CH(Maint.)-17/2022-23 Supply & Application of Coating Material on Draft Tube Chamber, Draft Tube Window & Stay vanes of Unit No. 04 at Chibro Power Station

Estimated cost : ₹ 49.67,254/- GST extra

Date of availability of bid document on website: 27.09.2022, 11:00 hrs. Last date for submission of bid on website: 18.10.2022, 12:00 hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

Executive Engineer, (M.)

### THE HINDUSTAN TIMES LTD.

CIN : U74899DL1927PLC000155

Regd. Office: HT House, 18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110001; Tel : +011-66561206  
Email: [secretarial.ht@rediffmail.com](mailto:secretarial.ht@rediffmail.com)

**NOTICE**

**Sub: For the attention of Equity Shareholders of the Company**

As per the provisions of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("The Rules") all shares ("such shares") in respect of which dividend has not been claimed by the shareholders for seven consecutive years or more shall be transferred to the name of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority.

Hence, all the underlying shares in respect of which dividends are not paid/claimed for the last seven consecutive years from financial year 2014-15, have to be transferred to Demat account of IEPF as per the said Rules.

In pursuance of the Rules, the Company has communicated individually to the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority for taking appropriate action(s). The same shall be regarded and deemed as adequate notice for issue of duplicate share certificate/ transfer of shares to the IEPF Authority as per the Rules.

Notice is hereby given to all such shareholders to make an application to the Company by 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 with a request for claiming unpaid dividend so that the shares are not transferred to the IEPF. It may be noted that if no response or claim is received by the Company by 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, the Company will be constrained to transfer such shares to the IEPF Authority without any further notice.

Concerned shareholders may note that both the unclaimed dividend and the shares transferred to IEPF Authority including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back by them from IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed by the Rules. In case the shareholders have any queries on the subject matter and Rules, they may contact the Company's Secretarial Department at Hindustan Times House, Mezzanine Floor, 18-20, K. G. Marg, New Delhi-110001, Tel: 011-66561206, e-mail: [secretarial.ht@rediffmail.com](mailto:secretarial.ht@rediffmail.com).

For The Hindustan Times Ltd.  
Sd/-  
**Virendra Kumar Charoria**  
Director & Company Secretary  
DIN: 00046895

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2022  
Place: New Delhi

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these vehicle owners are informed to come to the company's office and claim the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise, all these vehicles will be scrapped in the next three days.

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NOREG50,	DL1CL1191,	DL8SAG3660,
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# India's GDP to grow at 7.3% in '23: S&P

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Monday projected India's economic growth at 7.3 per cent in the current fiscal with downside risks and said inflation is likely to remain above RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent till the end of 2022.

In its Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, S&P said India's growth next year will get support from domestic demand recovery after the coronavirus pandemic.

"We have retained our India growth outlook at 7.3 per cent for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and 6.5 per cent for the next fiscal year, although we see the risks tilted to the downside," it said.

Other agencies have cut India's GDP growth forecast amid higher inflation and rising policy interest rates. Earlier this month, Fitch Ratings slashed the growth estimate to 7 per cent for the current fiscal from 7.8 per cent pegged earlier. India Ratings & Research too had reduced its projections to 6.9 per cent from 7 per cent earlier.

Asian Development Bank has cut the projection to 7 per cent from 7.5 per cent earlier.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects the Indian economy to grow 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal (April-March). The growth last year (2021-22)



was 8.7 per cent.

Indian economy expanded 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter, sequentially higher than 4.10 per cent growth clocked in the January-March period.

On inflation, S&P Global Ratings pegged the average rate in the current fiscal at 6.8 per cent and projected it to fall to 5 per cent in the next fiscal beginning April 2023.

"India headline Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) is likely to remain outside the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent until the end of 2022. That's amid substantial weather-induced wheat and rice price increases as well as sticky core inflation. And food inflation may rise again," it said.

Retail or consumer price

inflation has remained above RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent for the eighth month in a row and was at 7 per cent in August. Wholesale price inflation remained in double digits for the 17th straight month and was at 12.41 per cent in August.

According to S&P Global Ratings, elevated core inflation would drive up policy rates further in India, and projected policy interest rates to be 5.90 per cent by the end of this fiscal.

To tame stubbornly high inflation, the central bank has already hiked benchmark interest rates by 1.40 percentage points to 5.40 per cent. In its monetary policy review on September 30, RBI is expected to hike rates by another 50 basis points to a three-year high level of 5.90 per cent.

# OECD retains India GDP growth projection at 6.9% for FY-2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Economic grouping OECD in a report on Monday retained the GDP growth projections for India at 6.9 per cent for the current financial year despite the global economy losing momentum in wake of the Russia-Ukraine war.

The projection by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is lower than the Reserve Bank's growth forecast of 7.2 for 2022-23. The growth last year (2021-22) was 8.7 per cent.

Indian economy expanded by 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter, sequentially higher than 4.10 per cent in the January-March period.

"Softer external demand is a factor in India's projected slowdown from 8.7 per cent annual growth in FY2021-22 to around 7 per cent in FY 2022-23 and around 5% per cent in FY 2023-24, but this still represents rapid growth in the context of a weak global economy," the OECD's latest Interim Economic Outlook said.

In the June 2022 Economic Outlook, the OECD projected the GDP growth for India at 6.9 per cent.

The global economy has lost momentum in the wake of Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, which is dragging down growth and putting additional upward pressure on inflation worldwide, according



to the OECD's latest Interim Economic Outlook.

The outlook projects global growth at a modest 3 per cent this year before slowing further to just 2.2 per cent in 2023.

This is well below the pace of economic growth projected prior to the war and represents around USD 2.8 trillion in foregone global output in 2023, it said.

It further said growth in China has also been hit and is expected to drop to a projected 3.2 per cent in 2022.

Except for the 2020 pandemic, this will be the lowest growth rate in China since the 1970s, said the Interim Economic Outlook.

Inflation is projected to recede gradually through 2023 in most G20 countries as the tighter monetary policy takes effect and global growth slows.

Headline inflation is projected to ease from 8.2 per cent this year to 6.6 per cent in 2023 in the G20 economies, and fall from 6.2 per cent this year to 4 per cent in 2023 in the G20 advanced economies.

# Sensex extends losses into 4th session amid negative global cues

## IT stocks stand out

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks spiralled lower for the fourth session running on Monday, in tandem with a bearish trend overseas as hardening interest rates and prospects of a global recession darkened the outlook for riskier assets.

The rupee plunged to a fresh lifetime low against the US dollar amid foreign fund outflows, which further dented investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 953.70 points or 1.64 per cent to close at 57,145.22. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 311.05 points or 1.80 per cent to 17,016.30.

Maruti Suzuki was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 5.49 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, ITC, Axis Bank, NTPC, Bajaj Finance and IndusInd Bank.

In contrast, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Nestle India and Wipro were the gainers, climbing up to 1.28 per cent.

"Nifty fell for the fourth consecutive session driven by weak global cues and a falling rupee. Global risk assets including equities extended their sell-



off on Monday as fears of faster inflation and global recession continued to rise," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said the soaring dollar as a result of aggressive monetary tightening by the US Fed, slowing economic growth and rising demand from cautious investors are causing turbulence in the global equity markets.

"This is creating mayhem in the domestic market led by weakening INR, elevated bond yields and pessimistic trends of Asian peers. Only the IT sector, which exhibited the weakest performance in the last 1 year, defied the trend in anticipation that the global recession is mostly factored in the price and is trading at reasonable valuations," he noted.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 3.33 per cent and the midcap index fell by 2.84 per cent.

# Gold gains ₹138; Silver jumps ₹224



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices in the national capital rose by ₹138 to ₹49,786 per 10 grams on Monday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹49,648 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped by ₹224 to ₹56,514 per kilogram from ₹56,290 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,639 per ounce, while silver was trading flat at USD 18.67 per ounce.

# Gold Plus Glass Industry, Uniparts India get Sebi's nod to float IPOs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Float glass maker Gold Plus Glass Industry and engineering solutions provider Uniparts India have received capital markets regulator Sebi's approval to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs).

The two companies, which had filed preliminary IPO papers with the Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in April, obtained observation letters from the regulator during September 22-23, an update with the markets watchdog showed on Monday.

In Sebi's parlance, the regulator's observation implies its go-ahead to launch an initial share-sale.

Going by the draft papers, Gold Plus Glass Industry's IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 300 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) up to 1,28,26,224 equity shares by promoters and existing shareholders.

As a part of the OFS, promoters — Suresh Tyagi and Jimmy Tyagi — will offer up to 10,19,995 equity shares each and investor PI Opportunities



Fund-I will sell up to 1,07,86,234 equity shares.

The company proposes to utilise net proceeds from the fresh issuance of equity shares towards funding debt, working incremental requirements and general corporate purposes.

Gold Plus Glass Industry is one of the leading float glass makers in India with a 16 per cent share of manufacturing capacity in fiscal 2021. The company's products cater to a range of end-use industries, including automotive, construction and industrial sectors, with a variety of applications.

The initial share-sale of Uniparts India is entirely an OFS of 1,57,31,942 equity shares by promoter group entities and existing investors, according to the draft papers.

Those offering shares in the OFS are promoter group entities — The Karan Soni 2018 CG-NG Nevada Trust, The Meher Soni 2018 CG-NG Nevada Trust, Pamela Soni -- and investors Ashoka Investment Holdings Ltd and Ambadevi Mauritius Holding Ltd.

Since the IPO would be entirely an OFS, the company will not receive any proceeds from the public issue.

This would be the company's third attempt to go public. Earlier, Uniparts had filed its IPO papers with Sebi in December 2018 and in September 2014. It also obtained the regulator's clearance to launch the IPO on two occasions but did not go ahead with the initial share sale.

Uniparts India is a global manufacturer of engineered systems and solutions.

It is one of the leading suppliers of systems and components for the off-highway market in agriculture and construction, forestry and mining and aftermarket sectors on account of its presence across over 25 countries.

# ₹ sinks all-time low to 81.67/\$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 58 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.67 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, escalation of geopolitical risks due to conflict in Ukraine, a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 81.47, then fell further to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the American currency, registering a decline of 58 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee slumped 30 paise to close at 81.09, its previous record low.



This is the fourth consecutive session of loss for the domestic unit, during which it has lost 193 paise against the American currency.

"Another day of large gains for the dollar versus the rupee as it fell for the fourth day in a trot amid risk-averse sentiments and unprecedented strength in the greenback following Fed tightening and recession worries," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

# Samsung eyes 2x growth in foldable smartphones this year; partners Axis Bank for credit card

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Samsung has partnered with Axis Bank to launch co-branded credit card to provide additional finance option to customers as it eyes two-fold sales growth in its ultra-premium foldable smartphones this year, a top official said on Monday.

Samsung India Senior Vice President for Mobile Business Raju Pullan said the company has focussed on making purchases affordable and it has seen about three times growth in transactions happening through Samsung Finance plus for buying its product.

"We believe that consumer expectations in India are get-

ting upscaled. It was visible in our latest Galaxy series Z Fold 4 and Flip 4. We will end up seeing this year almost 2X growth over last year on the new launches.

"It's really important to actually create various new platforms so that consumers are able to acquire the Samsung products across price points and upgrade themselves to newer technologies," Pullan said.

He said that the company has 30 million registered users of Samsung Pay, which was launched in 2017.

Samsung Finance plus provides finance options to consumers who are availing credit for the first time.



"We are seeing a tremendous response not only in tier 2 and 3 markets but the rural market as well. Last year, we used to do business of about ₹250 crore per month on the Samsung Finance plus. Almost 50 per cent of users were new to credit consumers.

"This year as we speak, we are averaging at ₹700 crore on

transactions per month. This means that if we provide the right platforms to customers to upgrade, they will get on to it. That's the genesis of our partnership with Axis Bank along with Visa," Pullan said.

The company claims to have sold over 12 lakh Galaxy smartphones worth more than ₹1,000 crore on the first day of online festive sales at Amazon and Flipkart.

Pullan said that the co-branded credit, for which registration has started, will offer cashback of up to ₹10,000 to customers throughout the year across all Samsung products and it will be over and above the offers available at that time.

# Telecom bill may not help hasten insolvency cases in sector: Ind-Ra

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The draft Indian Telecommunication Bill may not help accelerate the resolution process for insolvent companies in the sector, a domestic rating agency said on Monday.

The bill stipulates that the ownership of spectrum remains with the government, and hence implies that the value of spectrum cannot be sold by creditors under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, India Ratings and Research explained.

The draft law also mentions that the government reserves the right to take back the spectrum if the ailing telecom operator fails to pay government dues, which further

adds concerns to the operational viability of such telcos, the agency said.

The report further said even the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal had ruled that government dues must be cleared before a stressed telco is admitted to insolvency proceedings in an order passed in July 2021.

"Impact of the bill on the resolution process needs to be seen, given that the ailing telcos may not have the financial flexibility to clear government dues and/or have the operational cash flows to service the ongoing regulatory charges," the agency said.

The bill provides for a framework for placing revenues in a separate designated account for the telcos under

insolvency, which are unable to pay government dues, but the implementation of the same remains to be seen, it added.

The agency also said the bill intends to provide one-stop clarity on several key aspects that have affected the telecom industry over the past two years.

It aims to remove ambiguities over the ownership of spectrum for the corporates under insolvency/stress as well as the regulating body for over-the-top (OTT) and internet service providers, the agency said.

The bill also empowers the government to provide relief to stressed telecom companies through waiver/deferment/restatement of regulatory dues, it added.

# Sebi penalises 19 persons for fraudulent trading in Global Infratech & Finance shares

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has imposed a penalty of Rs 95 lakh on 19 individuals for indulging in manipulative trading in the shares of Global Infratech and Finance Limited.

They have been directed to pay the penalty within 45 days, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its order on Friday.

The regulator conducted an investigation in the scrip of Global Infratech and Finance Ltd (GIFL) for the period December 2017 to February 2018 to ascertain any violations of PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) norms.

In its probe, Sebi found that 19 persons have followed a uniform strategy of executing 3,266 trades in a substantial quantity of shares, constituting 12.86 per cent of total market volume in a synchronised manner through a large number of trades ranging from 87 to 458 trades on each day for 39 days.

"Such a repeated and uniform strategy of synchronised trades involving substantial quantity of shares was followed by notices in order to create a misleading appearance of trading, without any change of beneficial ownership, and thus was a fraudulent activity resorted to by notices in order to mislead investors," Sebi said.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

### SILICON RENTAL SOLUTIONS IPO TO OPEN ON SEP 28

**New Delhi:** IT equipment outsourcing company Silicon Rental Solutions Limited on Monday said it will raise a little over Rs 21 crore through its initial share-sale opening on September 28. The Initial Public Offer (IPO) will close on September 30, and the shares will be listed on BSE SME, the company said in a statement. This is a SME IPO of 27.12 lakh equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each. The issue is priced at Rs 78 per equity share aggregating the size to Rs 21.15 crore. Out of net proceeds, Rs 8.55 crore will be utilised to meet capital expenditure requirements, Rs 8.5 crore for repayment of borrowings and the balance towards general corporate purposes, the company's Chairman and Managing Director, Sanjay Harish Motiani said.

### AIR INDIA REDUCES TICKET REFUND PROCESSING TIME

**New Delhi:** Full service carrier Air India on Monday claimed it has reduced processing time for the ticket refund to the eligible customers to 2-3 days. Refunds have been an issue for many airlines during the global pandemic and subsequent recovery, Air India said, adding, it was severely impacted by Covid-19 and many customers' travel plans were affected. The company also claimed that more than 2.5 lakh cases amounting to over Rs 150 crore were processed in just the first few months after Air India took control of the airline from the government. As of today, an eligible refund request lodged on its website will typically be processed within 2-3 days, it added.

### AQUA SERIES FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMERS

**New Delhi:** Pumps and Valves manufacturers KSB Limited launched the 'AQUA series', a new range of domestic products, at its dealers' conference in Delhi. "KSB's focus has always been on product innovation... Our close association with our customers and their inputs help us to constantly innovate to ensure that our products come with lower maintenance costs and optimum energy consumption," said Farrokh Bhatnaga, sales & marketing Director.

# Govt decides to extend Foreign Trade Policy by six months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday said it has decided to extend the existing Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) by another six months till March 2023. The current Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) was to end on September 30.

Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Amit Yadav, said there were demands from different quarters, including industry associations and export promotion councils, to extend the policy and not introduce a new policy at this time.

They have stated that currently there are challenges like global uncertainties and currency fluctuations.

# Apple now manufacturing iPhone 14 in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



iPhones in the country including iPhone SE, iPhone 12, iPhone 13 and, now, iPhone 14.

Earlier this month, Apple Inc unveiled its latest iPhone series — the iPhone 14 models - with an improved camera, powerful sensors and satellite

messaging feature to send SOS texts in emergencies. The new lineup has four models: iPhone 14, Plus, Pro and ProMax.

According to sources, the Made-in-India iPhone 14 will begin to reach local customers in the next few days. Phones manufactured in India will be both for the Indian market and exports.

The iPhone 14 will be shipped from Foxconn's Sriperumbudur facility on the outskirts of Chennai.

# High price of coal to adversely impact profitability of domestic non-ferrous metal companies: Icra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The high price of coal will adversely impact the profitability of domestic non-ferrous metal companies mainly operating in the aluminium and zinc space, Icra said on Monday.

The domestic e-auction premium on coal, though it has softened in recent months,

continues to remain high at around 300 per cent.

"In the domestic market, power costs have significantly increased for domestic base metal companies, owing to the lower availability of coal linkages to non-power sectors and elevated coal prices in both domestic e-auction and the international markets," Icra said in a statement.



Besides, the price of alumina decreased along with the

price of aluminium, giving some respite to the non-integrated players.

"Owing to the twin onslaught of corrections in metal prices and continued high coal costs, the estimated operating profitability of domestic players is likely to contract by 600-700 bps in FY2023 after a weak performance in Q1 FY2023," Icra

Senior Vice-President and Group Head, Corporate Sector Ratings Jayanta Roy said.

The high cost of coal remains a concern in the near term.

The rating agency said that it has changed the outlook of the base metal industry to stable from positive in July on account of this likely reduction in profitability, Roy stressed.



# CROATIA, NETHERLANDS INTO NATIONS LEAGUE SF

AP ■ LONDON

Croatia and the Netherlands booked their places in the last four of the Nations League as holders France needed a favour to avoid relegation from the top tier on Sunday. Les Bleus lost 2-0 in Denmark to finish with just one win from their six group games, but Croatia's 3-1 win at Austria saved the world champions from the drop.

Didier Deschamps will be hoping to have a number of key men back from injury by the time France's defence of the World Cup begins against Australia on November 22.

"It was a young French team, which for the most part does not yet have experience of the highest level," said Deschamps.

"Tonight is a dose of reality and what will be waiting for us in two months."

France will also come up against the Danes in the group stage in Qatar and the Euro 2020 semi-finalists showed they are more than capable of causing more trouble in two months' time.

Both goals came before half-time as Kasper Dolberg stretched to turn home Mikkel Damsgaard's cross before Andreas Skov Olsen volleyed in from the edge of the area.

France were without Hugo Lloris, Jules Kounde, N'Golo Kante, Paul Pogba, Ousmane Dembele and Karim Benzema through injury.

But the star trio of Antoine Griezmann, Olivier Giroud and Kylian Mbappe failed to find a way back into the game for France.



## We have to focus on winning against Spain: Santos

AP ■ BRAGA

Portugal coach Fernando Santos said his team would not settle for the draw they need to reach the Nations League finals when they host Spain in Braga on Tuesday.

Portugal, who won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2019, moved top of Group A2 on Saturday with a 4-0 victory over the

Czech Republic as Spain lost at home to Switzerland.

Santos' side now hold a two-point lead over their neighbours ahead of the final group match.

"We just have to focus on winning rather than reaching the final four," he said.

"I want the players to face Spain on their merit, as they do all opponents. Do that and we will always be

closer to getting where we want to go."

Manchester United right-back Diogo Dalot scored twice against the Czechs as Portugal bounced back from a defeat in Switzerland in June.

Santos has a near fully-fit squad to choose from, with Atletico Madrid forward Joao Felix having returned to training after missing last week-end's match.

Denmark's win meant Croatia needed to get all three points in Austria to top the group.

Luka Modric got the 2018 World Cup finalists off to a flying start, but they were quickly pegged back by Christoph Baumgartner's header.

Two goals in three second-half minutes proved decisive as Marko Livaja and Dejan Lovren headed in at the far post.

"Austria made our lives very hard, but in the end, the win was deserved," said Modric. "I am very happy that we are in the top four."

Defeat relegated Austria to League B.

The Netherlands made sure of top spot in Group A4 with a 1-0 win over Belgium thanks to Virgil van Dijk's header 17 minutes from time.

The Dutch just needed to avoid defeat by a three-goal margin after winning 4-1 in Brussels earlier in the group.

A Belgian revival never looked likely. Van Dijk settled the game when he was left completely unmarked to head in a corner inside the six-yard box.

In the same group, Wales were relegated after losing 1-0 at home to Poland.

Karol Swiderski scored the only goal in Cardiff from Robert Lewandowski's cushioned through ball.

Turkey were already guaranteed promotion from League C, but were still embarrassed by a 2-1 defeat to the Faroe Islands.

The Faroes led 2-0 through Viljormur Davidsson and Joan Edmundsson before Serdar Guler's late consolation for the side ranked 83 places higher in FIFA's world rankings.



## India face Vietnam test in football tourney

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH CITY

The Indian men's football team will have its task cut out when it takes on Vietnam in the Hung Thinh Friendly Football Tournament here on Tuesday.

In their opener last Saturday, India were held to a 1-1 draw by lower-ranked Singapore.

Up against a confident Vietnam, who blanked Singapore 4-0 in their first match, the Blue Tigers will have to be extremely focussed.

"It will be a very different game against a much stronger opponent, so our approach will also change accordingly," said India head coach Igor Stimac said on the eve of the match.

"We need to be more

focused, especially on vertical football and quick transition.

"At the same time, we must maintain focus on our defence as well. They pose a real threat from long range shots, and from their crosses, and we need to be able to deal with that," said Stimac.

The India head coach has also closely followed the match between Vietnam and Singapore, and believes that their Tuesday's opponents are an organised unit.

"I've watched their first match against Singapore and they (Vietnam) are a very disciplined side," said Stimac.

"They have also had enough time after the first game for recovery, while we need to see how many of our boys will be available and fit to play."



## Determined to make big contributions in World Cup: Gurjant

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Having played a vital role in India's Silver medal-winning feat at the Commonwealth Games, national hockey team forward Gurjant Singh is now looking to make an impact at next year's FIH World Cup.

"I am glad that I was part of the Silver medal-winning team at CWG. It's a huge honour for me to be an Olympic and CWG medal winner," Gurjant, who was part of the Olympic Bronze medal winning team in Tokyo, Hockey India said in a release.

"However, I have noted down the points that I need to improve on and I am determined to make an even bigger impact in tournaments such as the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

India are set to host the men's hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time jointly in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29 next year and Gurjant hopes to get an

opportunity of playing in front of the home crowd.

"Playing in the World Cup is every hockey player's dream. And I really hope I will be given the opportunity of playing the tournament at our home ground."

"There is always a great buzz and fanfare in Odisha and I am sure that the fans' support will motivate us to play at our best."

The 27-year-old said the Indian team's immediate focus is the FIH Hockey Pro League beginning next month.

"We are working very hard to put up a good show at the FIH Hockey Pro League. A good performance there will give us a huge confidence boost before the all-important World Cup in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

"We are looking forward to the challenge and are determined to keep getting better as a side."

India will face Spain and New Zealand in the FIH Pro League in Odisha from October 28.

## Murray backs Federer as future Laver Cup captain

AP ■ LONDON

Andy Murray has backed Roger Federer as a future Laver Cup captain after Bjorn Borg indicated the sixth edition in Vancouver next year could be his last.

Federer bade farewell to professional tennis at the tournament in London at the weekend, playing doubles alongside great rival Rafael Nadal on Friday in his final competitive match, which ended in defeat.

Team Europe suffered a 13-8 loss to Team World in the Ryder Cup-style tournament to ensure Federer, 41, was denied one final trophy but a vacancy for the captaincy will open up when Swedish great Borg steps away.

Federer, who won 20 Grand Slams in his glittering career, said he had no immediate plans after hanging up his racquet but it is likely he will want to stay involved in the Laver Cup, which he helped to create.

"I'm sure Roger is going to



stay involved in the event in some capacity and maybe one day captain the team," Murray said.

"Look, he's great on the side (coaching). He watches a lot of tennis, he loves the game. I think for ex-players that go into coaching, I think that's important to sort of stay current and know a lot of the players."

Murray made his Laver Cup debut at London's O2

arena, joining other members of the "Big Four" -- Federer, Nadal and Novak Djokovic in competing for Team Europe.

Djokovic expressed his hope that Federer would turn his hand to coaching.

"I think that Roger can offer a lot," he said. "I mean... it's logical to expect him to be able to share so many useful and valuable things with anybody really."

## Need to work on my fitness, says Tasnim Mir

PTI ■ RAIPUR

Teen Indian shuttler Tasnim Mir feels she needs to work on her fitness to match the speed and power of the Asian players as she looks to break into the world's top 50 in the senior circuit.

The 17-year-old from Mehsana, Gujarat, who won the Chattisgarh International Challenge on Sunday, will be one of the attractions at the National Games.

"I have to work on my fitness. I'm working on my rallies and stamina as I'm aware that Asian players are very good in rallies, power and speed. The game is becoming faster and we have to



play some quick rallies," she said in a press release.

"My focus is to improve my ranking. My target is to be in the top 50 so that I can compete in bigger international tournaments. I have to be consistent with my game to achieve that goal and then to rise to be among the top 20."

"My father (Irfan Mir) has played a crucial role in my evolution. I learnt the basics from him and continue to train under him."

Tasnim, who had become the first Under-19 Indian woman shuttler to be ranked world No. 1 in junior earlier this year, is currently ranked World No. 113 in the senior category.

"With some good players from Japan, Thailand, China competing in these tournaments, it gives us the necessary experience and the chance to rise in the ranking charts," she said.

Fresh from her win in Raipur, Tasnim is eager to soak in the joys of playing in front of the home crowd at the National Games.

"I have not yet competed in a major National-level tournament in my home state," she said.

"Surely, it will always be a big motivation when you play in front of a home crowd. The National Games will be a great platform for me to experience that."

## Julius Baer Cup: Indian GM Erigaisi goes down to Carlsen in final

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Teenaged Grandmaster Indian Arjun Erigaisi went down against world No.1 Magnus Carlsen in the final of the Julius Baer Generation Cup online rapid chess tournament, losing the second match 0-2.

Having won the first match, the Norwegian had the advantage and he won the first two games of the second match to close out the finale early on Monday.

Having won the first match, comprising four games, 2.5-0.5, Carlsen needed to only draw the second to take the top prize. He won two games of the second match and shut out Erigaisi.

The final was a two-match affair with each match consisting of four games. If the players had won a match each, a blitz tie-break would have been required to decide the winner.

Requiring to win the second match to have a chance to push the final to a tie-break, the 19-year old Indian player found himself in trouble against the world No.1 in red-hot form. Erigaisi resigned on move 48 and slipped into further trouble.

The second game was over in 52 moves as Carlsen dashed the Indian GM's hopes.

Carlsen had been unstoppable in the preliminary phase and lost just one game, resigning after just two moves against Hans Niemann and subsequently dropping a game to Lev Aronian in the quarterfinals.

Carlsen's performance makes him the first player to hit the historic 2900 Tour Rating mark.

Erigaisi, with a fine performance in the Julius Baer Cup, part of the Meltwater Chess Tour, has qualified for the eight-player tour final in San Francisco later this year.

## We need to have better academies & start early, says Lalengmawia

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Starting early and upgrading academies are crucial to lifting the standard of Indian football, feels Lalengmawia Ralte, who has returned from a two-week training camp with Mumbai City FC's sister club in Belgium, Lommel SK.

The prodigious midfielder, Apuia scored his first goal for the Islanders in the Durand Cup final against Bengaluru FC. Although Mumbai City FC ended the final on the wrong side of a 2-1 scoreline, the 21-year-old midfielder put in a stellar display in Asia's oldest football tournament and in the AFC Champions League earlier this year.

He suggested how Indian footballers can compete with foreign players.

"I think Indian players will be able to compete with or against them, but we need to have better academies. We need to start sending kids from a young age so that they can follow the style of Europeans and then we can compete with them at any level," Ralte said in a release.

"Training with Lommel SK in Belgium was a good experience for me. Learning new things with European players and being at the top of the game was a great experience. I gained a lot of knowledge, which is the most important thing for me."

The Aizawl native described a day in the life of the players at Lommel SK and said, "The training starts at 10 and ends around 11:30. At 12 they have lunch and then if there is a gym session, we have gym after lunch and later, they go back to their own homes."

## One forgets ABCD of sport if he is away from training for 3-4 years: Vijay Kumar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having returned to top-flight shooting after a long sabbatical, Olympic Silver medallist Vijay Kumar feels athletes could "forget the ABCD of sport" if they stay away from action for three-four years.

London Games Silver medallist pistol shooter Kumar, incidentally, had taken a long break from shooting to focus on his career with the police in Himachal Pradesh. It included intense academic training, field training and border training, taking up most of his time and attention.

It was only last year that he returned to the sport, hoping to dominate it one more time.

"Spending time away was not a big deal since I was providing job security for myself. It is not a big deal, either, starting the sport from scratch," he said.

He conceded, though that muscle memory built over many years as a sport shooter was lost during police training.

"Technique goes for a toss. If one doesn't train and compete for three or four years, one forgets the basics, the ABCD of sport. When you return at the highest level, you realise you



have all but forgotten how to play," he rued.

Kumar has a clear target in mind for the upcoming National Games: emulate his

own five-Gold, one-Bronze medal haul during the 2015 edition in Thiruvananthapuram.

The upcoming edition is starting in Ahmedabad on September 29.

"That (performance) is a thing of the past. I believe I can push myself more and can even excel at the Olympic level once again. That single goal has fuelled my motivation," the 2012 Olympic medallist said, revealing that he has been preparing for the Gujarat Games for over six months.

"I am happy that within a year of my return to shooting, I have made it for my fourth

National Games. I will try to perform well here ahead of the World Championships," the 37-year-old said.

The World Championships will be held in Cairo from October 12.

"The competition at the National Games will be intense, since the best 16 shooters in each event will be there. We have all been on the circuit, competing in championships and National trials since November last year."

"Each has been shooting good scores and that will make the competition really absorbing," Kumar said.

## Watford appoint Bilic as manager after Edwards sacking

AP ■ WATFORD

Championship club Watford on Monday appointed former West Ham and West Brom manager Slaven Bilic as their new coach after sacking Rob Edwards.

The club announced the arrival of Bilic minutes after reporting that Edwards had been fired after just 11 games in charge in all competitions.

The team, relegated from the Premier League last season, are 10th in the Championship, the second tier of the English game, with three wins from 10 league games.



"As with all decisions taken by the board, I believe this change to be in the best inter-

ests of the club," said Hornets owner Gino Pozzo.

"We felt Rob had enough time to show us the identity of his team. However, performances haven't reflected our hopes and ambitions."

"Now we must move forward, and, in Slaven Bilic, we have secured the services of an experienced coach who has recent experience of promotion to the Premier League."

Former Croatia international and national team coach, Bilic, 54, guided West Brom to promotion in the 2019/20 season and has since managed in China.



# ROHIT KEEPING FAITH IN BHUVI & HARSHAL

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India skipper Rohit Sharma has backed pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Harshal Patel to hit form ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Following a disappointing Asia Cup campaign, the Indian team had something to cheer as it won the three-match series against Australia 2-1 after clinching a six-wicket win in the third game here on Sunday.

However, both Bhuvneshwar and Harshal, who made a comeback from injury, leaked runs in the series, ending with an economy rate of 12 plus.

"It's important that we give him (Bhuvi) that space because when you have a guy like him in the team and the quality that he brings, we know that he's had more good days than the bad days in the last so many years."

"We've been working on some plans, and hopefully, we can give him more options to bowl in the death. And then he'll be as good as he was before," said Rohit in the post match media interaction.

Despite the woeful run, Rohit said Bhuvneshwar is not short on confidence.

"I don't see that he is short in confidence. It's time for us to show that faith in him and keep backing his skillset



"From our side, we are trying to work out what are the things we can do because when you're bowling in the death you can't be predictable. You need to have options to bowl on both sides of the ground and set the field accordingly.

"And someone with that experience it'll be easy for him to grasp all that knowledge."

Harshal, who is coming off a long injury layoff, also struggled, giving away 99 runs in eight overs in the three games but Rohit said the death overs specialist is not being judged on

this series.

"Harshal is an important player for us without a doubt. Coming back after an injury is never easy. He missed cricket for close to two months. It's not easy (to come back), so we've not judged him on how he is performing in these three games, because we know his quality.

"He has bowled some really tough overs for us in the past and also for his franchise. It's important to keep showing that faith and I'm sure that you know he's also trying to rectify

those mistakes and he's not too far from his best."

Assessing the team's performance in the series, Rohit said "We want to tighten in all departments. I know our batting has been brilliant in the last eight or nine games that we played since Asia Cup.

"But we still want us to be more clinical, more aggressive, you know and play with that aggression. We want to keep doing that."

While the batting unit performed well, the bowlers struggled and the fielding from the

side was also substandard.

"Bowling is the main focus. Fielding is one aspect which will never stop. We want to keep improving as a fielding unit all the time."

Suryakumar Yadav played a special 69-run knock to pave the way for India's victory alongside Virat Kohli, who also scored a half-century in the third game.

"When it comes to Surya we all know his quality. He can play the shots all over the ground. And that is what makes him special.

## ‘Want to give DK more game time ahead of T20 World Cup’

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India skipper Rohit Sharma wants to give wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik more time in the middle before the team heads Down Under for the T20 World Cup next month.

India have been alternating between Karthik and Rishabh Pant in their playing XI.

While the young keeper was given the nod ahead of the veteran player in the Asia Cup, Karthik was picked for all three matches against Australia.

"I wanted both of these guys to have a number of games under their belt before the World Cup. When we went to the Asia Cup both of these guys were in the fray to play all games," Rohit said at the post-match press conference after India clinched the three-match series against Australia on Sunday.

"But I just feel that Dinesh needs a little more game time. He hardly got to bat (this series). Just maybe three balls. So that's not enough time," Rohit added. Karthik faced seven balls in total against Australia, while Pant played only one game where he did not get a chance to bat.



"Pant also needs game time obviously. But looking at how this series was it was important for me to just stick to that consistent bat-

ting lineup."

India take on South Africa for a three-match T20I series, starting Wednesday and Rohit said Karthik and Pant's inclusion in the playing xi will depend upon the situation.

"I don't know what we're gonna do against South Africa. We just need to go and see their bowling, what sort of bowling lineup they'll play with, and who are the best guys for us who can handle that bowling lineup. It all depends on that.

"We want to be flexible in our batting. So if the situation or if the thing demands that we need a left-hander, we will bring in a left-hander if we need a right-hander, we will continue to do that.

"But we'll try and manage those guys pretty carefully. I do understand that they need game time before the World Cup but there are only 11 players you can play, unfortunately."



## T20I Rankings: India go 7 points clear at top

PTI ■ DUBAI

India went seven points clear of England at the top of the ICC T20 rankings following their narrow series win over Australia in Hyderabad.

Down 0-1 against the touring Australia, the Rohit Sharma-led India bounced back in style to level the series in Nagpur before Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav's fifties in the deciding rubber on

Sunday sealed a 2-1 win.

The six-wicket final over win improved their ranking by one point to 268 points, a seven-point lead over their closest rival in England in the ICC T20 rankings released on

Monday.

The upcoming three-match series against South Africa will give India a chance to consolidate their lead at the top ahead of the World Cup in Australia.

The Proteas occupy third place on the team rankings with 258 points, but could stake their claim when they in the upcoming series commencing at Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

Incidentally it was Pakistan's narrow three-run win over England in the fourth game in Karachi on Sunday that helped India increase their lead.

That series remains tied at two games apiece, with plenty of rankings points still to play for during the final three matches in Lahore.



## We warned her multiple times: Deepti Sharma on controversial run out

PTI ■ KOLKATA

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma on Monday revealed that Charlie Dean was warned against backing up multiple times before she effected a controversial run out of the England batter in the third and final ODI.

The dismissal reignited an intense debate over the 'spirit of the game'.

"Woh plan tha hum logon ka, kyunki woh baar baar... Hum warn bhi kar chuke the usko. Jo rules mein hain, jo guidelines hain, uske according hi humne kiya (We had planned this as she was not paying heed to our repeated warnings. We acted according to the rules and the guidelines," Deepti told reporters upon her arrival here.

Reduced to 118 for nine in their pursuit of 170 in the third ODI, England's chase was led by their No 9 batter Dean who revived their hopes with her last wicket partnership with Freya Davies. With 17 needed to win, Dean was run out for 47 with the veteran Indian off-spinner deciding to clip the bails during her delivery stride to put an end to their 35-run partnership that gave India 3-0 sweep. It was also Jhulan Goswami's swansong game.

The run-out is currently listed in the 'Unfair Play' section of the laws but is set to be moved to the 'Run Out' section at the start of next month when an update in the ICC Playing Conditions comes into effect.

Deepti further pointed out that they had informed the umpires before running out Dean.

"Umpires ko bola tha hum logon ne, but still woh wahin par thi. Hum log kuchh nahin kar sakte the. (We did inform the umpires, but she continued to do it. There was nothing we could do)," the 25-year-old added.

The 39-year-old Jhulan, who has a record 355 wickets across formats, retired from international cricket in the final ODI as India secured their first-ever 3-0 sweep on English soil to give the legendary Indian pacer a fitting farewell.

Having made her debut in 2002, Jhulan ended up playing 12 Tests, 204 ODIs and 68 T20Is.

"Har team ko jeetna hota hai, aur last match mein hum chahte the ki hum jitke unko (Jhulan) acha farewell de, toh uske hisaab se, as a team, jo effort daal sakte the woh humne diya. (Every team wants to win and we as a team gave our best effort to win it for Jhulan Goswami," she said.

Jhulan and Deepti, who also plays for Bengal in domestic cricket, landed in the city to a rousing welcome at the airport by several women's cricketers.

## Shahbaz & Shreyas in T20I squad vs SA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Yet to recover from COVID-19, Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of India's three-match T20I series against South Africa, while Bengal all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed came in place of the rested Hardik Pandya.

The series is starting on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram.

With all-rounder Deepak Hooda also out of the series due to back spasms, the national selection committee is set to recall middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer for the series.

"Shami hasn't recovered from his bout of COVID-19. He needs more time, and hence, will be out of the South Africa series. Umesh Yadav will continue as Shami's replacement for

the South Africa series," a senior BCCI source said.

However, when asked why Shahbaz has been picked in place of Pandya, the source said, "Is there any seam bowling all-rounder, who can replace Hardik? Raj Bawa is too raw and that's why we kept him in India A for exposure. He will need time to blossom. Tell me another name?"

With Hooda also out of the series, the selectors may have thought that a batting all-rounder would help serve the purpose. "Shahbaz is more of a batting all-rounder, who is more than a handy left-arm spinner. He is there just as back-up in case, Axar needs to be rested for a match with six T20I games in 10 days, including travel across the country," the source said.



## Assam Cricket Association ‘rain-ready’ for India-SA T20I

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam Cricket Association has put in place elaborate arrangements to minimise time-loss in the event of rain, including importing pitch covers, for the T20 International between India and South Africa on October 2, a senior official said.

The last cricket match at Barsapara Stadium here between India and Sri Lanka in January 2020 was abandoned following heavy rainfall.

"Guwahati had experienced unprecedented rainfall in

the middle of winter, and that is why the match in 2020 had to be eventually called off.

"The weather forecast for October 2 is clear, but the weather is not within the control of anyone. We have all arrangements in place in case there is rain on October 2," ACA secretary Devajit Saikia said.

The ACA has imported two "extremely lightweight" pitch covers from the US, he said. It already has around 20 covers at its disposal.

"These imported covers ensure that water or moisture

does not seep into the pitch," Saikia said.

He said the ground had been handed over to the BCCI chief curator on September 16, and its staff is now in charge of the entire field, including the pitch.

Saikia said a capacity crowd is expected for the India-South Africa encounter, with the first phase of online ticket sales garnering good response.

"The first batch of online tickets has been sold out. We will open another batch on September 26," he said.

## Oz head coach reserves big praise for ‘outstanding’ Axar

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Ravindra Jadeja's absence from the T20 series was expected to weaken India but the hosts found an able replacement in "outstanding" Axar Patel, said Australia coach Andrew McDonald.

Left-arm spinner Axar, who was shoed in as a like-for-like replacement for the injured Jadeja, impressed everyone with his bowling, ending as the leading wicket-taker in the three-match series.

"Axar, in particular, had an outstanding series. With Jaddu out everyone thought that it might become a bit of a weakness for India, but they've found another one again, which tends to happen," McDonald said at the post-match press conference after India clinched the series.

The Australian bowling attack, comprising the pace duo of Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, was taken to the cleaners by the Indian batters.

Asked if it's a concern heading to the World Cup, McDonald said: "Across the series the run rate was high, it was entertaining cricket from the get-go. Bat dominated the ball, so there was really no place to hide for bowling units, in particular death.

"We worked our way through some plans. We saw some good results with some of the plans that we implemented that might be able to transition to the World Cup."

McDonald added that Australia will have reinforcements in the form of Mitchell Starc when they begin the defense of their World Cup title at home next month.



"The connection between here (India) and Australia might be slightly different, a little bit more bounce, different tactics. Mitchell Starc comes back into the picture being one of our best death bowlers. So, we feel like we'll get reinforcements there." McDonald feels most of the bowling attack is "under the pump" due to the skills of the batters.

"The conversations always going to be can you get better at your death bowling? The answer to that is yes.

"We encourage our guys to make good decisions and execute them. Sometimes the batter out-executes you and we've seen that with Hardik (Pandya) across the series.

"Suryakumar Yadav was

outstanding today and he's gonna be dangerous in the World Cup but he showed what he can do."

Australia were without a few of their World Cup-bound players due to injuries but the head coach feels the defending champions have enough depth to overcome the situation.

"It's fortuitous that some of the guys got the opportunity here. We got a couple of injuries which are concerning leading into a World Cup. You don't like to see some of your mainstay players out of the team leading in but we feel as though we've got some good options in depth."

In the absence of David Warner, who was rested, Cameron Green "embraced the

challenge of opening".

The all-rounder amassed 118 runs, including two bel-ligerent half-centuries to give Australia great starts.

"I've asked him to show great intent on top of the order and everything that we're seeing so far shows that he's doing that.

"It's probably opportunistic the way that he's come into the opening position with obviously David Warner not being here and a couple of other players from our World Cup 15.

"And that's all you can do, given an opportunity... Before we came over here we thought he had the skill sets to be able to succeed there, and he's taken on some of the best bowlers in world cricket."

## Rizwan, Rauf help Pak win 4th T20I

AP ■ KARACHI

Pakistan halted England with three wickets in six balls to take a sensational three-run win in the last over of the fourth T20I in Karachi on Sunday.

Haris Rauf grabbed three wickets as the hosts tied the seven-match series.

Earlier in-form opener Mohammad Rizwan struck a brilliant 88 as Pakistan made 166-4.

With England needing five for victory from 10 balls, Rauf dismissed Liam Dawson (34) and Olly Stone off successive deliveries in the 19th over.

Last man Reece Topley was then run out as Pakistan rescued victory from almost certain defeat at a packed National stadium in Karachi.

Dawson had silenced a 32,000 holiday crowd by cracking four fours and a six off pacer Mohammad Hसनain's 18th over.



home fans into raptures.

The win made the occasion of Pakistan's 200th T20I more memorable. They are the first team to reach the milestone.

England were rocked by Hसनain (2-40) and Nawaz (3-35) and were staring at defeat at 130-7 before Dawson added 32 with Adil Rashid (three not out) to bring England back in the game.

But Rauf's two wickets, he finished 3-32, sealed the match for Pakistan.

The remaining matches are in Lahore (September 28, 30 and October 2).

England, who are on their first tour of Pakistan for 17 years, won the first and third games while the home team won the second and fourth -- all in Karachi.