

## OPINION 6

DEALING WITH  
THE DRAGON

## WORLD 9

UK VIOLENCE: HINDUS, MUSLIMS  
MAKE HARMONY APPEAL; 47 HELD

## MONEY 10

MARKETS EXTEND GAINS  
DESPITE FED OVERHANG

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

## the pioneer

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INDIA TO FACE  
ENGLAND IN  
2nd ODI TODAY  
12 SPORTTharoor vs Gehlot in  
Cong president raceEfforts on to  
convince Rahul  
to run for top  
Congress postPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Congress presidential polls now seem to be a straight fight between Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor and Ashok Gehlot. The Rajasthan Chief Minister is believed to be the first choice of the Gandhis — Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi.

Tharoor, a Minister in Congress-led UPA Governments, has been seeking transparent organisational poll, and is unlikely to get enough support from the delegates to clinch the top party post.

As a member of the G-23 grouping within the Congress, the vote Tharoor gets will reflect the level of support so called “dissidents” enjoy in the party.

On the other hand, Gehlot is a clear front runner due to his proximity with the Gandhis.

At the same time, efforts are underway to convince Rahul to run for the top post. Several State units — Tamil Nadu, Bihar, J&K, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh,



Rajasthan, Bihar, Puducherry, Jharkhand, Assam, Gujarat — have passed resolutions backing him as party chief and more State units will soon follow.

AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said anybody can contest the Congress president's poll which will be free and fair as well as transparent. Venugopal met Sonia and is reported to have discussed the organisational polls.

Asked if Rahul will contest, Venugopal said only the former can decide and he “has not told us anything”.

On resolutions being passed by various State units of the party seeking Rahul's elevation to the top post,

Venugopal said there is nothing wrong in that as party workers were expressing their feelings.

To a query specifically on Tharoor being a prospective candidate, he said, “Not only Tharoor, anybody who wants to contest, can contest.”

AICC sources said while the Gandhis are backing Gehlot, Sonia is learnt to have told Tharoor that she would maintain a “neutral position” in the event of an election for the party president's post and “the party will not officially back anyone”.

A few senior party leaders maintained that the stage appeared to have been set “for

a friendly fight between Tharoor and Gehlot”.

While Gehlot's name did the rounds ever before the party issued the poll schedule, Tharoor is being seen as a late entrant in the race.

The new president would replace Sonia, the longest-serving party president who has been at the helm since 1998, barring the two years between 2017 and 2019 when Rahul took over.

The grand old party last saw a contest for the post in November 2000. Jitendra Prasad had lost to Sonia in 2000 and prior to that Sitaram Kesri had defeated Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot in 1997.

SC upholds Haryana Act  
to manage gurdwarasVerdict an attack  
on panth, causes  
resentment among  
Sikhs: SAD chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the Constitutional validity of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara (Management) Act 2014 under which a separate committee was formed to manage the affairs of gurdwaras in the State.

The decision has not gone down well with the Sikh community. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal described the verdict as an attack on the “panth” and said that it had caused deep resentment among the community worldwide.

A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Vikram Nath dismissed the plea filed by a member of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) seeking quashing of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Act 2014.

The top court's judgment came on a 2014 plea filed by Harbhajan Singh, a resident of Haryana, who contended that Section 72 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966 gives the power to make law in respect of the SGPC as an inter-State body corporate has been reserved with the Central Government only and there is



no provision in law for any bifurcation by enacting a State legislation.

The petition had said the hasty enactment during the UPA regime is not only against the Constitutional provisions and the statutory provisions of Punjab Reorganisation Act but is also divisive in its intention to create dissension among followers of Sikh religion.

Under the law, Haryana cannot legislate in respect of a subject where the field is already occupied by Central legislation as the subject of religious institutions correlates to Entry 28 List III. The strict provisions with regard to inter-State body corporate under the law have not been complied with.

Addressing the media in Chandigarh, the SAD president

said it was extremely unfortunate that the SGPC, an inter-state body, had been bifurcated by recognising a State legislation even though the power to make law on this issue was reserved with the Centre.

Badal said the Congress had been trying for decades to weaken the SAD as well as Sikh institutions and the 2014 Act forming a separate body to manage gurdwaras in Haryana was part of this strategy.

“The last nail was hammered in by the Bhagwant Singh Mann Government whose Advocate General gave a written submission against the SGPC in the case,” he said. He appealed to all “panthic” bodies to unite “to defeat the designs of anti-Sikh forces to divide the Sikh community and rule by proxy”.

## CAPSULE

4 KILLED IN NOIDA  
SOCIETY WALL COLLAPSE

**NOIDA:** A portion of a housing society's boundary wall collapsed here on Tuesday morning, killing four construction workers and injuring eight, officials said.

DELHI SEES 1 DEATH,  
81 COVID CASES

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi on Tuesday recorded 81 fresh Covid cases with a positivity rate of 0.82 per cent and one more death due to the infection, according to the data shared by the city health department here.

KASHMIR'S FIRST  
MULTIPLEX OPENS

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated the valley's first multiplex in Sonawar area of the city, ending the three-decade wait of the movie buffs to watch their favourite stars on the big screen.



Security personnel deployed outside the INOX multiplex cinema during its inauguration ceremony in Srinagar on Tuesday PTI

Raze illegal part of Rane's  
Mumbai house, orders HCCourt slams BMC for  
accepting proposal  
for regularisation of  
unauthorised portions

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major embarrassment for Union Minister and senior BJP leader Narayan Rane, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday ordered the demolition of illegal portions of his family-owned bungalow at Juhu in north-west Mumbai within two weeks.

While dismissing a plea seeking direction to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for regularisation of unauthorised portions of the bungalow, a HC bench of Justices RD Dhanuka and Kamal Khata imposed costs of ₹10 lakh on the company to be deposited with the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority (MALSA).

The HC bench refused to entertain a prayer made by the petitioners' counsel Shardul Singh seeking 6 weeks' stay on



Bungalow of Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane, at Juhu in Mumbai PTI

the court's order for demolition of the illegal portions of the bungalow within two weeks, in order to approach the Supreme Court.

Virtually pulling up the BMC for accepting the Rane family's proposal for regularisation of the unauthorised portions, the judges noted, “If the application made by the petitioners for retention/regularisation is allowed to be considered by the Corporation, who is bent upon to consider and

allow such application irrespective of the extent of violation of provisions of law committed by the petitioners, any such order passed by this court would amount to encouragement of the wholesale unauthorised construction carried out in flagrant violation of the Municipal Corporation Act, MRTP Act and Development Control Regulation and would over reach the earlier order of this court.”

Continued on Page 2

Didi cosying up to PM  
to save self, Abhishek:  
Bengal BJP, Cong, Left

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Left and the Bengal BJP have scoffed at Chief Minister Mamata for suddenly going soft on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and alleged that she was trying to save herself and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinat asked if Mamata was giving a clean chit to the Prime Minister at a time when the entire country was raising questions on the issue of misuse of agencies as that would give rise to doubts on her intentions too. The Opposition cannot play “hide-and-seek” in politics as it has to seek accountability from the Prime Minister on issues of public importance, she said.

The remarks came a day after Mamata sought to insulate Prime Minister Modi from allegations of misuse of Central agencies by the BJP-led Centre against political rivals by saying she did not believe that the

PM was behind the alleged excesses of the CBI and the ED.

“I do not know that she is trying to corner Amit Shah-ji while leaving out Modi-ji. I don't know whether she has decided that Modi-ji is good, I will not comment on her point, but yes, I will definitely say two things. In this Government of rulers sitting in Delhi, nothing moves without the approval of PM Modi. When you give a clean chit to the PM, somewhere you are acquitting him of the charges on which the country is asking questions today,” Supriya added.

BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul said, “Her statements are quite amusing...even a few weeks back she was going all guns blazing against the PM...she said that she will tie him with a rope around his waist and pull him along...but now suddenly her voice has changed...Is it because she has lost her mind or it is because she is afraid of something?”

Continued on Page 2

False narratives in TV debates  
biggest threat to channels: MinAnurag slams TV  
news channels for  
noisy debatesPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The biggest threat to mainstream television media is not from new age digital platforms, but rather from the mainstream media channels itself, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said on Tuesday.

Thakur slammed television news channels for noisy debates by inviting guests who are polarising and spreading false narratives. “In my personal opinion, the biggest threat to mainstream media is not from new age digital platforms, but rather the mainstream media channel itself...Your decisions regarding the guest, the tone and visuals define your credibility in the eyes of the audience,” said Thakur while speaking at AIBD General Conference



2022, organised by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development on Monday evening.

“Your decisions regarding the guest, the tone and visuals — define your credibility in the eyes of the audience. The view may stop the audience for a minute to watch your show, but will never trust your anchor, your channel or brand as a trusted and transparent source of news,” Thakur said, adding, “If you decide to invite guests who are polarising, who spread false narratives, and who shout at the top of their lungs — the credibility of your channel goes down.”

The Minister exhorted the broadcasters not to let the nar-

native be defined by soundbites but redefine it “yourself and set the terms for the guests and the channel”.

“Are you going to watch the narrative be defined by soundbites or redefine yourself and set the terms for your guests and channel? Are you going to show visuals that grab eyeballs and inflame anger or show restraint and project visuals in context to showcase the full picture?” Thakur asked the broadcasters present in the conference.

He said this kind of noisy inflammatory debate would force younger audiences to change channels. “Are you going to watch as the younger audience switches and sweeps through the shrill on TV news or are you going to bring back the neutrality in news and discussion in debates to stay ahead of the game?” asked the Minister.

Minister of State L Murugan, I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra, Prasar Bharti CEO Mayank Agrawal and AIBD Director Philomena Gnanaprasa also spoke on the occasion.

Guj film Chhello Show  
India's entry for Oscars

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarati coming-of-age drama “Chhello Show” is India's official entry for the 95th Academy Awards, the Film Federation of India (FFI) announced on Tuesday.

Titled “Last Film Show” in English, the movie, directed by Pan Nalin, will release in theatres countrywide on October 14.

“Chhello Show is India's official entry for Oscars 2023,” FFI Secretary General Supran Sen told PTI.

The film, which will represent the country in the best international feature film category at the Oscars, is produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur's banner Roy Kapur Films, Jugaad Motion Pictures, Monsoon Films, Chhello Show LLP, and Marc Duale.

The story is inspired by Nalin's own memories of falling in love with movies



as a child in rural Gujarat.

Set in a remote rural village of Saurashtra, the film follows the story of a nine-year-old boy who begins a lifelong love affair with cinema when he bribes his way into a rundown movie palace and spends a summer watching movies from the projection booth.

Continued on Page 2

Man's plea to be party to suit on  
deities in Qutub Minar rejected

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A court here on Tuesday dismissed an intervention application claiming the applicant was a “necessary party” to an appeal seeking restoration of Hindu and Jain deities in an alleged temple complex inside Qutub Minar.

On September 13, the court had reserved the order on the intervention plea of Kunwar Mahender Dhawaj Pratap Singh, who claimed he was an heir of the erstwhile ruler of the “United Province of Agra” and the owner of land parcels in several cities in and around Delhi, including the property at Qutub Minar.

Dismissing the application, Additional District Judge Dinesh Kumar posted the matter for hearing arguments on the appeal on October 19.

A detailed order in the matter is awaited. The appeal in the present case is against a trial court order, dismissing the suit filed by advocate Hari Shankar Jain on behalf of Jain deity Tirthankar Lord Rishabh Dev, claiming that 27 temples were partly demolished by Qutubdin



Aibak, a general in the army of Mohammad Gauri, and Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque was raised inside the complex by reusing the material.

## IIT Bombay's Peeping Tom held

Canteen boy placed  
mobile on girls' hostel  
bathroom window

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

In a disturbing development, Powai Police arrested a canteen boy for allegedly recording a video in the girls' hostel bathroom of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-Bombay).

The incident came to light on Sunday evening when a female student noticed a mobile phone placed at the window of a bathroom at student hostel number 10 on the IIT-B premises. She immediately alerted the authorities, who in turn alerted the police.

The police rushed to the hostel and questioned several persons, including five canteen boys. During the investigations, they arrested a 22-year-old canteen boy, after the hostel students and



security guards identified him as the prime suspect in the case. The police seized the accused canteen boy's mobile phone.

Talking to media persons here on Tuesday, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone X) Maheshwar Reddy confirmed the arrest of a canteen boy in connection with the incident and said, “The accused has been arrested under section 354C (voyeurism) of IPC and statements have been recorded. There is no footage on the phone. However, it will be sent for forensic investigation.”

Continued on Page 2



# Cong, AAP vow to restore Govt pension scheme in Guj

PTI ■  
VADODARA/NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday promised to restore the old pension scheme for Government employees if voted to power in Gujarat, amid a renewed focus on the issue in the recent State polls.

Gandhi said the old pension scheme (OPS) has been reintroduced in party-ruled states of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and it will now be done in Gujarat too.

"By abolishing the old pension, the BJP has made the elderly dependent from self-reliant," he said in a tweet in



Hindi. "The government employees who strengthen the country have a right: The old pension."

"We restored the old pension in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh. Now the Congress government will come in Gujarat and will bring the old pension," Gandhi also said, using the hashtag #CongressDegiOldPension.

Thousands of retired government employees in Gujarat recently held protests demanding the re-introduction of the scheme.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who announced the revival of the OPS in the budget speech in February, on Tuesday said that the scheme will be implemented in both Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh if the Congress forms government there.

Kejriwal, who is campaigning in Gujarat, said Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has issued an order considering the implementation of the old pension scheme in the AAP-ruled state. "Government employees

in Gujarat have taken to the streets in large numbers. Their main demand is the implementation of the old pension scheme. I guarantee them that when AAP forms a government, we will implement the OPS in Gujarat," Kejriwal told reporters.

The old pension scheme was discontinued on April 1, 2004 and replaced by the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

Under the old scheme, the employee used to get the Dearness Allowance-linked pension. In this scheme, the pensioners used to get the benefit of enhanced pension every six months due to the periodic hike in dearness relief.

## Maha sacks Sena leader as farm body head after he writes to PM about farmer's suicide

TN RAGHUNATHA ■  
MUMBAI

Within hours of his writing a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the latter to visit the family of a distressed farmer who committed suicide during the weekend, the Maharashtra Government sacked Shiv Sena leader Kishore Tiwari as the chairman of the State-run Vasantrao Naik Sheti Swavlamban Mission (VNSSM).

Though the order signed by Deputy Secretary (Revenue & Forest Department), Sanjay Dharurkar removing him from his post as the VNSSM's chairman did not mention the reason for his removal from the post, Tiwari accused

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP for acting with "lightning speed" to sack him from the post within hours after the former had shot off a letter to the Prime Minister.

Ironically enough, it was Fadnavis who had in August 2015 appointed Tiwari as the VNSSM's chairman when he was the Chief Minister in the previous BJP-Shiv Sena alliance government from 2014 to 2019.

While heading the VNSSM, Tiwari enjoyed Minister of State (MoS) rank Tiwari was once close to Fadnavis, but his relations with the former chief minister and current DCM soured after he became a part of the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray.

## 2 names recommended as AIIMS chief's term ends on Sept 23

STAFF REPORTER ■  
NEW DELHI

With AIIMS director Dr Randeep Gularia's tenure ending on September 23, the



names of two senior doctors, Dr M Srinivas and Dr Sanjay Behari have been recommended by the Institute Body for the post of director.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Ram Babu is the owner of Janta Flat bearing No. 592 on Ground Floor without roof/terrace rights measuring 36 sqm, situated at Madipur Paschim Puri, New Delhi-63 having acquired the same vide Sale Deed dated 16.11.2010 (Doc No. 7049) executed by Manisha Bawani

And whereas she has lost the following original documents, Fir has already been dloged on dated 19/9/2022:  
1.Original Allotment Letter dated 02.02.1974 issued by DDA in favour of Subhash Chander  
2.Original Possession Letter issued by DDA in favour of Subhash Chander  
3.Original GPA, ATS and Will dated 16.07.1987 executed by Subhash Chander in favour of Bhuri Devi  
4.Original GPA, ATS and Will dated 26.10.1990 executed by Bhuri Devi in favour of Kunti  
5.Original GPA, ATS and Will dated 31.08.2009 executed by Kunti Bhutani in favour of Seema & Manju  
6.Original Conveyance Deed dated 08.06.2010 executed by POI in favour of Seema & Manju  
All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise however, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

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

Dr Srinivas is presently working with ESIC Hospital and Medical College in Hyderabad since 2016.

He was also a professor in the Department of Pediatric Surgery at AIIMS Delhi.

Dr Behari is currently working as the director of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Trivandrum.

According to the sources, it has come to our knowledge that the names that were recommended to replace Gularia are Dr M Srinivas and Dr Sanjay Behari, their names have been sent to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for approval.

## IIT Bombay's Peeping Tom...

### From Page 1

The accused boy - identified as one Pintu Garia (22) from West Bengal who used to work in the canteen on a temporary basis and he had been hired by a private canteen contractor -- will be produced before a city court magistrate on Wednesday.

As a precautionary measure, the canteen was shut down immediately and it will be reopened only if it can be staffed exclusively by women.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, the IIT-B said, "There was an attempt to violate the personal space of women residents of a hostel by an employee of the hostel night canteen, by climbing a pipe duct. Because of the

alertness of the residents, the culprit was caught and handed over to the police."

"The investigation, including cyber investigation, is being carried out by the Mumbai police. The institute, as per the initial report, is not aware of any footage being shared from the phones confiscated from the culprit," the statement said.

"The canteen has been shut down immediately, and will reopen, only if staffed exclusively by women. Gaps in the ducts, which may have been used by the suspects, have been closed," the statement said.

"We are in discussions with the students to see what other additional steps we can

take. IIT Bombay stands with its students and we will do everything in our capacity to ensure the safety and security of our students," the statement added.

Incidentally, the incident at IIT-B has come to light amid protests being witnessed on the Chandigarh University campus at Mohali over the alleged rumours that went around during hat a hostel inmate allegedly recorded objectionable videos of several students.

A woman, who had allegedly shared a video of herself with a friend in Himachal Pradesh, has been arrested. The police, however, said no other objectionable videos were found with her.

## Guj film Chhello Show...

### From Page 1

"Chhello Show", which features Bhavin Rabari, Bhavesh Shrimali, Richa Meena, Dipen Raval and Paresh Mehta, had its world premiere as the opening film at the Tribeca Film Festival in June last year.

It won multiple awards during its festival run, including the Golden Spike at the 66th Valladolid Film Festival

in Spain where it also enjoyed commercial success during its theatrical run.

Last year, Tamil drama "Koozhangal" ("Pebbles"), directed by filmmaker Vinothraj PS, was India's official entry at the Oscars but didn't make the shortlist.

The last Indian film that made it to the final five was Aamir Khan-led "Lagaan" in 2001.

## Didi cosying up to PM to save self, Abhishek...

### From Page 1

Another senior party leader said with the ED and CBI investigating the coal, cattle and recruitment scams standing at the doorsteps of her nephew Abhishek, she is trying to save her family members by making sweet remarks for the Prime Minister.

The Chief Minister had on Monday said in the State Assembly that she did not believe that the Prime Minister was responsible for the "malicious raids" being conducted by the ED and CBI adding that a section of BJP central leaders and their Bengal counterparts were issuing orders to the central

agency to go after the TMC leaders.

At the end of a massive rally in Kolkata Bengal CPI (M) secretary Md Salim too attacked the Chief Minister for making "friendly remarks" about the Prime Minister. "We had been telling from the very beginning that the there is an element of 'setting

(adjustment) between the Chief Minister and Prime Minister ... here is the burning example of that setting ... or else what explains the Chief Minister's praise for Modi," he said, reminding how Mamata had last week praised the RSS saying she did not believe that all men in that organisation were bad.

## Raze illegal part of Rane's...

### From Page 1

"The petitioners have admittedly constructed about three times of sanctioned plan by utilising every inch of plot mandatorily required to be kept open for various purposes in accordance with the various provisions of law without obtaining permission from Fire Department for high rise buildings and also without obtaining prior clearance of Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA)," the HC bench observed.

"The proposed retention/regulation of unauthorised work, if accepted, will amount to encouragement of the widespread/large scale violation of provisions of law and invite wrongdoer to carry out any extent of unauthorised construction in the City of Mumbai without any fear of penal action," the HC bench said.

The HC said that it was "not impressed" with the arguments made by the petitioners' counsel that unauthorised construction carried out by his client being used for residential purposes, and no prejudice would be caused to the Municipal Corporation or the members of public at large if the application for retention is allowed by the Municipal Corporation by permitting the petitioners to bring additional FSI.

The Rane family-owned com-

pany Real Estates Pvt Ltd had moved the high court for direction to the BMC to consider the petitioners' new application seeking regularisation of the bungalow situated at Juhu in north-west Mumbai.

The Rane family firm had filed the fresh regularisation application before BMC under Section 342 of the MMC Act which stipulates notifying the Commissioner for making any alteration or addition to an existing building.

The BMC had earlier issued a notice to Kaalkaa in March directing it to remove the alleged unauthorised work on the premises within 15 days failing which the corporation will demolish those portions and recover the charges from the owners/ occupiers.

However, Rane family-owned firm challenged the demolition notice in the High Court which had earlier protected the structure from demolition before June 24, till the application by Rane was heard by BMC.

Meanwhile, the BMC rejected the regularisation application on June 3. Since the protection granted by the High Court was expiring soon, Rane moved the high court for relief.

On June 23, the High court rejected Ranes' petition challenging the rejection order. After this, Ranes filed a second application

before BMC, and moved the high court for directions.

When the plea in relation to the second application came up for hearing, the court had asked the BMC if a second such application under the BMC Act would be maintainable in the first place. The BMC told the court that the Rane owned company could file a second application for regularisation which would be considered by the civic body in accordance with the provisions of existing acts and regulations.

Holding that the second regularisation application "cannot be considered," the HC bench said in its ruling given on Tuesday: "It is clear that the Municipal Corporation has accepted to consider and pass an order of regularisation irrespective of the order already passed earlier rejecting the application for retention under section 44 while dealing with the first application by accepting the order passed by the corporation and upheld by this court, by ignoring the principles of law laid down by the Supreme Court and this court and also overlooking the provisions of law."

"The corporation cannot be allowed to take such an inconsistent stand and more particularly when the earlier order had been upheld by this court," the HC bench ruled.

## NCRPULSE

### DELHI MINISTER HANDS OVER CHEQUE TO BEREAVED FAMILY

New Delhi: Delhi Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot on Tuesday handed over a cheque of Rs 20 lakh to the family of a transport department employee who had died on duty in 2020. Gagan Singh, a resident of Rohtak, was deployed as a foot constable in the Delhi Transport Department. He died in the line of duty in an accident in January 2020, Gahlot said in a tweet. The minister met Singh's family and handed over a cheque of Rs 20 lakh to them on behalf of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

### GAUTAM CHAIRS MEETING TO EASE OUT PENSION PROCESS

New Delhi: Delhi Social Welfare Minister, Rajendra Pal Gautam chaired a high-level meeting to ease out pension process. He instructed officers to expedite and ensure timeliness in pension disbursal. He said, "Delhi Government to soon issue pension cards for the elderly and differently-abled. We are preparing the blueprint for the same." During the meeting, Gautam reviewed various facilities including pensions which are given been given to the elderly.

### 30-YR-OLD ARRESTED FOR SELLING SIMULATED BRANDS

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man was arrested from northwest Delhi for allegedly putting counterfeit tags of branded companies on socks and further selling them as genuine products. The accused identified as Lakshay Bansal, a resident of East Punjabi Bagh, portrayed himself as authorized distributor of reputed brands. A complaint of manufacturing of socks bearing counterfeit branded labels was received from the different brands.

### TATA POWER INAUGURATES ULTRA WATER FILTER PLANT

New Delhi: Tata Power- Delhi Distribution Limited (DDL) on Tuesday inaugurated an Ultra Water Filter Plant at Government Girls Senior Secondary School in Shahbad, New Delhi, to provide clean and safe drinking water to 5000 number of students, teachers, and non-teaching staff on the daily basis.

### HEALTH CAMP ORGANISED AT BADARPUR



New Delhi: A health checkup camp was organized in Badarpur as part of Seva Pakhwada being celebrated on the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Hundreds of people visited the health camp for check-up and free medicines were also distributed to them. Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that the people of the area visited the health check-up camp and discussed their health problems with the doctors and the doctors gave them proper advice as well as the medicines.

### AAP TO HOLD DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGN ON POWER SUBSIDY

New Delhi: The AAP on Tuesday announced door-to-door campaign throughout Delhi, with aim to educate citizens about the electricity subsidy registration scheme and BJP's 16 new garbage. Addressing a press conference, the AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak said that they party members will reach out to the masses and explain to them how simple the electricity subsidy registration process is so that the maximum number of citizens can take benefit of it.

### SISODIA CONDUCTS ON-SIGHT INSPECTION OF ROAD

New Delhi: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia on Tuesday conducted an on-site inspection of a road stretch from Raighat to Shantivan, where the PWD is beautifying the road under the pilot streetscaping project. Sisodia also interacted with the visitors in the area to know their experiences. Sharing their experiences, people said that seeing this stretch of road lit up in the light, it is impossible to believe that such wonderful roads are being built in Delhi.

### MINOR GIRL KIDNAPPED 3 YEARS AGO RESCUED FROM BIHAR

New Delhi: A minor girl who was allegedly kidnapped three years ago from the national capital has been rescued from Purnia in Bihar. The accused Nadir (28), a resident of Purnia district, was also arrested. A cash reward of Rs one lakh was declared for providing clues about the missing victim. The kidnapped girl was around 13 at the time of registration of the case. She was reportedly kidnapped on August 11, 2019 from southeast Delhi.

**ICICI Bank**  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation**

This is to bring to your notice that **SUNDER LAL/ SACHIN GARG (borrower/s)** has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number **LBGU00002850550** located at **UNIT NO. T 16/304, ARAWALLI HOMES, MADAMADAM LAKE, VILLAGE-KHAIKA, SECTOR-4, SOHNA, GURGAON, HARYANA**. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement. The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **SEPTEMBER 14, 2022** informing that **GLS INFRA TECH PVT. LTD.** has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication. Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: September 21, 2022  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

For ICICI Bank Limited  
Sd/-

**POLICE TELECOMMUNICATION HEAD QUARTERS, MADHYA PRADESH**  
**Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal-462003**

Fax No. 0755-2443674, E-mail: sspradiompbl@gmail.com

NIT No.: PDM/Pur/CCTV/Videowall/F-684-A/2022, Dated: 19.09.2022

**--: CORRIGENDUM --:**

Under the RFP published by this office vide NIT No.:PDM/Pur/Dial-100/Videowall/F-684/2022, Dated: 07/09/2022 for Procurement, Supply, Installation and maintenance of video wall with accessories for Police Telecom.

The RFP Time Schedule has been extended as under:-

Time Schedule	Published	Amended As
Pre-bid Queries Response Submission date	19/09/2022 up to 1800 Hrs.	26/09/2022 up to 1800 Hrs.
Bid Submission Start Date	20/ 09/2022 from 1800 Hrs.	27/09/2022 from 1800 Hrs.
Bid Submission End Date	01/10/2022 up to 1700 Hrs.	07/10/2022 upto 1700 Hrs.
Opening Bid	03/10/2022 at 1200 Hrs.	07/10/2022 at 1200 Hrs.

Remaining all terms & condition will be as it is.

**Sr. Superintendent of Police (Radio)**  
**Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal**

G-1722/22

**J&K POLICE DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU**  
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F), email- sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

**Hue and Cry Notice Rule No. 712/191**

SDPO City East, Jammu vide communication No. 14208-09/SDCEJ dated 12.09.2022 intimated that accused namely **Umar Rasheed S/O Abdul Rasheed R/O New Colony, Tehsil and District Kulgam** is evading his arrest in case FIR No. 72/2021 U/S 8/15/25 NDPS Act of P/S Bahu Fort, since the commission of crime.

It is therefore requested that Hue and Cry Notice of above mentioned accused is being published for the information of Police establishments / Public in general having any clue related to the whereabouts / present location of above named accused, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact / telephone numbers.

**Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-**

1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP City South : 0191-2430002
5. SDPO City East : 0191-2474700
6. Landline of P / S Bahu Fort : 0191-2475133

**Hue and Cry Notice Rule No. 712/191**

SDPO City East, Jammu vide communication No. 14206-07/SDCEJ dated 12.09.2022 intimated that accused namely **Showkat Hussain Dar S/O Gh Mohd Dar R/O Panzgam, Tehsil Awantipora, District Pulwama** is evading his arrest in case FIR No. 04/2020 U/S 8/15 NDPS Act of P/S Bahu Fort, since the commission of crime.

It is therefore requested that Hue and Cry Notice of above mentioned accused is being published for the information of Police establishments / Public in general having any clue related to the whereabouts / present location of above named accused, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact / Telephone numbers.

**Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-**

1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
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4. SP City South : 0191-2430002
5. SDPO City East : 0191-2474700
6. Landline of P / S Bahu Fort : 0191-2475133

**No: DIP/J-8902/22 Dated: 20.09.2022**

**Sd/- For Sr. Superintendent of Police Jammu**



# Four killed in Noida Sector 21 wall collapse

Told sub-contractor boundary wall was weak, he told us to keep working, say 8 surviving workers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

The eight labourers, who survived after a portion of a housing society's boundary wall collapsed in Noida's Sector 21 on Tuesday morning, claimed that they had informed the sub-contractor about the structure's weak condition but they were asked to continue working. Meanwhile, the Noida Police has arrested the sub-contractor identified as Gul Mohammad, who supplied labourers for the job.



Four construction workers had died while eight sustained injuries after they got buried in the wall collapse at Jal Vayu Vihar in Sector 21. The deceased were identified as Pushpendra Singh (25), Panna Lal

(25) and Amit (18), all from Budaun district in Uttar Pradesh, and Dharam Veer from Sambhal district. Some of the labourers also alleged that Mohammad did not

provide any safety gear to them. Sanjeev Kumar (28), a native of Badaun and a relative of Pushpendra Singh, said they were working at the site since September 15 and on Tuesday they started work around 9 AM.

"We noticed that the boundary wall was unstable. We immediately informed the sub-contractor about the condition of the wall who asked us to continue the work. He told us that if anything happens, he will be responsible for it," said Kumar.

Kumar sustained an injury in his leg and was discharged from the hospital after getting treatment.

"Pushpendra Singh is survived by his wife and four kids. All of us were staying at an accommodation in Ashok Nagar that was provided by the sub-contractor," said Kumar.

"The drainage system along the boundary wall was completely chocked and it had to be repaired.

When the work was going on, the wall suddenly collapsed. No safety gear was provided by the sub-contractor," said 20-year-old Rishi Pal.

Rishi Pal lost his brother Dharam Veer and uncle Panna Lal in the wall collapse.

Multiple excavators were deployed to clear the debris of the collapsed stretch of the wall that was located adjacent to a drain, officials said as police and fire department personnel swung into action for immediate rescue and relief measures.

"Around 10.15 AM, Rishi Pal called me and informed that Dharam Veer and Panna Lal were buried under the debris. Both of them died. Their family members are coming to Noida," Dhoom Singh, a vegetable seller at Indrapuram, said.

Dharam Veer's father had an accident four years ago and can't walk properly, Dhoom Singh added.

# Delhi Govt cuts examination budget of its schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Due to lack of funds, the Delhi Government has reduced the examination budget of its schools. Earlier it was ₹125 per student but now it has been cut to ₹90. The principals of the schools claim that it will be difficult for them to manage in the limited budget.

A circular said: "All Heads of Government Schools of the Directorate of Education are hereby informed that the mandatory budget allocation for classes I to XII has been reduced to ₹90 per student. This has been done for the examinations of 2022-23". The circular further said due to a "shortage of budget", the expenditure is restricted up to ₹90 per student instead of ₹125. "Demand of additional budget will not be entertained," the circular added.

Apart from funds for conducting the examination, the examination budget includes stationery, answer sheets, question paper printing and other expenses. Officials of the Directorate of Education (DoE) could not be contacted to discuss the matter.

"Since the day-to-day cost of everything has been increasing, further budget cuts by the Government in education will be yet another problem for the schools," District Secretary (West-A) of the Government School Teachers Association, Sant Ram said.

Talking about the city Government cutting down budgets in education, Ram said the fundings have been reduced in several other areas as well.

"The Government has been reducing funds ever since the (COVID-19) pandemic hit. They have stopped the local tours as well that we used to hold every year," he said. Ram said the local tours were first halted after the pandemic struck in 2020 and resumed subsequently, but only for Classes 8 and 9.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Government's finance department has started the process for preparation of revised budget estimates for 2022-23 and budget estimates for 2023-24. It has asked all the departments concerned to submit revised budget estimates and budget estimates for the financial year on or before October 10.

According to officials, the pre-budget planning will start from the last week of October and the dates and time will be announced soon by the finance department. The finance department has also issued a pro-

## St Stephen's may challenge HC order on admission process in SC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

St Stephen's College is likely to challenge the recent Delhi High Court order on the admission process at the institution and seek "interim relief" to carry out this year's admissions as usual.

Sources said that members of the college's governing body — the highest decision-making body of the institution — met on Tuesday to discuss the future course of action and decided to move the Supreme Court against the High Court's order.

This comes days after the High Court asked the college to follow the admission policy formulated by Delhi University, according to which 100 per cent weightage has to be given to the Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-2022 score while granting admissions to non-minority students in its undergraduate courses.

It said the college was authorised to conduct interviews, in addition to the CUET, only to admit Christian students but it cannot force non-minority candidates to additionally undergo an interview.

The college, for its part, had said it will accord 85 per cent weightage to the CUET score and 15 per cent to physical interviews for "all categories of candidates".

With the college refusing to relent, the Delhi University has said it is "firm" on its decision to declare "null and void" all admissions made by the college in violation of the CUET guidelines.

forma-based on which all the departments have to send the data and revised budget estimates. "The breakup of the classification of expenditure from 2017-18 onwards is under revenue and capital accounts only. Broad components have been classified — establishment and other committed expenditure, government scheme projects including autonomous bodies and centrally sponsored schemes," said the department.

# Liquor policy helped CM's close aide: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the war of words continued between the AAP and the BJP over the alleged liquor scam in Delhi, the saffron party on Tuesday once again attacked Delhi Chief Minister over the excise policy and alleged that a person close to the AAP was facilitated with a liquor licence under its now-scrapped excise policy.

During a Press conference on Tuesday, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia showed a picture of one Karamjeet Singh Lamba with Arvind Kejriwal and AAP MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj, and claimed that Lamba was not only a partner in Universal Distributors that was awarded a liquor contract but had also contested local body polls on AAP ticket.

Bhatia asked Kejriwal to explain why his Government distributed "revdi" (freebies) of corruption to people close to him and his party? The BJP spokesperson alleged that the Delhi Government flouted rules and did not maintain transparency in awarding the liquor contracts. There was no immediate reaction from Lamba.

Universal Distributors, Bhatia added, was also one of the major beneficiaries of the AAP Government's decision to allegedly withdraw ₹144 crore due to liquor traders. Its share was ₹66 crore, he said. The BJP will continue to expose Kejriwal's corruption, Bhatia said, labelling the Chief Minister as "kat-



tar beimaan" as Kejriwal did not reply even on the issue of waiving off of ₹44 crore by loss of revenue.

He alleged that all those to whom Kejriwal gave certificate of honesty proved to be dishonest. "He called his own Ministers and MLAs freedom fighters but the truth is that they are symbols of corruption and nothing else," he said. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, National Spokesperson Sardar RP Singh and State BJP media relations in-charge Harish Khurana were present in the press conference.

Gupta said with the latest revelation the purpose of the liquor policy has become clear. "The commission to retailers was increased in the new policy so that Kejriwal could get half the commission," Gupta alleged.

Gupta said that if one wants to do gimmicky politics, then no one will be better than Kejriwal for that. Only Kejriwal can pretend to take an auto ride on one hand and by flying in a chartered plane on the other just for a show and a political gimmick.

# Prove charges of graft in liquor policy, AAP challenges BJP

Why are CBI, ED not arresting anybody, questions Dilip Pandey

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Challenging the BJP, the AAP on Tuesday asked the saffron party to prove the authenticity of their allegations of alleged irregularities in the Delhi Excise Policy. "If the BJP has evidence, then why are the central probe agencies like CBI and ED not arresting anybody in the so-called excise scam," AAP leader Dilip Pandey said.

The AAP's reaction came after the BJP claimed that a person close to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was awarded a liquor licence under the now-withdrawn excise policy.

"They gave a proof of their frustration and incompetence. It is nothing but 'BJP ki baukhlahat kyunki Gujarat mein woh dekh pa rahe hai apni haar ki aahat'. BJP is good for nothing. They have all the power in this country and all the investigation agencies are in their control. The CBI, ED, Income Tax Department and police have the mandate to work on their command and yet they



hold a press conference daily to pull another gimmick to distract us from real issues," said Pandey.

"We are continuously asking why all the claims you are making are only with the media and not with the CBI or ED? Why don't you do something to prove that your claims are true and provide answers to the public? You have all the agencies under your control," said Pandey, AAP MLA from Timarpur.

"Why don't you make any arrests? They are bringing up irrelevant names and pictures to establish their connection with our leaders which makes no sense. Can you call this evidence? Is it a joke?," he asked.

# DCW issues summons to Twitter, police over pornographic videos

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) Chairperson Swati Maliwal on Tuesday issued summonses to the microblogging website Twitter, and Delhi Police over pornographic videos on Twitter involving women and children. Maliwal claimed that these were sold for Rs 20, and Twitter is yet to delete them and report it further. Twitter and the Delhi Police have been given time till September 26 to respond to the summonses.

"The Chandigarh University incident set me thinking and I asked my team to investigate. We found videos of minor girls on Twitter in which they were seen being raped. Some of the platforms were even selling these videos for Rs 20 to Rs 30. This is horrific," Maliwal told reporters.

She said she has asked Twitter how such videos are existing on the site and what policies does it have for checking such content.

Maliwal has asked the Delhi Police to register an FIR to identify those involved in filming and uploading such videos as well as the victims and the accused.

"Thousands of people have



shared recordings of young girls being raped. Videos of women bathing are being put through intelligence cameras. These companies follow laws abroad and turn a blind eye to the obscenity and rape of women in India," Maliwal wrote on Twitter.

According to a DCW official, they have taken suo moto cognizance of several tweets on Twitter openly depicting videos and photographs of sexual acts involving children.

In the summons issued to Twitter, the commission has stated that it is deeply distressed that such illegal acts involving sexual abuse of children and young women were being publicized through the social media platform. "The commission

has summoned Twitter official in order to ascertain the steps being taken by them to prevent such filthy and outrightly criminal acts being propagated through their medium as well as the systems in place in the platform to immediately report the same to law enforcement agencies," said the official.

"Specifically, the commission has asked them to provide reasons why the tweets were neither deleted nor reported by Twitter. The commission has also sought data regarding the number of such tweets presently available on Twitter. Further, it has sought the number of tweets depicting child pornography and rape identified, deleted, and reported by Twitter in the past four years," said the official. The commission has also issued summonses to Delhi Police seeking an FIR in the matter.

According to official, most of the tweets portrayed children completely naked and many of them also depicted brutal rape and other non-consensual sexual activities with children and women. "Shocking, some of these videos even depicted rape with children and women while they were asleep," said the DCW official.

## DU student jumps off college building, dies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old Delhi University student allegedly killed herself by jumping off the college building of Zakir Hussain College on Tuesday. A suicide note was recovered from one of her pockets in which did not blame anybody, police said without divulging further details.

Police said that the girl was a second-year BA Honours (Political Science) student.

According to a senior police official, information regarding the incident was received on Monday following which a police team rushed to the spot.

Police said that the girl was found lying in pool of blood and she was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was declared dead.

"As per her suicide note, she had not blamed anyone for taking this extreme step," said the senior police officer.

"The autopsy of the girl was conducted and after post-mortem, the body was handed over to her family members," said the senior police officer.

# Discontinuation of smallpox vax can lead to monkeypox re-emergence: Experts

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A team of city doctors has not ruled out the re-emergence of monkeypox cases in India due to the discontinuation of the smallpox vaccine in the country and said that steps should be considered to launch a programme for inoculating those aged below 45 years with the smallpox vaccine since it provides 85 per cent protection.

In an editorial written by researchers from the Institute of Clinical Microbiology and Immunology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, which was published in the current edition of the Indian Journal of Medical Microbiology, the doctors from the hospital here also sought to make it clear that monkeypox cases should not be confused with the Coronavirus.

The authors of the study praised the Kerala mode of containment and contact tracing and the NIV, Pune for having cultured and sequenced the virus in the shortest possible time.

India's monkeypox tally currently stands at 14, with Delhi accounting for nine of the cases.

"The waning immunity in



humans due to the discontinuation of the smallpox vaccine has established the scope for the resurgence of monkeypox, demonstrated by the re-emergence of the outbreak after an absence of 30-40 years," said Dr Chand Wattal, corresponding author and chairperson, Institute of Clinical Microbiology and Immunology.

The senior doctor said many of the monkeypox patients are below 40 years of age with a median age of 31 years.

"Since the smallpox vaccine provides 85 per cent cross-protection, a programme for vaccination needs to be considered and a roadmap should be framed now, especially for people below 45 years

of age. A high-risk person's burden needs to be considered and the possible drug -- Tecovirimat -- could be stockpiled," he said.

Dr Sanghamitra Datta, author and senior consultant, Institute of Clinical Microbiology and Immunology, said monkeypox cannot be transmitted over distances like Covid-19.

"Smallpox has no known animal reservoir and has only human-to-human transmission with a high mortality rate of 30 per cent. Lymphadenopathy is distinct in monkeypox, which is not there in smallpox. Most experts agree that though the infection can occur through respiratory droplets from a close contact, it does not seem to be transmitted over the distances like the Sars-CoV-2 virus," she added.

Wattal said even though the number of cases is low currently, cases with no history of international travel to affected areas, can be a warning sign.

Wattal concurred with Datta and said monkeypox cannot be equated to Covid in any way, "but our learning from the pandemic can help".

# City gearing up to implement GRAP to fight pollution

Pusa bio-decomposer to be sprayed in Delhi, Punjab to stop stubble burning, says Gopal Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With meteorological conditions set to turn unfavourable following the withdrawal of monsoon and burning of stubble by farmers in Punjab, Delhi is gearing up to implement the revamped Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) — a set of anti-air pollution measures followed according to the severity of the situation — from October 1.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference Environment Minister, Gopal Rai said the Delhi

Government will spray the bio-decomposer free of cost on 5,000 acres of basmati and non-basmati paddy fields this year. Gopal Rai said that the bio-decomposer will also be sprayed on farmlands in Punjab on a trial basis.

The decision comes even as cases of stubble-burning were reported from Punjab. More than 50 cases of stubble burning were reported in the last one week.

"On September 20, at least 10 cases of stubble burning were reported, there were 18 cases on



Environment Minister Gopal Rai visits IRAL Pusa to see the production facilities for the bio-decomposer being made at Pusa Institute in New Delhi on Tuesday. RANJAN DIMRI/PIONEER

September 19, seven cases on September 18, one case on September 17 and 14 cases on September 14," stated the Consortium for Research and Agro ecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space of the Indian Agriculture Research Institute.

According to directions of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the plan will come into force 15 days before the usual date to prevent the build-up of pollutants after the change in wind direction to northwest and a drop in the wind speed following the monsoon withdrawal.

"We will be also making use of the real-time source apportionment system which will help understand the real-time effect of pollu-

tion sources like vehicles, road dust, construction dust, biomass burning, farm fires, and industrial emissions," the official said.

The green war room will monitor violations and redress complaints and grievances in keeping with the practice being followed for the last two years.

A decision is yet to be taken on the re-implementation of the "Red Light On, Gaadi Off" campaign, the official said.

"State Governments can consider allowing 50 per cent staff to work from home in public, municipal and private offices, and additional emergency measures like closure of educational institutions and the plying of vehicles on odd-even basis etc," the official said.

Meanwhile, with an aim to prevent the build-up of pollution due to stubble burning in the national Capital, the Delhi Government has decided to spray the Pusa bio-decomposer on 5,000 acres of basmati and non-basmati paddy fields. Delhi Environment Minister, Gopal Rai said that the bio-decomposer will also be sprayed on farmlands in Punjab on a trial basis.

The Pusa bio-decomposer developed by the IARI is a microbial solution that can turn paddy straw into manure in 15-20 days. The Government has constituted 21 teams to create awareness about the effectiveness of the bio-decomposer and register farmers who want to use the solution in their fields, he said.



# Don't link cities' dev to polls: PM to BJP mayors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining that cities cannot be developed with an "election-centric approach", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked BJP mayors to plan a holistic development of cities and not to link it in terms of winning elections.

Modi virtually inaugurated the two-day "National Mayors' Conference" in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, which, besides city Mayors, was also attended by BJP president J P Nadda.

As many as 121 mayors and deputy mayors of BJP-ruled urban local bodies across the country are participating in the two-day event, which is being organised by the party's 'sushasan' (good governance) cell, BJP national secretary Rituraj Sinha said.

"The elected representatives should not think just in term of winning elections. You cannot develop your city with an election-centric approach," Modi said.

He also said the Metro rail network in different cities of India was less than 250 kilometres in 2014 and has now increased to more than 750 km, while work is going on for another 1,000 km.



The collapse of old buildings, and buildings catching fire in cities is a major concern. This can be avoided if rules are followed, he said.

Those taking part in the conference over two days also include Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs

Hardeep Singh Puri.

Fadnavis is to speak on urban development and Puri will brief about various government schemes for urban local bodies.

In all, mayors, deputy mayors and other elected representatives from 18 states and Union Territories are participating in the conference, shar-

ing their views on topics like waste management, traffic management and water-logging etc.

Mayors of Surat, Indore, Kanpur and Panaji will brief the audience about the work they have done in waste management, cleanliness and increasing revenue, among other areas, in their respective cities.

# Country must prepare for hybrid warfare: IAF chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the security environment in India's neighbourhood far from ideal, the country has to complement its economic progress with a mirroring trajectory of homegrown military capabilities, IAF Chief V R Chaudhari said here on Tuesday.

Stressing upon this point, he said the country is faced with a wide variety of threats and the distinct challenge lies in the convergence into hybrid wars and the country must prepare for such a warfare.

Making these assertions at the Indian Defence Conclave, the IAF chief said the "impact of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine is being felt the world over. The world is staring at an economic recession, with many smaller countries already facing the brunt of political and economic instability caused by hyperinflation. In this environment, India continues to be an outlier as our economy has shown a robust recovery."

He also noted rapid economic growth has allowed countries to invest heavily into military technology and associated research and development.

Chaudhari said there have been attempts by various power centres to enhance their outreach in vulnerable and vacated spaces in economic, technological, and military domains.

"India, as a responsible power, is committed to enhancing cooperation and collaboration with the objectives of sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth and security," he said.

Chaudhari stressed that given the political scenario prevalent today, it is important for the Indian Air Force to enhance its capabilities across the con-

## Navy to shift Navy Day celebrations to Mumbai

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Navy has decided to shift its annual Navy Day celebrations on December 4 from Visakhapatnam and may hold it in Mumbai. This comes after the IAF and the Army have shifted their annual parades to other parts of the country from the national capital.

The Army Day Parade next year on January 15 will be held in the Southern Command area while the Air Force Day on October 8 this year will also be held outside its traditional venue of Hindon Airbase in Ghaziabad. The Southern Command area of the Army will host the parade.

Asked if the Navy Day celebrations too will be shifted to a venue outside Visakhapatnam, a naval source said, "Yes" while asserting that "the new venue has not been finalised yet".

The country celebrates December 4



every year as Navy Day in commemoration of Operation Trident when the ships of the Indian Navy delivered a lethal and powerful missiles' attack on Karachi harbour, paving way for a great victory for India during the 1971 Indo-Pak war and in memory of those who made supreme sacrifice.

A large number of Indian Navy ships and other vessels of different classes and capabilities gather in Visakhapatnam annually to mark the historic day with grand celebrations.

## Will look into matter after Lufthansa provides details: Scindia on Mann deplaning



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid reports of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann being deplaned from a Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt to Delhi triggering a huge outcry, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said that it was up to the airlines to provide the details of the incident and based on that he would look into the matter.

"The incident took place on international soil. We'll have to make sure we verify facts. It's up to Lufthansa to provide data. I'll certainly, based on request sent to me, look into it," said Scindia.

Earlier, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Monday alleged that Mann was deplaned from a Lufthansa flight at the Frankfurt airport because he was in an inebriated state. The Congress leader and Leader of Opposition of Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa in a letter to Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has sought an inquiry into the matter. Bikram Singh Majithia, an Akali Dal leader, had asked the Arvind Kejriwal-led party to reveal the reason behind his absence from the party's national convention.

"News streaming on social media that Bhagwant Mann was offloaded along with his entourage from a Lufthansa flight on Saturday at Frankfurt airport, since he was found to be in an inebriated state and declared unfit to travel, is doing the rounds".

"If it were true, it certainly is a bad reflection on the office Bhagwant Mann is holding. Therefore I would request you, kindly initiate an inquiry for verification of this news from the Lufthansa airlines as it involves not only an individual but the office he represents and such a conduct deserves to be deprecated," Bajwa stated in the letter.

In the midst of it all, Lufthansa issued a vague statement. The German carrier on the microblogging site accepted that it departed later than originally planned but attributed this to a delayed inbound flight and an aircraft change.

"Our flight from Frankfurt to Delhi departed later than originally planned due to a delayed inbound flight and an aircraft change. Best regards," the statement by the airline carrier read. The carrier, however, remained silent on whether or not Mann was deplaned.

## NIA arrests CPI(Maoist) activist for establishing outlawed group's units, spreading roots in Assam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has arrested CPI (Maoist) activist Samrat Chakraborty alias Nilkamal Sikdar in a case related to setting up of units of the outlawed group in Assam.

Chakraborty (37), a resident of Seth Bagan Road, North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, was also known as "Amit, Argha, Nirmal and Nirman". He was arrested from Mahispata, near Narayana School on the Kalyani Expressway in North 24 Parganas, the NIA said in a statement.

The case is related to the arrest of veteran Maoist leader



Arun Kumar Bhattacharjee alias "Jyotish" alias "Kabir" alias "Kanak" alias "Kanchan da" of West Bengal, a central committee member, and an ideologue and strategist of the CPI (Maoist), the NIA said.

Bhattacharjee had been assigned the task to establish CPI (Maoist) organisation in Assam and to further spread the roots of the group in the state in general and the northeast in particular, it said.

On September 2, the agency had filed a charge sheet against six arrested accused, including Bhattacharjee, in the special NIA court in Guwahati.

"Further investigations in the case revealed that accused

Chakraborty was an active member of CPI (Maoist) organisation based in West Bengal. He was a linkman in clandestine communication between the top hierarchy of CPI (Maoist) organisation and the arrested accused, Bhattacharjee, who was operating from his hideout in Assam," the agency said.

Chakraborty had visited Cachar district of Assam on several occasions to assist Bhattacharjee in furthering the activities of the CPI (Maoist) organisation in the Northeastern States on the specific instructions of the eastern regional bureau of the party. Further investigation in the case is in progress, it added.

## Govt cautions States against let-up ahead of festivals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid fears that a string of upcoming festivals like Diwali and Dussehra, which are round the corner, might push Covid-19 cases, the Government on Tuesday warned States and Union Territories to ensure there's no let-up in the surveillance strategy to track new variants.

The cautionary statement also comes in the backdrop of Covid-19 cases in Kerala rising by more than 50 per cent in the week ending Sunday following the Onam celebrations in the state.

Dr N.K. Arora, chairman of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) also urged people to take their booster doses, and advised hospitals to ensure adequate health infra-



structure such as essential medicines and oxygen supply. This year Durga Puja is followed by Dussehra and Diwali starts next month.

"Even though covid cases are declining, the surveillance activities in the states/UTs should be strongly conducted because we have festival season

after a few days. There should be no laxity to detect any new variant. This is a very crucial time," said Arora.

"Government is also working on strengthening healthcare infrastructure such as ICU, beds, and adequate supply of oxygen. Besides this, one has to

continue covid-19 appropriate behavior like wearing face masks etc," he said.

Rising Covid-19 cases in Kerala by more than 50 per cent in the week ending Sunday following the Onam celebrations in the state can be linked to the overall rise of caseload in India and broken trend of

declining cases that the state held for the past few weeks.

Kerala reported 14,865 new cases of the virus during the week (September 12-18), up from 9,805 in the previous seven days. The state accounted for close to 39% of all cases detected in the country in the week.

In the last two years, India's reported covid-19 cases have crossed 45 million with 528,355 deaths reported so far. The country reported 4,858 cases in the last 24 hours.

Experts said that Omicron and its sub variants and lineages continue to be the dominant variant in India.

At present, the BA.2.75 subvariant is circulating in India, Chile, UK, Singapore, Spain and Germany.

## 'Loss & damage' due to climate change will be major topic of discussion at COP27 this year: Union Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that the maximum impact of climate crisis is being borne by the countries which have no role in global warming, Union Environment Minister Bhopendra Yadav on Tuesday said that "loss and damage" due to climate change will be the main agenda at the 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in Egypt in November.

The Minister was speaking at an event organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry here.

"Loss and damage will be a major topic for discussion at COP27 at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt in November this year," he said.

The social and financial impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided are referred to as 'loss and

damage'. Although rich countries agreed at the Cop26 UN climate summit in Glasgow last year that there should be a framework for loss and damage, there is no agreement on how it could be funded or who should contribute.

Loss and damage is generally understood to result from both extreme weather events like cyclones, droughts and heatwaves, and slow-onset changes - such as sea level rise, desertification, glacial retreat, land degradation, ocean acidification and salinization.

In some cases, damages may permanently alter some places; for example, rising seas encroaching on low-lying islands, or drought shrinking freshwater resources and turning once-productive farmland into barren land.

Yadav said India is one the few



countries which have achieved the target set under the Paris Agreement with regard to increasing the use of non-fossil fuels.

"We have achieved our target nine years before schedule," he said. India had committed to achieving 40 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030. The country has achieved this target in November 2021 itself.

He said that the developed countries, which have 17 per cent of the world's population, account for 60 per cent of the global carbon emissions.

"Whereas, India is home to 17 per cent of the world's population and is responsible for only 4 per cent of the global carbon emissions. This is because of our sustainable lifestyle," Yadav said.

## Kuno has sufficient prey base, Chitals from Raj not shifted to feed Cheetahs, says MP Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Madhya Pradesh Government on Tuesday refuted Bishnoi community's claim that Chitals were being shifted from Rajasthan, Haryana and other States to feed the eight Cheetahs which were brought from Namibia last week to the Kuno Palpur sanctuary.

The State Government said that there was a sufficient prey base in the sanctuary including more than 20,000 Chital in the region.

The clarification came following a letter shot off by All India Bishnoi Mahasabha president Devendra Budiya to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing his displeasure over 181 Cheetahs and deer being sent from Rajgad forest to Sheopur for the carnivores.



Budia said that the Centre has brought 8 cheetahs from Namibia under his leadership to restore the extinct species in the forests of India. But leaving their food mainly Chital, Deer etc. in the forest has hurt the sentiments of the Bishnoi community.



# UP: Kabaddi players served food from toilet, official suspended

**PTI ■ SAHARANPUR/LUCKNOW (UP)**

Kabaddi players at a State-level tournament in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur were served food from a toilet, prompting the authorities to suspend the district sports officer for laxity and blacklist the caterer.

A purported video of the incident that surfaced on social media showed cooked food stored in the toilet at Saharanpur's Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Stadium from where kabaddi players took it themselves.

The State-level sub-junior girls' kabaddi tournament was held from September 16 to 18 in which over 300 players from 16 divisions of the State took part.

The incident drew criticism, with ruling BJP's Pilibhit MP Varun Gandhi asking if Indian sports should be cleansed of politicians and their representatives to reach its zenith.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal too took a swipe at the incident, asking how Indian sportspersons would win gold at the Olympics if they are treated this way.

While the RLD termed it as a "gross insult" to the players, the Congress accused the ruling BJP of spending crores of rupees on false publicity.

Additional Chief Secretary (Sports) Navneet Sehgal told PTI that Saharanpur District Sports Officer Animesh Saxena was suspended on Monday.

In a statement, Sehgal said, "The probe into the matter has been handed over to the district magistrate of Saharanpur. The cook and the caterer providing food to the players have been blacklisted.

Instructions have been issued not to give any work to them in future."

Special adverse entry will be made against the staff who was engaged in serving food, he said.

Apart from this, instructions have been issued to all district sports officers that any type of laxity in providing facilities to players will not be tolerated, he said in the statement.

District Magistrate Akhilesh Singh said Additional District Magistrate (Finance and Revenue)

Rajnish Kumar Mishra will conduct the probe and submit a report in three days.

The rice and 'pooris' were kept in a toilet. The video, which went viral on social media, showed the players taking the food kept inside the toilet," Singh said.

He added that it had also come to the administration's notice that the food was cooked near a swimming pool and only two cooks were engaged to prepare it for over 300 people.

The food was then stored in the toilet, he added.

The "pooris" were spread on a piece of paper while rice was half-cooked. The players could not even get adequate food, the district magistrate said.

Singh has direct-

ed the probe team to speak to the athletes, get the video clip and submit a report.

"The district sports officer did not inform the administration about the state-level tournament. If the administration had been informed, it would have given special attention to the competition," he added.

Meanwhile, suspended District Sports Officer Animesh Saxena told PTI, "I have already informed my seniors that the food, which was seen in the video circulating on social media, was stale food of September 15."

I told the cooks to remove the stale food, which was cooked near the swimming pool. However, they shifted the stale food to the changing room of the swimming pool."

He claimed that coaches and players never complained about food and they were satisfied with the food served to them.

Commenting on the incident, BJP MP Varun Gandhi tweeted, "Is the success of Indian sportspersons despite the system rather than due to it? This constantly disrespectful behaviour is a great shame for our nation. Should Indian sport be cleansed of politics, politicians & their administrative representatives in order to reach its zenith."

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took a dig at the incident and tweeted, "If this is how we treat our sportspersons, how will India win Olympic golds? How will India become No.1 in sports?" Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD)



chief and Rajya Sabha MP Jayant Chaudhary in a Hindi tweet said, "This is a gross insult to the players." "It seems that those who enjoy power, they only look at their convenience, everyone else should be self-reliant," he added.

The Congress in a tweet said the BJP government, which spends crores of rupees

on "false publicity", does not have money to make good arrangements for players.

Telangana Rashtra Samithi social media convener Y Sathish Reddy in a tweet said, "Food served to kabaddi players in #UttarPradesh kept in the toilet. Is this how #BJP respects the players? Shameful!"

## CPI writes to President demanding Kerala Governor be asked to behave

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

Even as Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan warned Governor Arif Mohammed Khan not to forget the sanctity of the position held by the latter and asked him to behave in a civilised manner, the CPI, the poor cousins of the CPI(M) too jumped into the fray.

Binoj Viswam, MP, who is widely believed to be in the running for the post of general secretary of the CPI, wrote a letter on Monday to President Draupadi Murmu asking her to restrain the Governor from behaving in a manner which



would bring disrepute to the position he was holding.

"The Governor has become an embodiment of anti-Communism. This is not good for Arif Mohammed Khan. He should not behave in an uncivilised manner," said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan

at Kottayam while addressing party cadres. Vijayan said it would be ideal if the Governor stops his campaign against the CPI(M).

Meanwhile, the Governor told some of the reporters whom he met on Monday that he would not sign on the controversial Bills enacted by the legislative Assembly till the Ministers met him personally and explained the logic behind the legislations. He also said that he would go ahead with the constitution of the search committee to find out a suitable candidate to be appointed as vice chancellor of Kerala University.

Political Kerala is vertically split over the spat between the Governor and the Chief Minister.

The CPI(M) and CPI were joined by the Congress and some other constituents of the Opposition UDF in condemning the Governor. Barring the BJP, no political parties in the State have expressed any kind of solidarity with him.

AICC General secretary K C Venugopal alleged on Monday that the recent verbal duel between the Governor and the CPI(M) was a conspiracy by the CPI(M) and the BJP to eclipse the Bharat Jodo Yatra by Rahul Gandhi.

## Coal scam: ED summons 2 top IPS officers

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigating the multi-crore coal scam has issued summons to two top IPS officers from Bengal to appear before it in Delhi on September 26 and 28.

According to sources among the officers summoned by the ED is an Additional Director General of Police and a Deputy Commissioner of Police. While the DCP has been asked to appear in ED's Delhi office on September 26, the ADG has been summoned on September 28. The two officials could not however be contacted for their reactions.

Sources also said that the central agency has approached an "appropriate court" seeking



search warrants against the said officials.

Last month the ED had summoned eight Bengal IPS officers including ADG (CID) Gyanwant Singh, Koteswara Rao, S Selvamurugan, Shyam, Singh, Rajeev Mishra, Sukesh Kumar and Tathagato Basu. All but two officials had responded to the ED summons last month.

Reacting to Tuesday's summons a senior from the leader

Trinamool Congress said it was all part of the BJP government's vendetta politics to malign the TMC.

Incidentally the Criminal Investigation Department of Bengal has recently made some breakthrough in the cow smuggling cases conducting raids at premises of jailed cattle scam kingpin Enamul Haq.

From the raids the CID allegedly recovered some incriminating documents that could turn the of needle suspicion on some officials of the BSF which functions under the central government. The CBI had last month arrested senior TMC leader Anubrata Mondal and party strongman for his alleged role in cow smuggling.

Meanwhile, in a separate development the chargesheet

filed by the ED in recruitment scam tended to perforce the claims of jailed former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee that he was in no way related to the huge cash and gold found from the apartments of his close aide Arpita Chatterjee.

Two prove its point the ED claims in the chargesheet that the former minister was the nominee in the 31 LIC certificates recovered from Arpita's possession. Besides yearly premium of about Rs 1.5 crore was paid for the LIC policies and all that amount went from the account of Chatterjee. To buttress its arguments the ED has placed some SMS --- indicating payment of premiums --- received in Chatterjee's mobile numbers.

## India, Egypt resolve to further strengthen their Defence ties

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

India and Egypt on Tuesday resolved to further strengthen their defence ties and decided to enhance conduct of joint exercises and training in the field of counter-insurgency during talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Egyptian counterpart General Mohamed Zaki in Cairo. They also inked a Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) on co-operation in the field of defence.

Rajnath is on a two-day visit starting Monday and during his parleys the two ministers also agreed to identify proposals for expanding cooperation between the defence industries of India and Egypt in a time-bound manner, defence ministry official said here.



The two ministers also exchanged views on regional security and acknowledged the contribution of India and Egypt to peace and stability in the world. Both sides expressed happiness at the intensified defence engagement and exchanges over the last year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following Rajnath's call on with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, both the Ministers agreed to consolidate and focus on enhancing secu-

urity and defence aspects of bilateral cooperation.

Signing of a memorandum of understanding(MoU) by the two Defence Ministers on cooperation in the field of defence was a milestone event during the visit, which will pave the way for enhancing defence cooperation across all sectors of mutual interest.

Rajnath also invited his Egyptian counterpart to the India-Africa Defence Dialogue and Indian Ocean Region(IOR) Defence Ministers' Conclave, scheduled to be held as part of 12th DefExpo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between October 18-22, 2022.

As part of his day's engagements, Rajnath paid homage at the Unknown Soldier Memorial and Tombstone of the late Egyptian President Anwar El-Sadat in Cairo.

## LG inaugurates multiplex theatre in Srinagar

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR**

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday inaugurated INOX multiplex theatre, with a seating capacity of 520 seats, in Srinagar in the august company of invited guests from the media, senior bureaucrats and top brass of the different security agencies. The common people were not part of the inaugural ceremony.

Addressing the audience after the formal inauguration LG Sinha said, "We are in talks with various stakeholders and have identified the land for developing Film City and the facility will come-up in the UT soon".

The new cinema halls and ongoing film shootings will renew the beautiful bond between Jammu Kashmir and the Indian Film Industry, he added. Cinema brings peo-

ple together. Apart from entertainment it gives hopes, dreams and inspiration to youth to pursue their dreams till they realise it," Lt Governor said.

Congratulating the promoters behind the project namely Vijay Dhar & INOX Group on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that a major Socio-economic revolution is sweeping through J&K in the last 3 years and it is a reflection of a new dawn of hope, dreams, confidence and aspirations of people, he added.

The Lt Governor observed that the opening of multipurpose Cinema Halls in Shopian, Pulwama and the first-ever Multiplex Cinema Hall in Srinagar marks the revival of cinema culture in the Kashmir valley after three decades.

Following the inauguration of two multi-purpose cinema halls in Pulwama and

Shopian, the UT Government is building multi-purpose cinema halls in all the districts of J&K.

The Lt Governor said that the new Film Policy has been rolled out with special provisions and incentives for encouraging local youth to take up film as a career.

Vijay Dhar, Chairman DPS and owner of Broadway theatre expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT administration and the INOX group for bringing back the joy of movie-viewing in cinema halls to Kashmir. He also threw light on the golden era of cinema and film-shooting in Jammu Kashmir.

To mark this momentous occasion, a special screening was held for the cinema lovers of the region. The multiplex is expected to be thrown open for the common movie lovers from September 30. Siddharth Jain, Executive



Director, INOX Group, while speaking on the occasion, said that the launch of the new multiplex theatre in Kashmir will make the region a part of the country's creative economy and contribute to strengthening the soft power of the country.

"We are also looking to win the hearts of cinema lovers of Kashmir by offering them a world-class cinema-viewing experience, amalgamation of top-notch technology, great hospitality, best of

cinema comforts, a blend of local designs, Dolby Atmos audio technology, latest 3D & projection technology and a professionally trained team. We are also looking forward to taking our artistic learning from Kashmir to the world, he said.

The ceremony was attended by Subhash Chandra, Former Member Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Chairman Essel Group, Rajat Sharma, Editor-In-Chief and Chairman, India TV.

## Ex-IPS officers write to Prez against Kejriwal undermining police officials

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The former Indian Police Service (IPS) officials have written a letter to Rashtrapati Bhawan to lodge a complaint against Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal for trying to undermine the police forces in the country.

"Kejriwal's recent visit to the city of Ahmedabad has raised some worrying concerns. Whilst partaking in campaigning activities in Gujarat, Kejriwal sought to utilise public transport to visit the household of a rickshaw driver. The police officials that are enjoined with the duty' of safeguarding the Chief Minister acceded to this request," stated the letter signed by more than 30 retired officials.

"In order to ensure that the requisite level of security was maintained and to prevent any untoward lapses in the Chief Minister's safety, the concerned police official stated that he would accompany the Chief Minister to the location.

"However, in response to the police official's prudent suggestion, Kejriwal made certain distasteful and inconsiderate remarks. These curt remarks have caused deep injury' to the police force," the letter further read.

Meanwhile, the AAP



alleged that the BJP is behind this letter. "The BJP's prospects in Gujarat in the forthcoming elections are very bad. Their own leaders lack any mass appeal and are completely discredited. That's why the BJP has to now sought help of some retired police officers. AAP is gaining ground exponentially and BJP is clueless on how to tackle AAP which is why such a letter has been written," said AAP in a statement.

The letter further also stated that considering that the Chief Minister of India's capital city, the police force is duty bound to ensure his safety.

"It was disheartening to note that in order to score a political brownie point, Kejriwal's conducted himself in a manner that utterly belittled the police officers for diligently obeying their duties.

By stating that the police officials of Gujarat are a black spot on the security provided

by the State, Kejriwal sought to gain public validation and praise albeit at the expense of the police forces," stated the letter.

"In the past Kejriwal has himself made several requests for heightened security. However, solely in pursuance of political gains, he has to the contrary made open remarks against protection from police forces.

"Such uncalled remarks and deprecatory behaviour, have serious implications on the security protocols that have been put in place for decades," the letter further read.

"By refusing to follow these protocols, Kejriwal could have exposed himself to the threat of an untoward incident that could well have an effect on his physical well-being," the letter stated.

"Through his unpleasant words and actions Kejriwal intended to paint himself as a political martyr, however, in doing so he has unfairly created a spectacle of the police force not only in the State of Gujarat, but also throughout the country," the letter read.

"We therefore humbly request you to intervene as the Head of State and counsel Kejriwal against such high headed and boorish behaviour that is intended to undermine the police force of our country," the letter added.

## Maya supports SP's right to protest against Govt

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

National president of Bahujan Samaj Party Mayawati on Tuesday came in support of the Samajwadi Party and attacked the Yogi Adityanath government over trying to snatch the democratic right of opposition parties to stage demonstrations and protests against the "unjust" action by the government. The BSP supremo also assailed the government for the Allahabad University fee hike.



Reacting to interception of the protest march by the Samajwadi Party against the government on the first day of the Monsoon Session and the reaction to police action given by Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath in the House, Mayawati tweeted, "Not allowing the opposition parties to protest against the anti-people policies of the government and its autocracy and atrocities, etc has become the new dictatorial trend of the BJP government. At the same time, the government's perception of litigation and arrest of people and suppressing the protest is dangerous."

Without naming the Samajwadi Party, she wrote in support, accusing the BJP of not allowing the protest against

and indifference of the UP government to inflation, poverty, unemployment, poor condition of roads, education, health, law and order, etc.

Regarding the Allahabad University fee hike, Mayawati tweeted that the way AU was trying to crush the students' movement was unfair and condemnable. Targeting the UP government, Mayawati wrote, "The UP government should give up its autocracy and be sympathetic to the legitimate demands of the students."

## RLD scotches rumours of differences with SP

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) on Tuesday set aside speculations on a fissure with alliance partner Samajwadi Party following the absence of their MLAs from the SP's mock Assembly proceedings outside Vidhan Bhawan in protest against price rise and other public issues in UP on Monday.

National convener of Team RLD Anupam Mishra said, "It was BJP's ploy to spread rumours of cracks between the two parties. We both protested against the Government on the first day of the Monsoon Session. Our programme was fixed earlier than SP's and our MLAs could not take part in the SP protest," he said.

Mishra said RLD MLAs staged a protest at the farmers' messiah statue at Vidhan Bhawan.

"We protested against the UP Government's anti-public, anti-farmer, anti-labourer policies and other issues.

"In a democracy, sometimes the political parties in opposition stage protest against the government in a way that is decided by their respective chiefs and this should not be seen as a mark of rift between them because they all are on the same page when it comes to highlighting people's issues," he said.

RLD national spokesman, Anil Dubey termed the reports of differences between RLD and SP as rumours and said, "We protested against the BJP Government for its anti-public and anti-farmers policies. The mock Assembly was SP's plan and it was successful. We are on the same page when it comes to staging protests against the BJP on people's issues."



A roundabout illuminated as part of preparations for Dasara celebrations, in Mysuru on Tuesday.

PTI



## Desire, not plan

Opposition is clueless; Mamata is conciliatory; Kejriwal going solo; KCR for non-Cong alliance

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's statement in which she sound-ed conciliatory towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi came as a surprise for all—and as a shocker for those who want a change of regime at the Centre. She said that she does not believe Modi directing such federal agencies as the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate to act against her Trinamool Congress (TMC). Banerjee's logic appeared specious; and she didn't let facts come in the way of assertion. She said that the two agencies don't come under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) but under the Union Home Ministry. To begin with, Modi supporters may see this—that the PM is not in control of the CBI and the ED—find this as an affront to him. Besides, the CBI, which is under the Department of Personnel & Training, reports to the PMO. She blamed "the Central government and a section of BJP leaders" for the actions of the CBI and the ED. There's no



point hair-splitting over her targets; what is quite evident here is that Banerjee has shed the fiercely anti-Modi stance that was apparent not long ago. Remember the West Bengal Assembly election last year, and the intensity with which she took on the entire saffron establishment? Compared to that, her recent statement on Modi can be called friendly. This, however, hasn't elicited a friendly reaction from the BJP. Its IT Cell head Amit Malviya has tweeted in response to her statement that nobody in the BJP, and most certainly the PM, needs any validation from Banerjee.

Political pundits may find her amiable gestures as the result of the corruption cases her party's leaders, including her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, are facing. These cases have surely pressured Banerjee; she had to remove former state education minister Partha Chatterjee from all posts he held. Her conciliatory approach is certainly not good news for Opposition unity. On the face of it, Opposition unity seems to be the natural choice for the anti- Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, as all of them claim that, among other things, they are being tormented by the agencies. While Mamata Banerjee may be constrained by corruption cases, other Opposition leaders have their own agendas. Aam Aadmi Party boss and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal doesn't seem very keen on an alliance. He recently said he doesn't "understand this politics of making or breaking alliances." Then there is Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao who favours an alliance to oust the BJP from the Centre; he even wants to launch his national party. He believes that there is a consensus on an "alternative national agenda." But there's a hitch: he wants to exclude the Congress from the proposed anti-BJP alliance. In other words, nobody in the Opposition seems to know how to go ahead. The Opposition has the desire but not the plan to remove the Modi Government.

### PICTALK



Six students from the US get ordained as Buddhist monks at the Royal Thai Monastery, in Bodhi Gaya

PTI

## Arrest climate change

Climate change is reaching crescendo, it's time developed nations practice what they preach

The world climate is once again on the main menu as the world leaders assemble at United Nations General Assembly climate week. It is one major forum where stakeholders come together to push for climate change initiatives. Five summits are to be held in the next three months to discuss climate change. It shows that some urgency is there among the world leaders to tackle the rising temperatures and assist people in dealing with it besides discussing food security. The effects of climate change are now very visible, be it floods in Pakistan or storms in Japan there is no country in the world that is not affected by it. However, the worst affected are the developing countries. The silver lining is that there are now technologies to deal with such exigencies. But it boils down to funding. No matter what they preach the developed countries remain the biggest culprits who have led to the pollution of air and water. The United States alone has emitted 25 percent of global carbon pollution since the Industrial Revolution.



But it doesn't match other developed countries in providing climate finance to the countries that are most vulnerable to climate impacts. In fact, the United States provides less than one-fourth of the \$25 billion in annual support that European Union members provide to developing countries for fighting climate change. US President Joe Biden has now proposed \$11 billion in climate assistance for the 2023 budget year. Even this would not be appropriate enough given the pace of climate change. The world

financial institutions must take lead in providing generous funding for the climate. They can fund climate and biodiversity solutions for vulnerable countries. The World Bank can significantly contribute by increasing the target for the share of its financing for climate benefitting projects from 35 percent to at least 50 percent. Besides, it could take up several other innovative measures such as finance mechanisms, support for green banks, sovereign guarantees for energy transition, risk hedging, etc. Besides, there must be a cap on Public and private sector actors financing fossil fuels projects. The world's 60 largest private banks have given US\$ 4.6 trillion for fossil fuels since the Paris Agreement. This clearly is at cross purpose to fighting climate change. Until the developed countries walk the talk and practice what they preach the temperatures are going to rise on the planet.

# Dealing with the dragon

The indomitable neighbour in China is testing India's diplomacy and prowess; but we are found wanting on both as it goes all out to extract its pound of flesh



India missed a good opportunity in nudging the disengagement and de-escalation process at the Samarkand summit last week after China had made a surprise concession of disengaging from Hot Springs three days before the summit. Although Prime Minister Modi avoided eye contact publicly with President Xi, they attended two round table sessions and were present together at two ceremonial photo ops and in one, standing next to each other. But neither leader made any effort for a public handshake or a pull-aside.

Why did China make the disengagement gesture 13 months after the last disengagement and two months after the last Corps Commander's talks to coincide with the Samarkand summit? Probably to demonstrate that negotiations on disengagement are progressing smoothly. That there would be no disruption from India at the summit on the border row was also on the cards, allusions were not absent. Modi said to Putin: "today's era is not an era of war" pointed to Xi also. Given that Modi and Xi had cultivated a close rapport after 18 meetings between 2014 and 2019 but none since the LAC brush, it was not unreasonable to expect the effusive and backslapping Modi to extend his hand to Xi during the photo op. (it was he who famously said in June 2020: "no one came inside, nor is anyone inside Indian territory", to the delight of the Chinese) A day before his 72nd birthday, Modi could not have been seen shaking hands with Xi when the opposition has been gunning for him over losing land to China. But it would have been a risk worth taking. At least the ice could have been broken. Much has been written about the disengagement process since the tragic unarmed Galwan clash. The 1993 and 1996 border protocols and subsequent border agreements of 2005, 2006, and 2012 Border Defence Cooperation Agreements have been violated by China and PLA. The policy change was initiated when Xi,

who had been vice president became President in 2013. The modus vivendi to border dispute and bilateral relations initiated in 1988 was torn to shreds in 2020 preceded by ominous indicators at Chumar, Depsang, and Doklam.

Comparing the multiple intrusions of 2020 with Sumdorong Chu in 1988 which took nine years to resolve is patently incorrect. It was a different era when India and China were co-equals economically and militarily. At Sumdorong Chu, military commanders took bold initiatives in occupying heights dominating PLA intrusions at Wangdung unlike in East Ladakh where Indian forces were caught napping. Dispute resolution resulted in the mutual pullback, prompting then BJP opposition MP Jaswant Singh to remark: "why are we withdrawing from our own territory".

China has managed to promulgate its 1959 Claim Line from Depsang to Demchok in serious adversity. It is instructive to analyse India's current self-inflicted dilemma. Unlike in the central

IN APRIL 2020, IN A SURPRISE SWEEP, PLA EASILY OCCUPIED POSITIONS ACROSS INDIAN LAC CORRESPONDING TO THEIR 1959 CLAIM LINE WHEN INDIA WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH ONSET OF COVID-19

and eastern sectors, the LAC is better defined and more settled by the McMahon Line than in the west where the LAC is seriously contested. In the east, our forward posture was triggered off by the PLA intrusions in Sumdorong Chu where defences and posts are close to MacMahon Line. In the west, mainly Leh was defended with vast areas along the LAC unmanned and covered with dispersed ITBP and Army posts from where ITBP and Army patrolled up to the 65 patrolling points up to a line behind the LAC. The Chinese had their own perception of LAC that was never revealed.

In April 2020, in a surprise sweep, PLA easily occupied positions across Indian LAC corresponding to their 1959 Claim Line. The mammoth intelligence failure was compounded by political and operational lapses. After the disengagement from Hot Springs (PP 15) on 8 September which Foreign Minister S Jaishankar called "one problem less", another buffer zone bereft of patrolling rights has been established on the Indian side of LAC. At Depsang, 18 km on

the Indian side of LAC PLA has blocked access to five Patrolling Points and at Demchok to four Patrolling Points. Konchok Stanzin, the counselor for Chushul, said: "our troops have gone back from PP 15 and PP 16 which we had for 50 years, we lost winter grazing ground". The Chinese have also effectively blocked two Indian offensive launch pads at Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie-virtually transforming the area into 1000 sq km of DMZ.

On 9 May, COAS Gen Manoj Pande said: "We have to restore status quo ante April 2020". Diplomacy has to be restored to the Xi-Modi level; their 19th meeting could be at the Bali G20 summit in November. Meanwhile, plans should be made to establish BOPs in Ladakh to prevent further salami slicing.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PUNJAB PROTESTS

Sir — Protests erupted on the campus of a private university in Mohali over rumors that objectionable videos of several women students were recorded by a hosteller, following which Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann ordered a probe. The police arrested a female student and sent a team to take stock of the situation. The culprits should be brought to the book. People should not be allowed to play with the honour and dignity of women.

All along AAP was finding fault with the Union Government now facing the music. Protests continued throughout Sunday and the strength of students upset the balance of the state. Chandigarh University was at the center of all actions. The university authorities also rejected false and baseless reports that claimed videos of several women students in the hostel were made and leaked on social media and that distraught students had attempted suicide. Even false allegations of suicides of students were rejected. Punjab was the center of farmers' agitation and now feels the heat on a more sensitive issue.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

### CHEETAH IS BACK

Sir — The Cheetah already declared extinct in the Indian subcontinent, seven decades back, has finally re-entered the country's soil after approx. 13 years of concerted global efforts. Eight cheetahs have been imported from Namibia and released into the Kuno National Park. It is expected that if the lineage of these cheetahs starts growing. Since every little thing becomes a matter of political discourse nowadays, the effort to rehabilitate the cheetahs also got a political colour. Of course, it was Prime Minister Modi's haughtiness that added fuel to ignite the fire. After leaving the cheetahs in the park, the Prime Minister said that

## AIMING HIGH, THINKING WEAK



EWIS is the very basis, the foundation upon which this reservation lies. It cannot be thwarted by some irrelevant arguments or illogical arguments. The very, extremely poor exist in all sections of society, for them, how can they afford an expensive education/career? Eliminating the reservation in one go is almost impossible. So few things should be

done- Introduce the concept of creamy layer in all sections and provide reservation for those who are lagging in socio-economic development and then you can have a par view on this sensitive subject.

We all know it's just politics and other than EWS, we ought to have no other ground for reservation, and that too just for education. It's a shame how our judiciary and polity can show their ridiculed faces for us 'general' folks who've been taxed for ages and yet in the name of support all we get to see is their crooked schemes to mint votes and brag long stories. I am a living victim of this machinery of fake statutory bodies where reserved human resources just sit and gossip. We always aim high but think weak in caste, creed, and religion.

CK Dorai Ramani | Bengaluru

the previous governments did not make any effort for cheetah rehabilitation.

Thereafter Congress started opening the pages of history that since when the efforts to settle cheetahs in India started. It is true that in our country many projects take a long time. The same have had happened in the Cheetah Project. It is true that other than indiscriminate killings in pre-independence days, the lack of a favourable environment and carelessness in the conservation efforts have been major reasons. Many species have already become extinct, and many are on the verge of extinction. The reasons behind them are not hidden. Negligence in the maintenance of the sanctuaries affect the natural life of the wildlife. Nowadays, sanctuaries and national parks are considered a means of tourism development. Thus, the people coming for excursions create obstacles to the normal life of wildlife. The lack of proper arrangement of their food and water is also one of the common complaints. Therefore, the life of the cheetahs

of Kuno National Park will depend on how seriously their conservation is being taken care of.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

### CONGRESS ELECTIONS

Sir — With the elections to pick the new Congress president round the corner, the chorus for Rahul Gandhi to take the mantle in his hands is growing louder with at least seven state units of the party passing resolutions urging him to return to the helm. With the notification of the Congress president polls just a few days away, Gandhi family loyalists and state units have stepped up efforts to mount pressure on Rahul to return to the helm amid indications that he was unlikely to change his earlier stance of not being AICC chief. With this, the suspense will be over in the coming days and it is a wait-and-watch situation without giving any chance or advantage to communal forces.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

Anybody who wants to contest is free and welcome to do so. This is an open, democratic and transparent process. Nobody needs anybody's nod to contest



Congress leader —Jairam Ramesh

It is my most sorrowful duty to announce the death of my beloved mother, the queen. ..irreparable loss we have all suffered.



British Monarch —King Charles III



We're not 'do jism ek jaan' kind of people. We have a beautiful equation and an even better working relationship because we're both passionate about movies.

Actor —Alia Bhatt



Cricketer —Ricky Ponting

This case is really about malice in law. It is about what we are telling the minority community; you will do what we tell you...



Advocate —Dushyant Dave



FIRST COLUMN

SWABHAVA IS CORE OF HUMAN NATURE

We have to control our minds, sharpen our intelligence



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Swabhava' is the English equivalent of human nature in Hindi, which has intrigued humanity for a very long time. The modern understanding of human nature essentially is that it's a concept denoting fundamental dispositions and characteristics, including ways of thinking, feeling and acting, that humans are said to possess.

The term is often used to denote the essence of human kind, or what it 'means' to be a human. According to the present thinking, areas of human nature are power, pleasure, profit, pride and permanency. These are functional aspects of human nature. Characteristics of human nature have been described briefly as emotion, rebellion, chaos, hard times, work for what we want and self-image.

Sources of human nature are genes, one is born with, and nurture, which one receives. For proper understanding of 'svabhava', we have to take help from the spiritual texts. Everything that we see originates from 'mahat-tattva', which has given rise to the three guna. These are sattva (goodness), rajas (passion) and tamas (darkness). A combination of them results in the material nature, bodies and 'svabhava'. These three gunas are forever competing for supremacy, as described in the Bhagavad-Geeta.



Lord Krishna states, "Goodness becomes predominant by overpowering passion and darkness; darkness becomes predominant by overpowering even goodness and passion; and passion becomes predominant by overpowering goodness and darkness." (14.10) In short, each mode tries to become predominant by overpowering the other two modes.

Geeta has more detailed information about 'svabhav'. Lord Krishna has spoken about it in several verses. In the verse # 3.33, the Lord states, "Even a man of knowledge endeavors according to his own nature; people follow svabhava. What shall repression do?" When Arjuna expressed his unwillingness to participate in the battle, the Lord told him, "What you are assuming, taking yourself as the doer, that 'I won't fight', your resolve is false; your nature will engage you in the battle." (18.59) Then the Lord repeated the same message in the next verse by telling Arjuna that he will helplessly do what he was refusing to do, bound by action caused by his nature. And for all of us the Lord has counselled that we should consider our svabhava before choosing our profession/work. (3.35 and 18.47)

How do nature relate to minds, intelligence, ahankar (ego) and consciousness? It is said that svabhav is a combination of all these. Our thinking, willingness and feeling – functions of the mind influence nature. Similarly, intelligence or its level has great influence over it, as do ahankar and our consciousness.

To improve svabhav, the first thing to do is to increase the percentage of the mode of goodness in self. This can be done by associating with it by doing all activities as far as possible in goodness. For example, one should eat what is in goodness like grains, vegetables, fruits, milk products, etc. Don't we know that what we eat our bodies become? Consequently, our minds, intelligence, ahankar, and consciousness will all begin to get better, which in turn will help make our svabhava better.

We have to be very determined, because it is a long 'tapasya', not easy at all. Additionally, we have to try to control our minds, sharpen our intelligence to turn spiritual, make ahankar do what it is supposed to do, i.e., take pride in doing one's duties and not be falsely proud of claiming to be a doer, and turn our consciousness in the direction of spirituality. Rise in the mode of goodness will be beneficial in more ways than one, and will open the door to connect with God.

*(The author is a spiritual teacher)*

# Govt must take fresh look at gas pricing

## The rising cost of natural gas has become a new challenge for key sectors such as fertiliser and power

Faced with steep rise in the international prices of natural gas or NG triggered by Ukraine war and disruption in global supplies, and its attendant impact on cost of energy to industries across several sectors especially most sensitive ones such as fertilizers, power, etc., the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MPNG) has set up a committee under Dr Kirit Parikh to review the current pricing formula for domestically-produced NG. Out of 54.6 billion cubic meter or bcm consumed in the country, nearly 50 per cent is met from imports such as liquefied natural gas or LNG.

Mandated to restructure the formula in a manner as to ensure "a fair price to the end consumer", the committee has been asked to submit its report by the end of this month. Under the pricing guidelines effective since November 2014, for all domestic supplies from fields given under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP), as also blocks given on nomination to State-owned ONGC and Oil India Limited (OIL) before the NELP, the price, call it normal price, is a weighted average of prices at four international locations - Henry Hub (the USA), Alberta gas (Canada), NBP (National Balancing Point) (the UK) and Russian gas. It is revised every six months in a financial year.

Also, under a special package for deep/ultra-deep (D/UD), high-pressure/high-temperature (HP/HT) fields announced in March 2016, the supplies are allowed a "premium" price, arrived at based on a process of competitive bidding in which earlier, affiliates of gas producers were not allowed to participate. The price thus determined is subject to a ceiling which is linked to the prices of alternate fuels, including fuel oil, naphtha and LNG. If the bid based price exceeds the ceiling, then the buyer pays only the ceiling price.

From October 2020, the bar on participation of affiliates of the gas producing firm in the bidding process was removed. This meant that the producer can buy its own gas (albeit through its affiliate or subsidiary) and sell it to third parties at a higher rate, thereby circumventing the ceiling price.

For instance, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), which produces gas from the KG-D6 field in the Krishna Godavari basin off the Andhra Pradesh (AP) coast, did precisely this. In an auction on February 5, 2021, offering 7.5 mmscmd (million standard cubic meter per day) of new gas from this field, its subsidiary Reliance O2C Limited bought 4.8 mmscmd at a price of \$4.06 per million Btu (British thermal unit) – then prevailing ceiling price - and sold it for \$6-7 per million Btu to GAIL India Limited (Ltd), Shell and others.

Apart from the above two major sources, which account for bulk of the domestically-produced NG, the supplies from fields given under the Open Acreage



AS FOR IMPORTED GAS, INDIA SOURCES 80 PER CENT UNDER LONG-TERM CONTRACT, AVERAGE PRICE \$12 PER MBTU, WHILE 20 PER CENT IS FROM THE SPOT MARKET CURRENT PRICE BEING \$50 PER MBTU. THE EFFECTIVE PRICE IS \$19.6 PER MBTU

*(The author is a policy analyst)*



Licensing Policy (OALP) (introduced in July 2017) are eligible for market-based pricing.

Against this backdrop, the NG pricing scenario facing Indian consumers looks something like this: the average international price in the spot market is \$ 50 per mBtu; effective from April 1, 2022, normal price from old and regulated fields is \$ 6.1 per mBtu; premium 'ceiling' price from D/UD/HP/HT fields is \$ 9.92 per mBtu even as bid based price is normally above \$ 15 per mBtu.

Fertiliser sector is the largest consumer of NG, accounting for 33 per cent of the consumption, followed by city gas distribution or CGD at 23 per cent and power at 13 per cent. These sectors receive priority in allocation of regulated low-price gas. In fertilisers, bulk of the gas is used for producing urea, whose maximum retail price (MRP) is controlled at a low level to make it affordable to farmers. The excess cost of supply over MRP is reimbursed as a subsidy to manufacturers.

Of the NG requirement for fertilizers, nearly 67 per cent is met from domestic sources and 33 per cent from imported LNG. Within domestic sources, the industry draws around 50 per cent each from 'regulated' and 'premium' gas. The effective price of this gas comes to \$ 8 per mBtu (6.1x0.5+9.92x0.5) resulting in its contribution to overall gas cost to be \$ 5.5 per mBtu (8x0.67).

As for the imported gas, India sources 80 per cent under long-term contract, average price \$12 per mBtu, while 20 per cent is from the spot market current price being \$50 per mBtu. The effective price is \$19.6 per mBtu (12x0.8+50x0.2). Its contribution to overall gas cost comes to \$ 6.5 per mBtu (19.6x0.33).

Put together, the cost of NG to a urea producer comes to \$ 12 per mBtu (5.5+6.5). This excludes add-ons such as handling charges, cost of re-gasifying LNG, transportation tariff, marketing margin, taxes and duties, etc. Including them will boost it to \$ 15 per mBtu. Taking 24 mBtu for a ton of urea, gas cost alone comes to \$ 360 per ton or Rs 28,800 per ton - 5.5 times urea MRP at Rs 5360 per ton.

The high cost of NG is a major reason behind galloping fertilizer subsidy which for 2022-23 is expected to be Rs 250,000 crore. In the power sector, high NG cost is threatening the viability of gas-based generation plants as buyers can't pay for the resultant high cost of electricity. The CGD sector too is facing the heat due to the hike in price.

The price of NG in the international spot market is beyond control. In fact, it is expected to move up at a fast pace as EU countries proceed with their plan to replace 2/3rd of the gas coming from Russia by supplies from other sources viz. the Middle East, the USA, etc. This can also disrupt

Indian purchase under long-term contract, which will result in a steep increase in cost (as its substitution by spot gas will happen at price \$ 50 per mBtu which is over fourtimes).

Therefore, the focus has to be on reducing the price of domestic gas. What is the way forward? There is no valid justification for granting a higher price from D/UD/HP/HT fields. If producing from difficult fields involves more investment, these also deliver more gas. Even with normal prices, the producer can generate more revenue. With this logic in mind, initially, the Modi government had no intent to allow higher prices from these fields.

But, in March 2016, it buckled under pressure. Today, other than old/regulated fields, supplies from all others get market determined prices. The demand being far in excess of supply, this price is bound to be exploitative. The principle should be shunned; instead all domestic supplies should be eligible for formula-based price as per 2014 guidelines.

The current 'normal' price at \$6.1 per mBtu effective from April 1, 2022 is 100 per cent more than it was during October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Given the trend in NG price at four global locations, this will increase further (next revision is due on October 1, 2022). The government should freeze the price at the existing level and the freeze should continue till the global situation normalizes.



UTTAM GUPTA

POINT COUNTERPOINT

DISTURBING MEDIA REPORTS SAY PUNJAB CM WAS DEPLANED AS HE WAS TOO DRUNK TO WALK. THESE REPORTS HAVE EMBARRASSED & SHAMED PUNJABIS. —AKALI DAL LEADER SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL



SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS ARE PROPAGANDA. THE OPPOSITION IS RATTLED BECAUSE MR MANN IS GETTING SOME INVESTMENT FROM HIS FOREIGN TRIP. —AAP SPOKESPERSON MALWINDER SINGH KANG



# A Silicon Valley view of India high on digital path

## Digital India is driving technology incubation and growth all around and the ecosystem is buzzing with new energy

Not only was I born and raised in India, but my passion for technology started there too. I was wandering through the British Council Library in Calcutta when I came across a book called 'The Little Kingdom'. It was a true story about Apple's founders, and I was immediately interested. I thought, "This is going to change the way we live and the way we work." From then on, I knew two things: I wanted a career in tech and I had to work for Steve Jobs.

I moved to Silicon Valley, worked for NeXT, the company that Steve Jobs started after Apple, ran a few startups, took a company through acquisition, and did a stint at Google.

Now, I find myself at this

CHEET KAPOOR

*(The author is Chairman & CEO of DataStax)*

awesome place called DataStax. We help enterprises and developers build high-growth, real-time applications and experiences. Recently, I headed back to India to meet with our team, get an update on the technology landscape and discover ways we can work together to build the future. After meeting with government officials and private sector technology leaders, I came away not only with a lot of great new connections, but also a strong impression of India's tech-forward mindset.

The public sector is all-in on India's digital transformation, which is key to India's journey to becoming a \$5 trillion economy. We all know about India's stature as a software development power-

house, and IT service providers like Wipro and Tata Consultancy Services are leaders in helping their clients around the world become digital leaders.

But I was surprised by the level of commitment the public sector has for moving India forward with technology. I saw and heard examples of this over and over. The Delhi Police is investing significant resources into AI and machine learning, for use in cases, including improved traffic flows. The federal government is making census data available via application programming interfaces (APIs), enabling developers to have simplified access to this data to build powerful applications (In 2021, census data was collected digitally, with a

mobile app, for the first time ever in India).

The global leadership that India has shown by making government payments (Unified Payments Service, or UPI) accessible in real time to so many citizens is impressive, too — particularly in light of the challenges that other countries have faced in making this a reality. As Rajeev Chandrasekhar, India's Minister of State for Electronics and IT, said recently, "India leads digital, and digital leads India."

Private sector technology leadership is strong. I always enjoy speaking with technology leaders to learn how they scale their businesses, inspire their teams, overcome challenges, and celebrate innovation. On my trip, I met with

several leaders who worked in a variety of fields, from healthcare to e-commerce to fintech — and the innovation that's happening there blew me away.

Consider VerSe, the company's technology enables more than 300 million users to consume content in their local language, driving creativity and connection through digital empowerment (not to mention a healthy valuation nearing \$5 billion). It's the platform behind India's fastest-growing short video app, Josh. This kind of success is enabled by an environment that promotes innovation and high sustainable growth.

As part of its quest to build a multi-trillion dollar digital economy, India is moving

quickly to set up digital infrastructure. The goal is to provide internet and 5G service and ubiquitous access to data. This access to data and services via the applications they serve will be unprecedented. The Digital India initiative is focused on making data a critical asset to improve the lives of Indian citizens and modernise the way many governmental and state agencies function.

When it comes to data, especially in government agencies and citizen services, it's easy to think about data warehouses and analytics. Understanding data after it's been gathered and stored is important, but the digital civilization India is building calls for more than just "data at rest". Citizens expect from the

government and agencies a digital experience that's in-the-moment— instant and valuable. Government agencies are often involved in situations requiring instant and timely information from massive data sets to make critical decisions that ensure their mission, including citizen safety, continuity of service, a secured platform, and the optimized use of its resources.

Access to real-time data, whether for agencies and citizens to have real-time information in emergencies or for developers to build applications with, will play a key role in the success of the Digital India initiative. DataStax is excited to partner with the wide range of developers and enterprises who call this country their home.



# Ukraine, using captured Russian tanks, firms up its lines



AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine is now deploying captured Russian tanks to solidify its gains in the northeast amid an ongoing counteroffensive, a Washington-based think tank said Tuesday, as Kyiv vowed to push further into territories occupied by Moscow.

The Institute for the Study of War, citing a Russian claim, said that Ukraine had been using left-behind Russian T-72 tanks as it tries to push into the Russian-occupied region of Luhansk.

"The initial panic of the counteroffensive led Russian troops to abandon higher-quality equipment in working order, rather than the more damaged

equipment left behind by Russian forces retreating from Kyiv in April, further indicating the severity of the Russian rout," the institute said.

Earlier this month, Ukraine launched its counteroffensive, pushing into territory around its second-largest city of Kharkiv. Videos and photos showed Ukrainian troops seizing tanks, ammunition and other weaponry left behind by Moscow in an apparently chaotic withdrawal.

In the counteroffensive's wake, Ukrainian officials found hundreds of graves near the once-occupied city of Izium. Yevhenii Yenin, a deputy minister in Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry, told a national telecast that officials

exhuming the dead there found bodies "with signs of violent death."

"There are many of them," Yenin said. "These are broken ribs and broken heads, men with bound hands, broken jaws and severed genitalia."

Ukrainian officials also have alleged Russian forces tortured people in occupied areas, including shocking them with radio telephones dating back to the Soviet era. Russia has repeatedly denied abusing or killing prisoners, though Ukrainian officials found mass graves around the city of Bucha after blunting a Russian offensive targeting Kyiv at the start of the war.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian push continues in the south of the country. The

institute, citing the Ukrainian military, said Kyiv had destroyed ammunition depots, two command posts and an electronic warfare system.

Ukraine's southern military command said early Tuesday its troops sank a Russian barge carrying troops and weapons across the Dnipro River near the Russian-occupied city of Nova Kakhovka. It offered no other details on the sinking of the barge in Ukraine's Russian-occupied Kherson region, which has been a major target as part of Kyiv's ongoing counteroffensive in the country.

**In other developments:**

■ The website of a prominent Russian mercenary group apparently was targeted by hackers. The Wagner Group's website couldn't be reached Tuesday morning. Late Monday, the IT Army of Ukraine, a group of hackers supporting Kyiv, posted a screenshot apparently showing the website had been replaced with images of dead Russian soldiers.

■ Moscow has likely moved its Kilo-class submarines from their station on the Crimean Peninsula to southern Russia over fears about them being struck by long-range Ukrainian fire, the British military said Tuesday. In a daily intelligence briefing, the British Defense Ministry said those submarines had "almost certainly" been moved to Krasnodar Krai in mainland Russia, instead of a naval base at Sevastopol on the Crimean Peninsula.

"This is highly likely due to the recent change in the local security threat level in the face of increased Ukrainian long-range strike capability," the British said. "In the last two months, the fleet headquarters and its main naval aviation airfield have been attacked."



## Police: 12 held hostage in bank in ex-Soviet Georgia

AP ■ TBILISI

Police in the ex-Soviet nation of Georgia said Tuesday that 12 people were being held hostage by a gunman in a bank in the city of Kutaisi.

Georgian media report that the man, who is yet to be identified, demanded \$2 million, a helicopter to leave the country and a Russian flag. The gunman reportedly announced his demands in a video posted on one of the hostages' Facebook page.

It was not immediately clear whether anyone was injured in a standoff, which has already gone on for several hours at a branch of Bank of Georgia.

Georgian police have opened a probe on multiple charges, including terrorism, and said an effort to release hostages was underway.

Kutaisi is a city of 147,000, located 180 kilometers (110 miles) northeast of the Georgian capital, Tbilisi.

# 4 Ukrainian separatist regions plan votes to join Russia



AP ■ KYIV

Russian-controlled regions of eastern and southern Ukraine announced plans Tuesday to start voting this week to become integral parts of Russia.

The concerted and quickening Kremlin-backed efforts to swallow up four regions could set the stage for Moscow to escalate the war against Ukrainian forces successfully battling to wrest back territory.

The announcements of referendums starting Friday in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and partly Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia regions came after a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin said votes were needed, as Moscow loses ground in the war that began nearly seven months ago.

Former President Dmitry Medvedev said folding regions into Russia itself would make redrawn frontiers "irreversible" and enable Moscow to use "any means" to defend them.

The votes, in territory Russia already controls, are expected with near-certainty to go Moscow's way but are unlikely to be recognized by Western governments backing Ukraine with military and other support.

Luhansk and Donetsk together form much of the Donbas region, which has been gripped by separatist fighting since 2014 and which Putin has set as a primary objective of the Russian invasion.

In Donetsk, separatist leader Denis Pushilin said the "long-suffering people of the Donbas have earned the right to be part of the great country that they always considered their motherland."

He added that the vote will help "restore historic justice that millions of the Russian people were waiting for."

Pressure within Russia and from Moscow-backed leaders in Russian-controlled regions of Ukraine for votes to pave their way to becoming Russian

increased in the wake of a Ukrainian counteroffensive — bolstered by Western-supplied weaponry — that is recapturing large areas of previously Russian-occupied territory.

In another signal that Russia is digging in for a protracted and possibly ramped-up conflict, the Kremlin-controlled lower of house of parliament voted on Tuesday to toughen laws against desertion, surrender and looting by Russian soldiers.

Lawmakers also voted to introduce possible 10-year prison terms for soldiers refusing to fight. If approved, as expected, by the upper house and then signed by Putin, the legislation would strengthen commanders' hands against failing morale reported among soldiers.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday that there are no prospects for a diplomatic settlement. Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by Putin, said on his messaging app channel that votes in separatist regions are important to protect their residents and "restore historic justice" and would "completely change" Russia's future trajectory.

The recapturing of large areas of previously Russian-occupied territory, most notably in the northeastern Kharkiv region, has strengthened Ukraine's arguments that its troops could deliver more stinging defeats to Russia with additional armament deliveries.

More heavy weaponry is on its way, with Slovenia this week promising 28 tanks and Germany pledging four additional self-propelled howitzers.

More aid also is expected from Britain, already one of Ukraine's biggest military backers after the United States.

British Prime Minister Liz Truss is expected to promise that in 2023, her government will "match or exceed" the 2.3 billion pounds (USD 2.7 billion) in military aid given to Ukraine this year.

# Ukraine war thrusts German climate action into spotlight

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Germany remains committed to phasing out coal as a source of power by 2030 even as it reactivates coal-fired power plants, the country's climate envoy said Monday. Germany says it took the step to get through the coming winter amid energy shortages as a result of Russia's war in Ukraine.

"We are at a crossroads right now," Jennifer Morgan said, adding that the war in Ukraine shows how interlinked energy security and independence are with climate security



ty and peace. Morgan spoke with The Associated Press on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

The US-born former international head of Greenpeace stepped into the role of Germany's special envoy for international climate action in

March. Now a German citizen, she is also state secretary.

Ten months ago, in her role at Greenpeace, she chastised world leaders for being "weak" on phasing down coal rather than phasing it out altogether. More circumspect as a government official, she now says the dirty fuel is bitter medicine that her country is forced to take this winter, echoing the sentiment of the country's Green party.

"We are in the middle a Russian war of aggression," she said. "We need to assure that our citizens have enough heat for the winter."

# 'We have nothing': Izium's trauma after Russian occupation



AP ■ IZIUM

The school was a shattered mess. Its six-month life as a Russian base and mechanic shop ended in August with a Ukrainian missile strike.

Its years educating Izium's youth were over, but it had one last gift for the residents who needed so much: the wood that made up its lattice work, its chalkboards, its furniture and beams.

A handful of elderly residents — some prepared with gloves, sturdy woven bags, and hand tools — came by Monday to salvage firewood from the rubble. It will be months, if not longer, before meaningful electricity, gas and running water are restored, and a chill is already settling in.

This city in far eastern Ukraine was among the first taken by Russian forces after the war started on Feb. 24, and it became a command center for them. By early March, Izium was isolated — no cell phones, no heat, no power. Residents didn't know what was going on in the war, whether their relatives were alive, whether there was still a Ukraine.

They were liberated in a swift counteroffensive on Sept. 10 that swept through the Kharkiv region, and that continues in the south, near Kherson. But residents are still

emerging from the confusion and trauma of their occupation, the brutality of which gained worldwide attention last week after the discovery of one of the war's largest mass grave sites.

"We have nothing. We are taking wood to heat water for tea and to make porridge. Look at my hands! I'm 75 years old and this woman is even older than me. We are afraid of winter," said Oleksandra Lysenko, standing in a pile of bricks. "My grandchildren went to this school and I am looting it."

A man nearby loaded the battered hood of a car onto his bicycle. He planned to use the part, which was spray-painted with the letter Z that has come to symbolize the Russian army, to cover an open window frame.

When the war began nearly seven months ago, about half of Izium's roughly 40,000 residents fled, some of them into Russia itself. The rest hunkered down in basements or behind the thickest walls they could find. Russian soldiers handed out some food but rarely enough.

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**e-Tender Call Notice**  
Name of the Work: "Development of Plot inside of BoT Bulb area (Left Side) near Gate No-1," EMD Cost: Rs.18,37,290/-  
Last date & time of submission of Bid: **30.09.2022 up to 17:15 Hrs.** For details please refer our website [eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app](http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app).  
**Executive Engineer**  
**Harbour Works Division-III,**  
**Paradip Port Authority**  
PPA/PR/196/22-23, dtd.20.09.2022

**PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY**  
**6-TENDER CALL NOTICE**  
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**Executive Engineer,**  
**Harbour Works Division-III,**  
**Paradip Port Authority**  
PPA/PR/195/22-23, DL 20/09/2022

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**TENDER NOTICE**  
(Through E-Tendering)  
Name of Work with its Location: Provision of Telecom facility (Active LED Video wall) for WAR Room at 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.  
App. Cost of the work (₹) ₹ 1,27,13,200/- only  
Earnest Money Deposit (₹) ₹ 2,13,600.00/- only  
Address of the Office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.  
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender: Tender uploading / closing date & time - 03.10.2022 up to 15.00 hrs.  
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.: See the Northern Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Notice board at S & T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.  
Tender No.: 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-955 Dated:19.09.2022 2446/22  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE-LOSS OF ID CARD**  
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Miss. GARI MA issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID card no. 2244718 has been found missing and/or lost on UTTAM NAGAR. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Deot. Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited.  
Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no 2244718.  
Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment. For ICICI Bank Limited Date: 20.09.2022 Place: New Delhi

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**1st CORRIGENDUM**  
Tender No. 30-Elect-24-T-2022-23-E3  
Name of Work: A) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Johnson make escalators installed at Delhi Main (02 Nos.) and NDLS station (10 Nos.) for three years. B) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Johnson make escalators installed over Delhi Division for three years. C) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of 02 nos. Johnson make escalators installed at ANVT Railway Station for three yaers. D) Provision of WEB based real time monitoring system for escalators at DLI (M), HNZM & NDLS stations.  
The amendments in above said tender are as under:  

Tender No. 30-Elect-24-T-2022-23-E3		
	Earlier published	Amended
Name of Work	A) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Johnson make escalators installed at Delhi Main (02 Nos.) and NDLS station (10 Nos.) for three years. B) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Johnson make escalators installed over Delhi Division for three years. C) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of 02 nos. Johnson make escalators installed at ANVT Railway Station for three years. D) Provision of WEB based real time monitoring system for escalators at DLI (M) HNZM & NDLS stations.	A) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Johnson make escalators installed at Delhi Main (02 Nos.) and NDLS station (10 Nos.) for three years. B) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Johnson make escalators installed over Delhi Division for three years. C) Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of 02 nos. Johnson make escalators installed at ANVT Railway Station for three years. D) Provision of WEB based real time monitoring system for escalators at DLI (M) HNZM & NDLS stations.
Approx cost of the work in	Rs. 310.26 Lacs	Rs. 310.26 Lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Bid Security	Rs. 305100.00	Rs. 305100.00
Date & time of submission of tender	21.09.2022, 12.00 Hrs.	28.09.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	21.09.2022, 12.00 Hrs.	28.09.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

The tender document of above mentioned tender has been modified kindly go through the amended documents available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and submit your offer accordingly.

**2453/22**

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

France's foreign minister is urging Iran to take the last offer on the table to revive the 2015 nuclear deal with the United States and key powers, saying the window of opportunity "is about to close."

In a wide-ranging press conference on the sidelines of this week's gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly, Catherine Colonna also accused Russia of waging unjustified aggression against Ukraine "in a very brutal way" with shelling of civilian targets, violent acts, "rapes, torture and forced liquidation".

"All of these are war crimes," she said.

Colonna said France will be convening a meeting Wednesday with UN nuclear chief Rafael Grossi on the precarious state of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southeastern Ukraine, Europe's largest, is occupied by Russia.

She said she spoke to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov Monday morning on the need for Ukraine, Russia, and all countries in the world "to avoid a nuclear catastrophe".

She said Lavrov seemed to be "open to listening to some detailed proposal" by Grossi who has called for a "nuclear safety and security protection zone" around the Zaporizhzhia plant.

Colonna also called on China to stop its "very aggressive" behaviour toward Taiwan. She stressed that "the status quo must not be questioned by China and not by using means that are not peaceful."

# Putin blasts US attempts to preserve global domination



AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday blasted what he described as US efforts to preserve its global domination and ordered officials to boost weapons production amid the fighting in Ukraine.

Speaking while receiving credentials from foreign ambassadors to Moscow, Putin said "the objective development toward a multipolar world faces resistance of those who try to preserve their hegemony in global affairs and control everything — Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa."

He added that "the hegemon has succeeded in doing so for quite a long time, but it can't go on forever ... Regardless of the developments in Ukraine."

Putin has repeatedly cast his decision to send troops into

Ukraine as a response to alleged Western encroachment on Russia's vital security interests.

The Russian leader described Western sanctions against Russia over its action in Ukraine as part of efforts by the US and its allies to strengthen their positions, but charged that they have backfired against their organizers and also hurt poor countries.

"As for Russia, we won't deviate from our sovereign course," Putin said.

Speaking later during a separate meeting on military industries, he said Russian weapons have shown high efficiency during the fighting in Ukraine and told officials to quickly increase output of military industries.

"Our equipment efficiently confronts Western types of weapons," Putin said. "Practically all of NATO

weapons stockpiles have been brought to support the current regime in Kyiv."

Putin added that Russia should study Western weapons to improve its own arsenals.

"We can and must learn about these arsenals, everything they have, everything they use against us to qualitatively increase our potential and improve our equipment, our weapons where we need to do it," he noted.

Putin said he has ordered to boost allocations for new weapons, offer more loans to military industries and approve additional payments to their workers to increase weapons output.

"Structures of the military industrial complex must deliver the required weapons and equipment in the shortest time possible," Putin said.



# SBFC

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged gold ornaments will be conducted by SBFC Finance Ltd. on **27th September 2022** at Delhi District branch 0 - 7, 1st floor, 'above Luck Saloon, Lajpat I. Nagar 2, Noida - 201002 (District: Gautam Budh Nagar; Branch address Plot No. 5, Ground Floor, Opposite White Castle Hotel, Main Dadi Road, Sarunji, Bhangel, Sector-101, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida-201304 (UP), Ghaziabad District: branch add-82, Basement, RDC Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad-201002, Hapur District: add-First Floor, Above PC Jewellers, Garg Pargana, Garg Nagar, Tehsil & District Hapur, 245101, (UP).

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to all linked accounts of Customer ID for various customers mentioned below with branch details.

**Delhi:** AP00013581, AP00073602, AP00081903, AP00085676, AP00091827, AP00107712, AP00110118, AP00132422, AP00135595, AP00161989, AP0016562, AP00168790, AP00171422, AP00173329, AP00174088, AP00193345, AP00196391, AP00186393, AP00190699, AP00192718, AP00192718, AP00193499, AP00196391, AP00200903, AP00256716, AP00256793, AP00268032, AP00268211, AP00270944, AP00272136, AP00273477, AP00273700, AP00282120, AP00290354, AP00290438, AP00307932, AP00308742, AP00313577, AP00313712, AP00315513, AP00315649, AP00321673, AP00322352, AP00327245, AP00328288, AP00328459, AP00329934, AP00333694, AP00338914, AP00339524, AP00340951, AP00352242, AP00355274, AP00355527, AP00356144, AP00357724, AP00359809, AP00362941, AP00363352, AP00364475, AP00365619, AP00370605, AP00373075, AP00371987, AP00377140, AP00377305, AP00377411, AP00377553, AP00377683, AP00378021, AP00378350, AP00378620, AP00378633, AP00378670, AP00379937, AP00379631, AP00383725, AP00385874, AP00386121, AP00393935, AP00393631, AP00393979, AP00396707, AP00398000, AP00398244, AP00398293, AP00398657, AP00398622, AP00399618, AP00400328, AP00400476, AP00404653, AP00406674, AP00407459, AP00407793, AP00411404, AP00411715, AP00413815, AP00415514, AP00415514, AP00417716, AP00423066, AP00424136, AP00430430, AP00431725, AP00431505, AP00431505, AP00432123, AP00432696, AP00434315, AP00433157, AP00433633, AP00437371, AP00437815, AP00437827, AP00437874, AP00438264, AP00438858, AP00439833, AP00440107, AP00442405, AP00450776, AP00456752, AP00459454, **GAZIABAD:** AP00329383, AP00338982, AP00351726, AP00362506, AP00363514, AP00372051, AP00378539, AP00382663, AP00392921, AP00397766, AP00400154, AP00413819, AP00414871, AP00419621, AP00424582, AP00431486, AP00432322, AP00438771, AP00447429, AP00458374, AP00466657 **HAPUR:** AP00356332, AP00358164, AP00366307, AP00377426, AP00399133, AP00400863, AP00419040, AP00414591, AP00411615

**NOIDA:** AP00333070, AP00406150, AP00407371

*For more details, please contact:*

## SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.

Contact Numbers: Lajpat Nagar 1800-102-8012 / 011-40305228 / 27  
Ghaziabad branch: 9204255672 / 84291293, Noida branch: 9386594407  
(SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned & postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice).



# Markets extend gains despite Fed overhang

## Bank stocks shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty chalked up gains for the second straight session on Tuesday, propelled by across-the-board buying despite concerns over aggressive rate hikes by global central banks to tame inflation.

The US Federal Reserve along with its Swiss and British counterparts will announce their policy decisions later this week amid fears of the global economy tipping into recession due to rising interest rates.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 578.51 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 59,719.74. During the day, it rallied 964.56 points or 1.63 per cent to 60,105.79.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty went higher by 194 points or 1.10 per cent to end at 17,816.25. In intra-day trade, it advanced 297.05 points or 1.68 per cent to 17,919.30.

Sun Pharma was the top gainer among the Sensex constituents, spurring 4.71 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Dr Reddy's, Tata Steel, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank and Asian Paints.

Only four counters closed in the red -- Nestle India, PowerGrid, Infosys and Reliance Industries, shedding up to 0.64 per cent.

"The weakness of western markets did not affect the buoy-



ant domestic market. The Indian market is not seemingly apprehensive of Fed policy. Buying on dips is the strategy being reinforced here. Even the lagging IT and pharma stocks joined the rally, slowly emerging as a value pick for long-term investors.

"However, to sustain the trend, the global market needs to stabilise. It makes sense to be stocks and sector specific in this unfavourable global economic scenario and highly premium valuation of India compared to the rest of the world," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said markets gained for the second consecutive day amid supportive

global cues.

"We believe all eyes will be on the FOMC meeting scheduled tomorrow. So, the Fed rate decision will dictate the market trend going ahead. Meanwhile, investors will continue to monitor global cues, crude and currency movement," he added.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap index rallied 1.65 per cent and the smallcap gauge jumped 1.01 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices ended in the green, with healthcare jumping 2.81 per cent, followed by consumer durables (2.17 per cent), auto (1.59 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.47 per cent), metal (1.34 per cent) and commodities (1.29 per cent).

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher.

European equity markets were trading in the negative territory in mid-session deals. The US markets had ended with gains on Monday.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.49 per cent to USD 92.45 per barrel.

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled 7 paise higher at 79.74 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned buyers as they bought shares worth a net Rs 312.31 crore on Monday, according to data available with the BSE.



# India to grow at over 7% in FY23: CEA

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran on Tuesday said Indian economy will grow at over 7 per cent, down from above 8 per cent of growth rate projected in January.

He, however, said that the economic momentum and the animal spirits are "unmistakable".

"India's own growth rates have come off the projections made in January down to about 7-plus per cent for the current financial year," Nageswaran said speaking at Global Fintech Fest event here.

He said the world is still undergoing the aftereffects of Covid pandemic and the ongoing war in Europe triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, suggesting that these factors are hurting growth.

The economic survey released before the annual budget in January this year has estimated FY23 growth to come at 8-8.5 per cent. The RBI has estimated the GDP to grow at

7.2 per cent, but some analysts have said that there will be a downward revision of the estimate soon.

Nageswaran said India is well-poised to sustain the 7 per cent growth per year during the remainder of the decade as well.

Speaking at the event on fintech, Nageswaran said the government is moving from financial inclusion to financial empowerment and the focus in the decade to 2030 is on helping people access financial services like credit and insurance using the base of the accounts opened earlier.

He said with the aim of taking remittance charges to near-zero, the government is working to help establish interoperability between payment systems in Singapore and the UAE to help the diaspora.

He said the unified payment interface "mimics" the soon-to-be-introduced central bank digital currency, on which India is moving ahead.

On the credit front, "we are moving from the collateral

based system to the one where cash flows come into essence", he noted.

However, there is a need for the cash flow based lending apps to not abuse the borrowers, especially the ones who are not so high on financial literacy, he said.

Nageswaran estimated the overall opportunity on the cash flow-based lending to be Rs 3 lakh crore in the next year.

He also said that there is a need for the data protection law.

Companies should look at profit as a means to innovate and not abuse the system, he said.

India also needs to move forward on the challenges on the intellectual property front, he said, noting that the country has now created a slew of solutions after being just a consumer for many years.

There is a lot of interest among G-20 grouping to understand the Indian model of partnering with the private sector for better systems, he said.

India would be USD 25 trn economy in 25 years: NaBFID



PTI ■ MUMBAI

India is expected to be a USD 25-trillion economy in 25 years, veteran banker and chairman of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development K V Kamath said on Tuesday.

NaBFID was set up by the government last year to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in the country.

Kamath also said all the necessary policies and framework related to NaBFID have been done. "We are on schedule (that) the government has in mind," he said adding as many as 12 board meetings of the bank have already taken place.

"The India that I look forward to, 25 years from now, (will be) a USD 25-trillion (economy)," Kamath said at the Morningstar Investment Conference here on Tuesday.

He said the Indian economy is growing at a compound annual growth rate of 8-10 per cent.

"The policies, processes and the framework are done. The CEO is in place...We have to start lending now," Kamath said.

# 'Companies need to be prepared for continued or higher inflation'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Businesses need to be prepared for possibilities of a continued or higher inflation and deflation of commodity prices in next 2-3 years, Hindustan Unilever CEO and MD Sanjiv Mehta said on Tuesday.

The unprecedented inflation is not homegrown but has been caused by several global factors, including supply chain disruption due to the pandemic and Ukraine-Russia war, he said while speaking at the FICCI LEADS 2022 event here.

"It is very difficult to predict but I think where we have to be ready with is possible three scenarios in the world today," Mehta said when asked about his thoughts on the possibility

of inflation coming down in the near future.

One possibility is, he said, "the inflation or a slight deflation will continue at a moderated pace from the elevated base today. The second is it could go up even further and the third is there could be a deflation in commodity prices."

"This is a horizon I'm looking at for the next two, three years and as businesses, we have to be ready for each of the three scenarios."

Mehta said a big difference in the elevated levels of inflation this time is that earlier it used to be in one or two commodities but "this time, it has been across a range of commodities. That is the reason why it's become a massive global issue".

The wholesale price-based



inflation had eased to 11-month low of 12.41 per cent in August, on softening in prices of manufactured and fuel products, even as food items remained

expensive.

Although the WPI-based inflation declined for three consecutive months, it remained in double digit for 17

months beginning April last year.

The inflation was 13.93 per cent in July and 11.64 per cent in August last year. It had

touched a record high of 15.88 per cent in May this year.

Global supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19, the huge amount of fiscal spending, especially in many developed world, and the war in Ukraine and its impact on energy prices are the main reasons for high inflation, he added.

Mehta said every country is looking at energy security and an increase in production could have a dampening effect on inflation.

Besides, "if the war between Russia and Ukraine was to settle down, there could be an immediate impact on energy prices. Then it could result into, very clearly, an impact on other commodities and all and also come down", he added.

PTI ■ MUMBAI



innovation and investment," Modi said in the message which was read out by Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, GFF 2022 Advisory Board.

JAM Trinity refers to Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile.

Modi said from a largely unbanked population to a country that is not only surging towards saturation in banking access but also digitally equipped, it has been a phenomenal journey.

# Mother Dairy expecting 20% revenue growth in FY23 to ₹15K cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi-NCR's leading milk supplier Mother Dairy is expecting 20 per cent growth in turnover this fiscal year to about Rs 15,000 crore on better demand for products, its MD Manish Bandlish said.

The turnover of Mother Dairy, which also sells edible oils and fruits & vegetables, stood at Rs 12,500 crore in last fiscal year.

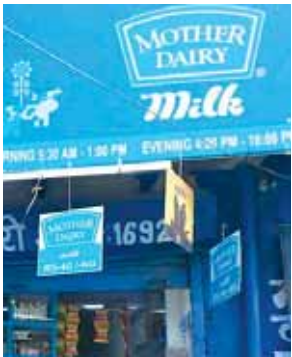
"We are expecting 20 per cent growth this fiscal year on our turnover to reach around Rs 15,000 crore," Mother Dairy Fruits and Vegetables Pvt Ltd MD Manish Bandlish told PTI on the sidelines of IDF-World Dairy Summit held last week at Greater Noida.

He said growth would be driven by both increase in volumes and values of its various dairy products.

"We are witnessing strong demand for all our milk and other dairy products. Ice cream sales have grown significantly during summer," Bandlish noted.

Ice cream sales were adversely affected during summers of 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic-induced lockdowns.

Last month, Mother Dairy increased milk prices by Rs 2 per litre in Delhi-NCR due to rise in its procurement and other input costs. It had increased milk



prices by same amount in March this year as well.

"Our milk procurement cost has further increased by Rs 2 per litre after we increased the retail prices last month," Bandlish said.

When asked whether retail prices would be further increased, he said: "We may consider it after 3-4 months if this trend of rising input prices continues."

Animal feed costs have increased sharply, forcing farmers to increase their selling prices. As a result, the milk procurement cost of dairy companies has shot up and some of the increase has already been passed on to customers.

Besides dairy products, Bandlish said Mother Dairy's edible oil, fresh fruits & vegetables and bread businesses were also performing well.

In the bread segment,

Mother Dairy will introduce new products to offer entire range to customers visiting its milk booths and Safal retail outlets.

Mother Dairy, which was commissioned in 1974, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

It was established under the initiative of 'Operation Flood', the world's biggest dairy development programme launched to make India a milk-sufficient nation.

Mother Dairy manufactures, markets and sells milk and milk products including cultured products, ice cream, paneer and ghee under the 'Mother Dairy' brand.

The company sells edible oils under the 'Dhara' brand and fresh fruits & vegetables, frozen vegetables & snacks, unpolished pulses, pulps & concentrates, etc. Under the 'Safal' brand.

In Delhi-NCR, it has hundreds of milk booths as well as Safal retail outlets.

Mother Dairy has 9 company-owned processing plants for dairy. It also undertakes processing at third party facilities. Total milk processing capacity is over 50 lakh litres per day. For fresh fruits and vegetables, the company has its own 4 plants, while for edible oils it manufactures through 16 associated plants.

# '35 firms submit applications under PLI scheme for specialty steel'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 35 companies have submitted 79 applications under the PLI scheme for specialty steel, Union Minister of Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday.

The minister shared the information while speaking at the 'National Management Convention' organised by the All India Management Association (AIMA) in the national capital.

"We closed all the applica-

tions two days ago and we received close to 79 applications from 35 companies. Looking at putting in place a capacity close to 28 million tonne per annum (MTPA) of new specialty steel capacity which will result in the creation of 70,000 jobs," he said.

The applicants include major steel players like Tata Steel, JSW Steel, JSPL, AMNS India and SAIL, a senior steel ministry official told PTI. However, there was no proposal from any foreign entity.

After shortlisting the pro-



posals, the government will come out with a final list which would take around 35-40 days, the official said.

September 15 was the last date for manufacturers to apply to avail the benefits under the PLI (Production-Linked Incentive) scheme for specialty steel. Earlier, the deadline was March 29.

The deadline was extended multiple times post discussion with the stakeholders who had raised certain concerns over the scheme.

The scheme covered five categories of specialty steel — coated/plated steel products, high strength/wear-resistant steel, specialty rails, alloy steel products, steel wires and electrical steel.

The Union Cabinet in July last year approved a Rs 6,322-crore PLI scheme to boost production of specialty steel in India. The move is expected to attract an additional investment of about Rs 40,000 crore and generate 5.25 lakh job opportunities.

# 'Cyber attacks on Indian healthcare industry second highest in world'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The number of cyber attacks on Indian healthcare industry were second highest globally, with 7.7 per cent of total incidence on the segment being witnessed in the country in 2021, cyber security intelligence firm CloudSEK said on Tuesday.

According to CloudSEK report on "Increased cyber attacks on the global healthcare sector", US healthcare industry faced 28 per cent of the total global attacks.

"India recorded the second highest number of attacks, with a total of 7.7 per cent of the total attacks on the healthcare industry in 2021,"



the report said.

The 7.7 per cent of cyber attack incidence on the Indian healthcare industry translates into over 71 lakh records, according to the report.

CloudSEK is among the entities that provides cyber threat intelligence to Indian cyber security watchdog CERTin.

# Helping divyang

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

District Disability Rehabilitation centres (DDRC) spread across the country are providing effective rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities for last two decades.

These centres are run jointly by District Management Team headed by DM/Collector and a reputed NGO (usually Indian Red Cross Society). To upscale their services, a MODEL DDRC has been conceptualised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons With Disability in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

# Stressed transmission asset resolved



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power Finance Corporation Limited has successfully resolved the country's largest stressed asset in the power transmission sector of South East UP Power Transmission Company Limited. The project, comprising about 1,500 km of 765 kV & 400 kV transmission lines and 5 sub-stations in Uttar Pradesh, will significantly benefit the consumers of Uttar Pradesh.

The PFC was the Lead Financial Institution for the pro-

ject, with REC and Bank of India as co-lenders in the consortium.

This is a landmark resolution through the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) under the IBC (2016), which has resulted in lenders recovering in excess of 100% of the principal amount.

The project was originally allocated by Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Company Limited on BOOT basis to Solux Corsan Concessions SA of Spain in 2011.



# MANIKA VOWS TO RETURN STRONGER AT NATIONAL GAMES AFTER CWG FAILURE

PTI ■ SURAT

After the highs of the 2018 Commonwealth Games and Asiad, Manika Batra's career took a nosedive following the Birmingham CWG debacle but the ace Indian paddler has vowed to make a strong return at the National Games before heading to the World Championships this month.

Batra was one of India's biggest stars in 2018, clinching four medals including the women's singles and team Golds at the CWG. She also went on to bag the mixed doubles Bronze at the Asian Games later that year.

However at the Birmingham Games last month, she looked out of sorts and returned empty-handed.

"Of course, I was sad and upset when I lost my matches in CWG but I always tell myself this is not the end of the world," Batra, who is here for the National Games, told reporters.

"2018 was really an amazing year for me. This time, I played best before the CWG. I did really well in the World Tours, beat good players," the top-ranked Indian said.

"I think I played my best in CWG but every player has ups and down in their lives. It's not finished for me just because I didn't get a medal at the CWG," she added.

Batra said she has been working hard to rectify her mistakes.

"I've to keep working hard and bounce back. I've worked a lot on my mistakes and my coach has been my sparring partner. We have some big tournaments coming up and next year like the Asian Games."



The paddlers will be the first in action here at the PDDU Indoor Stadium ahead of the National Games opening ceremony a week from now as they will be flying off to Chengdu

for the World Championships from September 30.

At the Birmingham CWG, the 27-year-old failed to defend her title in the women's singles as she was elim-

inated in the quarterfinals by the lower-ranked Jian Zeng of Singapore in straight games.

She also made quarterfinal exits in the mixed doubles and women's

doubles events. Defending its title, the Indian women's team, led by Batra, also bowed out in the last eight stage.

"I've started training after coming back to India. You should not think that 'abhi khatm ho gaya' (it has ended now), you should never give up and should train immediately and work on your mistakes."

"I'm pretty prepared mentally and physically after the CWG debacle. I've focused more on my mental strength which is really important when you are playing a big tournament. I will go there and give my 100 per cent," the Delhi paddler added.

The Indian TT contingent will leave for the Worlds on September 25 and Batra agreed that it would be hectic competing in back-to-back events.

"We have back-to-back tournaments, it will be tiring but I'm mentally prepared for the challenges."

Asked whether she's going to change her rubber -- the long pips that she uses, Batra said: "I am never going to change my pimples (the bump on the rubber). Over time, you get used to it and I love it."

She further said the National Games would be a stiff competition for them with a lot of promising youngsters coming up.

"I value every competition, be it National Games, CWG, Asian Games or World Championships. I always give my best."

"I just want to enjoy every match here. I think that's very important to do well. We have a lot of promising youngsters coming up and hopefully it will be a memorable outing for me," Manika concluded.



## CWG Silver medal is breakthrough of my career: Sreeshankar

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar considers the Commonwealth Games silver medal as a "breakthrough" in his career, and says the podium finish in Birmingham has provided him the perfect impetus to lift his performance to the next level.

Sreeshankar clinched the Silver in men's long jump in this year's Birmingham CWG with an effort of 8.08m.

He is representing Kerala at the National Games which started with the table tennis event in Gujarat on Tuesday.

"The season has been a great learning experience for me. I have been competing since March and to maintain the kind of performance till August-September, honestly it was very difficult. There was a lot of travelling, we had to adjust to various climatic conditions and then competing with the best in the world," he said in a virtual press conference on Tuesday.

"I had a kind of breakthrough in my career with the silver medal at the Commonwealth Games. My ranking has also improved a lot. I was somewhere around 60s when the season was about to begin. From here I have to build, Paris (Olympics) is just two years away and I am sure I will be able to build from here."

Sreeshankar said featuring consistently at top international events, like the Diamond Leagues, will be his focus going forward.

"Next season I am expecting to be more consistent in the international circuit, more frequent in the Diamond League circuit. To get there at the top is difficult, but I am sure it is possible with more interna-

tional exposure," he said.

"Asian Games, CWG, National Games all these competitions are build up towards Paris Olympics. Medals in these events will definitely boost my morale ahead of Paris. I want to continue the same momentum in the Asian Games."

The 23-year-old long jumper from Palakkad in Kerala is expecting a tough competition in the National Games, especially in jump events.

"For jumpers the National Games is not a cake walk. We have three jumpers above 8.15."

"We have to think every national championships like a world level tournament, because the competition is very high, the domestic circuit is highly competitive. We have to be at our level best," he said.

"We are really excited about the National Games because it is my first and is happening after a long gap of seven years."

"For us National Games is as important as any other major tournament because it's the biggest sporting spectacle in the country. All athletes will be meeting at the same place and celebrate Indian sports."

Sreeshankar feels a good performance in the National Games will be of immense help to him ahead of next season.

"I am continuing the same training programme for the Asian Games also. I believe solid performance here will help me plan my season better."

"I do have my targets, but the most important thing for me here is to enjoy the competition, because the season has been pretty long and I want to finish the season on a very good note. My body is feeling really good. I am giving priority to this competition," he said.

# Pro League will be good test ahead of WC: Mandeep

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Star Indian forward Mandeep Singh on Tuesday said the upcoming Pro League will be a perfect platform to "test" themselves ahead of the marquee FIH World Cup, set to be held in Odisha next year.

Ahead of the World Cup 2023, the Indian team will compete in the Pro League from October 28-November 6.

"It is always good to compete against strong teams before a major competition. The Pro League will be helpful once again to prepare ourselves for the World Cup, and will also give us a chance to test ourselves before the tournament," the 27-year-old said in a Hockey India statement.

The Olympic bronze medalist Indian team was drubbed 7-0 by Australia in the final of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.



The fifth ranked Indian team is placed in a tough Pool D along with England, Spain and Wales. The group topper will make the quarterfinals straightaway while the next two teams will have to fight it out in the cross-overs.

"Our Coach Graham Reid always tells us to focus on what we can control and not worry about things beyond our control. Irrespective of which teams we have in our group, we are focusing on preparing ourselves to the best

## Tirkey to face Katyal, Bhola Nath for HI chief's post

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Dilip Tirkey, who is the frontrunner for Hockey India president's post, will be up against Uttar Pradesh Hockey chief Rakesh Katyal and Hockey Jharkhand's Bhola Nath Singh in the elections of the national federation to be held on October 1.

But there is a twist in the tale as Uttar Pradesh Hockey secretary general RP Singh

has requested Katyal to withdraw his nomination and support Tirkey instead.

"We are happy to know that a former player like Dilip Tirkey has filed his nomination for president. I request Mr Rakesh to take back his nomination. I am sure that Mr. Rakesh will think about the development and growth of hockey and take back his nomination," Singh wrote in his letter to Katyal.

"We believe Dilip will

take right steps towards the development of hockey and we wish him luck."

Katyal, however, said that he is yet to take a call on whether to contest or not.

"I have filed my nomination letter for president's post. Yes, I got a request to withdraw my nomination but I have not made up my mind yet. As of now I am in the race but if things work out between all parties, I might as well withdraw," he said.

of our skills, and according to our plans," Mandeep said.

"We are confident that if we stick to our basics, and focus on the areas where we need to improve upon in training, we will be able to perform well in the tournament and have a

great showing," he added.

The quadrennial showpiece will be held across two venues in Odisha across Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, and will see 16 teams compete in the tournament. "There is always an excitement in the air

when we get a chance to play in front of the home fans. Getting a chance to perform against the best teams in the world once again in India will be an exciting affair and hence, we are eager for the World Cup to begin," he concluded.

# Phillips out of England squad in concern ahead of World Cup

AP ■ LONDON

England midfielder Calvin Phillips withdrew from the national team squad on Tuesday because of a shoulder injury in a concern for coach Gareth Southgate ahead of the World Cup.

Phillips was replaced by central midfielder Jordan Henderson, with England playing Nations League games against Italy and Germany over the next week.

Phillips, who was a regular in England's team in its run to the European Championship final last year, sustained a dislocated shoulder in training last week and might need an operation, potentially putting at risk his place in England's World Cup squad.

The 26-year-old holding midfielder has endured a frustrating time since leaving Leeds to join Manchester City during the off-season, with injuries — particularly problems with his shoulder — restricting him to just only substitute appearances totaling 14 minutes. The most recent appearance was a cameo against Borussia Dortmund in Champions League last week.

That offered hope that Phillips was nearing fitness after hurting his shoulder during City's friendly against Barcelona in August. He sustained two significant shoulder injuries during his time at Leeds.

Southgate has linked Phillips with Declan Rice as his first-choice central midfield pairing since Euro 2020, which ended with England losing to Italy in a penalty shootout in the final.



## Recovering Barca predict 1.3 billion euro revenue

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona have forecast revenue of 1.255 billion euros (\$1.254 billion) for the 2022-23 season, with a predicted profit of 274 million euros.

The Spanish side have been under great economic stress in recent years but gained financial leverage this summer with a string of operations which allowed them to strengthen the team.

Barca signed Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, Sevilla defend-

er Jules Kounde, Leeds United winger Raphinha and various other players on free transfers.

They were able to do this after selling 25 percent of their television rights to investment firm Sixth Street for the next 25 years, raising over 500 million euros.

Barcelona also sold 24.5 percent of their Barca Studios production company to fan token firm Socios.com and the same amount again to Orpheus Media, for around 100 million euros each.

# Julius Baer Cup: Erigaisi on top, Praggnanandhaa 2nd

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India's teenaged Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi jumped to the top position with 17 points after eight rounds, while his compatriot R Praggnanandhaa is in second place with 15 points at the Julius Baer Cup here.

The much-awaited Praggnanandhaa-Magnus Carlsen clash in round eight ended in a draw. The Indian had beaten the Norwegian ace twice earlier this season in online matches.

After the conclusion of the second day of preliminary matches early on Tuesday, Erigaisi is two points clear of



Praggnanandhaa and world champion Carlsen (15 points).

Erigaisi started the day with a win over Hans Niemann (USA) and went on to beat Levon Aronian.

The all-Indian clash between Erigaisi and Praggnanandhaa ended in a 67-move draw. Later in the eighth round, the final one of the day, he shared honours with Ivan Saric of Croatia.

Praggnanandhaa started the day with a draw against Radoslaw Wojtaszek in the fifth round before taming the highly-rated German Vincent Keymer in the next game.

The 17-year old Indian chess star then held Carlsen to a draw in 67 moves.

Meanwhile, Carlsen resigned from his game against Niemann after just two moves. The world champion came into the sixth round encounter after a defeat at the hands of the 19-year old American in Sinquefeld Cup in St Louis, following which he alleged his opponent of cheating and pulled out of the tournament.

Carlsen subsequently scored a win over Aronian in round seven before sharing honours with Praggnanandhaa.

Baskaran Adhiban, the third Indian in the fray, is languishing in the last place in the 16-player event with three points. He faces Praggnanandhaa in the ninth round.

# Osaka wins first match after Saville retires

AP ■ TOKYO

Naomi Osaka, playing her first match since the US Open, advanced to the second round of the Toray Pan Pacific Open when Australia's Daria Saville retired with a knee injury in the second game of their evening encounter on Tuesday. The unseeded Osaka is the defending champion having won in her birthplace Osaka in 2019 before COVID-19 shut down the tournament for two years.

"I feel really bad right now because of how it ended," the Japanese player told the fans at Ariake Coliseum.

"I've been injured for most of the year so I just want people to clap for her because she's a really amazing player."

Osaka, who was 1-0 up when Saville withdrew, had lost the first match in her previous three tournaments, including the US Open last



month, although she reached the final of the Miami Open in April.

In other games, sixth-seed-

ed Karolina Pliskova cruised past hard-hitting Bulgarian Isabella Shinikova 6-2, 6-1, Mexican qualifier Fernanda

Contreras Gomez overcame 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin 7-6 (9-7), 6-4, fifth-seeded Brazilian Beatriz Haddad Maia defeated Japan's Yuki Naito 6-4, 6-2, and China's Zhang Shuai beat Japanese wild card Mai Hontama 6-0, 6-3.

All matches were played under a closed roof as the tail end of Typhoon Nanmadol passed through Tokyo.

Former world number one Pliskova, the champion in Tokyo four years ago, had little trouble against 214th-ranked Shinikova. The Czech player dominated her Bulgarian opponent, who had to qualify to make it into the main draw, and said she was back on form after being injured at the start of the year.

"I missed the beginning of the season because I broke my arm, so I had a slower start to the season, but I feel like in the summer in America I was playing really good matches,"

Pliskova said.

"I reached the quarterfinals in the US Open...So I think I'm in good shape."

Kenin, 23, has seen her ranking plummet to 315 from a career high of 4. She has failed to win her first match in 10 of the 12 tournaments she has played in 2022 after coming off a year plagued by injuries. While her topspin forehand still had some magic, she didn't look match fit and the hard-serving Contreras Gomez, 24, only needed consistency to gain the upper hand.

Contreras Gomez slammed down nine aces in her victory, which earned a second-round clash with fourth-seeded Veronika Kudermetova.

World No. 180 Hontama, who reached the second round at Wimbledon this year, gave the home fans hope in the second set as she matched world No.28 Shuai before tiring in the final three games.



# OZ CHASE RECORD TOTAL TO BEAT INDIA

PTI ■ MOHALI

India's frailties with the ball were laid bare as Australia gunned down a formidable 209-run target rather comfortably for a four-wicket win in the first T20I here on Tuesday.

K L Rahul (55 off 35 balls) and Hardik Pandya (71 not out off 30) helped India post a daunting 208 for six after Australia put the hosts in to bat.

Australia were dominant in the run chase, romping home in 19.2 overs. Last year's World Cup hero Matthew Wade (45 not out off 21) and Cameron Green (61 off 30) played special knocks to make short work of a stiff target.

It was a formidable total but the way Australia started, an early finish was on the cards.

Opening for the first time in international cricket, Green was in a menacing mood as he hammered comeback man Umesh Yadav for four successive boundaries in his first T20 since February 2019.

The seasoned Indian pacer felt the heat straightaway, and resorted to bowling slower balls in his very first over, which did not work.

There wasn't heavy dew but no swing was on offer for both Umesh and Bhuvneshwar Kumar. The batters were able to hit through the line, making the Indian attack look very ordinary.

The stand out bowler for India, Axar Patel, removed opposition skipper Aaron Finch to get a much-needed breakthrough. However, more carnage was in store as Green, who is not even part of Australia's T20 World Cup squad, toyed with the bowling while Steve Smith enjoyed from the other end.

In the eighth over, he slog swept Yuzvendra Chahal for a couple of sixes and a four for a 19-run over. India dropping Green and Smith also did not help their cause.

At 109 for one in 10 overs,



Australia were running away with the contest before India fought back with three quick wickets, two of those coming via Rohit Sharma's brilliant DRS calls, which sent Smith and Glenn Maxwell back in the hut.

With five wickets in hand, Australia needed 55 off the last 24 balls. However, Australia debutant Tim David in the company of the experienced Wade went ballistic in the death overs to complete a fine run chase.

Two big overs in which Bhuvneshwar leaked 15 and Harshal 22 sealed the home team's fate.

Earlier, Rahul made a statement with a high-quality knock before Hardik smashed an unbeaten 71, which included five sixes.

Suryakumar Yadav also played

some breathtaking strokes in his 46 off 25 balls.

Expecting dew, Australia opted to bowl.

Jasprit Bumrah, who was picked for the series after recovering from a back injury, was surprisingly not selected for the series opener. Dinesh Karthik was picked ahead of Rishabh Pant.

After Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli fell cheaply, Rahul and Suryakumar shared a 68-run stand off 42 balls. It was raining sixes when they were in the middle.

Rahul's walk across the stumps to dispatch Josh Hazlewood over the cow corner made his intent clear before he whipped Cameron Green for a massive six over deep square leg.

Suryakumar's style of play is often awe-inspiring and the Mohali

crowd got to see him at his lethal best.

Of his four sixes, his swat over fine leg off a good length ball from Cummins stood out.

India were able to maintain their tempo in the middle overs as Suryakumar picked up leggie Adam Zampa for two successive sixes over long on and deep mid-wicket.

Hardik then took over and pushed India past 200. He was quick to punish anything short from the pacers and his pick-up shot off Pat Cummins in the 18th over was the highlight of his entertaining knock.

He smashed three consecutive sixes off Green in the 20th over including a flat one in the mid wicket region. The last five overs yielded 67 runs.

## All state units must honour domestic players not just international ones: Yuvraj

PTI ■ MOHALI

Former India batter Yuvraj Singh on Tuesday highlighted the need to recognise the achievements of ex-cricketers after being honoured by the Punjab Cricket Association here.

The 40-year-old, who played international cricket for almost two decades before calling time on a glorious career in 2019, turned up at the PCA stadium here alongside teammate Harbhajan Singh.

Two stands named after two of India's greatest cricketers were unveiled here.

The 2011 World Cup hero got a tad emotional when he was asked about the BCCI blazer he was wearing as he entered the premises.

"It's a nice feeling to be back at the PCA Stadium like this. I am wearing the BCCI blazer at my own stadium for the first time. It feels



wonderful to be called by my former parent association and get acknowledged," he said.

"The new PCA president Gulzari Inder Chahal was a cricketer himself and probably knows the importance of recognising former cricketers be it domestic or international. Even the domestic players should be recognised," the

two time World champion cricketer said.

On the sidelines of the stand unveiling, the PCA also honoured former Punjab cricketers -- Bharti Vij, Mahesh Inder Singh, current India selector Harvinder Singh, Bhupinder Singh Sr and current India batting coach Vikram Rathour.

Yuvraj is one of the most approachable cricketers around and has worked with young players like Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill. Harbhajan is already guiding the current dispensation at PCA.

Asked if he is open to a long term coaching role, Yuvraj said: "I still work with the players on and off. I have worked with the Punjab Cricketers in the past as well. But I want to see my child growing up. So, I am not sure if I can commit to something full time to the association at this stage," he signed off.

## Guptill set to play 7th T20 WC as NZ name 15-member squad

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Batting stalwart Martin Gupitill is set to play a record seventh T20 World Cup as New Zealand on Tuesday named a 15-member squad, led by Kane Williamson, for the ICC showpiece beginning in Australia on October 16.

The 35-year-old batter found a place in the team, even as the Black Caps made three changes to the squad that featured in the final of the T20 World Cup last year.

Finn Allen and Michael Bracewell will e representing in their first senior World Cup and the duo along with Lockie Ferguson will replace Kyle Jamieson, Todd Astle and Tim Seifert respectively, who were part of the last T20 World Cup squad.

Two players who recently declined a central contract -- Trent Boult and Jimmy Neesham also featured in the squad.

New Zealand have a strong pace attack at their disposal consisting of Boult, Ferguson,



Tim Southee, and Adam Milne. Ish Sodhi will lead the spin attack and will be supported by Bracewell and Mitchell Santner.

Glenn Phillips, Daryl Mitchell, Santner, Bracewell and Neesham will provide the perfect balance with their ability to contribute both with bat and ball.

Devon Conway has been named as the front-line wicket-keeper after wearing the gloves in the UAE and in the

recent series against the West Indies.

For Williamson, it will be the third time that he will lead New Zealand in the ICC T20 World Cup.

"It's always a special time announcing a World Cup squad and I'd like to congratulate the 15 players selected today," said New Zealand coach Gary Stead in a release.

"It's especially exciting for Finn and Michael who are set for their first ICC events, while Martin Gupitill is preparing for his 7th T20 World Cup - which in itself is an incredible achievement.

New Zealand will open their T20 World Cup campaign against Australia at the SCG on October 22.

**Squad:** Kane Williamson (c), Tim Southee, Ish Sodhi, Mitchell Santner, Glenn Phillips, Jimmy Neesham, Daryl Mitchell, Adam Milne, Martin Gupitill, Lachlan Ferguson, Devon Conway, Mark Chapman, Michael Bracewell, Trent Boult, Finn Allen.

PTI ■ DUBAI

The use of saliva to polish the ball was on Tuesday banned permanently as the ICC announced a slew of changes to its Playing Conditions, which will come into effect on October 1.

The game's governing body also changed running out of the non-striker by the bowler from the 'Unfair Play' section to the 'Run out' section.

The changes were announced after the Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) ratified recommendations made by the ICC Cricket Committee, led by former India captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

The ICC had earlier barred use of saliva to shine the ball in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Custodian of cricket laws, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in March had completely banned its application in its amendments to the 2022 code.

"This prohibition has been in place for over two years in international cricket as a Covid-related temporary measure and it is considered appropriate for the ban to be made permanent," the ICC said in a statement.

Regarding the position of the new batter at the crease when his teammate is caught, the ICC said: "When a batter is out Caught, the new batter will come in at the end the striker was, regardless of whether the batters crossed prior to the catch being taken."

The game's governing body also said that "an incoming batter will now be required to be ready to take strike with-

## Ban on saliva to shine balls made permanent by ICC



in two minutes in Tests and ODIs, while the current threshold of ninety seconds in T20Is remains unchanged.

Regarding run-outs at non-striker's end, the ICC said the playing conditions will follow "the Laws in moving this method of effecting a Run out from the 'Unfair Play' section to the 'Run out' section."

Earlier, running out a non-striker for backing up too much was considered unfair but such dismissals have often

triggered heated debates on spirit of the game with several players such as off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin advocating for it as a fair mode of dismissal.

Among other changes to the Playing Conditions, the ICC said some part of the striker's bat or person has to remain within the pitch and "should they venture beyond that, the umpire will call and signal Dead ball."

"Any ball which would force the batter to leave the pitch will also be called

'No ball,'" it said.

The apex body also said, "any unfair and deliberate movement while the bowler is running in to bowl could now result in the umpire awarding five penalty runs to the batting side, in addition to a call of Dead ball."

In another change, the practice of bowlers throwing the ball towards striker's end before delivery in an attempt to run-out the batter will not be considered now.

"Previously, a bowler who saw the batter advancing down the wicket before entering their delivery stride, could throw the ball to attempt to Run out the striker. This practice will now be called a Dead ball," he said.

In another major decisions, ICC said the penalty of having one fielder less outside the 30-yard circle in T20s if teams fail to keep up with the scheduled time and are guilty of slow overrate will now be adopted in ODIs as well.

"The in-match penalty introduced in T20Is in January 2022, (whereby the failure of a fielding team to bowl their overs by the scheduled cessation time leads to an additional fielder having to be brought inside the fielding circle for the remaining overs of the innings), will now also be adopted in ODI matches after the completion of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League in 2023."

"I was pleased with the productive contribution of the Committee members which resulted in key recommendations being made. I thank all members for their valuable input and suggestions," Ganguly said.

## Women in Blue aim for rare series win in Eng

PTI ■ CANTERBURY

A confident Indian team will back itself to seal its first series victory in England since 1999 with another win over the hosts in the second women's ODI here on Wednesday.

Having endured a woeful 1-2 defeat in the T20I series, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led Indian side raised its standards in all the departments of the game to bounce back in three days' time and defeat England by seven wickets in the series-opener at Hove on Sunday.

England are missing some of their senior players but India looked a much better team in the first game and they would be looking to ride the momentum. In 1999, the Indian team had won the ODI series 2-1 with Anjum Chopra striking a hundred and a half-century.

It is also a farewell series for the great Jhulan Goswami as India do not have any 50-over assignment till June 2023.

Playing her first game since March, the 39-year-old world record holder for most wickets showed little signs of rustiness and was the most economical among the lot, returning with figures 10-2-20-1.



Indian vice-captain Smriti Mandhana led the batting show with a sublime 99-ball 91, while wicketkeeper batter Yastika Bhatia also struck a fifty, before skipper Harmanpreet finished off the clinical chase with an unbeaten 74.

The captain will be expecting the middle-order to step up

and hope opener Shafali Verma does well as she has not scored a half-century in more than 10 innings now.

England on the other hand will hope that their batters put up a big total as they will rely heavily on in-form Sophia Dunkley, who had a successful T20I series.

Dunkley and Alice Capsey

once again looked dangerous in the middle before a one-handed catch by Harmanpreet broke the partnership and triggered a collapse.

If India manage to win the second game, it will be a massive confidence booster for a team trying to find its feet in 50-over cricket.

### Mandhana rises to career-best 2nd position in T20Is, ranked 7th in ODIs

PTI ■ DUBAI

Star India opener Smriti Mandhana on Tuesday achieved a career-best world number two rank in T20Is and climbed to the seventh spot in ODIs in the latest ICC Women's Player Rankings, riding on her stupendous show against England.

The left-handed batter had aggregated 111 runs in the three-match T20I series against England. The performance helped her jump two places.

Mandhana, a former top-ranked batter in ODIs, also jumped three slots to number seven after a match-winning 91 in the first ODI against England.

Among other Indians, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has zoomed four spots to ninth place in ODIs, all-rounder Deepti Sharma gained one place to reach 32nd position and wicket-keeper Yastika Bhatia jumped



eight places to 37th following India's seven-wicket win in Hove on Saturday.

Deepti also climbed six places to 12th in bowlers' list.

In the T20I rankings, Kaur (up one place to 14th among batters), new-ball bowler Renuka Singh (up three places to 10th among bowlers) and spinner Radha Yadav (up four places to 14th among bowlers) made notable gains.

All-rounders Sneha Rana and Pooja Vastrakar are in joint-41st position.



## Australia confirm Nitschke as full-time women's coach

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former allrounder Shelley Nitschke has been handed a four-year contract as head coach of the Australian women's team, Cricket Australia said on Tuesday.

In her role as an interim coach, Nitschke guided Australia to a historic Commonwealth Games gold medal after the team registered a narrow win over India in the finals of the first ever women's cricket competition at the quadrennial event last month.

An assistant coach with Australia since 2018, Nitschke was in charge of the side since Matthew Mott left earlier this year.

"While I enjoyed my time working as assistant coach, I feel the time is right to step up and lead this group in what's shap-

ing as a new era with a new-look coaching group and the retirement of Rachael Haynes," the 45-year-old said on ICC website.

"The loss of Rach will no doubt be felt, but it presents a great opportunity for others to put their hands up both from a leadership perspective as well as with the bat and in the field."

Her first assignment would be a T20I tour of India in December before taking on Pakistan at home in January. But the real big test for her would be to defend their title at next year's Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

"Our challenge is to ensure the team continues to evolve; we've seen teams like India take their game to the next level and it's important that the players feel they have the support they need to keep getting better every day," she said.