

## OPINION 6

THE MAN WHO BROKE  
UP THE SOVIET UNION

## WORLD 9

CHINA LOCKS DOWN 6.5 CRORE  
PEOPLE DUE TO COVID

## MONEY 10

'COMMERCIAL VEHICLES INDUSTRY  
TO PERFORM WELL THIS YEAR'

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INDIA TO FACE  
SRI LANKA IN  
ASIA CUP 2022  
12 SPORT

## SLUGFEST OVER LIQUORGATE

BJP releases 'sting' video of bribes  
to Sisodia, AAP for liquor licences

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi liquorgate took an interesting turn on Monday when the BJP shared a "sting operation" video that purportedly showed the father of a liquor scam accused claiming to have paid "commission" to acquire liquor licences in the national Capital, and demanded the removal of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia from the Cabinet.

Addressing a Press conference along with BJP MP Manoj Tiwari and Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra played two videos of sting operations and urged liquor traders in Delhi to not get scared and make videos on how much commission they had to pay to Sisodia and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The BJP leaders also claimed that more such videos will come out in the future.

The video captures the father of a liquor scam accused making admissions about payment of cut money to Sisodia. The BJP leaders claim that the person in camera is Kulwinder Singh Marwah, the father of liquor scam accused Sunny Marwah. Sunny is accused number 13 in the alleged liquor scam. In the video, Kulwinder

Marwah is heard saying that a commission of 12 per cent was fixed for liquor suppliers to be eligible for L-1 vendor category. He further claims that out of this, 6 per cent commission was to be given to AAP. Marwah claims liquor vendors were asked to give ₹10 lakh per month and for this, they were given adequate leverage and flexibility to operate. Patra said the man in the video is seen "explaining their modus operandi".

"Manish Sisodia has earned a lot of commission and money because of the (now scrapped excise) policy. We had asked them five questions — why was the older policy, and then the new one, withdrawn; why were suggestions of the (former excise commissioner) Ravi Dhawan committee not followed; why were blacklisted companies given contracts; why were manufacturers given retail contracts in contravention of the policy; and why was the commission (for private players) increased from 2 per cent to 12 per cent, because of which the exchequer faced losses," Patra said.

He claimed the sting involved a person who handed over money to Sisodia.

Continued on Page 2

L-G slaps legal  
notice on AAP  
leaders over  
'false' charges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday sent legal notice to AAP leaders Atishi Singh, Durgesh Pathak, Saurabh Bhardwaj, Sanjay Singh, Jasmine Shah and others for leveling "false, derogatory and malicious" allegations against him for his alleged involvement in a ₹1,400 crore "scam" during his tenure as the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) chairman.

The legal notice also asks the AAP leaders to comply with the requisitions within 48 hours of its receipt.

In his notice to AAP leaders, the L-G through his lawyer asked them to issue a press release "directing all members of the party and all persons associated with it, whether directly or indirectly".

Continued on Page 2

Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia addresses a Press conference at Delhi Secretariat on Monday  
Ranjan Dimri | PioneerOfficer who killed self  
was asked to frame me:  
Sisodia; 'lies', says CBI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the BJP released a "sting video" to claim that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia had taken "commissions" worth "hundreds of crores" to benefit private players under the now scrapped excise policy, Sisodia claimed that a CBI officer who died by suicide was under pressure to frame him in a false case. The CBI denied the allegations and termed his statements as a "mischievous and misleading".

The CBI said the allegation was "an attempt to divert atten-

tion from the ongoing investigation in Delhi Excise Policy case". In a statement, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said its officer, Jitendra Kumar, was in "no way connected" with the probe related to the excise police case. It also made it clear that no clean chit has been given to any of the accused in the matter.

"The CBI strongly refutes this mischievous and misleading statement by Sisodia. It is clarified that the gentleman officer, late Jitendra Kumar, was in no way connected with the investigation of this case", the CBI said.

Continued on Page 2

AAP Govt  
encouraging  
liquor mafia:  
Anurag Thakur

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the Arvind Kejriwal Government as "Bewdi Sarkar (Drunk Government)", Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday lambasted the AAP Government on the alleged liquor scam saying it is mired in corruption.

His comments come after the BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra played two videos, purportedly showing the father of the accused number 13 in the CBI FIR in the alleged excise policy scam.

"The Health Minister of Delhi Govt is in jail, while the Health Minister of AAP-led Punjab Government was also in jail. Imagine the condition of the Government whose Ministers are in jail for corruption. They are encouraging the liquor mafia. AAP doesn't have an answer to it. It is a corrupt Government. This is the identity of Arvind Kejriwal-led Bewdi Sarkar," he said.

"The AAP Govt is known for corruption. Manish Sisodia is involved in a huge scam while Kejriwal is the kingpin of corruption. Its silence on the liquor scam for 15 days now says a lot," Thakur told the media in Himachal Pradesh.

On Opp unity  
mission, Nitish  
calls on RahulPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

On his mission to align the Opposition parties to take on the BJP in 2024 Lok Sabha polls, senior JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday met former Congress president Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi.

Nitish also met JD(S) chief HD Kumaraswamy and is believed to have discussed the way forward for reuniting the Janata parivar.

Nitish is scheduled to meet his Delhi's counterpart Arvind Kejriwal, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, leaders from the Left parties, and INLD supremo Om Prakash Chautala on Tuesday to discuss the current political situation in the country and ways to ensure Opposition unity.

The meeting with Rahul was Nitish's first meeting with the Congress leader after the JD(U) walked out of the NDA in Bihar and formed a Mahagathabandhan Government with the RJD, the Congress and Left parties.

Nitish's deputy and the major alliance partner RJD's Tejashwi Yadav had already met Congress chief Sonia Gandhi as well as CPI general secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPIM general secretary D Raja.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar meets Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the latter's residence in New Delhi on Monday  
PTI

Sources said Rahul and Nitish are learnt to have discussed the current political situation in the country and steps to bring the entire Opposition under one umbrella to take on the BJP. The meeting between lasted for about an hour when Nitish was accompanied by Bihar Water Resources Minister Sanjay Kumar Jha.

Congress sources said the Bihar CM expressed his gratitude to Rahul for the grand old party's support to the new alliance in Bihar. Both leaders also discussed the possibility of bringing like-minded parties together, sources said.

Continued on Page 2

Central Vista to  
Rajpath stretch  
'Kartavya Path'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi Government has decided to rename the stretch between historic Rajpath and Central Vista lawns in the national Capital as Kartavya Path.

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has convened a special meeting on September 7 and the proposal will be placed before the council following a proposal from the Centre. Rajpath was known as Kingsway during British Rule. According to officials, the entire road and area from the Netaji statue to the Rashtrapati Bhavan will be known as Kartavya Path.

Detailed report on Page 3

## CAPSULE

RUSSIAN ENVOYS KILLED  
IN KABUL EMBASSY BLAST

Kabul: A suicide bombing outside the Russian Embassy in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Monday killed two members of the embassy staff and at least one Afghan civilian in what Moscow denounced as an "unacceptable terrorist act."

Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina being received by Minister of State Darshana Jarosh upon her arrival at AFS Palam in New Delhi on Monday  
PTIBENGALURU RAIN HAVOC:  
IT HUB STRUGGLING

Bengaluru: Torrential overnight rain left India's IT capital struggling on Monday as inundation and waterlogging threw life out of gear, leading to a public outpour of anger against alleged misgovernance and the powers that be. Boats and tractors were pressed into service in certain parts and a forecast of more rain has caused worry among people. P5

Continued on Page 2

Truss beats Sunak  
in UK PM raceLiz Truss, left, and Rishi Sunak arrive for the announcement of the result of the Conservative Party leadership contest at the Queen Elizabeth II centre in London on Monday  
AP

PTI ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Narendra  
Modi congratulated Truss.

The 47-year-old Truss is the third female British PM. Truss polled 81,326 votes, compared to Sunak's 60,399 in an election with a high turnout of 82.6 per cent, with 654 rejected ballots from a total of 172,437 eligible Tory voters.

Detailed report on Page 9

Soren wins  
House trust

ROSHAN KUMAR ■ RANCHI

The Hemant Soren Government in Jharkhand on Monday won the confidence vote in the Assembly by a comfortable margin by 48 votes to zero, bringing relief to the ruling JMM-Congress-RJD alliance in the State.

Uncertainty had been prevailing in the State since August 25 after the media reported that the ECI had sent its recommendation to the Governor (over BJP's petition seeking Soren's disqualification as MLA in an office-of-profit case). But the Governor is still silent.

As many as 48 MLAs voted in favour of the confidence motion in the 81-member Assembly — 29 of the JMM, 15 of the Congress, one each of RJD, NCP and CPIM(L) and an Independent — even as the BJP walked out of the House.

Soren said the need for the trust vote was felt as the BJP was "attempting to destabilise democratically elected Governments" in non-BJP-ruled States, including Jharkhand.

Seer found dead  
days after viral  
impropriety video

PTI ■ BELAGAVI

Basav Siddhlinga Swamiji — the pontiff of Guru Madiwaleshwara Math of Neginhal village in Bailhongal taluk in Belagavi — was found hanging in his room on the math premises on Monday morning, when one of his assistants had gone to check for the seer, when he did not come out or respond to knocks at the door. Police suspect it to be a case of suicide.

The reason behind the swamiji taking such an extreme step was yet to be known, said police.

According to sources, an alleged death note written by the seer has surfaced in which he has written that he has not committed any mistake; he himself was the reason for his death, and no one should be enquired.

Continued on Page 2

Teach Uddhav a lesson  
for betrayal, says Shah

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Virtually kick-starting the campaign for the forthcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday charged that Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray had "backstabbed" the BJP and exhorted his party workers to "teach a lesson" to the latter in the BMC polls.

Addressing a meeting of his party workers here, Shah said, "Don't make a habit of tolerating traitors. You can overlook anything in politics but not treachery. Those who betray others must be punished... The time has come to show him (Uddhav) his place and teach him a lesson."

Mincing no words in his criticism of Uddhav, Shah said, "You (Shiv Sena) sought votes in the name of Narendra Modi

and on the work of (then Chief Minister) Devendra Fadnavis. You have betrayed the people. There is no place for betrayers in politics."

Fadnavis, Maharashtra BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule and his Mumbai counterpart Ashish Shelar, and other senior party leaders were present.

Dismissing the Shiv Sena's oft-repeated charge that the BJP went back on its promise of giving the Chief Minister's post to the Sena on a rotational basis, Shah reiterated that his party had not made any commitment about the Chief Minister's post to Uddhav in the 2019 State Assembly polls.

Shah, whose BJP is contesting the BMC polls in alliance with the Shiv Sena faction led by Eknath Shinde, said, "Our target is to win 150 seats in the BMC polls."

Continued on Page 2

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NCR-PULSE

4 MISCREANTS ROB MAN OF E-RICKSHAW

**New Delhi:** Four miscreants allegedly robbed a man of his e-rickshaw on Monday morning in north Delhi's Burfikhana chowk. Sushil Kumar was going home in Malkaganj when the duo came on a two-wheeler and threatened him with a country-made weapon. Minutes later, two of their associates arrived there and they fled with the e-rickshaw, police said.

SISODIA MEETS RAMLEELA COMMITTEES' REPRESENTATIVES

**New Delhi:** Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia met the representatives of various Ramleela organising committees on Monday and discussed plans for upcoming events. While interacting with the representatives, Sisodia said, "Like every year, the Kejriwal government will give full cooperation to the committees for organising grand events of Ramleela across Delhi."

DEPTS ASKED TO SUBMIT PLAN TO FIGHT AIR POLLUTION: RAI

**New Delhi:** Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said the city Government will do more than what has been prescribed by the Centre's air quality panel to curb air pollution in the Capital in winter. Rai said specific tasks have been given to each department and they have been asked to submit a final plan to fight air pollution in Delhi in winter by September 15.

SISODIA MEETS 20-MEMBER STATE BADMINTON TEAM

**New Delhi:** Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia met a 20-member State badminton team on Monday, to motivate them and extended his best wishes to each member ahead of North Zone Badminton Championship, which is scheduled to be held in Jammu Kashmir from September 8-11. Sisodia said that this badminton team of Delhi has been training hard for years and all these 20 players are future world champions who have an unwavering spirit to bring laurels to the country.

21-YEAR-OLD STALKER HELD

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police has arrested a 21-year-old man, who posed as army personnel and befriended a Class XII student by hiding his 'religious identity'. Police said the accused used to stalk her and after she broke her friendship with him, the accused started posting vulgar messages on social media after. The accused identified as Aas Mohammad used a fake name to conceal his identity.

2 KEY MEMBERS OF DRUG CARTEL ARRESTED

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested two key members of an interstate drug cartel and seized 4.2 kg of heroin from them. The kingpin of the cartel, Trilok Chand (51), and his carrier Lal Chand (29) supplied heroin in Delhi NCR and adjoining states for many years. According to the police, Chand used to prepare heroin in his village in Madhya Pradesh's Mandasaur. The cartel allegedly supplied more than 100 kg of heroin in Delhi in the past two years.

TRUNK SHOW EXHIBITION ORGANISED

**New Delhi:** Les Petits hosted an enthralling Trunk Show Exhibition at Ambassador, IHCL SeleQtions in the national Capital. The brand offered a flat 50 per cent discount on all the premium brands such as Versace, D&G, Fendi, Kenzo, Paul Smith Jr., Mayoral, Kissy Kissy among others. The exhibition showcased a wide assortment of luxury products for kids from all the international luxury brands under one roof. It boasted a trendsetting collection for accentuating the look of the kids.

ROBBERY AT MERCHANT NAVY OFFICER'S HOUSE, PROBE ON

**Noida:** The police in Greater Noida on Monday launched an investigation after around six unidentified armed men allegedly barged into a Merchant Navy officer's house and decamped with valuables worth lakhs. His family was also held hostage by the armed miscreants during the incident that took place around 4 am in the Beta 2 police station area.

NO UNMANNED BARRICADES LEFT ON ROADS: POLICE TO HC

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court was informed on Monday by the Delhi Police that no unmanned barricades will be left on roads and people can report any unattended barricade at helpline number, 112 or tag police on Twitter and action will be immediately taken. The high court termed it a "welcome step" and said with this social media step, a check can be kept on unmanned barricades.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Nohar Lal S/o Late Ramniwas R/o F-348, Dakshin Puri, New Delhi-110062 have disowned and dismanite then daughter-in-law Aishwarya D/o Ghanshyam because his son Rahul Kumar expired on 17/04/2022 at Max Hospital. My client wants to out all relation due to their harassment solved of there in loss of his son due to their misbehave assault. My client shall not be liable for any omission or commission of their aforesaid person if any one deals with them helvise they shall be doing so another own risks and responsibility.

Sd/-  
PURUSOTTAM KUMAR CHOUBEY  
LL.M  
ADVOCATE, DELHI HIGH COURT

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Sabanti Roy has acquired the Built-up Property bearing no. B-11, having area measuring 55 sq. yds, out of Khesano, 31558/220, situated in the area of Village Karkardooma, in the abadi of East Arjun Nagar, Ilaka S'hahdara, Delhi-110032 by way of Gift deed dated 09/04/2019 Doc nos 2528 Now, Mrs. Sabanti Roy is mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vertas North, Unit no.967, 9th Floor, GD-TL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9666707/17289/8228636 (M)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that our client Sh. Kailash Chand S/o Sh. Har Lal R/o H. No. B-12, Sainik Enclave, Gali No.9, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 disown his son Sh. Subhas S/o Kailash Chand for all purposes. Our client has severed his relationship with his son Sh. Subhas and shall not be responsible for any act, commission and omission of his said son. Any person dealing with the son of our client namely Sh. Subhas may do so at his own risk and consequences and our client shall not be responsible for the same.

Garima Aggarwal, Advocate,  
Ch. No.500-501, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054.

THE PIONEER  
CLASSIFIEDS  
CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Mohd. Naseem S/o. Abdul Rasheed, Resident of D-98/1, Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave-II, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025, have declared that my name by mistake mentioned in my Daughter's School Records as Naseem Khan instead of Mohd. Naseem and my Daughter's correct name is Insha Khan instead of Insha.**

PD(90158)A

**I, Jairam S/o Tej Ram R/o VPO Anangpur, Faridabad, my name in my All Document has been mentioned as "Jairam" but my name in my 10th Marksheet has been mentioned as "Jai Ram".** Jairam & Jai Ram is the name of one and same person.

PD(90165)C

Hasina in India for 4-day visit

2 sides will review bilateral ties, defence, trade, riverwater sharing during summit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

**B**angladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday arrived here on a four-day visit after a gap of three years. She will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday even as the two sides will review the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties, including defence, trade and river water sharing during the summit.

Hasina will also call on President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar during her stay.

She had last visited India in 2019 before the Covid outbreak. Union Minister Darshana Jardosh received her at the airport.

On the first day of her state visit, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on the



Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina upon her arrival at AFS Palam in New Delhi on Monday

Bangladesh Prime Minister. "Delighted to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh this evening. The warmth and frequency of our leadership level contacts is a testimony to our close neighborly partnership," Jaishankar tweeted.

Hours after her arrival, Hasina visited Dargah Nizamuddin Aulia in Delhi. Tweeting about her arrival, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina is warmly welcomed by MoS Railways and Textiles @DarshanaJardosh on her arrival in New Delhi for a State Visit.

The visit will further strengthen the multifaceted relationship between the two countries." On Thursday, Hasina is scheduled to travel to Ajmer in Rajasthan to visit the Dargah of the revered Sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti.

Hasina's delegation includes Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujan and Liberation War Minister AKM Mozammel Haq.

India and Bangladesh finalised the text of the agreement on interim sharing of the water of the Kushiya river last month. The MoU is set to be inked on Tuesday.

On Opp unity mission, Nitish calls...

From Page 1

When Nitish had made up his mind to make an exit from the NDA, he first discussed the issue with Sonia and then convinced Lalu Prasad as to why it was significant to keep a pan-India party on board for the Grand Alliance with a future political strategy.

Telangana CM K Chandrasekhara Rao last week called on Nitish in Patna and reportedly talked about floating a possible Third Front.

Nitish, however, is not impressed with the concept of a "Third Front" and is in favour of taking along the Congress.

Nitish is currently heading a seven-party coalition that includes the Congress and the Left. In his pro-Congress stance, he is likely to receive ample support from Lalu who

is known to share excellent personal equations with Sonia.

The TMC on its part has decided to maintain a distance from the JD(U) since there has been no official communication to the party from the Mahagathbandhan.

Sources in the Mamata Banerjee-led party here said the TMC believes that regional parties should fight and defeat the BJP in their respective regions and not come to Delhi for support.

Besides meeting Pawar and Kejriwal on Tuesday, Nitish is scheduled to meet CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI leader D Raja in Delhi on Tuesday.

When Nitish dumbed the BJP last month, Yechury had said the saffron party has got a "taste of its own medicine",

referring to the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray Government in Maharashtra after the saffron party backed Shiv Sena rebels.

Yechury had hit out at Nitish in 2017 when the JD(U) chief had parted ways with the grand alliance, accusing the Bihar Chief Minister of "political opportunism". CPIM too welcomed the formation of the Mahagathbandhan Government in Bihar during his meeting with Tejashwi last month. Ahead of Delhi tour for forging Opposition unity, Nitish called on RJD supremo Lalu at his Patna residence. In imagery symbolic of both personal and political equations, the CM and the Deputy CM can be seen in one of the pictures helping a faltering Lalu to climb down a few steps.

Seer found dead days after viral impropriety...

From Page 1

Bailhongal police are investigating.

The swamiji is said to have spoken to disciples and assistants at the math normally till last night, before going to bed.

Sources said after allegations of sexual abuse against Chitradurgas Murugha Math chief pontiff Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, a conversation between two women had gone viral in which they purportedly discussed that seers of several maths in the state were said to be involved in such

activities and had taken the name of the Neginhal math seer among others.

Speaking good things about the swamiji and calling him a fatherly figure to the villagers and disciples, some locals said he was very sensitive and was upset with an alleged audio.

They demanded action against those who spoke about their swamiji without any evidence.

Swamiji had completed his education at Murugha Math, locals said.

Teach Uddhav a lesson for...

From Page 1

"We must put an end to the 'anti-Hindutva politics' of the Uddhav-led Shiv Sena in Mumbai and Maharashtra. My appeal to you all to make the Sena bite the dust and win at least 150 (out of total 227 seats) in the BMC polls," said Shah.

Earlier, the Mumbai-born Shah touched the feet of the grand idol of Lord Ganesh — the Lalbaugcha Raja of Mumbai, as he went on a whirlwind tour of the metropolis visiting political colleagues and allies.

Apart from taking darshan of Lalbaugcha Raja and offering prayers, the Union Home Minister visited the homes of Shinde, Fadnavis and city BJP chief Ashish Shelar for Ganesh 'darshan'. Speaking at the BJP workers' meeting in the presence of Shah, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis exhorted the party workers to go all-out to win the BMC polls as "it is now or never".

"The 'original Shiv Sena' (led by Shinde) is with the BJP and the sole aim should be to capture the BMC. I appeal to all leaders, work-

ers and supporters to work hard to ensure our victory in the BMC polls," Fadnavis said. In its immediate retaliation, the Shiv Sena came down heavily on Shah for his criticism of its party president Uddhav. Sena spokespersons Dr Manisha Kayande and ex-Mayor Kishori Pednekar, and Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Council Ambadas Danve hit out at Shah in their separate interaction with the media.

"Shah is considered No. 2 in the Central Government and such vicious language against our party president does not augur well for the position he is holding... If it was some ordinary BJP worker we could have understood that, but he is the country's Home Minister," Dr Kayande said.

Pednekar said the Sena is 'a ground-level party' the BJP leader could not do anything to make it 'bite the dust'. "If the country's Home Minister comes to help his party fight the BMC elections, then we as the Shiv Sena have already achieved our victory in the BMC polls," Danve said.

BJP releases 'sting' video of bribes to Sisodia...

From Page 1

"In the video, Kulwinder Marwah (Sunny's father) is explaining that 80 per cent profit is ours - of contractors, of friends of Kejriwal and Sisodia. The exchequer is getting only 10 per cent, he says. He says he was told that he can sell to whoever he wants, as long as a fixed amount is given," Patra said, suggesting that this "fixed amount" was going to the AAP leaders.

"The modus operandi as revealed in the video is that 80 per cent of the profit will go to (Chief Minister Arvind) Kejriwal, Sisodia and their friends. First, you give us our 80 per cent commission and then sell the 20 per cent to whoever you can, we do not care. This has been the policy

of Kejriwal," Patra told reporters.

"We asked Kejriwal and Sisodia five questions regarding the new excise policy. However, the questions remain unanswered and therefore, we have come here to expose them through a sting operation," Patra added. He said it is clear from the sting operation that the AAP Government in Delhi "invited blacklisted companies and gave contracts to them".

Delhi BJP president Gupta said the sting operation "clearly showed" that the liquor sale increased in the national Capital but the revenue from it decreased drastically.

"If Kejriwal has even a little bit of shame, it is time for him to sack Sisodia," he said,

adding that the Chief Minister sold the dream of transforming Delhi into Singapore, "but made it a hub of corruption".

BJP MP Tiwari said the sting operation substantiates all the questions that the BJP has been asking the Kejriwal Government over the liquor policy.

Meanwhile, the BJP leaders also took it to twitter and Tejinder Singh Bagga while posting the video wrote, "BIG EXPOSE OF FRAUDIA @ArvindKejriwal DAARU GHOTALA. Sting Operation of Kulwinder Marwah Father of Accused number 13 Sunny Marwah exposing Kejriwal Real Face."

"Another video exposing Fraudia @ArvindKejriwal Face," Bagga further tweeted.

Officer who killed self was asked to frame me: Sisodia; 'lies', says...

From Page 1

"He was Deputy Legal Advisor in-charge of prosecution; in which capacity he was supervising prosecutors who are conducting the trial of already charge-sheeted cases in Delhi," the CBI said.

Reacting to the CBI state-

ment on Twitter, Sisodia insisted that Kumar was a law officer dealing with his case and repeated his allegation that the office committed suicide due to the pressure to make a false story to implicate the AAP leader. "There should be an independent judicial enquiry - headed

by a retired Supreme Court judge - into the causes of death of CBI Deputy Legal Advisor Late Jitendra Kumar," he said in another tweet.

"Two days ago, a CBI official committed suicide. We found that the officer was Jitendra Kumar, he was a legal advisor in CBI's anti-corruption branch. His job was to approve or reject things based on legality. He was also looking into the legality of the FIR against me," Sisodia said.

"We have found that he was being pres-

sured to build a false case against me in a wrong manner and pressure was being built to arrest me. He was not permitting this. And there was so much pressure on him that he committed suicide. This is very sad. Pressure was being mounted to make a false case legally sound. This is wrong. My sympathies are with his family," he said. "I also want to request Prime Minister Narendra Modi - if you want to trap me in a wrong case, do it. You wanted to raid me, you did it. You filed a false case against me. You want to arrest me, tell me where you want me to come and I will be there. Please don't pressure officers and lead them to commit suicide," he said.

The deputy Chief Minister also hit out at the Prime

Minister alleging that he only thinks of destabilising non-BJP Governments by poaching MLAs.

On the other hand, the CBI said in its statement that according to the Delhi Police, which is conducting inquest proceedings into the death, the officer has not held anyone responsible for his death in his suicide note. The CBI also said the excise policy case is under investigation and "as such no clean chit has been given to any of the accused".

Asked about the BJP's "sting operation" on the issue, Sisodia called it a "joke". He said that the CBI found nothing at his house and in his locker and gave him a "clean chit". "The CBI has given me a clean chit as it did not get anything and that is why

the BJP is coming up with these tactics. This is not a sting operation, this is just a joke," he said. The AAP leader also said the BJP may make someone sitting in a car say something but that does not make it a sting operation.

"This is just a joke. I can also share many such sting operations and you should publish those," he told reporters.

Sisodia said: "BJP has been saying there is a scam and quoting numbers like Rs 30 crore, Rs 144 crore, Rs 1,300 crore. Then they got the CBI to file an FIR, wherein they tried to drag me into the white dealings between two companies. That was also on the basis of sources. My house was raided. They searched my locker, they didn't find anything".

L-G slaps legal notice on AAP leaders over...

From Page 1

The notice also asked the AAP leaders to cease and desist from spreading and circulating false, defamatory, malicious and unsubstantiated statements". The legal notice was sent through advocate Bani Dikshit.

As per the notices, the total Khadi sale across the country during 2016-17 was Rs 2146.60 Cr as per KVIC Annual Report 2016-17. There were only seven Departmental Store Outlets (DSOs) of KVIC, sale from which was Rs 173.58 Cr during the entire year of 2016-17, while the remaining sale was done through independent Khadi Institution stores and franchisees.

"Out of sale of Rs 173.58 Cr from these seven DSOs during the year, Rs 99.35 Cr was through retail sales and the remaining was through whole sale

and Government supplies. Since the period under demonetisation was from November 9, 2016 till December 31, 2016, therefore on a pro-rata basis, retails sales worth approximately only Rs 14.43 cr (actual may vary) took place through these DSOs during the period of demonetization," the notice read.

"Hence, by any stretch of imagination, whatsoever, the figure of Rs 1400 Cr is not only incompatible with real and unquestionable figures duly recorded in the books of accounts but also an incomprehensible mathematical impossibility even if one were to take into account, the actual sales of the entire year which amounted to just Rs 173.58 Cr, from seven DSOs," it read.

The notice said that the indulgence of the AAP and its leaders in such a scandalous smear campaign against Saxena, is solely with the aim of deflecting and diverting attention of the people from the gross failure of the AAP Government in Delhi, their expose in the recently unearthed Excise and Classroom scam coupled with the appreciation gained by the LG for the 'extraordinary work done by him in the past three months.

"Saxena, while ensuring that the law of the land and statute are upheld in both

letter and spirit, my Client has taken several tough decisions in the larger public interest, which may not be palatable to AAP. Thus, the present smear campaign is nothing but bestial vendetta against my client whose actions have unveiled, amongst other things, rampant irregularities and corruption by some key leaders of the AAP," the notice read.

The notice also highlights the major irregularities by Delhi Government in almost every key area of governance.

"Obstinate and belligerent non-compliance with the Regulations on Audit and Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (2020), and consistent and repeated refusal by the National Convenor of AAP (also the Chief Minister of Delhi) to sign files sent by him to the Secretariat of the LG, apparently with the aim of avoiding accountability and escaping responsibility, on extremely critical matters relating to governance and administration of the people of Delhi," the notice stated.

Amid the ongoing tussle with the BJP over the alleged excise policy and education scams, the AAP leaders have levelled money laundering allegations against the Delhi Lieutenant Governor when he was the chairman of the KVIC.



# Centre pressurising CBI to arrest Sisodia: AAP

Says BJP harassed CBI officer leading to his suicide, terms ‘BJP’s sting’ baseless’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Monday alleged that the BJP-led Central Government is pressuring CBI into arresting Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and they harassed CBI officer Jitendra Kumar to such an extent that he died by suicide. Addressing multiple Press conferences, AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj and AAP MLA from Kalkaji, Atishi also described the BJP’s “sting operation” as “absolutely useless, baseless and third class” and said the BJP is “just fishing to somehow find something” and save its face as the CBI “failed” to get anything incriminating against Sisodia. “Why is the CBI silent on Kumar’s death? Not a single CBI functionary came in front



to talk about his death or even issue a personal obituary about their officer. Of what I have learnt, he was a very honest, dedicated and senior officer of the CBI. He was very legally sharp too. The CBI’s silence on his death is very shocking,” said Bharadwaj. “Under pressure from the Central Government, the officer was working on the CBI’s false accusation. He was under pressure, against his will, to somehow present a compelling case against Sisodia, so that he could be imprisoned and publicly humiliated. No competent officer is ready for such circumstances,” said Bharadwaj. Atishi said that as much pressure was built on Jitendra

Kumar, who was the CBI’s legal advisor in the case against Sisodia, for making a case for the issuance of an arrest warrant against the deputy chief minister that he could not bear it and died by suicide two days ago. She claimed that none of the legal advisors of the CBI is ready to recommend the issuance of an arrest warrant against Sisodia because they have to mention a valid ground for it in their legal opinion and that the agency failed to find anything incriminating against the deputy chief minister either from his residence or his wife’s bank locker. Atishi condoled the alleged suicide of Kumar and assured his family members that the AAP stands by them. “There cannot be anything more sad in this country than that an officer had to die by suicide because of the prime minister’s conspiracy,” she alleged and demanded that Modi spell out the names of the CBI officials on whom he is “exerting pressure” to arrest Sisodia “anyhow”.

# BJP MLAs to meet Prez today, demand AAP Govt removal



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP MLAs will meet President Draupadi Murmu on Tuesday to demand removal of the AAP Government over a host of issues, including corruption charges against the Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the liquor and education scam. According to Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, all the BJP MLAs will gather in front of North Block at 10:15 am and march from there to meet the President. AAP MLAs will meet the President of India on Tuesday. “We will submit a memorandum to her for the dismissal of the Kejriwal Government involved in corruption in Delhi,” said Bidhuri, BJP MLA from Badarpur. The BJP leader on September 3 said that the ruling party has misused the Delhi Assembly and wasted five days in Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena bashing. Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said, “Kejriwal is acting like Hitler. The Sheila Dikshit Government called a special session of the Assembly thrice in her 15-year rule. But Kejriwal has called the session over 10 times in just seven years and used the opportunity to criticize the Centre,” he said. The BJP leader further said that along with the use of abusive language against L-G, the files sent to him are not even signed by the Chief Minister. “Cabinet notes are sent to them after the Cabinet meeting. In view of all these illegal activities, this Government should be immediately dismissed,” he demanded. He said Delhi Government Minister Satyendar Jain is in jail for more than three months while the CBI has registered an FIR against Sisodia in connection with irregularities in implementation of the Excise Policy. “The CVC has exposed the education scam of this Government. A DTC scam and Delhi Jal Board scam have also come to the fore. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal neither took any action against his tainted Ministers, nor removed them from his Cabinet. The Kejriwal Government is providing full protection to corruption,” the LoP alleged. He accused the AAP Government of “indulging in corruption and murdering democracy in Delhi by ignoring all rules and regulations.” “That is why, this Government should be dismissed.

# Delhi Cong urges top cop not to close liquor scam investigation



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of Delhi Congress on Monday met Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora over the alleged liquor scam and appealed to him not to close the police probe into the matter in which Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is the main accused. Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar, who led the delegation apprised that the police commissioner that Delhi Congress had submitted a complaint to the then police commissioner on June 3, 2022, containing all the details about the

corruption and irregularities in the allotment of licenses and new liquor vends, and in the implementation of the Liquor Policy, in an illegal manner. Kumar said that on the basis of the Delhi Congress complaint, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi police had issued notice to the Excise Department of the Delhi Government, but according to media reports, the EOW was closing its probe into the Liquor Scam, after the Lieutenant Governor ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the liquor scam.

# CISF securing RSS office in Capital

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has begun providing security cover to the offices of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the national Capital. Armed contingents of the CISF are providing protection to the RSS office following directives to the effect by the Central government. The main ‘Keshav Kunj’ office located at Jhandewalan in central Delhi and its camp office located nearby at ‘Udasin Ashram’ have been brought under the cover of CISF beginning September 1, officials said. The force personnel will control the entry and exit of the two building complexes and guards will be posted at vantage points to secure the campus. The cover was sanctioned by the Union Home Ministry based on inputs shared by central intelligence agencies on the threat to the RSS offices, official sources said. The RSS is considered the ideological fountainhead of the ruling BJP at the Centre. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat is already a ‘Z plus’ category protectee of the VIP security unit of the CISF. The Force also secures the Nagpur office of the organisation as part of this security detail, they said. As the RSS chief also works from the Delhi offices and the re-development of the ‘Keshav Kunj’ facility is nearing completion, it was thought prudent by the security agencies to provide it with an armed cover of the CISF which has been doing this job in Nagpur for many years, they added.



# FIR filed against fact checker Zubair over ‘spreading hate’ against cricketer Arshdeep

Alt News co-founder shared screenshots of tweets against cricketer posted on social media

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa has filed a police complaint against Mohammed Zubair, the co-founder of Alt News website, accusing him of spreading hate against cricketer Arshdeep Singh and the Sikh community with his tweet. The player became a victim of vicious trolling on social media after he dropped a catch during India’s five-wicket loss to arch-rival Pakistan in the Super four match of the Asia Cup in Dubai on Sunday. In his complaint filed at the Parliament Street police station, Sirsa cited a tweet by Zubair where he had shared screenshots of tweets against Singh posted on various handles.

CRICKETER ARSHDEEP SINGH BECAME A VICTIM OF VICIOUS TROLLING ON SOCIAL MEDIA AFTER HE DROPPED A CATCH DURING INDIA’S 5-WICKET LOSS TO ARCH-RIVAL PAKISTAN IN THE SUPER FOUR MATCH OF THE ASIA CUP IN DUBAI ON SUNDAY

The BJP leader claimed that most of these tweets were from “Pakistani accounts” and alleged that Zubair had acted at the behest of “anti-national elements”. He demanded that an FIR be filed against him and an investigation launched to unearth the conspiracy. “Mohammed Zubair acting in connivance with anti-national elements across the border has cleverly taken screenshots from Twitter of various Twitter handles after searching with the word- Khalistani and has then posted a tweet at 00:05 hours on September 5, 2022 com-

binging all these tweets,” he alleged. Sirsa alleged that Zubair was “trying to portray that such abusive and malicious tweets were posted by Indian Twitter handles, whereas the reality is that most of these Twitter accounts are Pakistani accounts”. He claimed some were created just for the purpose of this tweet, “the sole intention behind which was to spread hate against a nationalist and national level player who has given his heart and soul playing for the country and also against the entire Sikh community”. Zubair was arrested on June 27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through a tweet against a Hindu deity in 2018. He was in custody for 24 days on allegations of hate speech and is now out on bail. He was released after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail, saying the “exercise of the power of arrest must be pursued sparingly”.

# DCPCR seeks MCD’s explanation on poor performance of primary schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has issued a notice to the BJP-controlled municipal corporation in the city on Monday, seeking an explanation within two weeks for the poor performance of primary schools. The commission also said an inquiry has been ordered into the “poor quality of education” in the MCD schools. This comes after MLAs of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), including the party’s chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj, live-streamed their visit to the schools on social media platforms on Saturday, highlighting the “poor condition” of the buildings, classrooms, toilets and campuses, and slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for raising questions on the Delhi government’s expenditure on the construction of its schools. However, the MCD denied that the condition in its schools is poorer than those run by the city government after the AAP



MLAs live-streamed their poor condition on social media. As per the statement released by the MCD, the learning outcome for Class 3 for the national capital includes all category of schools for Delhi State. Schools included are Private recognized, Government aided, Central government, State Government which also includes municipal schools. “It is difficult to fathom as to how MCD schools can be pointed out for overall performance of class 3 learning outcome when it has nearly 28 per cent of the total share of students of Delhi State. The schools taken for survey under NAS, more than 70 per cent

schools are the ones other than MCD schools. This fact seems to have been overlooked by DCPCR. The Corporation, nonetheless, will respond to the notice of the Commission soon,” the statement further read. In a notice of inquiry, the DCPCR, the statutory watchdog of the Delhi government in matters of child rights, cited the National Achievement Survey (NAS) report 2021 for Class 3 to highlight the quality of teaching and learning in the municipal schools. The NAS Class-3 results paint a dismal picture of teaching and learning in municipal schools, which rank Delhi amongst the lowest 5 performing states in India,” the notice read. “In fact, the Class-3 results of Municipal Corporation of Delhi are below the national average in all three subjects: Language, Maths, and Environmental Studies. The average state score for Class 3 in language is merely 52 per cent while the national average is 62 per cent,” it added.

# Don’t overspeed, always wear seatbelts, tweet police

Police urge in wake of Cyrus Mistry’s death in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry’s death in a car crash, Delhi Police took to Twitter to urge citizens not to over-speed and always wear seatbelts. The police also shared a photo on how to ensure safety during a road accident, advising drivers and passengers to buckle up and open airbags in emergencies. “Don’t go fast. Fasten your seat belt. Doesn’t matter where you are sitting, front seats or back seats. Wear seat belts. Buckle up every single time!” Delhi Police tweeted with the

hashtag Road Safety and Delhi Police Cares. Mistry and a co-passenger were killed in a car crash on Sunday. They were not wearing seat belts, as per a preliminary probe and over-speeding and the “error of judgement” by the driver caused the accident, a police official said. Prima facie, the luxury car was speeding when the accident took place on Sunday afternoon, he said. The Mercedes car covered a distance of 20 km in just nine minutes after crossing the Charoti check post in Maharashtra’s Palghar district, 120 km away from Mumbai, the official said on Sunday night. According to a National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) report recently, the fatalities due to road accidents in the



national capital Delhi have declined by 37 per cent in the last ten years. However, hit-and-run cases in the city have increased to 59 per cent last year as compared to 51 per cent in 2020. This was revealed in a report released by the Delhi Transport Department on road crash fatalities. According to the Delhi transport department data, there are about 69 fatal crash spots across the city, which has

seen more than five accidents per kilometre in the last two years. “Of these 69 fatal spots, there are 17 high-risk areas which have seen more than seven fatal crashes. These are Mukarba Chowk, Seelampur Chowk, intersection of Outer Ring Road and Wazirabad Road near Signature Bridge, Peeragarhi Chowk, Punjabi Bagh Chowk, Nirankari Chowk, Azadpur Chowk, intersection of GT road and Libaspur road and Punjabi Bagh chowk,” stated the Delhi Transport department data. The data also showed that Ring Road Bypass had seen the highest number of persons killed per kilometer while the Outer Ring Road and Ring Road reported the highest number of persons killed in 2021.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A massive fire was reported at the top floor of a three-storey commercial building in central Delhi’s busiest and congested market lanes of Chandni Chowk. The building also collapsed inward and an adjacent building was also damaged in the incident, however, no casualty has been reported so far. After over 11 hours, the fire that broke out at the commercial building situated near Chandni Chowk metro station here Sunday night was brought under control, while the cooling operations were still underway till Monday evening, officials said. “There was no one trapped inside the building as the shops and godowns were all closed. During the fire-fighting operation, one of the firemen sus-



tained injuries, but he is fine now,” a senior fire official said. During the rescue operation, the fire fighters had to operate from the adjacent building as a massive fire had broken out and all the doors and windows were completely closed and there was no space to move inside, the official

were rushed to the site initially. He said the fire call was later upgraded to serious and a total of 40 fire tenders were sent to douse the flames. More than 150 fire personnel were deployed at the site. Talking about the challenges faced by the fire fighters, Garg said since the lanes in Chandni Chowk are usually narrow and congested, it was difficult for the fire tenders to enter the lanes where the building was situated. New fire tenders had to be brought in as there was no source of water supply. Finally, the source of water was utilised from the available connections near Chandni Chowk metro station, he said. The cause of the incident is suspected to be electrical malfunction, he added.

# Kingpin of carlifting gang which stole 5K cars held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has nabbed the kingpin of the car thief gang which had stolen 5000 vehicles from various parts of the country since 1998. With previous involvement in 181 criminal cases, the accused was also notorious for smuggling of rhinoceros horn in the northeastern state and he was also actively involved in supply of illegal arms. The accused has been identified as Anil Chauhan (52), resident of Khanpur Extension and he hails from Tejpur, Assam. The accused was a Class-I contractor in the Assam



Government. Later, the Enforcement directorate raided his place and all his property was seized and auctioned. Later, he again started committing thefts, police said. According to Shweta Chauhan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police

(DCP), Central district, due to recent spurt in the activities of illegal arms suppliers in central district and Delhi, the special staff of the central district was been tasked to check them. “On May 23, information about the arrival of the most wanted deterrent auto lifter cum supplier of illegal arms of India identified as Anil Chauhan was received by the special staff of Central District,” said the DCP. Acting on the information, a team was formed which acted swiftly on the information and accused Anil Chauhan was arrested with one illegal country-made pistol, two live cartridges, and one stolen bike, he said

# Man posing as Major held for raping CISF constable, cheating her of ₹28 lakh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man who impersonated as a serving major in Indian Army allegedly raped a woman constable posted with CISF and also cheated her of ₹28 lakh on the pretext of providing jobs to her family members in the Army and the Bihar Police. The accused, Deepak Kumar, came in contact with the woman through an online matrimonial portal. Kumar was arrested by a team of Crime Branch unit from from Hazari Bagh, Jharkhand, police said. Kumar, resident of Arwal district, Bihar, is a science graduate. Having failed to get selected in a government job, he started duping people to fulfil his needs, police said. According to Rajeshg Deo, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime Branch, the matter came to light after the lady constable working in CISF in Delhi had got registered a case under sections 376 (rape), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 406 (criminal breach of trust) of the Indian Penal Code at Bindapur police station under Dwarka district against accused Kumar.



# Rajpath, Central Vista lawns to be renamed ‘Kartavya Path’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi Government has decided to rename the historic Rajpath and Central Vista lawns in the national Capital as “Kartavya Path”, on Monday. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has convened a special meeting on September 7 and the proposal will be placed before the council following a proposal from the Centre. Rajpath was known as Kingsway during British Rule. According to the vice chairman of the NDMC, Satish Upadhyay, the entire road and area from the Netaji statue to

the Rashtrapati Bhavan will be known as Kartavya Path. “We are convening a special meeting to discuss and rename the Central Vista and Rajpath stretch as Kartavya Path on September 7. The proposal is yet to come but the meeting is being called to discuss the change in name. All members and officials concerned will participate in the meeting,” Upadhyay said. Going by the ethos of the Modi government to make nomenclatures more people-centric, the name of the road on which the prime minister’s residence is located was changed from Race Course Road to Lok Kalyan Marg in

2015, they added. In 2015, Aurangzeb Road was renamed A P J Abdul Kalam Road. In 2017, Dalhousie Road was renamed Dara Shikoh Road. Also, Teen Murti Teen Murti Chowk was changed to Teen Murti Haifa Chowk in 2018. There have been several proposals to rename Akbar Road, but nothing has been done yet. The redevelopment project of the Central Vista — the nation’s power corridor — also envisages a new triangular Parliament building, a common central secretariat, a new residence of the prime minister, a prime minister’s office, and a new vice-president’s enclave.



# Schools for Rising India, announces PM

14,500 schools across India to be upgraded under scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



On the occasion of National Teachers’ Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced a new initiative — PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India). This will be a new centrally sponsored scheme for upgradation and development of more than 14,500 schools across the country by strengthening the selected existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.

“The PM-SHRI schools will have a modern, transformational and holistic method of imparting education. Emphasis will be on a discovery oriented, learner-centric way of teaching. Focus will also be on modern infra including latest technology, smart classrooms, sports and more,” Modi said as he made the announcement in a series of tweets.

Elaborating further on the landmark announcement, Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, “PM SHRI Schools will showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020 and act as exemplar schools and also offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity. The aim of these schools will not only be qualitative teaching, learning and cognitive development, but also creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st century skills.”

Pedagogy adopted in these schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based (particularly, in the foundational years) inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible and enjoyable. Focus will be on achieving proficiency in learning outcomes of every child in every grade. Assessment at all levels will be based on conceptual understanding and appli-

cation of knowledge to real life situations and will be competency-based.

These schools will be equipped with modern infrastructure including labs, smart classrooms, libraries, sports equipment, art room etc. which is inclusive and accessible. These schools shall also be developed as green schools with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure and integration of organic lifestyle in curriculum.

They will provide leadership in their respective regions in providing high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment that takes care of the diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities of children and makes them active participants in their own learning process as per the vision of NEP 2020.

Interacting with the award-winning teachers, the Prime Minister said that India surpassing the UK to become the world’s fifth largest economy is “special” because the country has left behind those who ruled it for 250 years.

“Our new National Education Policy is being applauded throughout the world. People are able to see how India is moving in the right direction to strengthen its education ecosystem.

## Teaching in mother tongue more effective for developing talent: Prez

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday batted for teaching in mother tongue in schools, saying talent development in science, literature and social sciences can be more effective if taught in one’s own language. She recalled the contribution of her school teachers due to which she became the first girl from her village to go to college.

She was addressing the gathering at the National Teachers Awards ceremony.

“Science, research and innovation are the basis of development in today’s knowledge economy. The foundation stone for further strengthening India’s position in these areas will be built through school education. I believe development of original talent in science, literature, or the social sciences can be more effective through the mother tongue,” she said.

“It is our mothers who teach us the art of living in our early lives. That is why mother tongue is helpful in devel-



oping natural talent. After the mother, the teachers carry forward our education in our lives. If teachers also teach in their mother tongue, then students can develop their talent with ease. That is why in the new National Education Policy (NEP), emphasis has been laid on use of Indian languages for school education and higher education,” Murmu added.

The president remembered her teachers and said they not only taught her but also gave her love and inspiration. “On the strength of the guidance of my family and teachers, I became the first girl from my village to attend college. I always feel indebted to my teachers for whatever I have achieved in life,” she said.

# Govt slams Wikipedia for false info on Arshdeep Singh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Government on Monday slammed Wikipedia for publishing false information on cricketer Arshdeep Singh’s page that linked him to the separatist Khalistani movement, saying such incitement cannot be permitted.

Singh faced vitriolic attacks on social media by some users after he dropped a crucial catch in a thrilling Super 4 Asia Cup clash between India and Pakistan in Dubai on Sunday.

After the missed catch, information on his Wikipedia page was changed to link him to the separatist Khalistani movement.

Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar took to Twitter to slam such a move.

“No intermediary operating in India can permit this type of misinformation (a)(d) deliberate efforts to incitement (a)(n)(d) user harm - violates our govts expectations of safe and trusted internet,” he said.

It was also said the Ministry of Electronics and IT has summoned executives from Wikipedia to explain the false post but officials denied any such move.

According to the edit history of the cricketer’s



Wikipedia page, an unregistered user replaced the words “India” with “Khalistan” at several places on the profile and his name was changed to “Major Arshdeep Singh Bajwa”. But the changes were reversed within 15 minutes by Wikipedia editors.

The slanderous linking of him to the Khalistani movement was said to have been done by elements in Pakistan.

Big social media firms have drawn flak in the past over hate speech, misinformation and fake news circulating on their platforms.

The government had last year notified new IT rules to make digital intermediaries more accountable and responsible for content hosted on their platforms.

The rules required social media companies to take down

contentious content quicker, appoint grievance redressal officers and assist in investigations.

Significant social media intermediaries — those with more than 50 lakh users — have to follow additional due diligence, including the appointment of a chief compliance officer, a nodal contact person and a resident grievance officer and all three officials will have to be residents in India.

The IT ministry, in June, circulated the draft rules that propose a panel to hear user appeals against inaction on complaints made, or against content-related decisions taken by grievance officers of social media platforms.

At present, “there is no appellate mechanism provided by intermediaries nor is there any credible self-regulatory mechanism in place,” the ministry had said.

Several cricketers and politicians have backed Arshdeep Singh saying anyone can make a mistake in a high-pressure game.

Pakistan needed 34 runs to win when Ravi Bishnoi came in to bowl the 18th over. Arshdeep dropped a relatively easy catch of Asif Ali on the third ball of the over, which led to a massive momentum shift and Pakistan winning by five wickets.

## Gadkari blames faulty DPRs for road accidents, calls for training of companies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Attributing some of the road accidents to faulty project reports, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday stressed that companies need proper training for preparing detailed project reports for construction of highways and other roads.

The Minister said that the Government is encouraging use of new technologies.

“Some DPRs (Detailed Project Reports) prepared by companies are worst and are responsible for road accidents in the country,” Gadkari, known for his frank views, said at an event here.

He underlined the need for organising training programme for companies preparing DPRs.

“Shuruwat wahan se karo. Agar woh sudhrenege nahi, toh pooru tumhara satyanash ho jayega (Beginning should be made from DPR. If the companies preparing DPRs do not improve, the problem will reoccur),” he said.

In a lighter vein, the minister said even a new Mercedes car in the hands of an unskilled driver can create problems. Gadkari emphasised on identifying reasons for delay in the road projects as rising cost of construction due to delay is also an important concern.

Former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry was killed in a road accident on Sunday after his car hit a divider in Maharashtra’s Palghar district.

According to National Crime Records Bureau data, over 1.55 lakh lives were lost in road crashes across India in 2021 -- an average of 426 daily or 18 every single hour -- which is the highest death figures recorded in any calendar year so far.

While the number of deaths due to crashes reached its highest last year, the number of road accidents and persons injured has come down compared to previous years, the report of the NCRB, which functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs, revealed.

# 5-judge SC bench to hear tomorrow plea on Delhi-Centre row over control of services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said a five-judge Constitution bench would consider on September 7 the legal issue concerning the scope of legislative and executive powers of the Centre and Delhi Government over control of services in the national Capital.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit took note of the submissions of senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi government, that the matter be listed before a bench due to some urgency.

“I’ll have a word with Justice D Y Chandrachud. We will list it before a CB (constitution bench) headed by Justice Chandrachud day after tomorrow,” the CJI said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said he would be seeking a few days to prepare for the case.

The bench, also comprising Justice S Ravindra Bhat, said the bench concerned



would fix the schedule of hearing.

Earlier, the apex court on August 22 had said that a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice Chandrachud has been set up to hear the legal issue concerning the scope of legislative and executive powers of the Centre and National Capital Territory government over control of services in Delhi.

On May 6, the top court had referred to a five-judge Constitution bench the issue of control of services in Delhi.

The apex court had said

the limited issue of control over services was not dealt with by the Constitution bench which elaborately dealt with all legal questions.

“The limited issue that has referred to this Bench relates to the scope of legislative and executive powers of the Centre and NCT Delhi with respect to the term services. The Constitution bench of this court, while interpreting Article 239AA(3)(a) of the Constitution, did not find any occasion to specifically interpret the impact of the wordings of the same with respect to Entry 41 in the State List.

## SC refuses to interfere in armed forces’ decisions on awarding maintenance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to interfere with policy decisions of the armed forces to award maintenance or alimony to the estranged wife and children directly from the salary and allowance of the serving personnel, saying “it is a welfare measure meant to ensure the spouse is not left in the lurch.”

Retired and serving personnel of the Army have approached the top court saying that they are aggrieved and dissatisfied by the arbitrary exercise of power and jurisdiction of the Army, Air Force, and Navy, in usurping judicial authority and proceeding to award maintenance orders

against the personnel of the Indian Armed forces.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli said, “These are all welfare measures. Army personnel are deployed across the country. It is to ensure that their spouse and children are not left in the lurch”.

It asked the petitioners represented through advocate Neela Gokhale and Anannya Ghosh to approach the Armed Force Tribunal (AFT).

Gokhale said that the mechanism of armed forces in awarding this maintenance is not uniform and is done without following the guidelines passed by this court in awarding maintenance and alimony in its 2021 verdict.

## IN SHORTS

**INDIAN RAILWAYS EARNS ₹844 CR IN LAST 3 MONTHS**  
**New Delhi:** The railways has earned ₹844 crore in the last three months, since it brought its commercial earning and non-fare revenue contracts online, with contracts for advertisement on its premises, for parking lots, leasing parcel space and pay-and-use toilets emerging as the top revenue-generating assets.

**SC SEEKS GOVT REPLY ON PLEA ON CVC VACANCIES**  
**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Centre on a plea that raised the issue of vacancies in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka issued notice to the Centre seeking a response within three weeks on the plea filed by NGO ‘Common Cause’.

**JUSTICE DURAISWAMY MADRAS HC NEW CJ**  
**New Delhi:** Justice M Duraiswamy, senior-most judge of the Madras High Court, was on Monday appointed as its acting Chief Justice, the law ministry said. He will assume charge with effect from September 13.

**ED ATTACHES ₹3.51 CR ASSETS OF BOOTLEGGERS**  
**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate on Monday said it has attached assets worth ₹3.51 crore of a Bihar-based bootlegger and his family as part of a money laundering investigation against them.

**MIN LAUDS SC DECISION TO JUNK PLEA OVER LAC**  
**New Delhi:** Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday welcomed a decision of the Supreme Court dismissing a plea seeking directions to the Centre to put out information regarding the extent of loss of territory along the border with China.

**‘GOVTS NOT FOR PROVIDING SECURITY TO PVT HOSPS’**  
**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday said the Centre and the State Governments cannot be expected to provide security cover to private hospitals, which are business enterprises and have to make their security arrangements.

**PARTY LEADERS FREE TO EXPRESS VIEWS: CONG**  
**New Delhi:** The Congress on Monday asserted it is a united and democratic party, and allows its leaders to express their views openly. The Congress’ assertion came amid a slew of BJP barbs and criticism from former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad stating that the party should undertake “Congress Jodo” before its “Bharat Jodo” march.

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल**  
(सीवेज शाखा)  
// निविदा आमंत्रण //

निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिये ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रतिभाग दर पर निविदा प्रपत्र-‘ब’ में केन्द्रीकृत प्रणाली के अंतर्गत लोक निर्माण विभाग में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत फर्म/टेकदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अन्य सभी <http://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र.	विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	घरोदर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य अवधि
2022_UAD_220004_1	PPE and Safety gears supply for Safai Mitra under Sewage section.	रुपये 15357300/-	रुपये 76787/-	रुपये 12500/-	एक माह

नोट :- 1. सशर्त निविदा मान्य नहीं होगी।  
2. घरोदर राशि केवल ऑनलाईन ही मान्य होगी।  
3. सफल निविदाकार को ठेके की राशि के 1 प्रतिशत राशि के बराबर परफार्मेन्स सिक्यूरिटी जमा करना होगा।  
4. निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार के बदलाव की स्थिति में जानकारी केवल ऑनलाईन ([www.mptenders.gov.in](http://mptenders.gov.in)) ही दी जावेगी।  
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**कार्यालय नगरी सीवेज शाखा नगर निगम, भोपाल**

नि.क्र. 586/022/023

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005

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

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

This E-auction Sale notice for sale of Immovable assets is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002..

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Durga Prasad Tiwari (Borrower), Mrs. Shobha Devi (Co-Borrower) QZND000005016405	Property No. C-8A, 2nd Floor Rear Side Without Roof Right, Block-C, Khasra No. 333, Village Bindapur, Subhash Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059. Area: 360 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 18,60,072/- as on August 31, 2022	Rs. 15,40,000/- From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	September 20, 2022 From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	October 13, 2022, From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will take place on the website ([UPLI.Link=https://disposalsuhb.com](http://UPLI.Link=https://disposalsuhb.com)), of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited** The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **October 12, 2022 before 05:00 PM** failing which, this secured asset will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "Offer for purchase of property" to **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **October 12, 2022, before 05:00 P.M.** The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of **"ICICI Bank Limited"** payable at Delhi. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284**. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date : September 06, 2022**  
**Place : Delhi/ NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

## PILs by politicians challenging ED Director’s tenure extension pressure tactics, says Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Calling them “pressure tactics”, the Government on Monday questioned in the Supreme Court the bonafide of the PILs filed by political leaders challenging the extension of tenure of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief and the amended law allowing such extensions up to five years.

The top court, which fixed as many as eight PILs, including those filed by politicians Randeep Singh Surjewala and Mahua Moitra, for final dis-

posal on September 19, also appointed senior advocate KV Viswanathan as amicus curiae (friend of the court) to assist it in dealing with the pleas.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justice S Ravindra Bhat took note of the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that the reply of the government was ready and will be filed.

“I have to raise one specific issue...That is except one or two, all the petitions have been



filed by political leaders belonging to parties whose eminent leaders are being investigated by the agency (ED), and these PILs are not bonafide PILs but it’s a pressure tactics”, the government’s law officer said.

Senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for

Surjewala, referred to the apex court judgements and said fixed tenures of officers like the ED director are the “hallmark of independence” and the fact that an incumbent may get an extension will “demolish” the independence of the office.

Surjewala’s plea has challenged the amendment made by the central government to the fundamental concept decided by the apex court in two judgments in the Vineet Narayan and the Common Cause cases which were on fixed tenure.

## ‘Prostrate cancer 3rd most common cancer in Indian males’

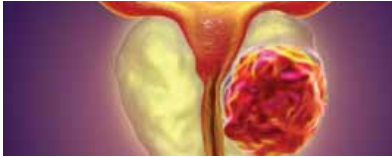
### Cases of prostrate cancer likely to increase to 47K by 2025: ICMR

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With prostate cancer increasingly becoming common among men particularly in metros — it has moved from being the eighth most common cancer in males in 1990s to the third rank by 2015—the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released a set of draft guidelines for the management of the disorder that affects mainly elders above 50.

According to the Government data, there were 37416 reported prostate cancer cases in 2016 in India which will increase to 41532 in 2020. Prostate cancer incidence is expected to increase to over 47,000 cases by 2025.

Seeking comments from the scientific community on the draft, the ICMR has however clarified that the ‘Draft Consensus Document for Management of Prostate Cancer’ represents the current



thinking of experts on the topic based on available evidence.

“This document has been developed by national experts in the field and does not in any way bind a clinician to follow this guideline verbatim. One can use an alternative mode of therapy on the basis of discussions with the patient and institution and national or international guidelines,” said the ICMR.

It also made it clear that the mention of pharmaceutical drugs for therapy does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use but serves as a guide for clinicians in complex decision-making processes.

According to a draft document which has been prepared as an outcome of ICMR’s Subcommittee on Prostate, cancer appears to be a growing problem in males

in India. According to various studies, six out of ten cases are diagnosed in men over 65, but less than 1% in men under 50. Though uncommon, prostate cancer can be seen in men even in their 30’s and 40’s.

As per the NCDIR database, prostate cancer features amongst the top 10 cancers in urban cancer registries of Bangalore, Delhi, Bhopal and Mumbai. However, in rural areas, it seems to be less of a menace.

“Prostate cancer has moved from being the eighth most common cancer in males in the 1990s to being the third most common cancer in Delhi and Mumbai by 2014. Similarly, in Bangalore, it has become the third most common cancer from being seventh in 1990s.

“Prostate cancer numbers constitute about 3% of total cancer cases in the country. Mean age of incidence of prostate cancer in India is 69.7 years,” as per the draft document which gives insight of clinical status, evidence and mode of therapy for low risk, intermediate risk and high risk prostate cancer for the perusal of the health experts in the sector.



# Rahul vows LPG cylinder at ₹500, farm loan waiver

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI

Days after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Redvi' jibe on political parties offering freebies, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday promised a host of sops, including free electricity to farmers and a limited power bills to general consumers on the lines of AAP led Delhi and Punjab Governments, while addressing a "Parivartan Sankalp Rally" at Ahmedabad.

Simultaneously, the party also announced measures for its mega 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from Wednesday stating its objective is to ensure that the concerns and demands of the people reach Delhi.

A day after a huge response from the Mehanga Par Halla Bol rally in national Capital, Rahul announced for a farm loan waiver up to Rs 3 lakh to farmers in Gujarat, LPG cylinder at Rs 500 instead of Rs 1,000 besides free electricity to agriculturists if his party forms a government in the state

## Gujarat elections



where elections are due later this year.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal who is trying to make major inroads in the coastal State after making a benchmark in Punjab recently, too had announced several sops and promised freebies if it comes to power in Gujarat.

Rahul made a host of promises including the creation of 10 lakh new jobs, building 3,000 English medium schools, free education for girls, and a subsidy of Rs 5 per litre to milk producers. He also accused the BJP government in Gujarat of insulting the legacy

of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who he said was the voice of farmers in the country.

Rahul Gandhi asserted Congress will focus on generating employment in the BJP-ruled Gujarat and will provide jobs to 10 lakh youth. Targeting the ruling BJP, he said it built the world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat, while on the other hand, it insulted him by working against those for whom Patel lived and died.

Rahul Gandhi said that Congress will grant a loan waiver to farmers as it had done in Chhattisgarh, Madhya

Pradesh, Punjab, and Karnataka. "Wherever we came to power, we said our first job will be to do what Sardar Patel would have done. And here, too, we will waive the loan of Rs 3 lakh (of farmers)," he said.

"We will open 3,000 English medium schools and provide free education to girls. Thousands of schools were shut down by the BJP government. They built the statue of Sardar Patel and on the other hand, shut down thousands of schools," the former Congress president said.

Earlier in the day, Congress asserted that its 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' is not a 'Mann Ki Baat' in any manner, but its objective is to ensure that the concerns and demands of the people reach Delhi. It also released the anthem of the Yatra, that will be launched from Kanyakumari from September 7 with Rahul Gandhi along with over 100 'Bharat Yatri's embarking on a 3,570 km metres journey. The party has billed the Yatra as an unprecedented mass contact programme ever undertaken in Independent India.

# Car over-speeding, Mistry not wearing seat belt: Police probing death case

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Palghar police investigating an accident on the Ahmedabad-Mumbai highway — in which Tata Group's former chairman Cyrus Mistry and fellow traveller Jehangir Pandole were killed on Sunday — have prima facie found that the Mercedes car involved in the mishap was "over-speeding", that both Mistry and Pandole were not wearing seat belts and that the error of judgement on the part of the driver led to the accident.

The footage from the CCTV cameras installed at a checkpoint in the neighbourhood of the mishap site showed that the Mercedes GLC Sports Utility Vehicle, in which Mistry and others were travelling towards a check post twenty minutes prior to the mishap and that it had covered a distance of 20 km in just nine minutes after crossing the Charoti check post.

"When we examined the footage captured by CCTV cameras at the Charoti check post, we found the Mumbai-bound car had crossed the check post at 2.21 pm and the



accident took place 20 km ahead," a senior police officer said.

The car, being driven by Mumbai-based gynaecologist Anahita Pandole, rammed into a road divider on the bridge over river Surya at Charoti Naka, around 135 km from Mumbai, killing Mistry (54) and Jehangir Pandole on the spot. Anahita (55) and her husband Darius Pandole (60) were seriously injured in the mishap.

Both the deceased Mistry and Jehangir, who were sitting on the backseats, were not wearing seats at the time of mishap. "The curtain airbags did not open for Mistry and

Jahangir as they both were not wearing the seat belts," a senior police official said.

The police said that Anahita, who was behind the wheels, might have lost control of her vehicle, while overtaking another vehicle at a high speed, from the wrong side, and hit the road divider. "Apart from over-speeding of the vehicle and the error of judgement on the part of the driver might have resulted in the mishap. In addition, the deceased were not wearing seat belts," a police officer said.

The bodies of Mistry and Jahangir Pandole have been to the state-run J J Hospital in Mumbai for post-mortem.

Meanwhile, the injured Pandoles - Darius and Dr Anahita - who survived the car crash—have been shifted from Vapi in Gujarat to the Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai. The injured have suffered fractures and are now stable.

In a related development, Cyrus Mistry, a scion of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, will be held here on Tuesday morning.

"It is with utmost sadness that we announce the sudden

and untimely demise of our beloved Cyrus Pallonji Mistry, 54. He succumbed to injuries from an unfortunate car accident on Sunday," the bereaved family said in its tribute to the departed industrialist.

Mistry is survived by his wife Rohiqa, sons Firoz and Zahan, mother Patsy Mistry, sisters Laila Rustom Jehangir and Aloo Noel Tata and brother Shapoor Mistry.

Born on July 4, 1968 in a Parsi family from then Bombay now Mumbai to parents Pallonji Mistry and Pasty Perin Dubash —both of whom belonged to Zoroastrian faith with roots in India, Cyrus Mistry did Civil Engineering from the University of London in 1990. He later studied at London Business School and was awarded International Executive Masters in Management from the University of London.

After his education, Mistry joined his family construction company Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. Ltd as a director in 1991. Mistry was the managing director of the company, before becoming the head of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group. The Pallonji family holds an 18.5 per cent stake in Tata Sons.

# Didi: Even God can't provide a corruption-free society

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said there could be no foolproof system and that even God could not provide a corruption-free society.

"Can you control corruption 100 per cent ... Can there be a corruption-free system... Even God cannot ensure a corruption-free system... Let alone a small human being like me," the Chief Minister said.

Mamata was speaking in a programme on the occasion of Teacher's Day. During the occasion, she declared that a new chapter on 'moral character building' would be introduced in school syllabus.

In an apparent attempt to



distance her Government from the recent spate of corruption cases Mamata said, "In a big system there is always possibility of some mistakes... There may be lapses but this does not mean that each and every person in the society is corrupt."

Under sustained attack from the Opposition parties —

for running a 'corrupt' Government — in the wake of the arrest of senior Trinamool Congress leaders like former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee and senior party leader Anubrata Mondal, the Chief Minister launched a frontal attack against the Left Front for destroying all documentary evidences of corruption during the Marxist period.

"There are still evidences of some lapses (read corruption) during our time as we have preserved the papers but all the documentary evidences of the Left period were destroyed and so they cannot be caught," the Chief Minister said.

She also said a person is not known by the property he or she owned but the honesty

and integrity one exhibited. "How much money one owns is not the only identity of a person. Always remember the money you own today might perish tomorrow. Whether I will remain honest or not will depend on me only. All fingers are not the same. Just as there are good people in society, there are also bad people. So, for some bad people it would be unfair to malign the entire society," she said.

Meanwhile in a latest development the Enforcement Directorate investigating the money laundering part of the school level recruitment scam, on Monday arrested a chartered accountant who was also involved in foreign exchange conversion business.

# Rain leaves India's IT capital struggling, public vent anger

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Torrential overnight rains left India's IT capital struggling on Monday as inundation and water-logging threw life out of gear, leading to a public outpour of anger against alleged misgovernance and the powers that be.

As the rains brought Bengaluru, capital city of the poll-bound Karnataka to its knees on Monday coupled with traffic woes, the average Bengalee had a tough time negotiating the flooded roads and reach their respective destinations. Even the airport was not spared.

Many people took to Twitter to air their grievances, with a short video showing air passengers wading through ankle-deep water in what seemed to be the city airport's entrance.

Sights of traffic snarls, inundation and stranded citizens painted a stark picture of the southern city known as the country's IT hub, even as inflat-



able boats and tractors were deployed to move people, especially the morning office-goers and school students.

IT industry veteran Mohan Das Pai uploaded a video on Twitter, titled "Pls see in Bengaluru," that showed a man dressed up as Lord Ganesh and wading through near knee-deep water, even as vehicular traffic was seen crawling in the background. Cars and buses were submerged in stagnant water elsewhere. One Twitter user said he was stuck for five hours at Outer Ring Road (ORR).

Several lakes in the city

were overflowing and stormwater drains were flooded, affecting the low-lying areas where water entered houses.

While a twitter user blamed "massive deforestation" and road heights going up "illegally" with "illegal" high rises, another said the only solution is to reclaim all lakes and remove encroachments.

Water-logging in localities like Rainbow Drive layout and Sunny Brooks Layout on Sarjapur Road among others were to such extent that tractors and boats were used to ferry students and office goers in the morning.

# 4 dead, dozen hurt in Lucknow hotel blaze



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Four people, including two women, died while over a dozen suffered burns after a massive fire broke out in a four-storey hotel, Lewana Suite, in the city's commercial hub in Hazratganj early morning on Monday. Seven firemen also suffered injuries in the rescue operation.

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak expressed grief over the unfortunate incident. After the CM ordered a probe, a two-member team consisting of Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob and Commissioner of Lucknow Police SN Shrivastava was formed on the instruction of Principal Secretary, Home, Sanjay Prasad.

# UP Govt to promote health, edu infra in Muslim areas

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government has stepped up its efforts for reaching out to the minority community as it plans to promote health and education-related infrastructure development projects in areas having significant Muslim population.

The recent victory of the BJP in bypolls to two Lok Sabha seats (Rampur and Azamgarh) has added to confidence of the ruling party. The BJP wrested both the seats with sizeable muslim population from the Samajwadi Party.

The State Government, with the help of the Centre, has allocated funds to set up health and education-related projects in districts like Rampur, Saharanpur, Amroha, Bulandshahr, Hapur and Ghazipur. All these districts have a high Muslim population. A medical facility will be established in Suar in Rampur district while a 100-bed girls'



hostel will be set up in Bulandshahr and Saharanpur and a medical facility centre will be built in Hapur. Girls' hostels and other facilities are also proposed to be established in some other districts.

The ruling party claimed that the Muslim community receives the bulk of development and welfare programmes of the BJP-led Central and state governments and that these initiatives will help in further consolidating the goodwill.

"Development projects in Muslim-dominated areas have been there since 2014. These initiatives will help further.

# Netaji daughter to miss unveiling of father's statue, wants Govt to consider bringing Bose's remains back

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Netaji's daughter Anita Bose Pfaff will miss the unveiling of her father's statue at India Gate by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, but would like to meet the PM to discuss "the conditions and procedures" for bringing back Subhas Bose's remains to India.

The nearly 80-year-old Bose Pfaff told PTI, that she would like the remains now kept at Renkoji Temple in Japan, since the plane crash at Taipei after which Netaji died at a hospital, to be brought back with due honour.

"I would like to discuss (with the Prime Minister) the conditions and procedures for a return of my father's remains," said Bose Pfaff, an economist by profession, in a telephonic interview with PTI.

She said that though she had received an invitation to attend the unveiling of Netaji's statue, the short notice made it



difficult for her to undertake the long distance travel from Germany where she lives. The statue is being unveiled at India Gate under a canopy where decades earlier the image of King George V, against whom he rebelled had stood.

"I would have wanted to combine a trip to India with a meeting with the Prime Minister ... but I understand he is busy at the moment. Among other things, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina is on a state visit," said Bose Pfaff, whose husband Martin Pfaff, is a former member of the German Parliament from the Social Democratic Party.

# All ready for Deepotsav world record in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Tourism department has geared up to set a new world record for lighting more than 14 lakh diyas during 'Deepotsav' in Ayodhya next month. Apart from this, 4.50 lakh diyas will be lit in 21 major temples of Ayodhya.

The Tourism department has asked the magistrates of all the districts to make 10 diyas each from their respective gram sabhas and donate lamps. All these diyas will be lit on the foot of Ram on the banks of Saryu. A Guinness Book of World Records team will also be present at Ram Ki Paidi to witness the world record.

# 21 die of dog bites in Kerala this year

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

With 12-year-old Abhirami of Pathanamthitta succumbing to dog bite on Monday, the number of persons who lost their lives in Kerala due to bite by stray dogs till Monday shot up to 21.

The number of persons bitten by stray dogs in the State during the last eight months crossed 1,83,000, according to the department of health, Government of Kerala. Though Abhirami had been given three shots of the anti-rabies vaccine, she did not wait for the last dose and breathed her last at Kottayam Medical College Hospital.

Though most of the victims had undergone vaccination, it has not helped to bring



down the fatalities. Veena George, Health Minister of the State, had said that there was nothing wrong with the vaccines and had blamed the victims for the mishaps.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had himself told the Legislative Assembly that the vaccines administered for dog bites need to be checked thoroughly and he assured the House that an expert committee would be constituted to check the efficacy of the vaccines.

Renjini Haridas, noted media personality and an animal lover of repute blamed the callousness of government departments for the scenario. "The root cause is the all round failure in waste management. The stray dogs survive and multiply because of the waste food which we throw in the streets. There are hundreds of unlicensed butcher shops in the State and they throw away the waste to the roads. What else the dogs require?" asks Renjini who hogged limelight through agitations she held for animal rights.

Renjini said till the waste management issue remained unresolved, Kerala would face this situation. "I do whatever I can do from my side but the authorities are not helpful," she said.

# UP forerunner in bringing digital revolution: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday claimed that Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a forerunner in bringing digital revolution to India.

He was addressing the 'Ashwamedh-Elara India Dialogue 2022' virtually from his official residence here. Speaking on 'Uttar Pradesh: Model State for Future India', the chief minister said UP has stepped forward as a leader in data collection and about 45 per cent of the total mobile manufacturing in India is done in the State.

"Uttar Pradesh is a state with limitless possibilities offering growth opportunities in all sectors. It is emerging as a model state for New India," the



CM said.

Maintaining that the law and order situation has witnessed massive improvement in the last five years, Yogi said, "UP today has rule of law. A dedicated single-window system called 'Nivesh Mitra' has been developed offering numerous services to improve the ease of doing business. Besides, over 500 reforms have been made in labour and investor regulation.







FIRST COLUMN

DONATE EYE PROMOTION NEEDS INFRASTRUCTURE

Many people feel hesitant to donate eyes



NIKKHIL K MASURKAR

Though every organ of the body is equally significant, eyes are more special. It allows us to witness this beautiful world and the aesthetics it has to offer. But, unfortunately, millions of people in India suffer from visual impairments, which deprive them of their sense of sight. In India, almost 6.8 million people suffer from vision loss in at least one eye due to corneal diseases and of these around a million are affected in both eyes. The only way to address this growing concern is through corneal transplantation. However, India faces a severe shortage of cornea donations. Each year nearly 75,000 people with corneal blindness miss out on the opportunity to regain their vision in India. Prevalent myths work against eye donations, besides lack of awareness and fear associated with the process.

There are plenty of scopes to promote eye donation, considering the fact that a lot of people are eager to donate their eyes. However, the only hindrance is a well-planned, adequate approach. As far as eye donation awareness is concerned, it is extremely low in the country, more so in rural areas. While awareness regarding eye donation in urban areas is almost 80 per cent, in rural areas it is around 28 per cent. On top of that, families of people who pledge their eyes for donation are often dissuaded by their relatives to not donate their eyes.



The general lack of awareness is a critical factor behind ignorance and taboos. To address the same, there need to be nationwide awareness campaigns stressing the importance of eye donation. In addition to that a desirable amount of assistance and counselling given by medical counsellors and practitioners can further enhance the situation. The situation is also worsened because of the lack of trained cornea surgeons and grief counsellors. Tragically, several corneas go unused after they are collected since there is an insufficient number of corneal surgeons to transplant them. Grief counselling is a part of the Hospital Cornea Retrieval Program (HCRP) launched in 1990. The grief counsellors provide counseling to the deceased's family and also encourage them to donate the eyes of the deceased with a more planned approach. There is a need for a robust system so that the people feel at ease while donating the vital organs.

As per a study, only 12.1 per cent of these grief counsellors had excellent skills and knowledge required to counsel people. To come up with a proper intervention method for eye donation, the training capabilities for grief counsellors need to be enhanced. Also, steps must be taken by the health ministry to optimize the number of cornea surgeons and specialists in the country. Additionally, India requires an even distribution of eye banks across the different states. To fill the infrastructural gap, over 2000 eye donation centres (EDCs) and eye banks (EBs) are required. Apart from EDCs and EBs, training facilities and surgical skill development should also be made available to surgeons from all regions.

While eye donation is indeed a noble cause, many people still feel hesitant to pledge to donate their eyes due to a lack of proper information and transparency in the process. It is the need of the hour to ensure proper integration between all the stakeholders (doctors, government agencies, etc.) to improve awareness, especially at the grass-roots level that will also benefit the farthest and inaccessible regions of the country.

(The author is CEO, Entod Pharmaceuticals)

The undeserving must not get food subsidy

Financial burden to implement the national food security law has clearly become a major burden for the Government



UTTAM GUPTA

Recently, the Supreme Court in a petition has directed the Union Government to increase coverage under the National Food Security Act, 2013, (NFSA) so that "more and more needy persons and citizens get the benefit". Under the NFSA, the Centre directs the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other state agencies to procure food from the farmer at MSP (minimum support price) and organize its distribution to a population of around 820 million people (50 per cent in urban areas and 75 per cent in rural parts) through a network of fair price shops (FPS) at the subsidized price (call it 'issue price') of ₹2, ₹3 and ₹1 per kg for wheat, rice, and coarse cereals respectively. Each person is eligible to receive five kg of cereals per month.

As part of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), the poorest of the poor households get 35 kg of food grains per family (@ 7 kg per person in a family of five) each month. Launched in December, 2000, initially AAY covered 10 million households; currently, their number is around 24 million, which translates to 120 million persons. Thus, out of a total of 820 million beneficiaries, 120 million get 7 kg per month, whereas the rest 700 million get 5 kg per month.

The present coverage is based on the 2011 Census estimates. The SC wants this to be increased by taking into account the population during 2021, which is expected to add another 100 million to the list of beneficiaries, taking the grand total to 920 million.

Under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM), children between the ages of 6 months and 14 years, pregnant women, and nursing mother are entitled to meals that adhere to specified nutritional standards. This is not all.

The Centre has also been running the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). Under it, five kg of rice or wheat per person per month is given "free" to all the 820 million beneficiaries under the NFSA plus one kg of pulses per family. Launched in March 2020, the objective was to mitigate the hardship of people due to disruption in economic activity and loss of jobs and income in the wake of the pandemic.

As per the original plan, the scheme should have ended on June 30, 2020. But it got two extensions during FY 2020-21; two more during FY 2021-22. During the current FY, already it has got extension till September 30, 2022 and there is a strong possibility of it being continued till the year end.

In view of the waning effect of Covid, and resurrection of economic activity from FY 2021-22 onward, continuation of PMGKAY beyond FY 2020-21 was totally unjustified. Yet, it has stayed and is unlikely to go away at least till the end of FY 2023-24.



SINCE 2016-17, THE BUDGETARY POSITION HAS BEEN SO TIGHT THAT FCI WAS ONCE FORCED TO BORROW FROM THE NATIONAL SMALL SAVINGS FUND (NSSF) TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT THE CENTRE COULDN'T PAY

(The author is a policy analyst)



All stakeholder who matter in policy making on food viz. the Central government, lawmake' and even the judiciary are quick to marshal arguments such as make food available to the poor at an affordable price, provide nutritional security, protect the right to life (Article 21); immunity from disaster such as Covid, and so on to justify ever expanding coverage under the NFSA.

What about the cost of funding it?

The excess of the MSP plus handling and distribution cost (H&DC) over ₹2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals under the regular NFSA multiplied by the quantity is given as 'food subsidy'. Additionally, under PMGKAY, wherein food distribution is free, the entire cost, i.e., MSP plus H&DC multiplied by the quantity is given as subsidy. The expenses incurred on schemes such as ICDS and MDM further bloat the subsidy budget.

All along, in the past, increasing food subsidies has given pain to our budget makers. In recent years, however, figures under this head have broken all records as has been the case in 2019-20: ₹219,000 crore; 2020-21: ₹525,000 crore; 2021-22: ₹286,000 crore; 2022-23: ₹207,000 crore (BE). The actual for current FY is expected to be much higher in view of the extension of PMGKAY till the end of year.

Since 2016-17, the budgetary

position has been so tight that FCI was once forced to borrow from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) to make up for what the Centre couldn't pay. At the end of 2019-20, FCI owed over ₹300,000 crore to NSSF. It was only in 2020-21, that the Centre made a hefty provision to enable the former to clear all its pending dues to the latter, besides meeting that year's needs.

During 2022-23, a similar situation has arisen with FCI having to borrow, as the budget allocation is much short of what is needed.

Already, the Centre's debt is 60 per cent of GDP against a medium-term target of 40 per cent. The interest payments are more than a quarter of the budget and consume half of its net tax revenue.

The present coverage at 820 million (likely to go up to 920 million as per SC order) is absurd. Does India have such a gargantuan population which needs to be given food virtually for free?

The answer is an emphatic 'no' as the Shanta Kumar committee (2015) recommended that the number of people eligible for subsidized food under NFSA should be cut from existing 67 per cent to 40 per cent.

Even the Niti (2021) wanted the beneficiaries to be cut: urban population from 50 per cent to 40 per cent; rural population from 75 per cent to 60 per cent.

As per Shanta Kumar recom-

mendation, denying subsidy to 27 per cent or around 380 million will result in saving of about ₹64,000 crore annually (28x5x380x12). This is based on a person taking all of her 5 kg monthly quota as wheat and subsidy @ ₹28 per kg [(MSP: 20 + HDC: 10) – issue price: 2].

Out of the remaining 440 million (820-380), the committee felt that only persons under AAY i.e. 120 million should be eligible to pay ₹2/3/1 per kg. It wanted that othe' or 320 million (440-120) should pay 50 percent of the MSP or ₹10 per kg of wheat. This would yield an annual saving of about ₹15,000 crore (8x5x320x12). Asking them to pay MSP or ₹20 per kg can yield ₹35,000 crore.

The current issue price of ₹2/3/1 per kg wheat/rice/coarse cereals was specified in the NFSA legislation. The law enacted in 2013 had frozen these rates for three years. Since 2016 thus, there is no legal bar on not increasing the price. An increase in price by ₹1 per kg can yield savings of ₹5000 crore annually.

Besides, there is a huge scope for savings by curbing pilferage. The way forward is to discontinue delivering food at ₹3/2/1 per kg (given that wheat can sell for ₹30 in the market, even the most honest FPS owner will be tempted to divert), and instead transfer subsidy to the account of the beneficiary.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IT'S CERTAINLY IMPORTANT THAT EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE TRANSPARENCY ON THE ELECTORAL ROLLS (FOR CONGRESS CHIEF'S ELECTION).

—THIRUVANANTHAPURAM MP SHASHI THAROOR



THE LIST IS NOT MADE PUBLIC BUT IF A MEMBER OF OUR PARTY WANTS TO CHECK, THEY CAN CHECK IT AT THE PCC. —CHAIRMAN CONGRESS ELECTION AUTHORITY MADHUSUDAN MISTRY

Drones can play a critical role in smart farm era

Drones can bring in quantitative and qualitative changes in agriculture, though cost still remains a deterrence

In the current era, which is defined more by technology-led innovations (happening almost at a break-neck speed) than anything else, modest to massive changes in practices and applications across the business spectrum are fast becoming the norm.

Amidst myriads of technology-led wonders, the application of drones to add efficiency to the execution of normal processes across various domains, including agriculture, is increasingly gaining prominence. From a mere hobby sport 10 years ago, a clutch of nations, including India, have now decided to go full steam ahead in tapping this application. In the non-defence category, agriculture is slated to lead the pack in terms of faster adoption of drone applicability for better results, with potential



RG AGARWAL

(The author is Chairman, Dhanuka group)

to benefit all stakeholders in the eco-system.

The credit for showing immense possibilities of drones' usage in agriculture certainly goes to Israel. To the progressive minds across the world, it means large-scale or even revolutionary changes which the technology can deliver. Drones draw their recently found strength by way of becoming another major remote sensing tool for data collection. As a data gathering tool in various spheres, it is probably more convenient and cheaper than a satellite imaging system.

Drones promise to add efficiency across the value chain. It offers a host of benefits in basic applications like spraying, dripping and granule dropping. It could be used in seeds dropping in forestry and plantation and induced pollination in seed pro-

duction. Among all the remote sensing technologies, it is probably the best to provide imagery data vis-a-vis crop field survey, soil health, pest identification, disease diagnosis, plant stress and growth monitoring, yield monitoring, etc. The data thus gained helps regulate crop health, crop treatment, crop scouting, irrigation, and carry out field soil analysis and crop damage assessments.

The farmer can improve production capabilities through comprehensive irrigation planning, adequate monitoring of crop health, increased knowledge about soil health, and adaptation to environmental changes. On the top of it, there are now empirical studies to convincingly demonstrate that the use of drones results in significant saving in water volume,

better RoI, and safer for operators via-a-vis basic equations in traditional manual processes. As per some estimates, pesticide spraying by Drone would cut down water usage by at least one-fifth.

The increasing adoption of drones in agricultural practices is also on account of the growing uncertainty vis-à-vis climate change concerns across the planet. To deal with the changes which climatic vagaries can thrust upon the agriculture sector, there is a clarion call of shifting to more scientific or smart agriculture regime for better data collection, data crunching and timely and quick response to any production related abnormality using advanced technology platforms like AI, IoT, data analytics, etc. Precision farming, or largescale technology-enabled

farming, is considered to be the driving form of the future. And here drones have a very vital role to play as basic data collection agents.

In India, the story of drone application in agriculture has just begun and it's today mostly seen by way of deployment in spraying activities. But I reckon, in the next three-four years, drone usage in agriculture will cover other elements of the operational value chain. That would indeed need demand for more skilled drone operators in the market.

A slew of policy initiatives like Liberalised Drone Rules 2021, and announcement of Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drones business have been unveiled. They are shaping a vibrant eco-system of start-ups which are now

ready to carry the baton of the Indian drone business globally.

The government's emphasis in promoting drone usage in our farms also became clear when in February, it announced a dedicated Kisan Drone scheme that offers a slew of attractive incentives. These include 50 per cent (or a maximum of Rs 5 lakh) subsidy to SC-ST, small and marginal farmers of northeastern states, as also women, to buy drones.

Simply put, with the increasing intervention of drones in agricultural practices, India today is at the cusp of a very significant technological transformation. As per a study conducted by BlueWeave Consulting, a strategic consulting and market research firm, Indian Agriculture Drone market is forecast to witness a four-fold increase by

2028, with a projected CAGR of more than 25 per cent during 2022-2028.

However, India being a 'price sensitive' market, the cost of drones remains a big hurdle. An agriculture drone, typically operated using Internet-based smart technologies, undertaking from spraying to monitor crop health, can cost anywhere between ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh lakh. While the announcement of Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drones last September is a step in the right direction, a lot still needs to be done.

Drones can deliver substantial value to farmers. But it is high time to look at a larger collaboration among all stakeholders to derive maximum benefits out of its usage to take Indian agriculture to a higher altitude.



# Four killed by Russian shells, says Ukraine



AP ■ KYIV

At least four civilians were killed and seven others were wounded by Russian shelling in the past 24 hours across several regions of Ukraine, Ukraine's presidential office said Monday.

Most of the casualties were in the eastern Donetsk region, where three people were killed and four were wounded. A large chunk of Donetsk is held by Russia-allied separatists.

In the Kharkiv region, further north, three people were wounded when a rocket hit a residential building, the president's office said.

Russian shells struck more than a dozen residential buildings along with a school, cafes and stores as the war stretched

into its seventh month.

At the same time, a counteroffensive by Ukrainian forces "is making verifiable progress in the south and the east" of the country, the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said.

"The pace of the counteroffensive will likely change dramatically from day to day as Ukrainian forces work to starve the Russians of necessary supplies, disrupt their command and control, and weaken their morale even as counteroffensive ground assaults continue," the institute said late Sunday.

It predicted that Russian forces will launch "fierce artillery and air attacks" against the advancing Ukrainian troops and on any areas they liberate.

# Tensions remain at war-threatened Ukrainian nuclear plant

AP ■ KYIV

Tension still gripped Europe's largest nuclear plant Monday, a day before U.N. Inspectors were due to report on their efforts to avert a potential disaster at the Ukrainian site that has been engulfed by Russia's war on its neighbor.

The Russian military accused "provocations" at the Zaporizhzhia plant, which lies within a Russian-installed administrative area.

Russia's Defense Ministry claimed that Kyiv's forces on Sunday targeted the territory of the plant with a drone, which it said Russian troops were able to shoot down.

The ministry said Ukrainian troops also shelled the adjacent city of Enerhodar twice overnight.

The two sides have traded accusations about endangering the plant, which the Kremlin's forces have held since early March. The plant's Ukrainian staff continue to operate it.

In a perilous mission, experts with the International Atomic Energy Agency traveled through the war zone to reach the plant last week.

Four of six U.N. Nuclear agency inspectors have completed their work and left the site, Energoatom, Ukraine's state nuclear power plant operator, said Monday.

Two of the experts are expected to stay at the plant on



a permanent basis, Energoatom said.

The U.N. Inspectors are scheduled to brief the Security Council on Tuesday about what they found out on their visit.

The plant is largely crippled, amid a grinding war that has clobbered energy markets.

A prominent Ukrainian nuclear expert said Monday

that only a demilitarized zone of at least 10 kilometers (6 miles) around the plant could ensure its safety.

Hryhoriy Plachkov, Ukraine's former head of nuclear inspections, said he also feared for the morale and mental state of his countrymen working there.

Elsewhere, the fighting

raged on for a seventh month, with Ukraine's presidential office saying Monday at least four civilians were killed and seven others were wounded by Russian shelling in the previous 24 hours across several regions of Ukraine.

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It predicted that Russian forces will launch "fierce artillery and air attacks" against the advancing Ukrainian troops and on any areas they liberate.

# Suicide attack at Russia embassy in Kabul kills two diplomats

AP ■ KABUL

A suicide bombing outside the Russian Embassy in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Monday killed two members of the embassy staff and at least one Afghan civilian in what Moscow denounced as an "unacceptable terrorist act."

The blast went off at the entrance to the embassy's consular section where Afghans were waiting for news about their visas, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry and the state news agency RIA Novosti. A Russian diplomat had emerged from the building to call out the names of candidates for visas when the explosion occurred, the agency said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, the latest in a series of attacks since the Taliban seized power a year ago, deposing a Western-backed government and capping their 20-year insurgency.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the explosion "a terrorist act, absolutely unacceptable."



He told reporters during his daily press conference call that "now the main thing that needs to be done is to get information from the ground about what happened to our diplomatic representatives."

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the embassy has enhanced its security in the wake of the attack, and that "additional forces of the Taliban authorities," including the Taliban-run intelligence service, were brought in.

"Let's hope that the organizers of this terrorist act and

# Ukrainian firefighters rescue kitten from burning building

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian firefighters known for rescuing people from buildings hit by shelling in more than six months of war helped a small, furry survivor this weekend — a gray-and-white kitten.

The rescuers, wearing full firefighting gear, battled raging flames and smoke to pull the kitten out from under a metal chair in the rubble of a wooden hotel-restaurant complex hit by a rocket in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, the country's emergency services said Sunday on Facebook. Video showed the firefighters petting and cuddling the feline as they carried it to safety. One used water from a firetruck to wipe down the kitten in his arms.

"We found a beauty," one of the firefighters said as the kitten wiggled around in a colleague's arms. Another said, "Get this kitty some oxygen."

Ukraine's emergency services said the kitten's paw needed medical attention.

"Heroes of our time," the emergency services proclaimed of the firefighters. "They protect, work, save, treat ... And we wish the cat a speedy recovery."

# Canadian police hunt for suspects after 10 stabbed to death

AP ■ REGINA (CANADA)

Canadian police searched on Monday for two men suspected of stabbing 10 people to death in an indigenous community and a nearby town, as the massive manhunt following one of the nation's deadliest mass killings entered its second day.

Authorities have said some of the victims were targeted and others appeared to have been chosen at random in a series of attacks on the James Smith Cree Nation and in the town of Weldon in Saskatchewan province. They have given no motive for the crimes, which also left 15 people wounded — but a senior indigenous leader suggested drugs were somehow involved.

Police believe the suspects were last spotted around midday on Sunday in the provincial capital of Regina, about 335 kilometers (210 miles) south of where the stabbings happened. Authorities have warned the three vast prairie provinces of central Canada — which also includes Manitoba



and Alberta — to be on alert, and U.S. Border officials have been contacted.

With the suspects at large, fear continued to grip communities in the rural, working class area of Saskatchewan surrounded by farmland that were terrorised by the crimes. One witness who said he lost family members described seeing people with bloody wounds scattered throughout the Indigenous reserve.

"No one in this town is ever going to sleep again. They're going to be terrified to open their door," said Ruby Works, who also lost someone close to her and is a resident of Weldon, which has a population of about 200 and is home to many retirees.

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)**  
**Email id :- eemah-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone :-07723-223731**  
**पृ.क्र.4446/व.ले.लि/का.अ/लो.स्वा.या.खण्ड/ महासमुन्द/2021-22, दिनांक-26/08/22**

**निविदा बिस्तीकरण सूचना**

इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 110 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 98806) 138 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 99936) 224 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 101953) 225 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 101954) 250 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 102224) 251 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 102226) 272 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 103281) 273 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 103282) 286 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 103967) 287 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 103969) 289 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 103974) 292 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 104004) 293 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 104007) 294 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 104008) 296 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 104011) 460 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 89432) 675 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 95014) जी.नं. 66885 को एकल निविदा हो जाने के कारण से निरस्त किया जाता है।

हस्ता  
कार्यपालन अभियंता  
**Ro.No.- 93842/3 लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड**  
**Ro.Date:-05/09/2022 महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)**

**OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED**  
CIN No: L28219HR1988PLC030347  
Regd. Office: 17-18, Roz- Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District Mewat, Haryana - 122103  
Website: [www.okplay.in](http://www.okplay.in) Email: [info@okplay.in](mailto:info@okplay.in) Tel:+91 124 2362335-36 Fax: +91 124 2362326

**NOTICE OF 33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Notice is hereby given that the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of OK Play India Limited ("the Company") scheduled to be held on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 at 12:30 P.M. through Video Conferencing ("VC")/Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder, Securities Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended ("Listing Regulations") read with General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020, 02/2021 dated Jan 13, 2021, 02/2022 dated May 5, 2022 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA"), and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 to transact the business as set out in the Notice of AGM.

**Service of Notice and Annual Report via e-mail:**  
In Compliance with the above-mentioned circulars, electronic copies of the Notice convening the AGM along with Explanatory Statement pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021-22 will be sent within prescribed timelines by e-mail to all the members who have registered their email IDs with the Company/ Mas Services Limited ("RTA") and Depository Participant(s) ("DPs"). The requirement of sending physical copies of the annual report has been dispensed with vide above mentioned MCA and SEBI Circulars. However, the physical copies of the Notice of 33<sup>rd</sup> AGM along with the Annual Report shall be sent to the members who request the same at [info@okplay.in](mailto:info@okplay.in). The Notice of the AGM and Annual Report will also be available on the website of the Company i.e. [www.okplay.in](http://www.okplay.in), website of stock exchange i.e., at BSE Limited ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and on the website of NSDL ([www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com)).

**Electronic Voting and Participation at the AGM:**  
In compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and provisions of Regulation 44 of Listing Regulations, the members will have an opportunity to cast their votes remotely on the businesses as set forth in the notice of the AGM through remote e-voting system.

Detailed instructions pertaining to a) Remote e-voting before the AGM, e-voting on the day of AGM and attending the AGM through VCO/AVM will be provided in Notice of the AGM.

**Manner of Registering/ updating e-mail address:**  
Members of the Company holding shares in physical mode and who have not registered/updated their e-mail addresses can also attend the AGM and vote by following the procedure being provided in the Notice of AGM.

The Members of the Company who have not registered/updated their email address can register the same as per the following procedure:

- Members holding shares in physical form may get their email ids registered by submitting the duly filled and signed Form-ISR 1 (available on the website of the Company) for updating their KYC details (if not already submitted) with necessary documents mentioned therein the form to our RTA at MAS Services Limited, T-34, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II, New Delhi-110020. Email: [info@masserv.com](mailto:info@masserv.com)
- Members holding shares in dematerialized form may also temporarily get their e-mail id registered by providing the Demat account details (CDSL-16 digits beneficiary ID or NSDL-16-digit DPID + CLID), name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account Statement, PAN Card (Self Attested Copy), Aadhar Card (Self Attested Copy) to Company at [info@okplay.in](mailto:info@okplay.in)/RTA-e-mail id at [info@masserv.com](mailto:info@masserv.com). It is clarified that for permanent registration of e-mail address, the Members are requested to register the same with their respective Depository Participant.

The Notice is being issued for the information and benefit of all the members of the Company in compliance with the applicable circulars of MCA and SEBI.

**For OK Play India Limited**  
Sd/-  
(Meenu Goswami)  
Company Secretary

**Date : 05/09/2022**  
**Place : New Delhi**

**UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED**  
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P) 456001 Ph. 0734- 2525856  
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
No. USCL/170 Tender ID: 2022\_UAD\_219652\_1  
Date:- 31/08/2022

Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites Expression of Interested parties for "Selection of Facility Management Agency to undertake Operation, Maintenance and Management of Shri Mahakal Maharaj Mandir Parisar Visataar Yojna (SMMMPPVY) at Ujjain", Ujjain City. Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in).

Earnest Money Deposit	NIL
Cost of Document	NIL
Pre Bid Meeting Date	09/09/2022
Last date for submission of technical Bid (Online)	22/09/2022 up to 17:00hrs

For more details, please Visit <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.

**For, Ujjain Smart City Limited**

**NOTICE**  
**TWENTY FIRST CENTURY MEDICARE LIMITED**  
Plot No. 22, LSC, Madangir, New Delhi-110062  
CIN-U24239DL1985PLC022113, E-Mail: [mpd.humanity@gmail.com](mailto:mpd.humanity@gmail.com)

NOTICE is hereby given that the 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 at 10.00 A.M. at Plot No.22, L.S.C. Madangir, New Delhi-110062, to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The Company has completed dispatch of the Annual Report for financial year 2021-22 to Members through permitted mode by Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of the AGM using electronic voting system provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) from a place other than the venue of the AGM (remote e-voting) and the business may be transacted through such voting. The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 (cut-off date).

The facility for voting, either through electronic voting system or polling paper shall also be made available at the AGM. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

The e-voting period commences on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Tuesday at 09:00 a.m. and ends on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Thursday at 05:00 p.m. During this period, Members may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter.

A person who has acquired shares and become a Member of the Company after the dispatch of notice of AGM and holding shares as of cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at [helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com). However, if the person is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting then the existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.

For details relating to remote e-voting, please refer to the Notice of the AGM. In case of any queries relating to voting by electronic means, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at [www.evotingindia.com](http://www.evotingindia.com) or contact at toll free no. 1800225533 or send a request at [helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com). In case of any grievances connected with facility for voting by electronic means, please contact Mr. Rakesh Dahi, Manager (CDSL), Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor, Marathon Futrex, Madafal Mill Compound, N.M.Joshi Marg, Lower Panel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to [helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com) or call on 022-23058542/3.

The Notice of AGM is also available on the website of the CDSL at [www.evoting.cdsil.com](http://www.evoting.cdsil.com) and at the website of Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent at [www.skylinefinet.com](http://www.skylinefinet.com).

**For Twenty First Century Medicare Limited**  
Rajni Sharma  
DIRECTOR  
DIN: 00144238

**DATE: 05-09-2022**  
**Place: New Delhi**

# Military reserves, civil defense worry Taiwan as China looms

AP ■ TAIPEI

Chris Chen, a former captain in Taiwan's military, spent a lot of time waiting during his weekend training for reservists in June. Waiting for assembly, waiting for lunch, waiting for training, he said.

The course, part of Taiwan's efforts to deter a Chinese invasion, was jam-packed with 200 reservists to one instructor.

"It just became all listening, there was very little time to actually carry out the instructions," Chen said.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has underscored the importance of mobilizing civilians when under attack, as Ukraine's reserve forces helped fend off the invaders. Nearly halfway around the world, it has highlighted Taiwan's weaknesses on that front, chiefly in two areas: its reserves and civilian defense force.

While an invasion doesn't appear imminent, China's recent large-scale military exercises in response to a visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan have made



the government in Taipei more aware than ever of the hard power behind Beijing's rhetoric about bringing the self-ruled island under its control.

Experts said that civilian defense and reserve forces have an important deterrent effect, showing a potential aggressor that the risks of invasion are high. Even before the invasion of Ukraine in March, Taiwan was working on reforming both. The question is whether it will be enough.

Taiwan's reserves are meant to back up

its 188,000-person military, which is 90 per cent volunteers and 10 per cent men doing their four months of compulsory military service. On paper, the 2.3 million reservists enable Taiwan to match China's 2 million-strong military.

Yet, the reserve system has long been criticised. Many, like Chen, felt the seven days of training for the mostly former soldiers was a waste of time that did not prepare them well enough.

The number of combat-ready reservists — those who could immediately join front-line battles — is only about 300,000, said Wang Ting-yu, a lawmaker from the governing Democratic Progressive Party who serves on the defense committee in the legislature.

"In Ukraine, if in the first three days of the war it had fallen apart, no matter how strong your military is, you wouldn't have been able to fight the war," Wang said. "A resilient society can meet this challenge. So that when you are met with disasters and war, you will not fall apart."

# 'China's aggressive imperialism impacts global community'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reacting to the UN Human Rights Commission slamming China's policies against Uyghurs, the East Turkistan Republican Party, a political outfit raising the atrocities against the community, has claimed that China's aggressive imperialism impacts the global community and should be called out for what it is.

It called on the UN to grant observer status for Uyghurs and other people from East Turkistan, a necessary first step to counterbalance Beijing's aggression. Beijing refers to East Turkistan as The independence of East Turkistan (Xinxiang) is the only way to end the genocide at the hands of the Chinese authorities, it asserted.

The Belgium-headquartered East Turkistan Republican Party aims to establish an independent, culturally diverse, self-governed East Turkistan Republic through non-violent means, where democracy and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) are fully implemented.

Taking a swipe at the UN over delays in publishing the



report on Uyghurs, the Party said, "The repeated delays of the report itself have cost Uyghurs their lives, terrorized their families and denied justice to them. The resulting watered down report, which hides behind euphemism and compromise language, is both an insult to China's victims, and an accessory to Beijing's policies."

"China is buying time for the complete eradication of the people and culture of East Turkistan. It is using all means it has at its disposal to do this, including disinformation, threats against the lives of families, and malign political influence to the end. No one questions that China has the capability to use such techniques, and the delayed UN report reflects Beijing's pressure," it said.

# Israel announces new rules for foreigners in West Bank

AP ■ JERUSALEM

An Israeli military body has released a list of rules and restrictions for foreigners wanting to enter Palestinian areas of the West Bank, extending its control of daily life and movement in and out of the occupied territory.

COGAT, the Israeli body in charge of Palestinian civilian affairs, stepped back from a number of controversial restrictions that had appeared in a draft of the rules published earlier this year, such as a requirement that people who form romantic relationships with local Palestinians register with Israeli authorities.

But many of the changes in the 90-page document released late on Sunday appeared to be largely cosmetic.

The US ambassador expressed concern over the rules, and critics said they merely entrenched Israel's 55-year control over the Palestinian population in the territory.

"The Israeli military is proposing new restrictions in



order to isolate Palestinian society from the outside world and keep Palestinian families from living together," said Jessica Montell, executive director of HaMoked, an Israeli human rights group that has challenged the rules in court.

"In response to criticism they have removed the most outrageous elements. Yet they are keeping the basic structure of this very invasive and harmful procedure in place," she added. The rules are set to go into effect on October 20.

The wide-ranging policy imposes rules on foreigners who marry Palestinians or who come to the West Bank to work, volunteer, study or teach. The rules do not apply to people visiting Israel or the more than 130 Jewish settlements scattered across the West Bank.



# Liz new UK PM



Britain's Conservative Party has chosen Foreign Secretary Liz Truss as the party's new leader, putting her in line to be confirmed as Prime Minister. Truss's selection was announced Monday in London after a leadership election in which only the 180,000 dues-paying members of the Conservative Party were allowed to vote

PTI ■ LONDON

UK foreign secretary Liz Truss defeated Indian-origin former chancellor Rishi Sunak to be named the winner of the Conservative Party leadership contest on Monday and will now go on to formally take charge as British Prime Minister as Boris Johnson's successor.

The 47-year-old senior Cabinet minister was widely expected to become the third female British Prime Minister after over 170,000 online and postal votes cast by Tory members, ending Sunak's historic run as the first member of Parliament of Indian heritage to compete for the top job at 10 Downing Street.

Truss polled 81,326 votes, compared to Sunak's 60,399 in an election with a high turnout of 82.6 per cent, with 654 rejected ballots from a total of 172,437 eligible Tory voters. It means Truss won by a comfortable margin, but her victory was slimmer than in other recent Tory leadership contests at 57.4 per cent to Sunak's 42.6 per cent – reflecting a divide within the

governing party.

Sunak, 42, soon took to Twitter to call for party unity: "Thank you to everyone who voted for me in this campaign. I've said throughout that the Conservatives are one family."

"It's right we now unite behind the new PM, Liz Truss, as she steers the country through difficult times."

In her acceptance speech, Truss declared: "We will deliver, we will deliver, and we will deliver."

"I will deliver on the energy crisis, dealing with people's energy bills but also dealing with the long-term issues we have on energy supply," she said, with reference to the key issue dominating the leadership campaign which she dubbed "one of the longest job interviews in history".

After thanking her fellow finalist Sunak, Truss also paid tribute to outgoing leader Johnson.

"Boris, you got Brexit done, you crushed [Opposition Labour ex-leader] Jeremy Corbyn, you rolled out the vaccine and you stood up to Vladimir Putin. You are admired

from Kyiv to Carlisle," she said, to a rather muted response from her party colleagues gathered for the announcement.

And, her reference to a Tory victory under her leadership in 2024 will be seen as a sign of ruling out the prospect of an early general election.

The result was formally announced by the returning officer of the leadership contest and chair of the Conservative Party's powerful 1922 Committee of backbench MPs, Sir Graham Brady, at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre near Downing Street in London.

However, for pollsters, political analysts and media outlets it came as little surprise as Truss had been the frontrunner to beat 42-year-old Sunak in pre-poll surveys and bookmaker odds on the race.

A combination of the Tory membership base's lingering loyalty towards outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whom they see as being betrayed by former close ally Sunak, and Truss's pledge to cut taxes are among the key factors behind the British Indian MP failing to clinch the race.

# Lanka to oppose new rights resolution at UNHRC



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will oppose a new resolution on its human rights accountability, especially an external investigation mechanism, at the UN Human Rights Council session getting underway this week, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said here on Monday.

Sabry told reporters that Sri Lanka was not agreeable to an external mechanism to investigate human rights abuses as it would be a violation of the country's Constitution.

Sabry, commenting upon the 51st sessions of the UN human rights council to be held from September 12 to October 7 in Geneva, said the Minister of Justice Wijeyedasa Rajapakse would represent the government at the sessions.

"We will oppose the human rights commission investigation mechanism as it is against our Constitution," he told

reporters. The UN high commissioner of human rights is on Wednesday expected to release her report on Sri Lanka, including the options for accountability under the HRC resolution number 46/1 of 2021.

Sabry said Sri Lanka was adopting a policy of engagement on rights accountability bilaterally and multilaterally and was looking for a lasting solution.

A possible draft resolution on Sri Lanka is expected to be presented on September 23. This would be followed by a vote among the member states on the new draft resolution on October 6.

The UN rights body since 2013 has adopted resolutions calling for rights accountability for war crimes blamed both on the government troops and the LTTE group that ran a violent campaign to create a separate state for the Tamil minority in the north and east regions.

# Germany, Israel mark 50th anniv of 1972 Olympic attack

AP ■ BERLIN

The German and Israeli presidents are to join relatives of the 11 Israeli athletes killed in the attack by Palestinian militants on the 1972 Munich Olympics to mark the 50th anniversary on Monday, days after an agreement that ended a long dispute over compensation.

Monday's ceremony takes place at the Fuerstenfeldbruck airfield outside Munich, the scene of a botched rescue attempt in which nine of the Israeli athletes, a West German police officer and five of the assailants were killed.

Last week's agreement headed off a threatened boycott of the anniversary event by relatives of the slain athletes. They will receive a total of 28 million euros (dollars) in compensation, a significant increase from the initial 10 million-euro offer.

As part of the agreement, Germany has agreed to acknowledge failures by authorities at the time and to allow German and Israeli historians to review the events surrounding the attack.

to their family's religious beliefs, had succumbed to the disease.

Dr. Johannes Marisa, the president of the Medical and Dental Private Practitioners of Zimbabwe Association, told The Associated Press on Monday that the government should escalate an ongoing mass vaccination campaign and embark on awareness programs targeted especially at anti-vaccine religious groups.

"Because of the resistance, education may not be enough so the government should also consider using coercive measures to ensure that no one is allowed to refuse vaccination for their children," said Marisa.

# China locks down 6.5 cr

## Discourages holiday travel following outbreak of Covid in 33 cities, including 7 provincial capitals

AP ■ BEIJING

China has locked down 65 million of its citizens under tough Covid-19 restrictions and is discouraging domestic travel during upcoming national holidays.

Across the country, 33 cities including seven provincial capitals are under full or partial lockdown covering more than 65 million people, according to a tally published late Sunday by the Chinese business magazine Caixin.

It said that outbreaks have been reported in 103 cities, the highest since the early days of the pandemic in early 2020.

Despite a relatively low number of infections, authorities have adhered to a "zero-COVID" policy requiring lock-



downs, quarantines and the confining of people suspected of being in close contact with any confirmed case.

China recorded 1,552 new cases in the latest 24-hour period across a nation of 1.4 billion

people, the National Health Commission reported Monday.

Most of the 21 million people in the southwestern city of Chengdu are confined to their apartments or residential complexes, while in the eastern port

city of Tianjin, classes have been moved online after 14 new cases were reported, all but two showing no symptoms.

Chengdu lifted the lockdown for about 1 million people in Qionglai city and Xinjin district, two areas in its southwest. Three more rounds of mass testing are being held through Wednesday. And schools remain closed with all classes online.

Sept. 10-12 is China's mid-autumn festival, the country's second-most important holiday after the Lunar New Year. The anti-virus measures have taken a major toll on the economy, travel and society in general, but China's ruling Communist Party says they are necessary to prevent a wider spread of the virus, first detected in the cen-

tral Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

The fear of being caught in a lockdown or sent to a quarantine facility for even being in proximity with a person who tested positive has severely constrained people's work, socializing and travel habits.

Since the outbreak began, China has placed tens of millions of people under lockdowns that have been strictly enforced, sometimes preventing residents from obtaining food, health care and basic necessities.

A more than five-week closure of Shanghai, China's largest city and key financial hub, in the spring upended the local economy, prompted protests and led to an exodus of foreign residents.

# Biden visiting 2 swing States as midterm crunch time begins

AP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden is making his third trip to Pennsylvania in less than a week and returning just two days after his predecessor, Donald Trump, staged his own rally there — illustrating the battleground state's importance to both parties as Labour Day kicks off a nine-week sprint to crucial midterm elections.

Trump spoke Saturday night in Wilkes-Barre, near Scranton, where Biden was born. The president made his own Wilkes-Barre trip last week to discuss increasing funding for police, decry GOP criticism of the FBI after the raid on Trump's Florida estate and to argue that new, bipartisan gun safety measures can help reduce violent crime.

Two days after that, Biden went to Independence Hall in Philadelphia for a prime-time address denouncing the "extremism" of Trump's fiercest supporters.

On Monday, he's attending Labour Day festivities in Milwaukee, in another key swing state, Wisconsin, before traveling to Pittsburgh for that



city's parade.

The White House says Biden will celebrate "the dignity of American workers". The unofficial start of fall, Labour Day also traditionally kicks off political crunch time, with campaigns scrambling to excite voters ahead of Election Day on November 8.

That's when control of the House and Senate, as well as some of the country's top governorships, will be decided.

Trump has endorsed candidates in key races around the country and Biden is warning that some Republicans now believe so strongly in Trumpism that they are willing to undermine core American values to promote it.

# US B-52 bombers fly over West Asia amid tensions with Iran

AP ■ DUBAI

The United States military said Monday it flew a pair of nuclear-capable B-52 long-distance bombers over the Middle East in a show of force, the latest such mission in the region as tensions remain high between Washington and Tehran.

The bombers took off from the Royal Air Force base at Fairford, England, and flew over the eastern Mediterranean, the Arabian Peninsula and the Red Sea on Sunday in training missions together with Kuwaiti and Saudi warplanes, before departing the region.

"Threats to the U.S. and our partners will not go unanswered," Lt. Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich, the top U.S. Air Force officer in the Middle East said in a statement. "Missions like this ... Showcase our ability



to combine forces to deter and, if necessary, defeat our adversaries."

Although the U.S. Military's Central Command did not mention Iran, Washington has frequently dispatched B-52 bombers to the region as hostilities simmered between the U.S. and Iran. The last such flyover was in June.

Iran's regional foe, Israel,

also joined in the multinational mission. Though unacknowledged by the U.S., three Israeli F-16 fighter jets accompanied the American bombers "through Israel's skies on their way to the (Persian) Gulf," the Israeli military said, describing the country's cooperation with the U.S. Military as key to "maintaining aerial security in Israel and the Middle East."



**MODI RUBBER LIMITED**

CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392

Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)

Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025

Website: [www.modirubberlimited.com](http://www.modirubberlimited.com); Email: [investors@modigroup.net](mailto:investors@modigroup.net); Phone: +91-11-47107398

## NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Modi Rubber Limited ("Company") will be held on Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. (IST) through Video Conferencing ("VC")/ Other AudioVisual Means ("OAVM") facility provided by Mas Services Limited to transact the business set out in the Notice convening the AGM.

**Notice of AGM and Annual Report:** In compliance with general circular dated January, 13 2021 read with circulars dated April 8, 2020, April, 13 2020 and May 5, 2020 and all other applicable laws and circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to transact the Ordinary and Special businesses as set out in the Notice. The Notice setting out the business to be transacted at the AGM together with the Integrated Annual Report of the Company for the year 2021-22 has been sent on 05.09.2022 through electronic mode only to the members whose email address is registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s). The Notice and the Integrated Annual Report are also available on the Company's website at [www.modirubberlimited.com](http://www.modirubberlimited.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively.

**E-voting:** The Company is providing to the members, the facility to cast their vote(s) on the business as set out in the Notice of the AGM through remote e-voting facility ("remote e-voting") as well as during the AGM to those members who could not cast their vote(s) by remote evoting. Members are requested to note the following:

- the company has fixed 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 as the 'Cut Off date' to ascertain the eligibility of members to vote by remote e-voting or by e-voting at the AGM.
- A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 only, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or for participation and voting at the AGM.
- the remote e-voting period shall be available as under:  
Commencement of remote e-voting : from 09:00 a.m.(IST) on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
End of remote e-voting : till 05:00 pm (IST) on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022
- any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice and holds shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password. by sending a request at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in). However, if the person is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then he/she can use their existing User ID and password for casting the vote.
- the members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM can also attend/ participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again at the AGM.
- the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL after 5:00 p.m. (IST) on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The votes once cast by the member, cannot be changed subsequently.
- those members, who intend to participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM facility and could not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting during the AGM.
- the manner of voting for members holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. The notice will also be available on the website of the Company at [www.modirubberlimited.com](http://www.modirubberlimited.com). Members are requested to carefully read all the Notes set out in the Notice of the AGM with respect to instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting vote etc. Contact details: In case of any queries relating to e-voting, the members may refer to the FAQs for members and e-voting user manual for members available at the download section of [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) or call on toll free no.: 1800-222-990 or send a request at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in).

The members are requested to note the following contact details for addressing queries/ grievances, if any:

MAS Services Limited  
T-34, II<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Okhla Industrial Area  
Phase-II, New Delhi - 110020

Phone No. +91-11-2638 7281 82, 83  
Fax no. +91-11-2638 7384  
E-mail: [info@masserv.com](mailto:info@masserv.com)

By order of the Board of Directors

Place : New Delhi

Date : 05<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Sd/-

(S K Bajpai)

Head - Legal & Co. Secretary

## SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED

CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995

Regd. Off: NS-92, Khasra No-33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand New Delhi - 110043; Email id: [superiorfinlease@gmail.com](mailto:superiorfinlease@gmail.com);

Website: <http://www.superiorfinlease.com>; Phone No.: +91-9953798335

### NOTICE

(For the attention of Shareholders of Superior Finlease Limited)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Superior Finlease Limited is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 03:00 P.M. through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual means ("OAVM") to transact the Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The Notice of the AGM, Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021-22 and remote e-voting details have been sent in electronic mode to all the members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository.

Notice is also hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, Rule 10 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Register of the Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Wednesday, September 21, 2022 to Thursday, September 29, 2022 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting of the Company.

In case you have not registered your email addresses with the Company/ Depository Participant(s) then please follow below instructions to register your email id for obtaining Annual Report for FY 2021-22 and login details for e-voting.

- In case shares are held in physical mode please provide Folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) by email to [superiorfinlease@gmail.com](mailto:superiorfinlease@gmail.com).
- In case shares are held in demat mode, please provide DPID-CLID (16 digit DPID + CLID or 16 digit beneficiary ID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account statement, PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) to [superiorfinlease@gmail.com](mailto:superiorfinlease@gmail.com).

Alternatively, Member may send an e-mail request to [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) for obtaining User ID and Password by providing the details mentioned in Point (1) or (2) as the case may be.

Notice is hereby given in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 (as amended) and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended), and the MCA Circulars, the Company is providing facility of remote e-voting to its Members in respect of the business to be transacted at the AGM. For this purpose, The Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to provide the e-voting facility.

The remote e-voting period will commence on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 09:00 A.M. and end on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 05:00 P.M. During this period, the Members of the Company holding shares in the physical or electronic form as on the cut-off date i.e. Tuesday, September 20, 2022 may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, he / she shall not be allowed to change it subsequently or cast vote again. Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as on the cut-off date i.e. September 20, 2022, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or [admin@skylinert.com](mailto:admin@skylinert.com).

The detailed procedure for remote e-voting is contained in the letter sent with the Notice of the AGM.

The Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report for the year 2021-2022 will also be available on the Company's website <http://www.superiorfinlease.com/> and also on the website of BSE Limited at <https://www.bseindia.com/> and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited at <https://www.mseil.in/> where the shares of the company are listed.

Shareholders' who would like to express their views/have questions may send their questions in advance mentioning their name demat account number/folio number, email id, mobile number at [superiorfinlease@gmail.com](mailto:superiorfinlease@gmail.com) latest by Wednesday, September 28, 2022. The same will be replied by the company suitably. Those shareholders who have registered themselves as a speaker will only be allowed to express their views/ask questions during the meeting. The Company reserves the right to restrict the number of speakers depending on the availability of time for the AGM.

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) or call on toll free no.: 1800-222-990 or send a request at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in).

To support the 'Green Initiative', members, who have not registered their e-mail addresses so far, are requested to register their e-mail address for receiving all communication including Annual Report, Notices, and Circulars etc. from the Company electronically.

For Superior Finlease Limited

Sd/-

Disha Rani

(Company Secretary)

Date : September 05, 2022

Place : New Delhi



# Services sector sees sharp upturn in Aug on biz activity, cost pressures

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's services sector activity witnessed a sharp upturn in August on the back of stronger gains in new business, ongoing improvements in demand conditions and job creation, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from July's four-month low of 55.5 to 57.2 in August, amid a quicker upturn in business activity and the sharpest rise in employment for over 14 years.

For the thirteenth straight month, the services sector witnessed an expansion in output. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The pick-up in growth



stemmed from a rebound in new business gains as firms continued to benefit from the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and ongoing marketing efforts," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Forecasts regarding the year-ahead outlook for output

were revised higher, with optimism at its greatest degree since May 2018.

"Services companies expect output growth over the coming 12 months, with sentiment rising to its highest level in over four years. Optimism was centred on forecasts of ongoing improvements in demand and

planned marketing," the survey said.

On the employment front, the combination of strong sales and upbeat growth projections underpinned a substantial increase in payroll numbers across the service sector.

"The rate of job creation picked up to the strongest in over 14 years. Employment trends improved in each of the four monitored sub-sectors," the survey said.

Lima further noted that "with demand showing considerable resilience, service providers maintained a degree of pricing power and lifted selling prices amid the transfer of cost increases to customers."

"While the rate of charge inflation was broadly similar to July, there was a considerably softer upturn in input costs. The latter rose at the weakest pace

in close to a year," Lima said.

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), at its meeting from August 3-5, had decided to increase the benchmark lending rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent.

As per the minutes of its recent policy meeting, with the price situation remaining at "unacceptably and uncomfortably" high level, members of the RBI's MPC underlined the need for preventing upward drift of inflation and bringing it down to the target band.

The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled for September 28-30, 2022.

Meanwhile, the S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index -- which measures combined services and manufacturing output -- rose from 56.6 to 58.2, indicating a sharp pace of expansion.

## Windfall tax on petro products, crude not ad hoc; being charged in consultation with industry: FM

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said windfall tax on petroleum products, crude is not ad hoc, but being charged in regular consultation with the industry.

Addressing an event organized online, the minister said it is unfair to call windfall tax as ad hoc, because the tax rate and its resetting are done in complete consultations with the industry. "The very idea was implemented after taking the industry into full confidence," she said at a function organized by Elara Capital.

"When we suggested the idea we had told the industry that the tax rate will be reviewed every 15 days and we have been doing that," Sitharaman said. On bond inclusion in global index, the minister said many things have



changed since the pandemic, especially in terms of inflows.

Mostly, fund inflows have not been as expected, which of course is mostly due to the pandemic, she said, adding "however, I expect a logical conclusion to this sooner."

On whether the government is planning to increase the tax-GDP ratio which is only about 10 now, she said, widening tax base is an issue that needs a lot of consultations and analysis, though the increasing number of income tax filings gives me some clue on the possibility of widening it. "But we want to ensure that as and when it is done it looks reasonable and tech-driven," she said. On the next 25 years of reforms and growth, she said by the time India celebrates the first centenary of independence, "we will have to reset lots of things so that we become a developed nation by then".

## Commercial vehicles industry to perform well this year: Tata Motors' Girish Wagh

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Tata Motors on Monday said it is expecting the Commercial vehicles industry to perform well this fiscal after two years of downturn, with an upturn in demand across all segments.

Moreover, consumption is also witnessing continuous growth leading to good demand conditions, Tata Motors executive director, Girish Wagh said at the launch of a range of trucks here.

Along with the launch of the country's first CNG-powered Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle (M&HCV) range of trucks,



the company also rolled out a new series of advanced intermediate and light commercial vehicle (I&L CV) tippers and trucks.

Besides, it also introduced Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) and new features in its range of Prima, Signa and Ultra trucks.

After two years of downturn in the commercial vehicle industry, the previous fiscal logged 22 per cent volume

growth over FY21, said Wagh.

"The CV industry seems to be on an upside now. Various indicators such as fleet utilisation or freight rates or even the transporters confidence index that we track every quarter, seem to be doing pretty well," he said. He noted that the government's push for infrastructure is creating good demand for tipper trucks.

The bus segment, which saw a low (in terms of volumes) FY20 and FY21, saw good demand coming in from the school segment towards the end of the second quarter of the previous fiscal and also a good beginning in the employee transport segment.

## Bank union opposes public sector banks' 'loan melas' on bad loan pile-up fears

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra State Bank Employees Federation (MSBEF) on Monday opposed 'loan melas' organised by state-owned banks, saying that credit granted without much diligence at such events lead to pile-up of non-performing assets.

Such 'melas' add to the retail Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) for the lenders as the loans are granted without much diligence, MSBEF said in a

statement.

The statement comes on a day when Union minister of state for finance Bhagwat Karad is attending one such mela in Maharashtra's Aurangabad, where public sector lenders are targeting to distribute Rs 2,900 crore of loans.

Stating that past experience suggests borrowers stop repayments for such loans, the MSBEF said, no political party helps in the loan recovery process.

"...The same political parties demand for waiver of those loans so as to appease voters" during elections, it said, adding that such events vitiate the recovery atmosphere.

Public sector banks are put into crisis through NPAs, and the same is used for pushing privatisation of the lenders, it said.

The union said there is a need for "genuine autonomy" to be given to such lenders.

"Government, being owner of

public sector banks, should give the direction to public sector banks. Government should address policy issues such as effective legal structure for recovering overdue, timely appointment of board of directors etc," it said.

It should also ensure recruitment of adequate number of staff in banks, minimal service charges for customers and adequate and timely credit is given to small and medium farmers as well as industries.

## HAL-L&T consortium bags ₹860 cr contract for PSLV

PTI ■ BENGALURU

HAL-L&T consortium has bagged a Rs 860 crore contract for end-to-end realisation of five Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) over a period of four years from the NewsSpace India Limited (NSIL).

The contract papers were

exchanged on Monday during the inaugural session of the seventh 'Bengaluru Space Expo 2022' at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru-headquartered HAL said in a statement.

Over the years, ISRO's PSLV, has successfully per-



formed more than 52 suc-

cessful flights and the vehicle has since attained its operational status, it said.

ISRO formed a separate entity NSIL with the primary mandate of enabling Indian industries to scale up high-technology manufacturing and production base for meeting the needs of the Indian space programme, the state-

ment said.

"As part of its mandate, NSIL has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) on August 16, 2019, for realisation of five PSLV-XL Launch Vehicles by the Indian industry. Based on competitive bidding, HAL-led consortium emerged as the successful bidder", it was stated.

## Sensex, Nifty climb nearly 1 pc; metal, banking stocks shine



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex rallied nearly 1 per cent to re-visit the 59,000-mark on Monday, propelled by sharp gains in metal, banking and capital goods stocks amid a weak trend in global equities.

In a largely range-bound trade, the BSE benchmark rose 442.65 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at 59,245.98. During the day, it jumped 504.92 points or 0.85 per cent to 59,308.25.

The NSE Nifty advanced 126.35 points or 0.72 per cent to 17,665.80.

Intense buying in index majors Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma and ITC and an appreciating rupee also bolstered the sentiment, traders said.

Sun Pharma was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 1.81 per cent, followed by ITC, NTPC, RIL,

Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, HCL Technologies and ICICI Bank.

In contrast, HUL, Asian Paints, PowerGrid, Wipro, UltraTech Cement and Nestle were the laggards, slipping up to 1.51 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.89 per cent and the midcap index gained 0.46 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, metal jumped 2.04 per cent, capital goods (1.07 per cent), telecom (0.93 per cent), basic materials (0.91 per cent), bank (0.89 per cent), realty (0.73 per cent), and finance (0.71 per cent).

"It was a surprising bullish start for the week for the benchmark Nifty as bulls remained in total control shrugging off weak global cues, oil rising ahead of OPEC meet and, most importantly, the US Dollar Index scaling a fresh multi-decade high near 110.00.

## Bengal gets 'Best Destination for Culture' award by travel writers' forum

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal has been adjudged as the "Best Destination for Culture" by a global organisation of travel writers, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday.

The award will be conferred at the World Tourism and Aviation Leaders' Summit in Berlin on March 9, 2023, the chief minister said.

"I am proud to announce that Pacific Area Travel Writers Association, an affiliate of the UN World Tourism Organisation, will confer WB with the International Travel Award 2023, for Best Destination for Culture," Banerjee tweeted.

## European Commissioner for Energy to visit India from Sep 7-8

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In her first visit to India, European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson will be in the country from September 7-8 to explore means to boost two-way energy cooperation.

The European Union said Simson's visit to Delhi signals the grouping's strong engagement with India in the area of energy.

The 27-nation EU and India have robust cooperation in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.

Simson said as the world faces an energy crisis and climate change challenge, India, with its vast renewable resources, has a strategic role to play in the clean energy transition.

The EU and India established a 'Clean Energy and Climate



Partnership' in 2016 and have been working closely together on clean energy transition, speeding up the deployment of renewable energy, promoting energy efficiency, collaborating on smart grid and storage technology and modernising the electricity market.

Commissioner Simson will hold bilateral meetings with relevant Indian ministers, officials of the International

Solar Alliance and other key stakeholders.

The EU said the discussions will focus on stepping up EU-India cooperation for a 'greener' energy mix in the area of green hydrogen, energy efficiency, renewable energy, offshore wind, grid integration, smart grids, storage, power market design and sustainable financing among others.

"I am looking forward to my visit, taking place shortly after the G20 energy transition ministers' meeting in Indonesia," Simson said.

"We are facing a global energy crisis, as well as the enormous challenge of climate change. The clean energy transition provides a key to addressing both, and with its vast renewable resources, India has a strategic role to play," she said.

## Goa Airport successfully completes RNP of newly built runway of new In't airport

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Goa Airport on Monday successfully completed RNP (Required Navigation Performance) procedure for both approaches - 10 and 28 - of the newly built runway at the upcoming New Goa International Airport.

An Airbus 320 aircraft from Indigo Airlines equipped with RNP equipment tested and validated RNP for its accuracy and flyability.

According to a senior GMR Goa International Airport Limited (GGIAL) official, RNP is a family of navigation specifications under Performance Based Navigation (PBN) which permit the operation of aircraft along a precise flight path with a high level of accuracy and the ability to determine aircraft position with both precision and integrity. The addition of an RNP radius to fix arrivals, approaches, and departures increases airspace capacity by shortening the approach and departure paths.

"Once the RNP procedure is drawn for a particular runway of an aerodrome, it needs to be tested and validated for its

accuracy and flyability through the simulator and actual aircraft trials. During this process, the defined flight path is tested by flying an aircraft equipped with RNP equipment, in accordance with the procedure developed. Upon successful validation and approval, the procedures are published and promulgated for use by all airlines," he said.

"Validating of such procedures by an aircraft at a greenfield airport needs an immense amount of ground work in terms of planning, preparation, readiness, testing, and precision execution. With this successful RNP flight our team at the New Goa International Airport has achieved a very important milestone towards commissioning of airport," he added.

On the occasion, CEO-GGIAL, R. V. Sheshan said, "Today, we have successfully completed the Required Navigation Performance Procedure at the upcoming New Goa International Airport. RNP approach ensures integrity and accuracy and helps an aircraft follow specific paths using board equipment.

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Exports of tea during the first six months January to June 2022 has increased to 96.89 million kg as compared to 86.46 million kg in the similar previous period.

According to Tea Board data, the largest importer traditionally has been the CIS block where exports had slightly fallen to 20.58 million kg during the current six months against 21.04 million

kg in the previous period of 2021.

According to an official of Indian Tea Association (ITA), the fall had been due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine which has hit shipment logistics hard.

Among the CIS block, Russia has been the major importer which stood at 14.76 million kg as compared to 15.88 million kg in the similar previous period.

After CIS, UAE has been



## Blue Jet Healthcare files draft papers with Sebi; eyes up to ₹2,100-cr via IPO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pharmaceutical ingredients maker Blue Jet Healthcare has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise as much as Rs 2,100 crore through an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO is completely an offer-for-sale (OFS) through which the company's promoters -- Akshay Bansarilal Arora and Shiven Akshay Arora -- will sell up to 21,683,178 equity shares, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Merchant banking sources have pegged the IPO size between Rs 1,800 crore and Rs 2,100 crore.

The Mumbai-based Blue Jet Healthcare, is a specialty pharmaceutical



and healthcare ingredient and intermediate company, offering niche products targeted towards innovator pharmaceutical companies and multinational generic pharmaceutical companies.

Its business model focuses on collaboration, development, and manufacturing of complex chemistry categories. Over the past five decades, the company has developed over 100 products with over 40 products commercialised.

The company's 76 per cent of income in FY22 came from Europe, followed by India (17.14 per cent), the US (4.18 per cent) and some other countries.

Its revenue from operations grew by 37 per cent to Rs 683.47 crore for the financial year 2022, from Rs 498.93 crore for the financial year 2021.

The company's profit after tax rose by 34 per cent to Rs 181.59 crore for the financial year 2022, from Rs 135.79 crore for the same period last year.

## Gold gains ₹113; silver jumps ₹428

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price rose by Rs 113 to Rs 50,985 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at Rs 50,872 per 10 gram.

Silver also jumped by Rs 428 to Rs 53,980 per kg.

In the international market, both gold and silver were trading flat at USD 1,711 per ounce and USD 18.15 per ounce, respectively.

"Gold prices traded marginally down with spot gold



prices at COMEX trading at USD 1,711 per ounce. Gold traded under pressure on stronger dollar after recovering on Friday," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.



# Kyrgios stuns world No.1 Medvedev

AP ■ NEW YORK

Australia's Nick Kyrgios sent defending champion Daniil Medvedev tumbling out of the US Open on Sunday as US teenager Coco Gauff reached the quarter-finals for the first time.

The notoriously temperamental 23rd-seeded Kyrgios produced some scintillating shot-making on his way to a superb 7-6 (13/11), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over the world number one from Russia.

Kyrgios, who was beaten by Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final in July, showed grit and composure to save three set points in the opening set before holding his nerve to win an epic tie-break 13/11 before a raucous Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd.

Although he dropped the second set, he roared back to dominate Medvedev in the third and fourth sets to clinch victory in 2hr 53min.

"It was an amazing match, obviously Daniil as the defending champion had a lot of pressure on his shoulders, but I've been playing amazing the last couple of months," Kyrgios said after the win.

"What a place to do it -- packed house in New York. I'm extremely blessed."

Kyrgios will face Karen Khachanov in the quarter-finals on Tuesday. Khachanov equalled his best performance in a Grand Slam event by defeating Spanish 12th seed Pablo Carreno Busta in a 3hr 21min five-set thriller.

The 27th-seeded Khachanov dug deep to down Carreno Busta 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 on the Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Elsewhere in the fourth round on Sunday, fifth seed Casper Ruud became the first Norwegian man to reach the US Open quarter-finals with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2 victory over French lucky loser Corentin Moutet.

The 23-year-old Ruud, seeded fifth, will face Italy's Matteo



Berrettini for a place in the semi-finals.

Berrettini extended his impressive run of recent Grand Slam singles performances with a 3-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 defeat of Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

The 26-year-old from Rome missed Wimbledon earlier this year after testing positive for

Covid-19, and was injured for the French Open.

But Berrettini has now made the quarter-finals or better in the last five Grand Slams he has played in after Sunday's win.

"It's not a secret for me the Slams are the goal of the season," he said.

"I think it proves that my level

is high in Slams ... I play my best tennis in the most important stages of the tour."

## GAUFF MARCHES ON

In the women's draw meanwhile, rising American star Gauff kept home hopes alive with a battling 7-5, 7-5 win over China's Zhang Shuai on the Arthur Ashe

Stadium.

The 18-year-old 12th seed will now play France's in-form Caroline Garcia for a place in the semi-finals.

"I think she's playing the best tennis she's played in a long time," Gauff said of her quarter-final opponent.

"It's going to be a challenge. When you play these players that are

## 'Kyrgios at same level as Djokovic and Nadal'

AP ■ NEW YORK

Daniil Medvedev said Nick Kyrgios is playing at such a high level that he merits comparison with Grand Slam heavyweights Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

Medvedev was deposed as US Open champion on Sunday by Kyrgios as the fiery Australian stormed to an electrifying 7-6 (13/11), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 win to reach his first quarter-final in New York.

"Nick today played kind of at the level of Novak and Rafa," said the 26-year-old Medvedev after seeing 21 aces and 53 winners speed past him.

"He has a little bit different game because he's not a grinder. At the same time he can rally. He's tough to play. He has an amazing

serve.

"But from baseline it's not like when the point starts, you know that you have the advantage. He plays good. He has every shot.

"If he plays like this until the end of the tournament, he has all the chances to win it."

Medvedev, who will lose his world number one ranking following his defeat, was attempting to become the first man to defend the US Open title since Roger Federer in 2008.

Instead, he ends the Grand Slam year with a runners-up spot at the Australian Open, where he was defeated by Nadal, and last-16 exits at the French and US Opens.

Along with other Russians, he was banned from Wimbledon due to the invasion of Ukraine.

of positives," she said.

"I like to play tennis aggressively, to move forward. I'm having fun, enjoying playing that way, and on top of it I'm glad it's working and it's a good way for me."

Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic followed up her victory over Serena Williams with another battling performance to beat Liudmila Samsonova and reach the quarter-finals.

Tomljanovic — who knocked out tennis icon Williams in the third round on Friday — advanced to the last eight with a 7-6 (10/8), 6-1 victory over Samsonova.

The 29-year-old world number 46 will play either Tunisia's Ons Jabeur or Russia's Veronika Kudermetova in the quarters.

"The fact that I won, I'm still a little speechless," Tomljanovic said after her win.



## Roma's unbeaten start ends with 0-4 loss to Udinese

AP ■ UDINESE

Roma's unbeaten start to the Serie A season came to a sobering end as they suffered a 4-0 thrashing at Udinese on Sunday, missing out on the chance to reclaim top spot.

Jose Mourinho's side had only conceded one goal in their opening four games of the campaign, but were dismantled at the Stadio Friuli.

Teenage wing-back Destiny Udogie, on loan from Tottenham, put Udinese into a fifth-minute lead as he pounced on a Rick Karsdorp error to score for the second time in three games.

The hosts doubled their advantage 11 minutes into the second half as Roma goalkeeper Rui Patricio allowed Lazar Samardzic's long-range strike to bounce into the net.

Roberto Pereyra curled a fine shot past Patricio with

quarter of an hour remaining to put the game to bed.

Sandi Lovric added to Roma's woes in the 82nd minute by finishing off a counter-attack, sending Udinese above their opponents into fourth place.

Napoli lead the standings on goal difference from reigning champions AC Milan, who edged out city rivals Inter 3-2 at the San Siro on Saturday.

## MAINZ BEAT GLADBACH

Mainz ended Borussia Moenchengladbach's unbeaten start to the Bundesliga on Sunday as left-back Aaron Martin scored a second-half winner in a 1-0 victory.

Gladbach could have gone level on points with third-placed Bayern Munich and Union Berlin with a win at Borussia Park, but were made to pay for Ko Itakura's red card in the 53rd minute.

# Fans coming back to ISL this season will have a massive impact, says Sunil Chhetri

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian national football captain Sunil Chhetri is thrilled to welcome back fans into stadiums across the country in the 2022-23 Indian Super League (ISL). The Bengaluru FC striker believes supporters in the stands will play a massive role in creating a vibrant atmosphere for players to put their best foot forward.

ISL organisers Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) announced the schedule of the 2022-23 ISL on Thursday with the league kicking off on October 7th in Kochi with Kerala Blasters taking on East Bengal.

To make it convenient for more fans and families to attend and watch their teams in action, the majority of ISL matches will be taking place on weekends. Each Matchweek is sched-

uled between Thursdays and Sundays this season.

"The fans will have a massive impact this season, especially for us. I think all the teams have struggled not playing with the fans not being able to be at the stadiums. But if there is one team that has struggled the most, by far, it is us. So we are thrilled that the fans are coming back this season and it is the best news for a team like us," said Chhetri.

Fans across the country will be welcomed back into the stands after a gap of two years. Last season's final in Goa was the first match with fans present after the league was held behind closed doors for two seasons due to the pandemic.

Chhetri, who is also the league's highest Indian goalscorer with 51 goals, is most excited to face Kerala Blasters away from home due to the intriguing fan support in Kochi. "I am looking for-



ward to playing against Kerala Blasters away. Just to play at the stadium against all the fans is an experience," the Bengaluru FC skipper said.

Bengaluru FC are known to have one of the most voracious fan following led by the West Block Blues group. Skipper Chhetri has always believed the club and its fans share a special bond, who have been regulars in the stadium for both home and away games since 2013.

With supporters playing a massive role in Indian football, the ISL going back to the ten venues across the country will spark interest among the fans of the 11 clubs. Asia's biggest rivalry between ATK Mohun Bagan and East Bengal will be held for the first time in Kolkata during the ISL era, with both legs scheduled for October 29th and February 25th next year.

## Suarez wonder strike keeps Nacional title hopes on track

FIANS ■ MONTEVIDEO

Former Liverpool and Barcelona striker Luis Suarez was on target as Nacional cruised to a 3-1 home victory over Penarol in Uruguay's Primera Division on Sunday.

Mathias Laborda gave the hosts the lead on the stroke of halftime with a bullet header following a corner.

Suarez doubled the advantage just after the restart when he ran onto a loose ball and



thumped a 25-yard left-footed effort into the far corner. The 35-year-old has now scored three times in five league outings since rejoining his boyhood club as a free agent last month,

reports Xinhua.

Kevin Mendez reduced the deficit when his low attempt from 22 yards rebounded in off the right post.

But Camilo Candido put the result beyond doubt when he wrong-footed a defender with a deft touch before angling a shot into the bottom right corner.

Nacional lead the 16-team Uruguayan top-flight standings with 15 points from six games while Penarol are eighth, seven points behind.

## Extremely determined to play in FIH Hockey Pro League again: Gurjit



FIANS ■ BENGALURU

The Indian women's hockey team players are currently fine-tuning a few aspects about their game at the National Camp in the Sports Authority of India campus, here.

India's dragflicker Gurjit Kaur expressed that the team is determined to qualify for the FIH Hockey Pro League.

"We attained a lot of confidence after clinching the Bronze Medal in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Everyone has been improving steadily and we are moving forward well as a group. Currently, we are fully focused on the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup. We are very determined to qualify for the FIH Hockey Pro League. We had a great experience in the last edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League and we are all looking forward to

having an opportunity of representing India in the competition again," said the Defender.

Asked if she feels the pressure in big matches, Gurjit said, "Converting Penalty Corners has been one of my strengths and it is a scoring technique that we utilize very often, but I don't feel pressure while carrying out the role because I see the role as a responsibility. I have always wanted to make high impact for my team and I and glad I have been able to do so in some important matches."

Gurjit also said that she is working on improving her dragflicking prowess, "The game will change constantly and the players around the world will keep getting better and therefore it's important for us also to keep evolving. I noted a few aspects that I need to improve upon during CWG and I have been working on

## Holder Baisoya to lead Indian field in 2nd J&K Open golf

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defending champion Honey Baisoya will lead a strong Indian field, including Olympian Udayan Mane in the second J&K Open golf tournament, a PGTI event, to be held for the first time in Jammu Tawi golf course in Jammu from September 7 to 10.

Besides Baisoya and Mane, other Indian golfers who will be seen in action at the Rs 40 lakh event are Rashid Khan, Khalin Joshi, Yuvraj Singh Sanshu, Manu Gandas and Karandeep Kohar to name a few.

The foreign challenge will be led by Sri Lankans Mithun Perera and N Thagaraja and Bangladesh's Jamal Hossain.

## Indian to open campaign against Canada in FIH Nations Cup

PTI ■ LAUSANNE

The Indian women's hockey team will open its campaign against Canada in the FIH Nations Cup to be held in Valencia, Spain from December 11 to 17.

India are placed in Pool B along side Canada, Japan and South Africa in the eight-nation tournament, a qualifier for next season's FIH Pro League.

Pool A consists of Korea, Italy, hosts Spain, and Ireland.

After Canada, India will face Japan on December 12 before rounding off their pool campaign against South Africa on December 14.

Top two teams from each pool will qualify for the semi-final which is scheduled to be held on December 16.

The final of the tournament is slated for December 17.

The Indian women's team finished a creditable third in its debut outing in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021-22 season.

them in the National Camp. I need to keep working on my game and keep getting better as a player and especially as a dragflicker."

# Ten Hag salutes Antony & Rashford as Man Utd sink Arsenal

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erik ten Hag hailed Antony's deadly partnership with Marcus Rashford as Manchester United's new signing scored on his debut while his strike partner's brace sent Arsenal crashing to 3-1 defeat on Sunday.

Antony made a dream debut as the Brazil forward scored just 35 minutes into his first appearance following his £82 million (\$94 million) move from Ajax.

Some pundits questioned United's decision to splash out such a big fee on the 22-year-old.

But Ten Hag knows all about Antony from their time together at Ajax, where the United manager worked before taking charge of the Premier League club in the summer.

And Antony appeared to the manor born as he unfurled an array of skills and intelligent play

to dazzle the Old Trafford crowd.

He formed an instant relationship with fellow forward Rashford, who provided an astute assist for Antony's clinical finish.

After Bukayo Saka's equaliser, Rashford took the game away from Arsenal with a pair of composed strikes to end the Premier League leaders' perfect start to the season.

"They both played great, a continual threat. I know our offensive is really strong, they are creative and have speed," Ten Hag said of Antony and Rashford.

"This is the first time they have played together and this performance is great to see.

"I thought the first 10 minutes was the best we have played so far this season."

Arsenal had won their first five games but United's four-match winning run is their longest in the Premier League since win-



ning five in a row in 2021 under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

It is exactly the kind of streak Ten Hag needed his team to go after his reign started with embarrassing defeats against Brighton and Brentford.

The 4-0 loss at Brentford was especially chastening, but since then Ten Hag has got the response he wanted after calling for his players to show more hunger and character.

"We are happy and satisfied with the win, also the performance against a really good team," Ten Hag said.

"The spirit from this team, they can deal with setbacks. It is really great and shows your mentality. We have really improved on that.

"We have the right characters and now it is about cooperation. We have to stay calm, stay composed and play our game."



# Must-win game for India

PTI ■ DUBAI

India would need to get the best out of their thin bowling resources and avoid too much experimentation when they clash with Sri Lanka in their must win Super 4 game in the Asia Cup here Tuesday.

In the absence of injured Ravindra Jadeja, Harshal Patel and Jasprit Bumrah, India do not have a lot of options to play with in the bowling department.

India went in with five bowling options against Pakistan on Sunday and it did not work out in their favour as Bhuvneshwar Kumar had a rare off day.

After a match-winning effort in the opening game against Pakistan, Hardik Pandya proved expensive and so was Yuzvendra Chahal, who has not at been his best in the tournament.

The five-bowler theory also makes Hardik's four overs more critical. Axar Patel, who is a like for like replacement for Jadeja, can be brought into the playing eleven to lend more balance.

Avesh Khan, who was unwell ahead of the Pakistan clash, can also come back as the third specialist pacer.

While Rahul Dravid stressed that India would be looking to play their best eleven in the lead up to the World Cup, the Rohit Sharma-led side continues to experiment.

With the intense debate over Rishabh Pant versus Dinesh Karthik in the team, the management gave a go to Deepak Hooda at the expense of the Tamil Nadu wicketkeeper-batter, who hardly got to bat in the first two games.

The bowling resources may not be enough at the moment but India need to decide quickly on their middle-order.

The biggest positive out of the Pakistan game was the performance of the high-profile top-order. All three- Rohit, K L Rahul and Virat



India vs Sri Lanka  
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Kohli — showed a lot of aggression and gave India an electric start.

Kohli's critics can finally rest after his second successive half-century in Asia Cup. He may not be back to his best but he gave enough signs on Sunday that he is getting there.

One can expect Kohli and two openers to go all guns blazing against Sri Lanka from ball one.

Having pulled off two close chases against Bangladesh and Afghanistan, Sri Lanka have turned their campaign around after a heavy

defeat in their opening game.

Barring number three Charith Asalanka, Sri Lanka batters have made an impact, whether it was skipper Dasun Shanaka and Kusal Mendis against Bangladesh or Danushka Gunathilaka and Bhanuka Rajapaksa against Afghanistan.

The Chris Silverwood coached side now has the belief that it can win from any situation. It is a developing squad but India will be wary of them. Another loss will eliminate India from the final race.

"It's the belief of the dressing room. As a team we believe we can chase anything on these kind of wickets. When chasing, we have a clear idea of how the wicket behaves," Shanaka had said after a fine over Afghanistan.

## SQUADS

**India:** Rohit Sharma (c), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Deepak Hooda, Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ravi Bishnoi, Yuzvendra Chahal,

Arshdeep Singh, Dinesh Karthik, Avesh Khan, Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin.

**Sri Lanka:** Dasun Shanaka (c), Danushka Gunathilaka, Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Charith Asalanka, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Ashen Bandara, Dhananjaya de Silva, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Jeffrey Vandersay, Praveen Jayawickrama, Chamika Karunaratne, Dilshan Madushanka, Matheesha Pathirana, Nuwanidu Fernando and Dinesh Chandimal.

## Need to learn mindset of defending as 180-odd was good score: Rohit



PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Rohit Sharma's biggest takeaway from his team's five-wicket loss against arch-rivals Pakistan in the Asia Cup Super 4 match is learning about the mindset required to defend tricky totals under pressure.

Pakistan beat India by five wickets as they chased down the target of 182 with a ball to spare.

The Indian captain said that a total of 181 was always a good one and he didn't think that they were 10-15 short.

"It's a good learning for us. I thought it was a good score. Any pitch, any conditions when you get 180 it's a good score," Rohit said after the match.

"We got to learn a lot today — what sort of mindset we need to have when defending a score like that. Like I said you've got to give credit to Pakistan. They've played better than us," Rohit added.

In a high intensity game like this, one can't lose the momentum, he insisted.

Rohit admitted that the 73-run stand between Mohammed Nawaz and Mohammed Rizwan stretched more than he had expected.

"It's a high pressure game we know that. You've got to be at it every time. A game like that can take a lot. We were calm even when there was a partnership between Rizwan and Nawaz. But that partnership obviously went a little long and they batted brilliantly. We understand the pitch gets slightly better in the second innings," he said.

The skipper was all praise for Virat Kohli, who scored 60 off 44 balls in India's 181/7.

"The form is brilliant (talking about Kohli). Needed someone to bat long when the others were getting out. He batted with that tempo as well. Virat getting that score was crucial from the team's point of view."

## Made conscious effort to bat at swift pace but...: Kohli

PTI ■ DUBAI

Virat Kohli says he made a "conscious effort" to score at a quick pace in the Super 4 match against Pakistan, but intermittent wickets forced him to change his plans as the need of the hour was to bat deep.

Kohli, who made 60 off 44 balls, was going all guns blazing early in his innings before slowing down, fearing losing out on partners in the death overs.

"Today I was making a conscious effort to strike at a higher pace," Kohli said at the post-match press conference after India lost by five wickets to Pakistan on Sunday.

"When we lost wickets, there was communication and our plans changed, where I had to bat till the 18th over with (Deepak) Hooda.

"If there were a couple of batters, I would've gone with the same tempo and tried to hit more boundaries or sixes. But again, I ended up being in a situation where I had to go deep."

"Because after Hooda and me, it was Bhuvu (Bhuvneshwar Kumar), so the bowlers were to follow. That makes a bit of a difference, but we do possess the skills to analyse the situation and play accordingly as well."

It was Kohli's second consecutive half-century in the tournament after playing an unbeaten 59-run knock against Hong Kong in the league stages.

Having found his mojo



## Virat backs Arshdeep

PTI ■ DUBAI

Kohli had comforting words for left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, who dropped a sitter of Asif Ali in the 18th over when the game was evenly balanced.

"Under pressure, anyone can make a mistake. It's a big match and the situation was tight. I remember when I first played in the Champions Trophy. Against Pakistan, I remember I hit a very bad shot off Shahid Afridi. Till 5 am next morning, I was only staring at the ceiling, unable to sleep.

"I thought I'll never get a game again, my career is over. So it's natural to feel like this. When the team environment is good then you learn from it and when such an opportunity comes up again, you look forward to it, hoping the ball comes to you.

back after a prolonged lean patch, Kohli was at his attacking best but slowing down cost him and India 20-25 runs.

"If you've seen the way we've been playing, it's given us the results we need, and in our middle overs, the run rate has also improved," Kohli said.

"It's something I, as a batsman, really took keen notice of, and I knew that is one area we need to keep improving on. We've spoken about this that sometimes it won't come off, the way you want and today, we lost a few wickets in the middle phase which didn't allow us to go towards the 200 target."

"But given the situation, if we had a couple of wickets in hand, we could've got more runs. We're not disturbed by losing wickets through the middle overs, because that's the way we want to play. We want to be able to get those 20-25 extra runs that can eventually make the difference in big games," he added.

## Jemimah nominated for ICC 'Player of the Month' award

PTI ■ DUBAI

Star Indian batter Jemimah Rodrigues was on Monday nominated for the ICC 'Player of the Month' award for her impressive performance at the Commonwealth Games in August.

The nominations in the women's category also feature the Gold medal-winning Australian duo of Beth Mooney and Tahlia McGrath.

Rodrigues was one of the pillars of the Indian team that went all the way into the finals of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. She ended the tournament fifth on the run-scorers list with 146 runs in five matches.

Rodrigues was India's top run-getter with an unbeaten 56 off 46 balls in the crucial clash against Barbados to help her side secure a semifinal spot.

Mooney, on the other hand, was the highest run-scorer at the Birmingham CWG. She kicked off the month with a brilliant unbeaten 49-ball 70 against Pakistan in Australia's final Group A game, following it up with a patient 29-ball 36 in the semifinal clash against New Zealand, batting her side out of trouble after the early wickets.

McGrath impressed with her all-round brilliance. She was one of the key factors in Australia making history and bagging the gold medal in the first-ever women's tournament in the event's history.

She finished the tournament as the joint second-highest wicket-taker with eight



wickets in five matches.

England Test skipper Ben Stokes, Sikandar Raza of Zimbabwe and New Zealand all-rounder Mitchell Santner are the nominees in the men's category.

In the second Test against Proteas at Manchester, Stokes broke the back of the South African middle-order with the wickets of Aiden Markram and Rassie van der Dussen as the visitors were knocked over for 151.

He followed it up with a brilliant century that came when England were in a spot of bother having lost early wickets on day two.

Raza enjoyed a tremendous August. Going head to head against Asian giants India and Bangladesh, Raza notched up three centuries in the month.

Santner too enjoyed a brilliant month both with the bat and ball in hand and played a crucial role in the Black Caps' six wins out of eight in the month.

## Rizwan to undergo MRI scan after suffering leg strain

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan wicket-keeper batter Mohammad Rizwan is set to undergo a precautionary MRI scan after sustaining a strain in his right leg during the five-wicket win over arch-rivals India in the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup here.

Pakistani media reported that Rizwan sustained the strain while landing awkwardly on his right leg in his effort to collect a Mohammad Hasnain's delivery during India's innings.

As per reports, the 30-year-old hard-hitting batter was shifted to a hospital soon after



Pakistan's last-over win.

Despite the injury, Rizwan came out to open the innings and scored a match-winning 51-ball 71 to help Pakistan chase down India's 181 for seven with five wickets in hand.

Rizwan shared a match-defining 73-run partnership for the third wicket to help Pakistan avenge their loss to India in the group league stage.

Pakistan have already been plagued by fitness issues with pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Wasim and Shah Nawaz Dahani ruled out of the tournament.

## Nawaz aims to be 'proper all-rounder'

AP ■ DUBAI

Mohammad Nawaz wants to be a "proper all-rounder" after his batting blitz set up a thrilling win for Pakistan against arch-rivals India in the Asia Cup Super Four.

Chasing 182 for victory, Pakistan achieved the target with one ball and five wickets to spare in Dubai after Mohammad Rizwan hit 71 and Nawaz made 42.

Nawaz, a left-arm spinner who usually bats at No 8 but was promoted to No 4, joined Rizwan when the score was 63-2 and the two put on a key stand.

The 28-year-old Nawaz smashed six fours and two sixes in his 20-ball knock to put the chase on track.

Nawaz, who returned bowling figures of 1-25 in India's 181-7, also took three catches and was named man of the match.

"To play such an innings in a high-pressure game has definitely given me confidence," Nawaz told reporters.

"I have got the opportunity to grow as a player and I will try my best to live up to the rising expectations.

"I will work hard and try to perform better as a proper all-rounder for the Pakistan team." Nawaz fell in the 16th over and soon Rizwan was out after his second successive half-century.

Khushdil Shah (unbeaten 14) and Asif Ali, who made 16 off eight balls, hauled Pakistan over the line in a tense final over as they avenged their loss to India earlier in the tournament.

"We wanted to take it as deep as we could because the kind of players we have in Khushdil and Asif, even if we need 10-12 runs per over, they can easily get it," Rizwan said.



## Finch under microscope as tough NZ series looms

AP ■ CAIRNS

Under-pressure Aaron Finch insisted on Monday he was still "a pretty good" player after a horror run with the bat as Australia's limited overs captain bids to find form against New Zealand this week.

The 35-year-old opener managed just 15, one and five in Australia's 2-1 ODI series win against Zimbabwe last week, following two consecutive ducks in the final two games of their recent series in Sri Lanka.

With the T20 World Cup on home soil in October fast approaching, his position is under increasing scrutiny.

Finch has three matches against the world's top ODI side in the Queensland city of Cairns, starting Tuesday, to stop the rot and silence the critics.

"You're always looking to improve and being able to train consistently and keep tinkering with my game to get better is the most important thing, it is what you are always striving to do," he told reporters.

"Obviously, personally, the performances haven't been

there in terms of the output of runs but I still feel like I'm a pretty good player.

"I'm feeling really good... I had a good long hit in the nets, probably longer than I normally have the day before a game. Obviously not having as much time in the middle lately lends itself to more training unfortunately."

The home team head into the series after being embarrassed by Zimbabwe in Townsville on Saturday, crashing by three wickets to hand the world's 13th-ranked side an historic first win over the cricketing powerhouse in Australia.

An even sterner test awaits from the Kane Williamson-led New Zealand.

"They continue to be one of the benchmarks in world cricket in all three formats of the game," Finch said of the Black Caps.

"They are always close battles whatever the format... they go the distance generally."

New Zealand are in Cairns on the back of a 2-1 ODI series win in the West Indies last month, with Williamson anticipating "a really tough challenge".

## No one except Dhoni messaged me after I quit Test captaincy: Virat

PTI ■ DUBAI

Virat Kohli has revealed that Mahendra Singh Dhoni was the only person, who 'messaged' him after he unexpectedly stepped down as Test captain following the series loss in South Africa as the former skipper took a dig at "people" who talk on TV but did not reach out to him to help.

Kohli had quit T20 captaincy as well but the ODI leadership was taken away from him. However, India's most successful captain relinquishing Test leadership in January caught the cricketing world by surprise.

Speaking to media on a rather eventful last 12 months when he was also criticised for his form, Kohli talked about Dhoni's phone call and the bond that they share.

"One thing I can tell you is when I gave up Test captaincy,

I got a message from only one person who I've played with before -- MS Dhoni," said Kohli.

"A lot of people have my number and a lot of people give suggestions on TV, but among people who have my number, I didn't get a message from anyone else," he said.

After a prolonged lean patch, the former captain has found form in the Asia Cup and struck his second successive half-century on Sunday.

Kohli has immense respect for his 'first captain' Dhoni and it was evident in his response.

"When there's respect and a connection with someone, when it's genuine, it looks like this. Because there's security at both ends. Neither was I insecure with him nor was he insecure with me.

"All I can say is if I want to tell someone something I'll



reach out individually, if the help is needed. If you give a suggestion in front of the whole world, it holds no value for me. If it is something that will

improve me then you can do it one-on-one also."

The former skipper Kohli did not take any name but perhaps he was referring to batting