

**OPINION 6**  
NEED TO TEACH THE  
COUNTRY MANAGEMENT

**WORLD 8**  
TOUGH ISSUES LOOM OVER  
BIDEN, XI MEETING

**MONEY 10**  
SENSEX, NIFTY RALLY MORE  
THAN 1 PER CENT

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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JINX AT WORLD CUP  
12 SPORT



# VIRAT MAGNET PULLS WORLD CUP

SWARN KUMAR ANAND ■  
NEW DELHI

In a cricketing spectacle that will be etched in the annals of history, India orchestrated a breathtaking victory over New Zealand in the ODI World Cup semifinal with 70 runs, unfolding a narrative of resilience, skill, and sheer brilliance. The Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai played host to a contest that transcended the realms of sport, capturing the imaginations of millions of fans worldwide. The stage was set for a clash of titans, and what transpired was a cricketing masterpiece. From the very first ball, the intensity of the encounter was palpable. India, having set a monumental target of 398 runs, displayed an aggressive intent that reflected the team's determination to dominate. The opening duo, Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill, launched an assault on the New Zealand bowlers, laying the foundation for what promised to be an imposing total. Virat Kohli, the linchpin of the Indian batting lineup, continued to reaffirm his status as one of the greatest ODI batsmen. His sublime century not only showcased his technical prowess but also marked a historic moment, as he became the first batter to score 50 ODI centuries. Kohli's innings was not just a collection of runs; it was a master class in controlled aggression, anchoring the innings with finesse.

His unparalleled consistency and insatiable hunger for runs not only established him as a modern-day maestro but also injected vitality into a format that had been grappling with evolving preferences and formats. Kohli's relentless pursuit of excellence breathed new life into ODI cricket, captivating audiences with his masterful stroke play and impeccable timing. The momentum, however, took an unforeseen turn when Shubman Gill, the rising star of Indian cricket, had to leave the field due to severe cramps. Despite this setback, the depth of India's batting lineup came to the fore as Shreyas Iyer seized the opportunity with both hands. His innings was nothing short of spectacular—a ruthless display of aggression that further demoralised the New Zealand bowlers. As the innings progressed, the scoreboard painted a picture of Indian dominance. Yet, cricket, with its uncanny ability to surprise, had a twist in store. New Zealand, with their never-say-die attitude, fought back. The Kiwi batsmen, Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell, launched a spirited counterattack, hitting boundaries and sixes with precision. At one point, between the 15th and 32nd overs, the New Zealand pair's onslaught created an air of tension in the stadium. The winning percentage for the Kiwis momentarily surged to 17 per cent, injecting an element of doubt into the minds of Indian fans. To heighten the drama,

## Cricket India Close to History



Mohammed Shami dropped the catch of Kane Williamson. However, he found redemption in a pivotal moment at the 33rd over. Shami's crucial wickets of Williamson and Daryl Mitchell tilted the scales back in India's favour, turning the tide of the

game. Shami took record seven wickets. Ravindra Jadeja, with his all-round prowess, contributed with the ball. His effective bowling added to the mounting pressure on the opposition, complementing Shami's heroics. The ebb and

flow of the game reached a crescendo as spectators witnessed breathtaking strokes, crucial breakthroughs, and nerve-racking moments that define the essence of ODI cricket. In the closing stages of the match, the atmosphere at

Wankhede Stadium was electric. Every delivery was met with bated breath as fans grappled with the prospect of victory and defeat hanging in the balance in case the New Zealand batters showed their skills. The climax, which is usually unfolded with

a mix of tension and excitement, was smooth. As the final delivery echoed through the stadium, India emerged triumphant, sealing the victory in dramatic fashion. The celebrations that ensued were a testament to the team's

resilience, determination, and collective brilliance. This victory not only secured India's berth in the ODI World Cup final but also solidified the team's status as a dominant force in international cricket. The performance of Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Shami, and Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul illustrated the depth and talent within the Indian squad. It showcased the team's ability to overcome challenges and deliver under pressure, exemplifying the spirit of the game. In the grand tapestry of the ODI World Cup, India's journey had been marked by an unprecedented dominance with bowlers consistently throttling opposing teams below the 300-run mark. However, the semifinal clash against New Zealand witnessed a shift in this narrative. It was a watershed moment, the first instance in the tournament when an opponent managed to breach the 300-run threshold against the formidable Indian bowling lineup. Nevertheless, India's victorious performance against New Zealand serves as a testament to the sport's captivating drama, etching an unforgettable chapter in the collective memory of cricket aficionados. As fans reminisce about the nail-biting clash between India and New Zealand, all attention now converges on the eagerly awaited World Cup final scheduled for November 19.

## PM Modi uplifts tribals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
RANCHI/NEW DELHI

In a rare remark, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday complimented the Jharkhand Government for reducing Naxalites violence in the State while in his turn Chief Minister Hemant Soren lauded the PM for his flagship schemes for uplift of tribals in Jharkhand. Both were speaking at a massive Central Government programme at Khunti near Ranchi after paying tributes to the tribal warrior, Birsa Munda and the occasion also happens to be the foundation day of Jharkhand. While Modi had words of appreciation for the JMM leader who is part of the INDIA alliance, he continued with his barb against the major Opposition Congress which incidentally is also an alliance partner of the Soren-led coalition Government. The visit holds political significance too as the BJP aims to woo tribal voters in Jharkhand ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and Assembly elections in other states having sizeable tribal population. Besides Soren, Governor CP Radhakrishnan and Union Ministers Arjun Munda and Annapurna Devi were present on the occasion.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Jan Jatiya Guarv Diwas and Jharkhand Foundation Day celebrations in Khunti, Jharkhand, on Wednesday

Modi visited the birth place of Birsa Munda at Ulihatu village and launched ₹7,2000 crore development plans for road, rail infrastructure, education, coal, petroleum and gas in Jharkhand. Renovation plans for the IIM at Ranchi and Indian School of Mines at Dhanbad were also launched. Modi complimented Soren for 100 electrification of villages in the State. Later, speaking at a function Soren thanked the PM for inaugurating several new schemes for the State. "I have come to the land of Birsa Munda to repay the debt that I

owe to the deprived," the PM said while addressing a public rally at Khunti Football Ground in Jharkhand after paying homage to the tribal icon at his birthplace Ulihatu. Modi said the poor had lost all hope due to the careless approach of previous Governments. The PM expressed gratitude towards President Droupadi Murmu for her steadfast commitment to the development of tribal communities. The PM launched a new scheme to protect the 25 primitive tribes across the country and provide their villages with

telecommunications, road connectivity, LPG facility, pucca houses. He said he had made power for the poor and middle class my priority. Modi attacked the Opposition who accused the BJP of appeasement to minorities. "True secularism comes only when all practices of discrimination against any citizen are eliminated." Modi promised ration cards for free ration, gas, education to every poor. "Every village should get tapped water connectivity, free health services," he said. The PM flagged off the Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and ₹24,000 crores JANMAN (Janjati Adivasi Nyayay Maha Abhiyan) and released the 15th instalment of about ₹18,000 crores PM Kisan Samman Yojana. Modi promised to work on a 'mission mode' to deliver justice to deprived tribals and said he will repay the debt he owed to them while launching ₹24,000-crore project for vulnerable tribal groups on the birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda. Jharkhand Congress, however, criticised Modi for allegedly doing politics in the name of paying tribute to tribal icon Birsa Munda.

## Uttarkarshi Team still unable to rescue

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With precious time ticking away to save the lives of 40 labourers stranded in the under-construction tunnel in Silkyara of Uttarkashi since Sunday morning, the authorities have intensified the rescue operation. After the drill machine involved in the plan to insert a steel pipe of 900 mm diameter in order to create an escape conduit for the trapped workers developed a snag the authorities have now decided to induct heavy equipment capable of drilling through the debris at a faster pace. This equipment was airlifted by three C-130 aircrafts of Indian Air Force (IAF) to the Chinyalysaur airstrip located on India China border in Uttarkashi district on Wednesday afternoon. The equipment is now being transported to the accident site and is expected to reach there on Wednesday night. A team of experts has also reached the spot to operate the heavy but state of the art drilling equipment. The director of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) Anshu



People watch rescue and relief operations at the site of an under-construction road tunnel that collapsed in mountainous Uttarakhand on Wednesday

Manish Khalkho told media persons at the accident site that the machine will speed up the task of drilling. He said the pipe has already been inserted into the debris. The officer supervising the operation said once installed the heavy drill machine will be able to drill at a rate of four to five meter in an hour. He expressed hope that the machine will be able to push the

steel pipe (which is broad enough for the workers to come out) in ten to twelve hours. He said the rescuers are in contact with the trapped labourers by two pipes through which food and oxygen is being infused. The officer said the rescue team is working round the clock to save the precious lives. Meanwhile, Uttarakhand Chief

Minister Pushkar Singh has said the incident is a major challenge for the authorities. In a statement to the officials he said we should face the challenge successfully with courage and patience. Khalkho, however, said it was not possible to specify a definite time frame for the evacuation of the trapped labourers but effort was on to make a headway at the earliest and rescue them all safely. Constant communication is being maintained, he added. On Sunday, November 12, debris trapped 40 labourers in the under construction 4531 meter long tunnel in Silkyara between Dharasu and Badkot on Yamunotri national highway. According to a list of the trapped workers issued by the emergency operation centre, 15 are from Jharkhand, eight from Uttar Pradesh, five from Odisha, four from Bihar, three from West Bengal, two each from Uttarakhand and Assam, and one from Himachal Pradesh. Tuesday's landslide and slow performance of the drilling machine deployed earlier hampered efforts to insert steel pipes through the tunnel's debris to create the passage, the NHIDCL director added.

## Young literary prodigy shines

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■  
NEW DELHI

Bizarre as it may sound, an 11-year-old girl, the child of millionaire parents in Australia with Indian origin, has garnered international fame overnight. Ashleen Khela's passion to pen a book at this tender age, creating her own finances to get her work titled "17 Stories" published, has catapulted her to prominence. As Ashleen attains the title of the youngest author in her adopted country, Australia, her parents — Jasmeen Kaur and Amarjit Singh — take great pride in highlighting every facet of their Indian heritage, rooted in Punjab's Hoshiarpur. At the age of nine, Ashleen began shaping her dreams, and by the time she turned 11, she had successfully realised them. Over the past two years, she raised funds by collecting plas-

tic and glass bottles, diligently taking them to recycling stations. Ashleen's parents told *The Pioneer* that she opened up her piggy bank, as well as planted and sold some yaccas, mangoes, guava and jacaranda plants online at her Sydney home. In her two years sojourn she did not take a single cent from her parents. "I feel like being in heaven with the kind of responses I have been receiving in my country and from abroad. I feel even prouder when people recognise me now, similar to the popularity of my parents here," Ashleen told *The Pioneer* over the phone from Sydney. She has "officially" created history by becoming the nation's first ever youngest girl to author a fiction story book. "And she happens to be none other but a proud Indian," said Amarjit over the phone. The Sydney-



based Hills Shire Council Mayor Dr Doctor Peter Gangemi has invited Ashleen next month to acknowledge her achievement for being the youngest published author. The fiction storybook for kids was published over the weekend, and the best part is that the cover of the book, as well as all the pictures, has been designed, drawn, and created by Ashleen herself. She said the proceeds of the book will be donated towards Cancer Council of Australia, children starlight foundation and underprivileged kids in

developing nations. "In future I plan to establish my own charity to assist the underprivileged kids in developing nations though my wish is to become a doctor. Nonetheless writing will ever remain my hobby," she said. As part of the publicity for the book, Ashleen is in the process of getting her website up and running by the end of this week to let more people know about her book, writings, and cause. Her wish is to write at least one book each year throughout her high school journey to keep raising funds for charities, said Jasmeen. The family visits India each year to stay connected with their Indian roots. Upon arriving, they donate stationary items, laptops, toys, sports equipment, uniforms, and warm clothes to many underprivileged kids in villages of Punjab. In terms of the book's content,

it features 17 different stories, some of which include moral write-ups for kids. Ashleen takes her readers on an exciting journey, ranging from her Hills District Sydney backyard during the Covid pandemic to the fantasy land of caves, mountains, bushes, and the plains of rural India. In one of the chapters she blends her real life pandemic lockdown experiences with her creative imagination. The story also sheds light on how an Australian school kid felt being at home during lockdown. In this story, Elisa and Josephine, she blends her real-life trip to India with her imagination to create a classic, high-quality mix, concluding with a great moral for kids. While the joint family concept has almost disappeared in India, Ashleen 11 members of three generations live under one roof at their Sydney home.

## Israel storms Al Shifa hospital in Gaza

AP ■ KHAN YOUNIS

Israeli forces raided Gaza's largest hospital early Wednesday, where hundreds of patients, including newborns, have been stranded with dwindling supplies and no electricity, as the army extended its control across Gaza City and the north. Shifa Hospital has become a symbol of the widespread suffering of Palestinian civilians during the war between Israel and Hamas, which erupted after the militant group killed some 1,200 people and seized around 240 captives in a surprise October 7 attack into southern Israel. The hospital is also at the heart of clashing narratives over who is to blame for the thousands of deaths and widespread destruction in the besieged territory. Israel accuses Hamas of using Palestinians as human shields, while Palestinians and rights

groups say Israel has recklessly endangered civilians as it seeks to eradicate the group. Mohammed Zaqout, the director of hospitals in Gaza, said Israeli tanks had entered the medical compound and that soldiers had entered buildings including the emergency and surgery departments, which house intensive care units. "The occupation forces stormed the buildings," he said angrily over the phone. He said the patients, including children, are terrified. "They are screaming. It's a very terrifying situation... We can do nothing for the patients but pray." The Israeli military said it was carrying out a "precise and targeted operation against Hamas in a specified area in the Shifa Hospital." It said it warned "relevant authorities in Gaza" that all military activities within the hospital must cease. "Unfortunately, it did not." Israel says Hamas has a massive

command center inside and beneath Shifa, but has not provided visual evidence, while Hamas and the hospital staff have repeatedly denied the allegations. Hours before the raid, the United States said it had its own intelligence suggesting Hamas used Shifa and other hospitals, and tunnels beneath them, to support military operations and hold hostages. The military said the forces raiding Shifa have medical teams and are searching for hostages as part of the operation. Israeli forces also claimed control of several key buildings and a downtown neighborhood in Gaza City. Most of the hundreds of thousands of people living in Gaza City and surrounding areas have fled after weeks of Israeli bombardments. Hardly any aid has been delivered to the north, which has been without power or running water for weeks.



# 37 passengers killed, 19 injured as bus falls into gorge in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

At least 37 passengers were killed and 19 others were injured when a private bus skidded off the road and rolled down into a 300-foot gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday. According to a police spokesman the ill-fated bus bearing registration No. JK02CN6555 met with an accident at around 11:50 a.m. at Trungal Assar in Doda. The rescue operations were carried out by the locals along with the teams of the SDRF and local police.



Medical College Hospital. Government Medical College hospital Superintendent Narinder Bhatial said, four injured passengers were shifted to ICU soon after their arrival via chopper from the Doda district. Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh told reporters in Doda, that a very sad incident has happened in our district. A bus in which 56 people were traveling met with an accident. There have been 37 casualties till now, and 19 are injured... Most of the bodies have been identified... We have checked all the things about the vehicle, its insurance, and service life. The driver is also dead, so there might be a chance that the vehicle was not being driven properly.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed grief over the incident. "The bus accident in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir is distressing. My condolences to the families who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest," Modi said on X. He announced that an ex-gratia amount of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each would be given to the injured.

"Deeply anguished to learn about the loss of precious lives due to a tragic bus accident in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir. The local administration is conducting the rescue operation in the gorge where the bus had the accident. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured," Shah said on X. "Extremely pained by the loss of lives in a tragic bus accident in Assar, Doda. My heartfelt condolences to bereaved families and wish for a speedy recovery of those injured in the accident. Directed Divisional Commissioner and District Administration to provide all necessary assistance to affected persons," Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on the microblogging website.

# 70 TMC MLAs under agencies radar, may get summons soon: BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

At least 70 Trinamool Congress MLAs are on the BJP's 'hit list', sources in the saffron party say. Among these legislators are at least 15 from Kolkata and neighbouring North and South 24 Parganas. According to a senior State BJP leader these TMC legislators are on the radar of the central agencies and could soon get summons. "Though all of them will not be summoned at a time a considerable number of them may be asked to appear before the central agencies to account for their misdeeds," the party State committee member said denying charges that the saffron outfit had anything to do with such summons.



"BJP has nothing to do with such summons... they will have to account for their own misdeeds that range from usurping people's money sent on account of housing schemes, hundred days' work etc," the leader said quoting Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari. The Opposition Leader had a few days ago said that the "agencies are keeping a watch on 70 TMC MLAs who will soon be asked questions."

"At least 70 TMC MLAs will be investigated for their role in various scams," the BJP leader quoted Adhikari as saying. He however denied the fact that BJP was planning to coerce these TMC leaders into submission by getting the central agencies to act against them. "Even our Home Minister Amit Shah had said early this year that after 2024 general elections there will be no TMC left in Bengal because after that the whole party will fall like a house of cards," the senior State leader said.

Incidentally the BJP has about 71 MLAs in Bengal Assembly and needs about 77 MLAs to reach the magic figure in the 294-member House. Though the leader refuse to see any connection between the Agencies acting against the so-called corrupt TMC leaders he emphatically said, "once you form a Government then automatically you will get the majority if you are short by a few seats." On whether the BJP was already in contact with any targeted TMC MLA he said, "the BJP will not have to go to anyone... they will come to the BJP after the general elections," adding as well that at least 50 TMC legislators were in touch with the saffron outfit. Referring to the BJP's claims political analyst BN

Chakrabarty said, "considering the fact that it is almost impossible for the BJP to come to power in Bengal via elections if they do not manage to get the entire Left and Congress votes which is in any case not possible they will have to try the politics of defection... and only the agencies can help them in their act." Chakrabarty however said that "it may not be possible for the BJP to act against all the 70 MLAs before the general elections and considering the BJP's falling graph in the national scenario their dream to engineer a vertical divide in the TMC may not materialize." Senior State TMC leader Tapas Roy however scoffed at the BJP leaders' claims saying, "a party which is divided into a number of groups... a party which is not sure of winning the general elections is talking about TMC MLAs... contrary to what they claim in a year from now there will be no BJP left in India."

## CHHATTISGARH POLLS

# Campaigning ends for 2nd phase, voting on 70 seats tomorrow

PTI ■ RAIPUR

The high-octane campaigning, marked by bitter exchanges between the ruling Congress and Opposition BJP, for the second and last phase of Chhattisgarh polls scheduled on November 17 ended on Wednesday evening.



The BJP's campaign was virtually spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who addressed four well-attended rallies for the second phase and targeted Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel-led government over corruption, particularly the alleged Mahadev betting app scam and recruitment scandal, and Naxalism.

Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Smriti Irani, BJP president JP Nadda, and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma extensively campaigned for the saffron party, targeting Baghel over the alleged betting app scam and "religious" conversion, and accused the ruling Congress of indulging in appeasement politics. BJP leaders claimed that the Congress had been battered in the first phase of polls and would

Backward Castes (OBCs) with the promise of caste census. Notably, Baghel on Sunday announced that if his party retains power in the state, women in the state would get annual financial assistance of Rs 15,000. The announcement, which came just ahead of the second phase of Chhattisgarh elections on November 17, is being seen as a counter to the opposition BJP's promise in its poll manifesto of giving Rs 12,000 per year to married women, which, according to political observers, could work in the favour of the saffron party.

Of the 90 assembly constituencies in the state, the second phase of voting will be held in the 70 spread in 22 districts of the state on Friday. The time of polling in all 70 constituencies is from 8 am to 5 pm, except nine polling booths in the Naxal-affected Bindranagar seat in Rajim district, where voting will be held from 7 am to 3 pm.

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The polling booths in Bindranagar seat where voting will be held from 7 am to 3 pm are Kamarbhadri, Amamora, Odh, Bade Gobra, Ganwargaon, Gariba, Nagesh, Sahbhikachhar and Kodomali. Campaigning in these polling station areas ended at 3 pm, while it went on till 5 pm at other places.

# Senior Congress leaders hold meeting ahead of Rajasthan Assembly polls

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal, the party's Rajasthan in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot and former Union minister Jitendra Singh held a meeting at the party's "war room" set up in view of the upcoming state Assembly polls here late on Tuesday night. The Congress general secretary (organisation) said a perception has been created in Rajasthan that there is no unity in the Congress and asserted that the party is very much united.

"All the leaders of the Congress party are fighting the election together. The general mood is in favour of the Congress," he said. When pointed out by reporters that Gehlot and Pilot have not been seen campaigning together, Venugopal said, "Just wait." He exuded confidence that the Congress will retain its government in the desert state. Venugopal arrived in Jaipur on Tuesday evening with former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. He went to the war room subsequently to join the meeting.

"There will be political polarisation and polarisation of votes in the country in the days to come, with communal forces on one side and seculars on the other. "BJP will never come out of Hindutva and their plan of creating a Hindu Rashtra. Deve Gowda and family have joined them," Siddaramaiah said. Addressing a party event here, he said, JD(S) is not a political party, it is a Deve Gowda and family party. "It's the party of a family."

# Won't be surprised if JD(S) merges with BJP: Karnataka CM

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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# Heat-related deaths likely to spike fivefold by 2050: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

By mid-century ie 2050, the yearly heat-related deaths are likely to increase nearly fivefold the current numbers with people over 65 years old at higher risk if business as usual continues and there is no substantial progress on adaptation, a report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change has warned. Heatwaves alone could lead to 524.9 million additional people experiencing moderate-to-severe food insecurity by 2041-60, aggravating the global risk of malnutrition while there is an increased spread of life-threatening infectious diseases, with the length of coastline suitable for Vibrio pathogens expanding by 17-25 per cent, and the transmission potential for dengue increasing by 36-37 per cent.



Vibrio pathogens are responsible for food-borne diseases such as cholera. With 1,337 tonnes of CO2 emitted every second, each moment of delay worsens the risks to people's health and survival, it said adding that the projections are an indication of what the future looks like because as "risks rise, so will the costs and challenges of adaptation." The report has been prepared on the basis of the expertise of 114 scientists and health practitioners from 52 research institutions and UN agencies worldwide. The report said that this was "substantially higher than the 38 per cent increase that would have been expected had temperatures not changed."

from health-harming fossil fuels in response to the global energy crisis?" As of early 2023, the strategies of the world's 20 largest oil and gas companies will result in emissions surpassing levels consistent with the Paris Agreement goals by 173 per cent in 2040, an increase of 61 per cent from 2022, the report predicted. Meanwhile, global fossil fuel investment increased by 10 per cent in 2022, reaching over \$1 trillion, with oil and gas extractive activities being supported through both private and public financial flows, the report found.

With little progress in transitioning to clean energy, the persistent use and expansion of fossil fuels will ensure an increasingly inequitable future that threatens the lives of billions of people alive today, it said. In this context, the transition to renewables can enable access to decentralised clean energy, which could help avoid deaths due to exposure to dirty-fuel-derived, outdoor, airborne, fine particulate matter pollution as well as indoor air pollution, the report said. The pace and scale of mitigation efforts continued to fall very far short of those required to safeguard people's safety, with current policies putting the world on track for a potentially catastrophic 2.7 degrees Celsius of heating by 2100, the report warned.

# NHRC to hold camp sitting for NE States

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) will hold a camp sitting here on Friday to hear cases of alleged human rights violations in the North Eastern states, an official statement said. A national-level conference on sensitising local self-governments on various aspects of human rights will also be organised by the Commission, it said. The Commission will also meet members of civil society and NGOs as well as the press



during its two-day visit, beginning on Thursday. NHRC chairperson Justice Arun Mishra, members Dnyaneshwar M Mulay and Rajiv Jain, secretary general Bharat Lal and other senior officers, will attend the conference and camp sitting. The conference on 'Advancing

Human Rights through Local Self Governments' will be held on November 16, in which chairpersons of the state human rights commissions of Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Sikkim will participate. The main objective of the conference is to create awareness regarding the role of local self-government in advancing human rights and related facets of it, the release said. The visiting panel will hear more than 40 pending cases of human rights violations during the camp sitting on Friday.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to inform the public at large that Mr. Sanjay Kumar who is purchasing the Built Up Property having land area measuring 80 sq. yards, out of Khazra No. 1906, situated at Mohalla rampura plihawa, pargana dasna, tehsil dhautan, distt. hapur, u.p. from Mrs. Sadhana Tomar W/o Mr. Kunwar Pal Tomar Vide Registered with sub-registrar- Dhautana, Doc. No. 2369, Registered on 17.03.2023. and same to be financed by Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited., That, Original Sale Deed dated 24.04.1995 executed by Mr. Chhann in favour of Mr. Raj Pal Singh S/o Mr. Raghuvir Singh in respect of Vacant Land area measuring 80 Sq. Yards, Khazra No. 1906, Duly Doc. No. 750, Registered on 24.04.1995-SRO-Hapur-II, have been lost/misplaced/not available. If any person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances. Ien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Office No. G-03, at Ground Floor, on Plot No. D-51, Sector-2, Noida, UP-201301, Contact # 0120-4299378

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to inform the public at large that Mr. Pradip Mishra is Recorded owner of the Residential Vacant Plot No. 29, area measuring 104.5 Sq. Yds. 87/372 Sq. Mtrs. out of Khazra No. 2992 Ml, situated at Mansarovar Park, Village Shalpur, Bamheta, Pargana Dasna Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. vide Sale Deed dated 25.06.2019 Duly registered in the office of S.R.I. Ghaziabad, vide Doc. No. 5105, Vol. No. 16585, Book No. 1, Pages 221-228, dated 25.06.2019. And same to be finance & mortgage by Unmshed Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd., That the Surviving Member Certificate (SMC) of Late Mr. Jaij Kumar Singh S/o Late Mr. Umeshanker Prasad is Lost/Misplaced/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/interest/mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances. Ien etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector 2 Noida, UP-201301, Contact # 0120-4299378

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Anindya Kundu S/o Late Mr. Arun Kumar Kundu R/o IB-85 Sector-3 Near Water Tank-14 Salt Lake Bidhan Nagar IB Market North-24 Parganas West Bengal 700105 (P.O. Mournita Sengupta D/o Mr. Jayabrata Sengupta R/o C-2, Pocket-6, Block-7, Kendriya Vihar-2, Sector-82, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to it, on any day upto 05-12-2023 in the office of the undersigned. Sd/- City Magistrate/ Marriage Registrar/ Gautam Budh Nagar

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Samir Kumar Dab S/o Late Sh. S. R. Deb and Sh. Ranji Kumar Pahari S/o Late Sh. P. C. Pahari are the joint 'Title Holders' in possession of 'Entire Second Floor of Freehold Built Up Residential Property Bearing Plot No. 2080, Block-K, East Pakistan Displaced Persons Colony, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi - 110019 ad measuring 160.80 sq. yards', hereinafter referred to as the Schedule Property and the plot of land referred to as the Schedule Plot/ vide Sale Deed dated 17.12.2021, duly registered as Regn. No. 7030, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 16327, pp. 02-05 on 18.12.2021 in the office of the Registrar of Muzrauli, New Delhi. That original documents i.e. (i) Lease Deed dated 26.04.77, (ii) Death Certificate of Sh. B. K. Dutta, (iii) Death Certificate of Smt. Nareetara Dutta, (iv) Mutation Letter (DDA) dated 23.02.05, (v) General Power of Attorney dated 27.01.05, (vi) General Power of Attorney with Special Power of Attorney & Agreement to Sell, all dated 09.03.05 (P.O. Conveyance Deed dated 07.04.05 and (vii) Sanction for Construction Letter dated 02.05.05 for the Schedule Plot, have been lost/misplaced and are untraceable as on date, in lieu of which Information Report dated 14.11.23 bearing LR No. 1133594/2023 has been filed with Delhi Police. This notice is thus issued to the Public at large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s), HUF(s) etc. having any knowledge, custody or possession of the above mentioned lost/misplaced/untraceable original documents or otherwise having any claims, rights, title, interests, possession etc. in the Schedule Property, by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc. or objection to the sale of 50% undivided Share in the Schedule Property amongst themselves, as presently intended. Parvash Kumar (Advocate) Office Address: 27, Basant, Sheeshda Vihar, Delhi-61 Chamber Address: 363, Saket Con, New Delhi-61 Cont. No. 265222143

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**MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN - 2023**  
In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway has decided to run the following additional Festival Special Train as per details given below:-

02254/02253 New Delhi - Darbhanga Jn. - New Delhi Reserved AC Superfast Festival Special Train		02 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 02254	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 02253	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
---	19:00	New Delhi	▲ 14:15
01:25	01:30	Govindpuri	▲ 07:15
04:15	04:25	Prayagraj Jn.	▲ 04:20
07:05	07:15	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya	▲ 01:10
08:15	08:17	Buxar	▲ 00:17
09:15	09:17	Ara	▲ 23:25
10:10	10:20	Patna Jn.	▲ 22:30
11:10	11:12	Mokama Jn.	▲ 21:00
12:30	12:40	Baramunji Jn.	▲ 19:50
13:40	13:45	Sastapur Jn.	▲ 18:45
14:45	---	Darbhanga Jn.	▲ 18:00

Days of Run : 02254 Ex. New Delhi on 16.11.2023 (Thursday) and 02253 Ex. Darbhanga Jn. on 17.11.2023 (Friday)  
Accommodation : 1st AC, AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier

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For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

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# Kejriwal forwards Bamnoli land acquisition report to LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In less than 24 hours after receiving a report from the Vigilance Minister Atishi in the alleged corruption in acquisition of 19 acre of land in South West Delhi's Bamnoli village in which she has recommended removal of the chief secretary Naresh Kumar and divisional commissioner Ashwani Kumar, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has forwarded it to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena seeking his immediate removal. The rifts between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government and the bureaucracy have widened in the wake of the alleged scam over land acquisition for the Dwarka Expressway.

According to sources, Kejriwal has instructed the vigilance minister to send the report to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as well. Notably, this matter has already been recommended to the Ministry of Home Affairs for CBI for investigation on September 20. Delhi vigilance minister Atishi on Tuesday submitted a report to CM Arvind Kejriwal alleging "prima-facie complicity" of chief secretary Naresh Kumar in a land acquisition matter, saying it would involve a windfall gain of Rs 897 crore for the landowners. The minister also recommended removal of the CS and divisional commissioner Ashwani Kumar from their posts to

ensure a fair inquiry. The chief secretary has denied any wrongdoing and termed the allegations against him as "mudslinging" by people with vested interests against whom vigilance action was taken in corruption cases. In a statement, Kumar questioned "on what basis such allegations are made especially when the chief secretary has joined only last year that is 2022. Copy of the report is not shared. So on what basis one can respond or report." The BJP has criticized Kejriwal for recommending action against Chief Secretary. The Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said Delhi CS is carrying out inquiries against the Chief Minister or Delhi Government Ministers in dif-



ferent cases including the liquor scam, renovation of CM's bungalow scam. "That's why they are trying to fix him at any cost. This AAP government is trying to create an environment against CS as there are rumors of his extension," he added. The compensation for land acquisition was allegedly raised from Rs 41 crore to Rs 353

crore but the report has claimed that the "scale of undue benefits" in the deal was over Rs 897 crore. The vigilance minister's report was an outcome of an inquiry to a complaint that alleged that the chief secretary's son was employed by a person who was relative of benefited landowners in Bamnoli.

The 670-page report by Atishi alleged that "the scale of the undue benefits is much larger than earlier made out to be in a vigilance report." "The windfall gain for the Kathurias (landowners) would have been Rs 897.1 crore for the 19.081 acres of land in Bamnoli village based on the illegal and exorbitant arbitration award given by erstwhile DM Southwest, Hemant Kumar. This is much greater than the estimate of Rs 353.79 crore shown in the vigilance report," the report stated. The report further alleged that the "connections and the chronology give the prima facie appearance of complicity of the chief secretary with Hemant Kumar and the landowners." It was alleged by the com-

plaintant - a lawyer - that the Delhi chief secretary's son worked in a realty firm, a director of which was the son-in-law of Subhash Chand Kathuria, one of the owners of the land acquired in Bamnoli village in southwest Delhi and who was awarded enhanced compensation for his land. In its reply to Atishi, the DoV said "...it is informed that on a proposal made by the Directorate of Vigilance, GNCTD (DOV) with recommendations of the CVO-cum-Chief Secretary and approval of Hon'ble LG, the instant case was referred to the MHA on 20.09.2023 for taking disciplinary action against the DM and for referring the matter to the CBI. MHA suspended the DM on 20.10.2023 and also referred

this case to the CBI for investigations on 20.10.2023. Further, MHA has asked the Directorate of Vigilance to monitor the investigation and ensure that information sought by CBI is made available. Accordingly, original records in this matter are being sent to the CBI". According to the report, the minister has recommended removal of Chief Secretary Kumar and Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar from their posts to pave the way for a fair probe. The divisional commissioner in a press conference on Monday defended the chief secretary saying the complaint against him was part of "dirty politics" as he was actively pursuing corruption cases.

## Air quality turns severe again

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi continues to gasp for breath as the air quality in the national Capital following Diwali bash pushed the air quality index (AQI) to the cusp of the deep red "severe" zone. The poisonous haze in Delhi thickened on Wednesday with the average air quality index clocked 401 at 4 pm. It was 397 on Tuesday, 358 on Monday, 218 on Sunday, 220 on Saturday, 279 on Friday and 437 on Thursday. Areas such as ITO, RK Puram, Punjabi Bagh, IGI Airport, Dwarka, Rohini and AnandVihar reported the AQI of 427, 422, 432, 404, 416, 421. Neighbouring Ghaziabad (378), Gurugram (297), Greater Noida (338), Noida (360) and Faridabad (390) also recorded very poor air quality. The main contributors to air pollution in Delhi include vehicular emissions, industrial activities, construction dust, burning of crop residues in neighboring states, and various other sources. Stubble burning incidents crossed the 30,000 mark in two months in Punjab which reported 2,544 fresh farm fires in the last 24 hours. Of these 2,544 farm fires, Bathinda witnessed maximum such cases at 356, followed by 318



in Moga, 264 in Barnala, 262 in Sangrur, 253 in Ferozepur, and 225 in Faridkot, according to Ludhiana-based Punjab Remote Sensing Centre data. Punjab had reported 67,020 and 45,464 stubble burning incidents in the corresponding period (September 15 to November 15) of 2021 and 2022 respectively. People living in the national capital region are unlikely to experience a relief soon. According to IQAir, a Swiss company that specialises in air quality monitoring, Delhi was the most polluted city in the world on Tuesday, followed by Lahore and Mumbai. Meanwhile, Singer Harry Sandhu has rescheduled his upcoming show in Gurugram in the wake of "rising pollution levels", saying the safety of fans is his "top priority".

Announcing his decision on his Instagram, the 'Naah' singer wrote: "It is with a heavy heart that I inform that our upcoming show in Gurgaon on November 18 will have to be rescheduled. The rising pollution levels and government regulations aimed to curb the same have made it essential for us to prioritise safety." He added, "I assure everyone we are working on finding a new date that works for everyone. Your safety is my top priority, and I can't wait to share the stage with you when the conditions are right." The Punjabi star was set to kickstart his first ever all-India tour titled 'In My Feelings' on November 18 from Delhi-NCR. According to a Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) analysis, the city experiences

peak pollution from November 1 to 15, when the number of stubble-burning incidents in Punjab and Haryana increases. Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday said the pollution situation of the national capital will be observed for the next two or three days and only then a decision of odd-even or artificial rain would be taken. "After 2-3 days, the wind speed may pick up. So it is expected that the situation will be better. We are now monitoring the situation. Tomorrow, we will sit with the scientists and the departments," Rai said. "If the AQI turns into the 'severe plus' category, the government will think of stricter measures like odd-even, the minister said. Among other temporary measures, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) trucks are sprinkling water in 13 hot spots to weigh the air pollutants down. Delhi labour minister Raj Kumar Anand also conducted a thorough inspection of vehicles entering the city at Punjab Khor to Ladrawan Road (Kanjhawala Road, Delhi) on Wednesday. Anand noted that diesel vehicles entering Delhi from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are contributing to the increasing pollution in the city.

## LG approves launching of Festival Special Housing Scheme 2023

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in its meeting chaired by Lt. Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, who is also Chairman, DDA, on Wednesday approved launching of Festival Special Housing Scheme 2023, with more than 32,000 flats of different categories at various locations such as Dwarka, Loknayakpuram and Narela. Those having land or house are eligible to apply in this scheme. Giving details of the new scheme, a DDA statement said a person can book a flat of one's choice in his or her preferred locality and floor instantly by paying the booking amount. Moreover, there is no conditionality of owning any plot / house in Delhi for booking of these flats thereby facilitating ownership of multiple houses by members of an extended family for enabling improved urban living. The scheme has main features like the flats are being offered under through two different modes i.e., e-Auction and First Come First Serve (FCFS) basis as per their location and all the flats offered are newly constructed.



Also, the DDA for the first time is offering more than 1,100 luxury flats. These include penthouses, super HIGs and HIGs at Dwarka 19B overlooking the upcoming golf course of DDA. All these flats will be offered through e-Auction. Besides, the MIG flats at Sector 14, Dwarka and Loknayakpuram which is 316 and 647 in numbers respectively will also be offered through e-auction mode. Moreover, 728 EWS Flats in Sector 19 B, Dwarka, 316 LIG and 1008 EWS flats in Sector 14 Dwarka, 224 EWS flats in Loknayakpuram and over 28,000 flats at Narela across various categories will be offered through FCFS mode. The flats in Narela will be offered in different tranches/phases.

## Kejriwal Government disrupting Chhath arrangements: BJP



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and MP Manoj Tiwari on Wednesday accused the Arvind Kejriwal Government of disrupting the arrangements of Chhath festival, a symbol of faith and culture. Sachdeva said in the name of preparations for Chhath Puja, a symbol of faith and tradition, the Arvind Kejriwal government is trying to do appeasement. Since the formation of the government of late Madan Lal Khurana in 1993, Chhath Puja started being celebrated with great pomp in Delhi, but after the Arvind Kejriwal government came to power it has been playing with Purvanchali sentiments. Sachdeva said in the name of cleaning Yamuna river, Delhi Government has

committed corruption and today the condition of Yamuna River is worse than before. The BJP president said the Kejriwal government is playing with the faith of Hindus and especially the Purvanchalis. He said on one hand Arvind Kejriwal's ministers are making new announcements regarding the preparations for Chhath Puja, while on the other hand the Kejriwal government has given an affidavit in the court saying that Yamuna can get polluted due to Chhath festival. State Vice President Dinesh Pratap Singh said the Arvind Kejriwal government starts worrying about pollution in Delhi as soon as Diwali starts and it continues till Chhath Puja, whereas the people of Delhi remain troubled for the whole 12 months due to pollution.

## Provide maximum facilities to devotees during Chhath: Mayor directs MCD officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Mayor Dr Shelly Oberoi has instructed all the MCD officials to provide maximum facilities to the devotees visiting the ghats on Chhath festival. "All zonal Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to strengthen the arrangements for Chhath Mahaparv in their respective zones," she said. According to MCD, Chhath ghats have been built in 100 wards. Apart from this, 80-90% of the work of constructing ghats in other wards has been completed. On the other hand, an amount of Rs 40,000 per ward has been released by the AAP government to make arrangements for lighting at Chhath ghats. Through this fund, lights have been installed around the ghats in all the wards and arrangements for adequate lighting have been



ensured, so that there is no inconvenience. Streetlights have been installed from the approach road to Chhath ghat. Oberoi stated, "Preparations for Chhath Puja are complete. Ghats have been built in each ward by the AAP councilors and MLAs in more than 100 wards of Delhi and construction work of ghats in other wards will be completed by Thursday". The Mayor informed that the parking facilities have also been ensured around Chhath Ghats so that devotees would not face any kind of chaos around ghats. Fogging is also being done to prevent mosquitoes.

## Air pollution: Lovely slams Centre, Delhi Government for inactions

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of severe air quality in the national Capital, Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely on Wednesday charged the Central and Delhi Governments with deliberate neglect of the people of the city. Moreover, leaders of both these Governments were busy in election campaigning in other states, instead of tackling Delhi's woes, he said. The State Congress president made these claims after convening a meeting of Delhi Congress 'Shadow Cabinet', consisting of former Ministers of the Congress Government, at the DPCC office here to discuss air pollution in Delhi. Two resolutions were also unanimously passed at the meeting. The first resolution requested the Lt. Governor and the Delhi Chief Minister to convene an all-party meeting to



discuss air pollution. Second resolution sought setting up of a high-powered monitoring committee headed by a Supreme Court judge, and consisting of Environmental experts and Civil Society. Addressing a press conference, Lovely said it was the duty of the Delhi Congress, as a responsible Opposition party, to wake up the sleeping BJP and AAP Governments, as the Central and Delhi Governments lacked a holistic policy to tackle air pollution.

He said even the Delhi Cabinet did not bother to discuss the matter, and Congress did not want to leave the people to their own fate, but come up with a solution. Lovely said the primary reason for Delhi's air pollution was the Delhi Government's failure to expand the DTC bus fleet and its failure to ensure last mile connectivity to metro, because of which more two-wheelers hit the roads in large numbers, boosting the air pollution levels.

## Atishi inspects underground water reservoir, floodplain project in Palla

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Wednesday inspected the underground water reservoir and floodplain project in Palla. The Kejriwal government is establishing an 8 MGD MGR that will ensure a water supply of 40 MGD of water daily at its full capacity in Palla. During the inspection, Atishi directed officials to conclude the pending work promptly and initiate the operation of this reservoir. "The Kejriwal government's Palla Floodplain Project has been successful for the fourth consecutive year, resulting in an increase of up to 1.2 meters in the groundwater level. Under this project, a pond spread across 26 acres recharged 740 million gallons of groundwater in the fiscal year 2022-23," the government said in a statement. "The Palla Floodplain Project

spans 40 acres, featuring a pond on 26 acres designed to collect floodwater, utilized to enhance groundwater levels in Delhi. Under this project, the pond, spread across 26 acres, recharged 740 million gallons of groundwater in the fiscal year 2022-23." The Water Minister added. Atishi shared that almost every year during the monsoon, the Yamuna River, which flows through the capital, experiences flooding, leading to millions of liters of water flowing from the Yamuna. "In response, the Kejriwal government initiated the environment-friendly Palla Floodplain Project 4 years ago to collect the excess flood water from the river during the monsoon season, located near the Yamuna River in flood-prone areas. Under this initiative, a pond spanning 26 acres was created to collect floodwater. This water is being

utilized to augment the groundwater in the capital," it said. The Water Minister said, "To determine the quantity of the rise in groundwater levels, 33 piezometers have also been installed. The primary objective of the Palla Floodplain Project is to accumulate floodwater, allowing the year-round utilization of the stored water to enhance the groundwater level. The successful outcomes of this project demonstrate the rapid recharge of groundwater, affirming its effectiveness. This project will not only benefit Delhi but will also serve as an excellent example for states grappling with drought and water scarcity across the country." Project to install 200 tube wells in the Palla flood-prone area, with 60 tube wells already in place, will help alleviate water shortage in various parts of the city.

## 3 doctors, 1 quack held for involvement in surgeries of 2 patients who died

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Wednesday said three doctors and a fake doctor have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the surgeries of two patients who died in a clinic in south Delhi's Greater Kailash. Police said the three doctors -- Neeraj Agarwal, who runs the Agarwal Medical Centre, Jaspreet Singh and Agarwal's wife Pooja -- and former laboratory technician Mahender Singh were arrested on Tuesday. Police said the accused were arrested following complaints received in October. The attendants of the two patients had alleged that Agarwal and three others were

involved in performing surgeries of vital organs of various patients, without following proper medical procedure. According to the complainants, Agarwal is a physician, but performs surgeries as he possesses fake documents. On October 10, a woman from Sangam Vihar got a complaint filed at the Greater Kailash police station, alleging that on September 19, she took her husband to the Agarwal Medical Centre for the removal of his gallbladder stone. Before the commencement of the surgery, Agarwal said it will be performed by famous surgeon Jaspreet Singh. But before the surgery, he said Jaspreet Singh could not turn up due to some urgency and

Dr Mahender Singh will perform it. The complainant stated that her husband's surgery was performed by Mahender Singh, Neeraj Agarwal and Pooja Agarwal. When the patient was brought out of the operation theatre, he complained of severe pain and was rushed to the Safdarjung Hospital where he was declared "brought dead". According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Chandan Chowdhary, Agarwal would take the help of non-qualified people, including his wife and former laboratory technician Mahender Singh, while performing surgeries and Jaspreet Singh would make fake surgery notes.

## Abused, assaulted by group of youngsters, claims factory worker

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old factory worker has accused a group of youngsters of assaulting him and inserting an iron rod in his private part for allegedly objecting to being abused in west Delhi's Khayala area, police said on Wednesday. The alleged incident occurred on Diwali. The main accused, identified as Ashok Yadav, has been arrested but two of his associates are absconding, the police said. According to the FIR, the victim -- who works as a labourer at a factory -- was on his way to have dinner at a friend's house in the Vishnu Garden locality of Khayala. On the way, he was allegedly accosted by Yadav, who asked



him why he was roaming around in the locality, it said. An argument broke out between the two and Yadav abused the victim. He also called two of his associates to the spot. The accused then beat up the victim before removing his clothes and inserting an iron rod in his private part, the FIR stated. The victim suffered critical injuries and was taken to a

nearby hospital from where he was shifted to Safdarjung Hospital, the police said. An FIR was registered under sections 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons) and 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint) of the Indian Penal Code and Yadav arrested on Tuesday, the police said. Teams have been formed to nab the other two accused, they added.

## 5 injured in fight, stone pelting in Kalyanpuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Five people were injured after a fight and stone pelting over sending a message to the one of the victim's sister-in-law in east Delhi, an officer said on Wednesday. The injured were identified as Anurag (20), Ishan (16), Badal (19), Ismit (14) and Bulbul (34). According to police, on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, PCR calls were received regarding a "quarrel" in 12 block, Kalyanpuri" at Kalyanpuri police station. Acting on the call, a police team rushed to the spot. On inquiry, it revealed that a 16-year-old boy had sent a

message to Anurag's sister-in-law, who is also 16-years-old. "Anurag objected to it and warned the boy not to talk with his sister-in-law. At about 10.45 p.m., Anurag and his friend went to 12-13 block Chowk and started arguments with the minor, which turned into a fight. The minor called his relatives and friends, and they started pelting stones," said a senior police official. "In this fight and stone pelting, Anurag, Ishan, Badal, Ismit, and Bulbul also sustained injuries. All the injured were taken to LBS Hospital," said the official. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.



# Curtains down on high decibel MP poll campaign

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHOPAL/NEW DELHI**

High-decibel campaigning came to an end on Wednesday evening for the November 17 Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, where top leaders of contesting parties including Prime Minister Narendra Modi criss-crossed the state addressing rallies, holding roadshows, trading charges and making a slew of promises to seek votes for their candidates.

A total of 2,533 candidates are in the fray for the 230 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, where the main battle for power is between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress. As many as 5,60,60,925 voters -- 2,88,25,607 males, 2,72,33,945 females and 1,373 third gender persons -- are eligible to exer-

cise their franchise on Friday when single phase voting opens from 7 am to 6 pm at 2,049 polling stations in the state. Congress, with 114 seats, emerged as the single largest party after the 2018 polls and formed the government with the help of BSP, SP and independent MLAs under the leadership of Kamal Nath. However, the Nath regime collapsed in March 2020 after a rebellion by now Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Congress MLAs loyal to him, paving the way for the return of the BJP government headed by Shivraj Singh Chouhan. said.

On the last day of campaigning, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, his party's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union minister Smriti Irani and

Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis (all three from BJP) made last minute efforts to woo voters for their respective candidates. Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav also addressed rallies on the last day. On the penultimate day of electioneering, Modi addressed three election rallies and held a roadshow in Indore. Union Home Minister and BJP's chief strategist Amit Shah also addressed a similar number of gatherings and held a roadshow in Jabalpur on Tuesday. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and others, too, campaigned for their candidates on Tuesday. Electioneering saw PM Modi, Shah, BJP president JP Nadda, Union minister Rajnath Singh, MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, among others, touring the state and addressing election meetings to drum



up support for saffron party nominees in all the 230 seats. Kharge, his predecessor Rahul Gandhi, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra, MPCC chief Kamal Nath, former chief minister Digvijaya Singh, among others, addressed public rallies to garner support for their 230 candidates. The campaigning also saw a crack in the opposition INDIA alliance with its constituents Congress, the Samajwadi Party

(SP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) fielding candidates against each other after failing to arrive at a pre-poll tie-up. Their leaders also engaged in a war of words. Modi had nine visits to MP and addressed 14 public meetings after election schedule was announced. The BJP is banking heavily on the Prime Minister's charisma and popularity to retain power. The saffron party campaign's was

woven around slogans and chants of "MP Ke Mann Mein Modi" and "Modi Ke Mann Mein MP". Modi, Shah and other BJP leaders accused the previous Congress governments in the state and at the Centre for allegedly indulging in corruption and loot of public money, and also spoke about the upcoming Ram Temple in Ayodhya. BJP emphasised that it has pulled MP out of 'BIMARU' (laggard) category when power cuts, pathetic road conditions and water scarcity were the order of the day and cautioned people that if the Congress returns to power it will ruin the state again. Congress focused on promise of a caste survey and welfare of OBCs who constitute around 48 per cent of the state's population. Priyanka Gandhi

opened her party's campaign for MP on June 12 by launching a blistering attack on Bhe JP saying that 225 "scams" had taken place in the 220 months of BJP rule in the MP. She claimed only 21 government jobs were provided in the state by the BJP government in the last three years. Congress campaign targeted the BJP government over unemployment, price rise and alleged that 50 per cent "commission raj" was prevailing in the state. Electioneering brought to fore the fissures in the INDIA bloc ahead of next year's general elections with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav accusing the Congress of betraying him by not conceding six seats to his party as promised. The SP has fielded 71 candidates in MP. Similarly, an ally of the INDIA grouping, AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Singh Mann addressed more than 12 rallies and carried out roadshows to muster support for their 66 candidates. Another constituent of the opposition grouping, Janata Dal (U), is contesting polls in 10 constituencies. Mayawati-led BSP has fielded 183 candidates, while its ally Gondwana Gantantran Party, a tribal outfit, has given tickets to more than 45 nominees. BSP president Mayawati addressed 10 rallies and attacked the Congress for not acting on the Mandal Commission report while in power at the Centre. She and Akhilesh Yadav, at separate election meetings, blasted the Congress for seeking a caste-based survey now, saying the party did nothing on the issue when it was in power after independence.

## Modi to preside over second Voice of Global South summit tomorrow

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Ensuring a more inclusive world order and challenges posed by various global developments will be the main focus of the second edition of the Voice of Global South summit to be hosted by India on Friday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the conclave to be held in the virtual format. Giving details of this high-profile event to be attended by several heads of states, ministry of external affairs (MEA) said here on Wednesday, it will focus on challenges posed by various global developments and ways to ensure a more inclusive world order. The virtual summit will be structured into 10 sessions that will cover various key areas, such as trade, energy and climate finance.



The inaugural and concluding sessions would be at the level of head of state and government and would be presided over by Prime Minister Modi. "India will host the second Voice of Global South summit on November 17, in the virtual format," MEA said. India hosted the first edition of the

Voice of Global South summit under the theme of "unity of voice, unity of purpose" on January 12 and 13. This unique initiative had brought together 125 countries of the Global South and they had shared their perspectives and priorities at the summit. The theme of the inaugural

leaders' session at the second edition of the summit would be "Together, for Everyone's Growth, with Everyone's Trust" and that of the concluding session would be "Global South: Together for One Future". In a significant milestone under India's G20 presidency, the African Union (AU) became the new permanent member of the grouping of the largest economies of the world in September, in the first expansion of the influential bloc since its inception in 1999. India was consistently batting for the AU's inclusion as a G20 member so as to ensure the African continent's representation in the top global body. The AU is an influential organisation comprising 55 member-states that make up the countries of the African continent.

## Rijiju to represent India at Maldives President's oath taking ceremony

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju will represent India at the oath-taking ceremony of Maldivian President-elect Mohamed Muizzu on Friday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced. The Maldives had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the ceremony. Widely seen as a pro-China leader, Muizzu will take charge as the Maldivian president on Friday. "At the invitation of the President-elect of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu, Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Earth Sciences will visit Maldives from 16-18 November to represent India at the inaugural ceremony of the presidency," the MEA said. It said the high-level minister-



rial representation at the inaugural ceremony underscores India's commitment to further deepening the substantive cooperation and robust people-to-people ties between the two countries. "Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean region and occupies a special place in the prime minister's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the

'Neighbourhood First Policy,' the MEA said in a statement. Widely seen as a pro-China leader, Muizzu defeated incumbent President Ibrahim Solih in the presidential runoff in September. Modi had attended the swearing-in ceremony of incumbent President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in September 2018. His visit to the Maldives had laid the foundation for strong ties between the two countries. After winning the election, Muizzu has maintained that he will keep his election promise of evicting Indian military personnel from his country. The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties including in areas of defence and security have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years. Solih had been consistently focusing on boosting ties with India and was pursuing an "India First" policy. In May, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the Maldives during which he handed over a fast patrol vessel and a landing craft to the island nation. In August last year, Prime Minister Modi and Solih kick-started the India-funded Greater Male connectivity project, billed as the largest infrastructure initiative in the island nation. Under the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) project, a 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link will be built to connect the capital city Male with adjoining islands of Villingili, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi. The Maldives is also one of the biggest beneficiaries of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Virender Kumar Shukla S/o L.N Shukla R/o : 16/666, Gali No. 13, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005, I have changed my name Virender kumar Shukla to Virender Shukla for all purpose in future.

PD(196)A

I Mahander S/o Bhoop Singh R/o : 52/41 H, Gali No. 17, Nai Basti, Anand Parbat, Cenrtal Delhi-110005, I have changed my name Mahander to Mahender for all purpose in future.

PD(197)A

**SALE NOTICE**

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Limited Vs. Nawab Shah, CS (COMM) No.29/23	Vehicle No- DL9CAK6595, Make & Model- MARUTI SUZUKI ERTIGA LDI, Manu. Year- 2015
ICICI Bank Vs Sonu Kumar, CS No. 1170/17	Vehicle No. UP16BE4930, Make and Model- HYUNDAI i 20 ASTA DSL 1.4, Manu Year- 2016

**Auction Date: November 24, 2023 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.**  
**Place of Auction:** Godara Yard, Khewat No.166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec- 17, Sukhraili, Gurugram- 122022  
**Contact Person- Swapnil Upadhyay (8126013708) / Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)**

**Terms of Sale**

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself/ themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents to participate in the auction. Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal tower Plot no. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

## Dhankhar calls for effective regulatory sea regime

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said here on Wednesday seas are emerging as the new frontier for global contestation and called for an effective regulatory regime. He also said India seeks a free and peaceful rule-based Indo-Pacific region. His assertions in the keynote address at the 2023 edition of the "Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue" organised by the Indian Navy came in the backdrop of China's aggressive stance in the Indo-Pacific region. Dhankhar said Indo-Pacific is faced with an explosive global scenario with many a cliff hanging situations. Calling for freedom for navigation and over-flight in accordance with established international Laws and Conventions, he stressed, "We seek a just global regulatory regime that respects the right over EEZ, for the sustainable and equitable exploita-



tion of marine resources and Sea-bed in high seas." Mentioning that the world currently faces two serious conflagrations and there is no light visible at the end of tunnel, the Vice President called upon the experts to think out of box to find a solution. Underlining that greed of a sovereign nation can only be contained if other nations

come together, Dhankhar said collaborative security and innovative partnerships seem to be the way forward. "This is the only way out. No country can stand alone, there has to be action in togetherness," he emphasised. He also said "You cannot negotiate peace from a position of weakness; you have to be strong on all fundamentals."

The Vice President also cautioned that non-state actors are the greatest negative interventions in the global peace efforts. He called for India's fair representation at United Nations Security Council (UNSC). In his address, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said "We are traversing through a contested present into an uncertain future. The future of global commons hinges on cooperative efforts of nations. We can accomplish prosperity, security and growth for all, only if we collaborate in the maritime domain. This collaboration must be evolved through mutual understanding of opportunities and challenges. I firmly believe that the world is necessarily a maritime community, and oceans are our common heritage as well as destiny. In this endeavour, all of us have a key role to play." Underlining the importance of the Indo-Pacific, he said the region has some of the world's

most important sea lanes, with trade passing through choke points such as, Malacca Straits, Dondra Head, Gulf of Aden, etc. Further, nine of the ten busiest ports in the World are in the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, this Region, being the most militarised in the world, further exacerbates the probability of ongoing competition becoming a conflict. More than 50 warships of extra-regional forces remain deployed in the Indian Ocean Region for various missions, including for anti-piracy patrol off the Gulf of Aden, and the wider Indo-Pacific also has significant naval presence, the Navy chief said. Owing to the increased presence of multi-national forces, and differing interpretations of international laws, there is this fear that the Region's 'Global Commons' can change to 'Contested Seas,' he said adding this contestation at sea, can have adverse consequences for security-physical, social as well as economic.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

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

**Whereas**

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sunil Karwatkar/ Daksha Sunil Karwatkar/ LBDEL0002003182	Fiat No. 104, Ff Satyam Tower, S Cube, Residency Old, Padra Road Vadodara/ Nov 09, 2023	January 30, 2020 Rs. 31,77,928/-	Delhi/ NCR & Vadodara

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date: November 16, 2023**  
**Place: Delhi/NCR**

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

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Futecho Solutions Private Limited/ Sangeeta Mukul/ Ruby/ Mrityunjay Gupta/ 343405000254	Residential Property Flat No. 09, 2nd Floor Csr Opera, Site No 16, 17 And 18 Katha No. 10/4-16, 10/4-17 And 10/4-18 Cmc Katha No 125,126 And 127 Muneokola Varthur Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, Karnataka Bangalore/ November 10, 2023	May 02, 2023 Rs. 47,03,061.00/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date: November 16, 2023**  
**Place: Delhi/Ncr**

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

## 2 separate fire incidents in trains, no casualties

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA**

In two separate fire related incidents in trains, several passengers had a miraculous escape when a fire broke out in two coaches of the New Delhi Darbhanga Special Express train near Etawah in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday evening while three people were injured after firecrackers exploded onboard the Bhopalpur-Jaynagar Intercity Express train in Bihar. In the fire incident in UP, four people suffered minor injuries. "The fire broke out in two coaches of a passenger train headed to Darbhanga (in Bihar) from Delhi. Fire tenders have been rushed to the spot and efforts are being made to stop the blaze. According to preliminary information, they are not burn injuries. Ambulances and a team of doctors are present at the spot. Injured passengers, if any, will be provided proper medical

care," said Etawah Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjai Kumar said. The cause of the fire was not known immediately. The North Central Railways, however, said one coach was gutted in the fire. North Central Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Himanshu Upadhyay said the guard at the Sarai Bhopat junction near Etawah noticed smoke coming out from the New Delhi-Darbhanga Special Express' coach number S1. "The train was immediately stopped and all the passengers were evacuated. Everyone is safe and there is no report of any casualty as of now," he said. According to sources, the affected coach and it detached from the train and it started with its onboard journey. In the Bihar incident, the fire blast occurred outside the Samastipur railway station and the police arrested two people who were traveling with firecrackers on the train.

## 'Delaying clamping of umbilical cord of premature baby could halve risk of death'

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Waiting for two minutes or longer to clamp the umbilical cord of a premature baby soon after birth, could help reduce the risk of death by more than half, compared with immediately clamping the umbilical cord, or waiting a shorter time before doing so, according to two new studies published in the journal The Lancet. For the new findings more than 100 international researchers examined clinical trial data and outcomes of thousands of premature babies, detailed in over 60 studies involving more than 9,000 babies. Delaying clamping of the umbilical cord allows blood to flow from the placenta to the baby whilst the baby's lungs fill with air. This is thought to help ease the transition to breathing in the infant. "Worldwide, almost 13 million babies are born prematurely each year and, sadly, close to 1 million die shortly



after birth. Our new findings are the best evidence to date that waiting to clamp the umbilical cord can help save the lives of some premature babies," said Dr Anna Lene Seidler at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney in Australia. Delayed cord clamping is now recommended routine practice for babies born at full term. However, whilst previous research showed potential benefit for premature babies, best practice for this vulner-

able group remained uncertain. Until recently, clinicians generally cut the cord of preterm babies immediately so urgent medical care could be given. The first paper using data from 3,292 infants across 20 studies found delayed clamping of the umbilical cord, clamped 30 seconds or more after birth, likely reduced the risk of death in premature babies by a third compared to those whose umbilical cord was clamped immediately after birth.





People take holy dip in river Yamuna on the occasion of Bhai Dooj or Yam Dwitiya, in Mathura

PTI

# Kashi to be seen in 3D sculpture map

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Now the entire Varanasi city can be seen at a glance, be it the crescent-shaped ghats or the iconic buildings of this holy city. A 3D sculpture map has been made by Varanasi Smart City in the Dashashwamedh Bhawan near Dashashwamedh Ghat and by seeing this at a glance, the visitors will be able to get information about the important places of the city. The state government has developed Dashashwamedh Bhawan (Tourist Plaza) as a market on the vacant space lying for years near Dashashwamedh Ghat.

Majority of tourists coming to Kashi definitely visit Dashashwamedh Ghat. Now they will not have to wander for information about the major and important places of need in the tourist destination of Kashi. Even before the ghat, the state government has made a 3-D sculpture map in Dashashwamedh Bhawan on which many iconic buildings of the city including the crescent-shaped ghat of Kashi, the grandiose Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the historic Beniya Bagh and Town Hall, Manmandir Observatory, Nepali Temple, Rudraksh



3D sculpture map at Dashashwamedh Bhawan in Varanasi.

Convention Centre, Namaste Sculpture of Namo Ghat, Library, Trauma Centre, Marwari Hospital etc were carved. The Dashashwamedh Bhawan has been developed as a business centre with Rs 28 crore. Smart City General Manager Dr D Vasudevan said

that a 3D map sculpture of about 7.5 metres length and three metres width has been installed in Dashashwamedh Bhawan whose height is about 75 cm. The three-D sculpture map is made of bronze. According to him, this building will be important for the

people coming to Kashi. "Here, through 3D map sculpture, tourists will get information about the important and necessary places of Varanasi at a glance. The three-floor Dashashwamedh Bhawan has been developed as a business centre," he said.

# Railway Board addl member visits BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Additional Member (Traction) of Railway Board Vijay Pratap Singh visited Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Wednesday. On this occasion, he inspected the workshop areas and observed the work related to the production of electric locomotives in various workshops of BLW like Loco Frame Shop, Loco Assembly Shop, Loco Test Shop, Hornness Shop, Truck Machine Shop etc.

During his inspection, Singh was accompanied by Principal Chief Electrical Engineer SK Srivastava and Chief Electrical Engineer (Loco) Arun Kumar Sharma who gave detailed information about the production activities, projects going on, loco manufacturing facilities etc apart from production process and other technical subjects to the visiting Additional Member of Railway Board.

First of all, Singh paid a courtesy call on General Manager (GM) Basudev Panda. Thereafter, in the meeting held in BLW's Hall of Fame in Administrative Building, PCEE SK Srivastava welcomed the Additional Member (Traction) by giving him a sapling. During



Additional Member (Traction) Railway Board VP Singh inspecting a BLW workshop in Varanasi on Wednesday.

the meeting, the PCEE through power point presentation gave detailed information about the BLW along with other activities related to loco construction going on in BLW. Additional Member (Traction) of Railway Board appreciated the efforts being made by BLW team for loco production under the guidance of the GM Basudev Panda.

Singh expressed hope that

the BLW will definitely produce more locos than the given target of 460 loco production and it will set a new record. In this meeting, Principal Chief Materials Manager Rajneesh Gupta, Principal Chief Engineer Vinod Bampal, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Ranvijay, Chief Vigilance Officer Pramod Kumar Chaudhary, Chief Mechanical Engineer (Service)

Neeraj Jain, Chief Mechanical Engineer (Production) Sunil Kumar, Senior Deputy General Manager Vijay, Chief Electrical Engineer (Inspection) MK Singh and many others were also present.

The programme was conducted by Chief Design Engineer (Electrical) Anil Kumar Jain, who also proposed the vote of thanks at last.

# Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra to be held

VARANASI (PNS): The district administration will hold Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra from November 20 to January 26, 2024 to publicise the developmental and welfare schemes of the government and saturate the beneficiaries with them. The Block Development Officers were directed to prepare a database of the saturation of the government schemes of each village.

Chairing a meeting held here on Tuesday to generate awareness for the saturation of various departmental schemes through outreach activities, the District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam informed that the work of publicity and awareness of the developmental and welfare schemes of the government and saturation of eligible beneficiaries with them is to be done during the Viksit Bharat

Sankalp Yatra to be held from November 20 to January 26, 2024. A drive at vast level will be launched in the urban and rural areas of the district during this period, the DM informed and directed the officers concerned to chalk out action plan as date-wise and ensure the saturation of the schemes by making publicity. The objective of the yatra is to get the benefit of the govern-

ment schemes to the targeted beneficiaries particularly to the deprived people in time-bound, to make the people aware of the government schemes and saturation of important schemes, the DM informed, adding that the UEC Van would be run during the yatra in which there would be audio visual brochure, pamphlets, etc for the publicity.

# Man kills wife after minor altercation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A man, Mannu, living in A Dhaikar colony allegedly brutally murdered his wife. After a minor altercation, he stabbed her with a screwdriver several times in the neck and chest due to which she died.

Mannu has been nabbed in a drunken state. His three other associates who were involved in the murder of Mamta are said to be absconding. The police have taken the accused Monu into custody and started interrogation. After the murder of their mother, the children are inconsolable.

Reports said there used to be regular fights between

Mannu and his wife Mamta in the state of intoxication. Mannu is said to be addicted to smack and also allegedly involved in its business.

His wife Mamta is also addicted to alcohol. There were often disputes between them regarding money. Mannu used to spend whatever money he earned.

Mamta used to earn her living by collecting scrap. They have four children.

There was a dispute regarding expenditure late on Tuesday night too. Mamta had gone out of the house, later Mannu along with his three friends caught her and attacked her several times with a knife and screwdriver, due to which she

died on the spot.

**SUICIDE:** A youth committed suicide by shooting himself with his father's licensed gun in Lokmanpur village under Handia police station here on Wednesday. After hearing the sound of gunshot when the family members reached the room his body lying in a pool of blood.

Reports said that Shivam Shukla (26) of Lokmanpur village, committed suicide by shooting himself on Wednesday afternoon. The police is busy finding out why Shivam took this drastic step. The father told the police that his son was unwell for the last four-five months. His treatment was going on in

Prayagraj.

**'AKSHAT' TO BE SENT TO VILLAGES:** Akshat (worshiped form) will be sent to five lakh villages across the country to celebrate on January 22, 2024, the day of Ram Lalla's consecration at Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Preparations for this have been done. On November 5 an 'akshat kalash' was handed over to VHP office-bearers from Ayodhya.

Now the responsibility of delivering this 'akshat', a leaflet (patrak) and the picture of Ram Lalla to every house has been entrusted to the VHP. This 'kalash' has reached all the districts of Kashi province, including Prayagraj.

# Naini Jail to get relief from burden of prisoners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Naini Central Jail is going to get relief from the burden of prisoners. The construction of the district jail has been completed by the Yogi government in this Naini area at a cost of Rs 173 crore. The prisoners will be shifted from December.

The district jail built in Naini area will have more capacity of prisoners than all the district jails of Uttar Pradesh. This district jail, which has the capacity of 2,800 prisoners, is being constructed by Uttar Pradesh Government Construction Corporation Limited.

According to RS Rizvi, project manager of the organisation, this district jail has been built in an area of 65 acres. Two circles, 18 barracks, two quarantine cells, one women's barrack and one juvenile barrack have been constructed in the jail. The barracks have been given a two-storey shape. There are also two high security barracks in this district jail, in which 12 prisoners can be kept.

Prayagraj district jail will also be the jail with most hi-tech facilities and security in the state. A sewage treatment plant has also been completed inside the jail.

Rizvi said a crèche has also been built for the children of female prisoners. The entire district jail complex will be under surveillance system and CCTV surveillance.

The Central Jail Naini has the capacity to accommodate 2,060 prisoners. At present 4,596 prisoners and inmates are lodged in this jail. In view of the problems being faced due to the presence of prisoners and inmates in excess of the prescribed capacity, the need for construction of a new jail was felt as an alternative which the Yogi government has completed with the construction of the district jail.

Currently only undertrial prisoners will be kept in District Jail Prayagraj whose number in Central Naini jail is 2,870. Two deputy jailers, 26 constables etc have been deployed in the district jail. The committee constituted by the DM also inspected it a few days

ago. After this, preparations are underway to shift the prisoners here in the first week of December.

**DISCUSSION:** On Children's Day under the auspices of 'Sarjanpeeth', Prayagraj, a national discussion was organised on the topic 'How to bring 'anath' (orphan) boys and girls into the category of 'sanath' at Saraswat Sadan, Alopibagh here. Lakshmi Raj, ARP, Barabanki, said it is the moral responsibility of all capable and sensitive citizens to contribute as much as possible in the work of connecting those children into the mainstream by giving them a feeling of economic and emotional security.

Ghanshyam Awasthi, teacher, Gonda, said it is the responsibility of the society and the government to jointly provide them proper guardianship. Acharya Pt Prithwinath Pandey, organiser and linguist, said if the general public shows true compassion and sense of social responsibility towards destitute boys and girls without parents then the future of such children can be improved. If

the NGOs concerned discharge their responsibilities then the future of orphans can be bright.

Dr Raghavendra Kumar Tripathi senior journalist, Hardoi, said such people who are financially capable and those who wish to do something for the society or those who are childless should take the responsibility of taking care of their future by adopting them. Aditya Kumar Tripathi said all those people who are childless should primarily take care of upbringing of these children.

Many such non-governmental organisations in India, which are working for the development of children, should also come forward and take up the responsibility of shaping the future of these children.

Aarti Jaiswal, litterateur, Rae Bareilly said government, voluntary organisations and society will have to change their perspective regarding orphans. Instead of considering them as 'objects of pity', they will have to consider them as their 'responsibility'.

# MEMU trains for Ghazipur, Jaunpur commuters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

For the easy conveyance of commuters and in order to provide additional facilities to the railway passengers, Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) started two pairs of new unreserved special MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) trains numbers 05462/05461 Varanasi City-Ghazipur City-Varanasi City and 05464/05463 Varanasi City-Jaunpur-Varanasi City from Wednesday. According to Public Relations Officers (PRO), Varanasi Division of NER, Ashok Kumar, both these MEMU trains will be run with eight coaches and their maintenance will be done weekly at Aunrihar DEMU shed for which these trains will operate six days a week.

New MEMU train 05462 Varanasi City-Ghazipur City unreserved special train departed from Varanasi City at 9.50 am and it will operate throughout the week except Monday. The train will reach Sarnath at 10.02 am, Kadirpur at 10.12 am, Rajwari at 10.19 am, Sidhauna Rampur Halt at 10.24 am, Aunrihar at 10.35 am, Saidpur Bhitri at 10.44 am, Taraon at 10.53 am, Basuchak Halt at 11.01 am, Nandganj at 11.08 am, Sahedi Halt at 11.15 am, Ankushpur at 11.21 am and reach Ghazipur City at 11.40 am.

In the return journey, new MEMU train 05461 Ghazipur City-Varanasi City unreserved special train will depart from Ghazipur City at 3.15 pm during the day and it will operate all week except

Sunday. It will reach Ankushpur at 3.26 pm, Sahedi Halt at 3.32 pm, Nandganj at 3.39 pm, Basuchak Halt at 3.46 pm, Taraon at 3.52 pm, Saidpur Bhitari at 4.01 pm, Aunrihar at 4.20 pm, Sidhauna Rampur Halt at 4.27 pm, Rajwari at 4.32 pm, Kadirpur at 4.40 pm, Sarnath at 4.50 pm and arrive at Varanasi City at 5.10 pm.

Similarly, new MEMU train 05464 Varanasi City-Jaunpur unreserved special train departed from Varanasi City at 10.40 am during the day and it will run throughout the week except Friday. It will reach Sarnath at 10.52 am, Kadirpur at 11.02 am, Rajwari at 11.09 am, Sidhauna Rampur Halt at 11.14 am, Aunrihar at 11.35 am, Faridahan Halt at 11.43 am, Dudhaunda Halt at 11.50 am,

Dobhi at 12 noon, Kerakat at 12.09 pm, Gangauli Halt at 12.16 pm, Muftiganj at 12.23 pm, Yadvendra Nagar Halt at 12.33 pm and reach Jaunpur at 1 pm.

In the return journey, new MEMU train 05463 Jaunpur-Varanasi City unreserved special train will depart from Jaunpur at 1.20 pm and it will run throughout the week except Thursday. It will reach Yadvendra Nagar Halt at 1.33 pm, Muftiganj at 1.43 pm, Gangauli Halt at 1.51 pm, Kerakat at 1.58 pm, Dobhi at 2.07 pm hrs, Dudhaunda Halt at 2.17 pm, Faridaha Halt at 2.23 pm, Aunrihar at 2.45 pm, Sidhauna Rampur Halt at 2.52 pm, Rajwari at 2.57 pm, Kadirpur at 3.04 pm, Sarnath at 3.14 pm and arrive at Varanasi City at 3.30 pm.

# Cattle smuggler held after encounter

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Jigna police on Tuesday arrested a cattle smuggler following an encounter. The accused was at large and the police had declared a reward of Rs 25,000. An encounter between the police team led by SHO CP Pandey and the accused took place late on Monday night. The police nabbed the accused and sent him to jail after completing the legal formalities. The police recovered a country-made gun along with one live and an empty cartridge from the possession of the accused identified as Babundar Kharvar of Chaura village under Maachi police station, Sonbhadra.

**MEETING:** CRO Satya Prakash Singh while presiding over a meeting at the Collectorate on Tuesday directed the officials concerned to ensure linking of Aadhaar cards with bank accounts of beneficiaries of Ujjwala scheme till December to facilitate them with the refilling of two gas cylinders till Holi. The gas agencies were directed to assist



CRO Satya Prakash Singh presiding over a meeting at the Collectorate on Tuesday

the officials concerned through records related to the Ujjwala beneficiaries. The DSO was directed to make available the list of those beneficiaries whose Aadhaar cards were yet to be linked.

DSO Sanjai Kumar Barnwal apprised the CRO that out of 2,95,905 beneficiaries the free refilling facility was to be made available to 68,737 in the first phase whose Aadhaar cards were already linked and

for the rest the facility will be made available gradually according to the linking of the Aadhaar cards. He said after the linking of the Aadhaar cards with the bank accounts subsidy will be transferred in the accounts directly by the state government as well as the oil companies. The meeting was attended by representatives of the different oil companies, supply inspectors and other officials concerned.

**BIRTH ANNIVERSARY:**

A function organised to observe the birth anniversary of first prime minister of India at Avas Vikas Colony on Tuesday. Veteran Congress leader Shashi Bhushan Dubey said it was Jawaharlal Nehru whose visionary approach made the nation capable to make inventions in the direction of science and technology. The speakers underlined the achievements of Nehru. Prominent among those who spoke at the occasion were Chhote Khan, Rajdhar Dubey, Ishiyak Ansari and Vidhi Kumar Singh.

**DEEPAWALI MILAN SAMAROH:** The Deepawli Milan Samaroh was organised under the aegis of RSS at Keshav Dham on Tuesday. Nagar Pracharak Rajendra Kumar said festivals were introduced to keep the society intact.

He threw light on the five day Diwali festival. Lakkan Lal Kesharwani, Vimlesh Agrahari, Lakkan Agrawal, Saurabh Shah, Gunjan Chaudhary and others attended the programme.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Tears of Gaza

The escalating humanitarian crisis calls for immediate and effective global intervention

The humanitarian emergency in Gaza is getting scarier by the hour as Israeli forces stand around Shifa Hospital, occasionally using their arsenal and exacerbating an already grim scenario. Reports of people dying inside the hospital compound — people dying inside a hospital where they are supposed to be nursed back to health, mind you! — have rung alarm bells, calling for immediate international intervention. Shifa Hospital, the biggest medical facility in Gaza, has become a focal point in the ongoing conflict. The presence of Israeli forces at its gates has heightened tensions and created a sense of desperation among civilians seeking refuge and medical assistance there. Even under international humanitarian law, any threat or attack on a healthcare institute raises serious ethical concerns. The siege has disrupted the hospital's functioning, preventing medics from providing assistance to those in need. This situation highlights the severe consequences of the conflict on the civilian population, particularly on the most vulnerable, such as the sick, elderly and the injured. A documentary film, 'Tears of Gaza', was made by Norwegian director Vibeke Løkkeberg in 2010. At the time, the film came as an eye-opener on the atrocities faced by Palestinians in Israel-ruled Gaza since 1967. If that film were to be remade, it would be rechristened 'Tears of Blood in Gaza' as all hope has abandoned Gaza, where residents have been left out in the cold to stare at imminent death. Even the UN stands as a mute spectator of the genocide, which is nothing less than a crime against humanity.



The situation has been complicated by the shocking statement of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu, who has suggested that Gaza should be subjected to nuclear force. It is not only a morally reprehensible statement but also escalates a volatile situation, raising concerns about the potential for further violence. The Minister's statement has rightly drawn widespread condemnation, including calls for accountability and a reevaluation of the international community's role in mediating the conflict. The world must respond promptly to the deteriorating situation in Gaza. Diplomatic efforts should be intensified to bring about an immediate ceasefire and facilitate humanitarian access to the affected areas. Humanitarian organisations must be allowed to operate freely, providing essential aid and medical care to the civilian population. The inflammatory rhetoric by Government members underscores the urgent need for de-escalation of armed conflict and diplomacy boost. International community, including organisations like the United Nations, must work towards securing immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Gaza Strip as, by the army's own accord, the Hamas has been decimated which means there is no longer any rationale to carry on with its armed campaign.

### PICTALK



People take holy dip in River Yamuna on the occasion of Bhai Dooj, in Mathura

# Need to teach the country management



PRAFULL GORADIA

Not a single institute in the country teaches the art and science of managing a nation. Time we have specialised institutes for the country management

Approximately, there are 4,000 management institutions across the country, specialising in finance, human resources, modern communication, marketing, etc. Yet, not a single institution teaches management of the country. National management should have been considered the most important, affecting every citizen. Management science emerged about a century ago, during World War I when German army officers analysed their army's efficiency. One study revealed an important fact—there were four non-combatants operational for one frontline soldier. In contrast, the British frontline fighting soldier had ten non-combatant personnel supporting him. Organisationally, the Imperial German Army was two-and-a-half times more efficient than its British counterpart. Other militaries also carried out similar studies, from which the phrase "tooth-to-tail ratio" was born; the teeth being the fighting soldier. Later, this entered the commercial world where employees were divided into revenue-earning staff and others with general tasks.

Business management schools began taking off, especially after World War II, proliferating in the 1970s into hospitals, hotels, colleges and schools. Teachers became headmasters, professors became principals and doctors became superintendents. Jaslok Hospital in Mumbai was the first medical institution to be planned according to management principles. For a long, administration was conflated with execution and/or management, with little realisation that the former's focus is discipline, whereas the latter's is result(s). This lack of awareness has brought down many countries' economies. More countries are mismanaged than managed properly. Bharat too was unaware, until 1947 that it had to be managed—call it governed—and not merely administered. India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru deserves credit for being conscious of planning. He did not wait for the first parliament to be elected and established the Planning Commission by a cabinet fiat. Yojana Bhavan functioned somewhat like the Gosplan of the (former) Soviet Union.

Bharat was governed better than countries in our immediate neighbourhood; most are on the verge of bankruptcy. China's example is unique. Its growth and development on the morrow of Mao Zedong's passing away have been undoubtedly phenomenal. His successor Deng Xiaoping's tenure was outstanding by any measure, but somewhere down the years, the exertions of the regime in Beijing violated a fundamental management principle. No economy should produce anything indefinitely unless there is a market. China believed its economy could grow by pegging its fortunes on the real estate industry. Its regime began with roads and airports and ended with residential apartments.

This building spree increased the need for cement, steel, bricks and other goods, also employing a large number of people as workers. Real estate became an engine of rapid growth and was pursued with gusto. Exports were built up with the growth of apparent financial surpluses. Some national assets were exchanged in return for hard currency, but the Chinese regime ignored this. Multinationals and non-residents jumped onto this band-



wagon. Money was borrowed through banks, through deficit financing. The sale of millions of new residential apartments rested on hope rather than demand. Unsold apartments cannot go on propelling the economy beyond a point. The ruling elite of Pakistan showed no interest in understanding economics. They took no note of the fact that neither wing of their country, east or west, had much industry. During the Ayub Khan regime, Pakistan had some 22 elite and rich families who could supposedly propel the country's economy. But 14 of these 22 families were Gujaratis; Memons or Khojas, who had migrated there after Partition, with little local talent. Pakistan's politicians were busy with their intrigues and took little interest in industrialisation. Pakistan's first president Iskander Mirza understood this situation. He believed the government should steer clear of religion or the military. Religion led to bias; while the military was meant for defence, it had no understanding of civilian economics. Unfortunately, Pakistan made both these mistakes. The country jumped to the American call to join the Baghdad Pact, later called the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO). Foreign aid into Pakistan began flowing and imports were liberal, making



MANAGEMENT SCIENCE EMERGED ABOUT A CENTURY AGO, DURING WORLD WAR I WHEN GERMAN ARMY OFFICERS ANALYSED THEIR ARMY'S EFFICIENCY

indigenous manufacturing unnecessary. By 2016, aid from the USA virtually dried up and the generals did not know where to look for aid, except China. Beijing demands interest plus guarantees, including forfeiture of territory in the event of non-repayment. Sri Lanka's story is different, but its government did violate fundamental rules making the country suffer. Myanmar has been under military rule since 1958. Bangladesh has an inherently weak economy, while Nepal is yet to experience full development. Shining national management sagas are Germany and Japan after WWII. Singapore is the brightest jewel, although a small one, sculpted by the legendary Lee Kwan Yew. Bharat has today been the best government since its independence. Before we conclude, we should draw readers' attention to the USA, a systemic rather than managerial success. Its constitution has given the country a unique structure with a separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers such that, within reasonable limits, no matter the quality of the individual governor(s), the country has kept flourishing for over two and a half centuries. This merits a separate study. (The writer is a well-known columnist, an author, and a former member of the Rajya Sabha; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BJP VS OTHERS!

Sir —Nowadays, the electoral situation is very intense in Madhya Pradesh. Each leader has to face criticism from others to gain a reputation, and fulfil promises through various schemes. For example, Mr. Modi participated in a programme in support of the BJP and intensified his attacks on other parties, mainly the Congress. He expressed confidence that the BJP will hold onto power for a second consecutive term due to the 'love and trust' of the people. He reiterated his promises to the public and announced the Centre's proposed ₹24,000 crore welfare scheme for tribals in the country. The party is turning to seers to revive its fortunes in the run-up to the assembly elections, stating that 'Congress knows that its fake promises won't work in front of Modi's guarantees.' PM Modi praised India's achievements in the last couple of years and criticised Congress, asking which 'foreign glasses' they are wearing that prevent them from seeing the country's development. After criticising a 'mahaganyani' leader from the Congress, PM Modi stated that the Congress is flying in the air as they don't have an idea of ground realities. He emphasised the need for leaders to work for the frequency and favour of the people and for people to choose a leader who will ponder and work hard for them.

Md Mofidul Islam | Howrah

### THE INDO-US 2+2 DIALOGUE

Sir —The Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue is a critical moment in international relations, unfolding against a backdrop of complex geopolitical intricacies. Cabinet members engage in discussions spanning foreign affairs and defence, emphasising the need for collaboration. The dialogue focuses on supporting defence cooperation and aligning policy objectives in the Indo-Pacific, responding strategically to China's dominance. Landmark deals, like the supply of engines for Indian fighter jets and the acquisition of MQ-9 predator drones, signify a commitment to mutual security and technological advancement.

### Trapped workers still struggling for life



The battle for life is still ongoing in Uttarakashi. The rescue of life by the search and rescue operation teams as well as the disaster management forces is continuing on the Brahmakhal-Yamunotri National Highway. After the collapse of some 30-meter tunnel parts out of a 270-meter

tunnel, an estimated 40 labourers were trapped in between. Despite multiple alarms from scientific reports that the state of Uttarakhand is ecologically fragile and sensitive to seismic activities caused by tectonic plate movement, the speed of construction had no breaks. Every few months, there have been reports of landslides, earthquakes, flash floods, cloud bursting, and land subsidence and sinking. The Tapovan power project, land sinking in Joshimath, a flash flood in Chamoli district, and now the tunnel disaster on the Brahmakhal-Yamunotri National Highway—all these incidents of loss of life and infrastructure had been recorded in just two years. It is extremely regrettable to note that the government did not ban these activities, despite reminders from environmental activists and stakeholders.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Discussions extend beyond defence to address regional issues in South Asia and the broader Indian Ocean region. The Indo-US partnership, once distant during the Cold War, has evolved into an active alliance. The dialogue reflects the intricate dance of maintaining historical alliances, notably considering India's ties with Russia amid Western scrutiny. In essence, the Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue encapsulates a multifaceted narrative, telling a tale of collaboration in mutual interests, the pursuit of stability in a shifting world order, and a commitment to constructing a shared global agenda. Beyond agreements signed, its significance lies in the shared vision, fortifying the foundations of a partnership shaping the geopolitical landscape.

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

### HOMAGE TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

Sir —Last Tuesday, the nation remembered India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, on his 134th birth anniversary. A people's prime minister, statesman, intellectual, and scholar, Nehru was one of the highly recognised world leaders of his time. His policies on the economy, science and technology, international

relations, and education had all designed the future course of the country. Nehru believed in scientific knowledge and propagated reasoning and rationality as the basis of all learning. Perhaps the most authentic way to learn and understand Nehru's role in nation-building is to analyse the legacy of intellect left behind by him through his writings, which can be interpreted as prescriptive texts. He left his writings, which were to be preserved for posterity. And through his cerebral writings, Nehru continues to speak with every Indian even today. It is not only difficult but even impossible for the nation to forget the Nehruvian legacy. Nehru laid the foundation for transformational changes, paving the way for India's eventual emergence as a major economic hub on the global centre stage. Nehru prided himself on calling himself the 'prime servant' of the nation, and that was the humility of this great man. Not for nothing, India's first Prime Minister was hailed as the 'Architect of Modern India'.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Electrification of last-mile mobility and logistics

A beginning can be made by providing gig workers with EVs. The Govt must support them and acknowledge their contribution to the economy

The electrification of mobility has been one of the most dominating themes of any strategic planning aimed at environmental protection and combating climate change. Yesterday, the Government of Delhi announced in principle clearance for the Delhi Motor Vehicle Aggregator and Delivery Service Provider Scheme that aims at 100% conversion of all bike taxis and electric bikes/2-wheelers deployed in last-mile delivery services to electric vehicles.

### India's EV transition

There are close to 9 million formal gig workers in India (2022 data), and Niti Aayog predicts that this number will rise to 23.5 million by 2030. A rising number of people eligible to work, and lack of employment opportunities for people in the corporate world as well as considerations such as lifestyle choices, work-life balance, flexible work hours etc are leading to a surge in the gig workforce in India. These are the people who constitute the extensive last-mile delivery community for large e-commerce providers such as Amazon, and Flipkart, and food deliv-



ery apps such as Zomato and Swiggy etc. Every day millions of packages are delivered by these personnel across almost every part of the country. Whether it is a package to deliver to a customer, food to deliver, medicines, or even sending a gift to a loved one in another part of the town, or providing a bike ride home to someone, these last mile logistics warriors play a multitude of roles for the service providers and consumers alike.

It is the reliance on these gig drivers that has enabled e-commerce and food delivery platforms to build their business models. Since they are informal, and contractual hires, most of the gig drivers don't have regular employee privileges such as fixed salaries, medical benefits, Provident Fund, paid leaves

and insurance etc. In most cases, they are the owners of the bikes they use for the delivery work and get paid for fuel and effort as per the company's terms and conditions. Essentially, they run the growth of these businesses, but they are the least protected, and the first to be exposed if the company decides to cut operational costs, or the authorities take restrictive positions such as banning bike-taxis in Delhi and Bengaluru etc.

### Caring for the drivers

The majority of the millions of gig workers operating in the bike taxi and last-mile delivery segments have purchased the vehicles out of their own pockets or by taking vehicle loans. They need to pay EMIs, pay for fuel, and then hopefully make enough money to earn a good living for themselves and their families. In such a scenario, the ongoing bike-taxi ban and the proposal to compulsorily convert all these vehicles to EVs can cause a major concern for the millions of existing and upcoming gig drivers. Environmental benefits notwithstanding, we could essentially be driving millions

of gig workers out of their only source of employment if they are forced to pay up for acquiring EVs at a time when they are already paying EMIs for their existing vehicles that they can't even use for work. Companies like Amazon, Swiggy, Zomato, Flipkart, Uber, Ola and others need to bring the gig workers under the coverage of certain employment benefits such as health and life insurance, and easy lending/financing for the EVs they are asked to purchase.

When the gig workers are assured of getting steady incomes, and freed from the burden of paying higher EMIs, they will find it more viable to make the switch. The state and central governments also need to acknowledge the contributions and the critical nature of these gig workers. Laws and policies mandating minimum wages, and legal protection of their rights at par with other skilled or unskilled workforces covered under Indian labour laws, must be provided.

(The writer is CEO and Co-founder of Chargeup; views expressed are personal)



VARUN GOENKA





## FIRST COLUMN

### WHY MUST WE GO TO A SPIRITUAL PLACE?

One not only gets peace of mind there but also connects to higher intelligence



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

First, the benefits. Temples are normally made in a very scientific manner. Lots of thought goes into it. They are made to be conducive to the transmission of positive spiritual energy. If a temple is visited regularly by the devout and murtis have been consecrated with proper rites/ceremonies (Prana Pratishtha), God manifests in these murtis. This means that those visiting will be able to have a 'darshan' of God in that particular form. Lord Krishna has highly recommended worshipping God in His 'sakar' (Deity/photo) form. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 12.2-12.5) In Ramacharitmanas, Lord Ramachandra has said the same thing, "Those, who worship God in His manifest form (which is when God incarnated), are very dear to Me." (Sundar Kand #48)

Temples, which are well maintained, have a very special environment. I go to several temples in Delhi and spend some time there. The mood is so different. Chanting of mantras, 'havans,' prasad distribution, etc. are regular features in these temples. Those, who are fortunate enough to come, appear hopeful. The air is clean and laden with the smell of 'agarbattis' and 'havan samagri.' And those who serve there are most welcoming. I have a distinct feeling that my home is where I reside, but these temples are my real shelters; I belong there. I won't deny that I genuinely feel that God is pleased that I make the effort to come to Him. God fulfills many of my wishes, which God thinks that I have become deserving of.

Ever since I started to visit some temples daily as a routine. I feel more energetic. My connection with God is getting strengthened. I don't know if I am qualified to be called a bhakta or not, but my devotion is getting stronger. Not only spiritually, I feel that my mental strength is also going



up. Because I am doing what is optional, not a duty related to earning my living or existing. As an old and retired person, I don't go out much. These temple outings give my life variety, because we, souls, need change to invigorate ourselves. My donations to the temple and those who serve there make me feel very good. Is it not a very good public service, which has been highly recommended by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad-Gita (3.20 and 3.25)? We live in societies and have social responsibilities, which we must fulfil. This is both mandatory and benefits personally. I choose a time to visit, which meets all my requirements. The first one is to go there when there aren't so many. Sometimes, I am all by myself with God. I feel very special at those times. About this, I am very particular on special days like Janmashtami. I also chose the temple, which has that Deity but is not frequented by many. The idea is to spend time with my Lord peacefully.

We can choose to get help from God or live an ordinary life, controlled by our 'karmaphalas'. When these are good, one feels confident, but when bad 'karmaphalas' make their dreaded appearance, all feel lost. I am not one to be so defenceless. I want to make sure that I can approach God when going is not good. Believe me, God helps me to come out of difficulties caused by my bad 'karmaphalas' every time. We cannot fault God; the creation must go on. If there were no 'karmaphalas' and there was no enforcement of dharma where will all of us be? In the end, one should not only go to a temple as a ritual, which is also good but go there to make our connection with God permanent, to be in God's shelter. Visiting a temple is no replacement for all duties we must do because God doesn't forgive dereliction of duties; it should be done for higher benefits. Similarly, we should always remain on the goodness level; anything lower will not please God. Our desires must be according to dharma. Then, our visits to temples will be highly fruitful, much beyond our imagination.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

## AI: A double-edged sword we must live with



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

AI is one of the biggest technical advancements in recent times but it can pose a great danger to humanity by unleashing misinformation and deepfakes

After its launch last year, the generative AI tool with astoundingly diverse capabilities, the ChatGPT, has taken the world by storm. Despite its immense capabilities to improve our lives and solve humanity's problems, it has made data scientists and governments deeply worried about its potential to create a tsunami of misinformation and an atmosphere of distrust. More ominously, it may endanger democracy itself by its potential to manipulate elections through fake news and false propaganda, making it difficult to distinguish truth from falsehood, and elections in the two largest democracies are due only next year.

In March 2023, a thousand technology leaders warned in an open letter that AI posed a profound, existential threat to humanity that needed immediate regulation. The letter called for a six-month moratorium in developing powerful AI systems and called for a pause in AI development, urging that, "Powerful AI systems should be developed only once we are confident that their effects will be positive and their risks will be manageable." The pause would provide time to introduce "shared safety protocols" for AI systems and governments should step in to institute a moratorium, it added.

Swift government action was a slim possibility, as politicians have very little understanding of AI. However, this time at least some governments have taken the threats rather seriously. On 1st and 2nd November 2023, delegates from 27 governments around the world, as well as the heads of top artificial intelligence companies, gathered for the world's first "AI Safety Summit" at Bletchley Park in the UK, a picturesque venue north of London whose symbolism cannot be missed - it was home to Alan Turing during World War-II where machines devised to decode the Nazis' Enigma Code formed the first blueprints for programmable computers. Among the attendees were delegates from the UN, the USA, China, the EU, and India and tech leaders from OpenAI, Anthropic, Google DeepMind, Microsoft, Meta and XAI.

In 2021, European Union policymakers proposed a law, yet to be passed but designed to regulate AI technologies that might create harm including facial recognition systems, and requiring companies to conduct risk assessments of AI technologies to determine how their applications could affect health, safety and individual rights. In 2022 alone, 37 regulations mentioning AI were passed around the globe; Italy went so far as to ban ChatGPT, but little global coordination was visible otherwise. This time, the conference delegates from different countries agreed to share a common approach to identifying risks and ways to mitigate them. The "Bletchley Declaration" issued on 1st November recognised the short-term and longer-term risks of AI, affirmed the responsibility of the creators of powerful AI systems to ensure that they are safe, and committed to international collaboration on identifying and mitigating the risks.

The proceedings were held in camera, but the British PM said that on 2nd November, the USA, EU and other "like-minded" countries had reached a "landmark agreement" with select cutting-edge AI companies that models should be rigorously assessed before and after they are deployed - an agreement not signed by China, which signed the "Bletchley Declaration" the previous day. The AI companies at the Summit



IN MARCH 2023, TECHNOLOGY LEADERS WARNED IN AN OPEN LETTER THAT AI HAS POSED A PROFOUND, EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO HUMANITY THAT NEEDED IMMEDIATE REGULATION

(The author, a former Director General at the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, is currently a Professor at the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management; views are personal)

have agreed to give governments early access to their models to perform safety evaluations. Details are still sketchy, and the only thing we know is that both the UK and the USA would set up permanent bodies called AI Safety institutes to carry out safety evaluations and develop risk assessment guidelines for AI systems. The progress seemed to be limited, but global coordination seen at this level for the first time is a welcome feature to ensure that humanity can come together to counter the threats posed by the unlimited capabilities of AI.

At the end of the Summit, the UK which chaired the Summit, issued a statement summarising the discussions on various objectives. The major objectives of the Summit included developing a shared understanding of the risks posed by frontier AI technologies and the need for concerted action, triggering a process for international collaboration on the safety of frontier AI technologies and development of new standards to support AI-governance.

The consensus emerged on developing common and measurable international standards for safety and on governments' role in testing models, not just pre- and post-deployment, but earlier in the life-cycle of the model, including in training runs of Large Language Models. Delegates also shared the ambition to unlock the significant potential of frontier AI technologies with their potential to transform economies and societies - especially in improving healthcare, education and handling environmental problems inclusively.

Currently, a fragmented and incomplete understanding of frontier AI technologies marks their develop-

ment in different countries. Inclusivity means equitable realisation and distribution of the benefits of AI for all countries and across all groups, including minorities and marginalised ones; failure in this will create extreme inequality with disastrous consequences for the future. To mitigate risks, there is also a need for shared principles and codes and their standardisation. Some progress has already been achieved in this, like the 2019 OECD Recommendation on AI, and the G7-initiated Hiroshima Process under the presidency of Japan, especially the Hiroshima Process International Guiding Principles and International Code of Conduct for Organisations Developing Advanced AI Systems. However, ensuring AI safety would require the convergence of multiple branches of activity, including skills, talent, and physical infrastructure. These are presently monopolised by advanced countries and tech giants, and without shared benefits and inclusivity, the risks cannot be mitigated. Presently there is a huge concentration of AI power within a handful of companies unwilling to let go of their stranglehold.

Profit-driven companies monopolising AI research are likely to lead to bad outcomes, and there is a raging debate about the open-sourcing of codes to address this problem. There are contrary views on this, with some pointing to the dangers of open-sourced codes in the hands of rogue state and non-state players, while others say that open-sourcing of models can accelerate safety research. In regulating AI, there are different approaches followed by different countries which are competing with each other with different objectives. While

the US wants self-regulation by tech companies to promote innovation, the EU wants a risk-based approach. For China, socialist values, meaning political control, remain at the forefront of regulation. The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), effective from 2018, focuses on the privacy of personal data, and how that data can be used by AI systems. The Digital Markets Act, which has also passed, focuses on competition and will target the largest cloud players, which are essential for AI systems. US regulation is focused primarily on containing China.

Given the breakneck speed at which AI is evolving, there is also the question of what to regulate. Tech firms want only a narrow regulation, limiting scrutiny to the most powerful frontier models.

Microsoft is calling for a licensing regime requiring firms to register models that exceed certain performance thresholds. Some are advocating controlling the sale of powerful chips used to train the LLMs. The best option, as suggested by many experts, is to create a new global, neutral, non-profit international regulatory agency like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) with adequate regulatory authority to guide, coordinate and control the development of frontier AI technologies with mandatory safety standards. Such a body must be represented by all governments with equal voting powers. That would mean involving all stakeholders, and the biggest obstacle to this would be the advanced countries and their tech companies which can make unlimited profits only so long as the others remain excluded from the cutting-edge AI technologies.

## Urbanisation: Shaping the future of sustainable cities

In 2020, cities dumped a whopping 29 trillion tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Transitioning to low-carbon cities can significantly reduce CO2 levels

As the world becomes increasingly urbanised, the relationship between urban areas and carbon emissions has taken centre stage in the ongoing climate crisis. With urbanisation being one of the defining characteristics of the 21st century, understanding its impact on carbon emissions is crucial. It's not just about the 70% of CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels attributed to urban areas; the effect of urbanisation on the global carbon cycle goes beyond these emissions. In this article, we delve into the multifaceted nature of urbanisation's impact on carbon emissions and present a solution-oriented approach to tackling this pressing issue.



HEERA LAL



KAVIRAJ SINGH

(Dr Heera Lal is special secretary, Government of UP & Dr Kaviraj Singh is managing director Earthood, views are personal)

seven billion people will be living in cities, and that will accentuate the concerns regarding worsening climate, and sustainability. In the year 2020 alone, inhabitants of urban areas collectively released a staggering 29 trillion tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. While these emissions are a potent driver of climate change, they also pose a severe threat to public health. The consequences of this surge in CO2 levels extend beyond the realm of meteorological records and climate models. Rising CO2 levels translate into more frequent and extreme weather events, leading to loss of life, livelihoods, property, and essential resources. Furthermore, it erodes the social well-being of communities. As we barrel

towards 2050, with an expected seven billion city dwellers, the stakes for climate sustainability have never been higher. Increased urbanisation, exacerbated by global warming, contributes to a rise in the concentration of ozone, leading to health complications, particularly for those with respiratory issues.

**Towards Low Carbon Cities:** To build low-carbon cities, we need a sector-coupling approach that assesses and transforms multiple sectors, including energy, buildings, transportation, industry, and urban land use. It is essential to address both the supply and demand sides to realise this vision. In the energy sector, promoting the use of clean and cost-effective technologies and transitioning from fossil fuels

to renewables is vital. Carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technologies must be implemented, and renewable-based district cooling and heating networks should be established to reduce emissions. Additionally, in terms of the construction of buildings and infrastructure, the emphasis should be on energy-efficient services, low-emission construction materials, and mandating net-zero energy for new constructions while retrofitting existing buildings.

**Benefits of Energy-System Transitions**  
The crux of this transition is sustainable development - a way of life that harmonises with the planet's preservation and optimal resource utilisation. Such a development considers the needs of the present

without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The benefits of transitioning to low-carbon cities are multifold. It can significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases, providing better employment conditions, boosting knowledge intensity in firms, and promoting skill development. Moreover, it ensures food security, sustainable living, and livelihood options, while protecting biodiversity and human health.

**Challenges and Concerns**  
Transitioning to low-carbon cities is not without its challenges. Developing economies that rely on fossil fuels and have limited access to renewable energy options may be disproportionately affected. In developed countries, the

potential for inequity arises due to high energy costs and associated economic disparities. Moreover, energy justice and social equity issues can have severe implications for the economic well-being of people, livelihoods, and economic development. Justice concerns also manifest in land evictions for large-scale renewable energy projects, the marginalisation of certain communities, and increased gender gaps. To address these concerns, a comprehensive approach is needed, one that considers the voices of different communities and utilises indigenous and local knowledge and experiences.

**The SEED Formula:** In conclusion, the path towards low-carbon cities is crucial for our planet's survival. To nav-

igate this path, we present the SEED formula, encompassing Sector-Coupling Approach, Energy-System Transitions, Equity, and Decarbonisation. Embracing the SEED formula is our path forward to sustainable urbanisation. By doing so, we can mitigate the consequences of urbanisation on the environment, reduce carbon emissions, and ultimately build cities that are not only green but also provide a higher quality of life for all their inhabitants. It is the only way to ensure that the future will indeed be green and that our planet can thrive for generations to come. To conclude, we must remind ourselves of the famous words by Bob Brown - "The future will either be green or not at all."



# Tough issues loom over Biden, Xi meeting

AP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

President Joe Biden and Xi Jinping head into their big meeting at a country estate on Wednesday hoping to stabilise US-China relations after a period of tumult, but the US president also is prepared to confront his counterpart on difficult issues such as trade, Beijing's burgeoning relationship with Iran and human rights concerns.

The two leaders, who will meet on the sidelines of a summit of Asian-Pacific leaders, last spoke a year ago. Since then, already fraught ties between the two economic superpowers have been further strained by the US downing of a Chinese spy balloon that had traversed the continental US and over differences on the self-ruled island of Taiwan, China's hacking of a Biden official's emails and other incidents.

The two leaders are in California for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, but will hold their one-on-one talks at Filoli Estate, a country house and museum about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of San Francisco, according to three senior administration officials. The officials requested anonymity to discuss the location, which had not yet been confirmed by the White House or the Chinese government due to tight security.

Both men are seeking to show the world that while the US and China are economic competitors, they are not locked in a winner-take-all faceoff with global implications. Their relationship has been increasingly defined by differences over export controls, Taiwan and the conflicts in the Middle East and Europe.

Biden is expected to let Xi know that he would like China to use its sway over Iran to make clear that Tehran or its

proxies should not take action that could lead to expansion of the Israel-Hamas war. The Biden administration also sees the Chinese, a big buyer of Iranian oil, as having considerable leverage with Iran, which is a major backer of Hamas.

Biden on Tuesday billed the meeting as a chance to get Washington and Beijing back "on a normal course corresponding" once again.

But White House National Council spokesman John Kirby said Biden was "not going to be afraid to confront where confrontation is needed on issues where we don't see eye to eye." "We're also not going to be afraid, nor should we be afraid, as a confident nation, to engage in diplomacy on ways which we can cooperate with China — on climate change, for instance, and clean energy technology," Kirby said.

Biden will be focused on managing the countries' increasingly fierce economic

competition and keeping open lines of communication to prevent misunderstandings that could lead to direct conflict between the two powers.

While he's expected to defend US expansion of export controls on semiconductor chips, he also will assure Xi that the US is not trying to wage economic war with Beijing amid continuing signs that China's economy is struggling to recover from the disruptions of the pandemic.

Xi, meanwhile, is looking for assurances from Biden that the US will not support Taiwan independence, start a new cold war or suppress China's economic growth. He's also keen to show the U.S. that China is still a good place to invest.

Even before their meeting, there were some signs of a thaw: The State Department on Tuesday announced that the US and China — two of the world's biggest polluters — had agreed to pursue efforts to

triple renewable energy capacity globally by 2030, through wind, solar and other renewables.

There was also hope for some concrete agreements to come out of the meeting Wednesday, including on re-establishing military-to-military communications that have largely gone dark since August 2022, and on efforts to curb illicit fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is increasingly responsible for US drug overdoses. Many of the chemicals used to manufacture the drug come from China.

The APEC summit events already have attracted considerable demonstrations and more were expected Wednesday, including protests against Xi and against multinational corporations focused on profits.

In the hours before the meeting, White House officials said Biden was coming into the talks bolstered by signs the U.S.

economy is in a stronger position than China's, and that the US is building stronger stronger alliances throughout the Pacific.

The US president, speaking at a campaign fundraiser on Tuesday evening, pointed to his upcoming meeting as an example of how "reestablished American leadership in the world is taking hold." As for China, the president told donors, it has "real problems."

The International Monetary Fund recently cut growth forecasts for China, predicting economic growth of 5% this year and 4.2% in 2024, down slightly from previous forecasts. Last month, Beijing released economic data that showed prices falling due to slack demand from consumers and businesses.

Biden, meanwhile, has taken pride in proving wrong a large swath of economists who predicted that millions of layoffs and a recession might be

needed to bring down inflation. The Labor Department said Tuesday that consumer prices rose at an annual pace of 3.2% annually, down from a June 2022 peak of 9.1%. Meanwhile, employers keep hiring and the unemployment rate has held below 4% for nearly two years.

Xi, after his meeting with Biden on Wednesday, will address American business executives at a \$2,000-plate dinner that will be a rare opportunity for U.S. business leaders to hear directly from the Chinese leader as they seek clarification on Beijing's expanding security rules that may choke foreign investment.

Foreign companies operating in China say tensions with Washington over technology, trade and other issues and uncertainty over Chinese policies are damaging the business environment and causing some to reassess their plans for investing in the giant market.

A senior Biden administration official who briefed reporters ahead of the meeting said one big reason why Xi decided to make the trip to the US was to send the message to American CEOs that China was still a good place to invest. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Tuesday that during a recent visit to Beijing, he and other lawmakers made the case directly to Xi that he could bolster China's reputation in the US and around the globe by taking action to stop the flow of chemicals used to produce fentanyl.

"It is reported he's very worried about the negative opinion of China in the United States," Schumer said. "And I told him nothing could help raise China's image a little bit in the United States more than stopping the flow of fentanyl."

## UK plan to send migrants to Rwanda unlawful, says Supreme Court

AP ■ LONDON

Britain's Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that the government's contentious plan to send some migrants on a one-way trip to Rwanda is illegal, striking a major blow to a key policy of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government that has drawn international attention and criticism.

Five justices on the country's top court said asylum-seekers would be "at real risk of ill-treatment" because they could be sent back to their home countries once they were in Rwanda.

Britain and Rwanda signed a deal in April 2022 to send some migrants who arrive in the UK across the English Channel to the East

African country, where their asylum claims would be processed and, if successful, they would stay.

Britain's government argues that the Rwanda policy will deter people from risking their lives crossing one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, and will break the business model of people-smuggling gangs. Opposition politicians, refugee groups and human rights organizations say the plan is unethical and unworkable.

No one has yet been sent to the country as the plan was challenged in the courts.

Reading the unanimous decision, President of the Supreme Court Robert Reed said Rwanda could not be relied on to keep the promises not to mistreat asylum-

seekers sent from Britain.

He cited the country's poor human rights record, including enforced disappearances and torture, and practiced "refoulement" — sending migrants back to home countries where they could be at risk.

The first deportation flight was stopped at the last minute in June 2022, when the European Court of Human Rights intervened.

In December, the High Court in London ruled that the Rwanda plan is legal, but that the government must consider the individual circumstances of each case before putting anyone on a plane.

The Court of Appeal in June backed a challenge by asylum-seekers from coun-

tries including Syria, Vietnam and Iran. The court ruled that the plan was unlawful because Rwanda is not a "safe third country" and there was a risk that migrants sent there would be returned to the home countries they had fled.

That was challenged at the Supreme Court by the government, which argued at a hearing last month that it had thoroughly assessed the risks and would ensure that Rwanda's government abides by its agreement to protect migrants' rights.

Much of Europe and the US is struggling with how best to cope with migrants seeking refuge from war, violence, oppression and a warming planet that has brought devastating drought and floods.

## France issues arrest warrants for Syrian prez, 3 generals

AP ■ PARIS

French judicial authorities on Wednesday issued international arrest warrants for Syrian President Bashar Assad, his brother and two army generals alleging their involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity including in the chemical attack in 2013 on rebel-held Damascus suburbs, lawyers for Syrian victims said.

In addition to President Assad, the arrest warrants were issued for his brother, Maher Assad, the commander of the 4th Armored Division, and two Syrian army generals, Ghassan Abbas and Bassam al-Hassan.

Jeanne Sulzer and Clemence Witt, lawyers at the Paris Bar who represent the plaintiffs, and NGOs behind the complaint, hailed the decision Wednesday.

"It marks a crucial milestone in the battle against impunity," Sulzer told The Associated Press on the phone. "It signifies a positive evolution in case law recognising the grave nature of the crimes committed."

The Paris prosecutor's office has not publicly commented on the arrest warrants that remain secret under French law amid ongoing investigation.

"Legally speaking, this is a procedural act as the investigation into the 2013 attacks in Eastern Ghouta and Douma continues," Sulzer said. The four individuals named in the arrest warrants "can be arrested and brought to France for questioning by the investigative judges," she said.

More than 1,000 people were killed and thousands were injured in the August 2013 attacks on Douma and Eastern Ghouta.

The investigation into the two chemical weapons attacks has been conducted under universal jurisdiction in France by investigative judges of the Specialised Unit for Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes of the Paris Judicial Court.



President Joe Biden greets California Gov. Gavin Newsom (centre) and his wife Jennifer, San Francisco Mayor London Breed and Rep. Kevin Mullin, D-Calif. as he arrives at San Francisco International Airport for the APEC summit in San Francisco. AP/PTI

## US permits Iraq to buy electricity from Iran

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration has extended by four months a sanctions waiver that will allow Iraq to continue to purchase electricity from Iran and give Iran limited access to the proceeds to buy humanitarian goods.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed the 120-day waiver extension and it was transmitted to Congress on Tuesday, US officials said.

The move is likely to draw criticism from Iran hawks on Capitol Hill and elsewhere who believe the extension will reward Iran at a time when it is coming under increasing pressure to end its support for proxy groups, including Hamas, that are destabilising the Middle East.

There is roughly USD 10 billion in Iraqi payments for Iranian electricity currently being held in escrow accounts in Iraq, and the waiver will allow Baghdad to maintain its energy imports without fear of US penalties for violating sanctions on Iran. It will also keep in place a provision — included in the last 120-day waiver — under which portions of the electricity proceeds can be transferred to accounts in Oman and then converted to euros or other widely traded currencies for Iran to buy non-sanctioned products.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the decision-making process, said Blinken signed the waiver mainly because the administration doesn't want to cut Iraq off from a critical source of energy.

But, they said the administration is confident Iran will not be able to use any of the money for nefarious purposes. They said a rigorous vetting process is in place to ensure that the cash can only be used for food, medicine, medical equipment, and agricultural goods.

Blinken visited Baghdad on November 5 and met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani during the course of a Middle East trip focused on the Israel-Hamas war and efforts to prevent it from spreading into a broader regional conflict.

## Bangladesh to hold general elections on January 7: EC

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh will hold the much-awaited general elections on January 7, the country's chief election commissioner announced on Wednesday.

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal announced the dates during an address to the nation that was telecast live.

The announcement came amid mounting political tensions as Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its far-right allies like the Jamaat-e-Islami have waged a street campaign demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government to allow a non-party interim government to conduct the general elections.

The ruling Awami League has dismissed the demand, saying elections would be held under Premier Hasina, who also rejected proposals for dia-

logue with the Opposition by the US and other major Western countries, calling BNP a terrorist organisation.

Since October 28, the opposition parties have been enforcing transport blockades and clashing with police and rival activists in support of their demand.

The political violence in the last three weeks killed at least five people including a policeman.

According to media reports, some 8,000 opposition leaders and activists, including BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, have been arrested in a nationwide crackdown.

Major Western countries, including the United States, have called for a political settlement ahead of elections through dialogue among three major parties — Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi

authorities on Wednesday enforced a tight security vigil in the capital and other major cities after the Election Commission (EC) said it will announce the schedule for the next general elections.

Police on Wednesday, however, warned of stern action against arson attacks or any such act of sabotage as the Opposition began the fifth phase of its nationwide transport blockade to spearhead its campaign against the Hasina-led government.

"We have taken all steps to ensure security," Dhaka's police commissioner Habibur Rahman told newsmen.

Since October 28, the opposition parties have been enforcing transport blockades and clashing with police and rival activists in support of their demand. The political violence in the last two weeks killed at least five people including a policeman.

## China leads list of labour abusers

AP ■ MIAMI

Hazardous, forced work conditions sometimes akin to slavery have been detected on nearly 500 industrial fishing vessels around the world, but identifying those responsible for abuses at sea is hampered by a lack of transparency and regulatory oversight, a new report concluded.

The research by the Financial Transparency Coalition, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organisation that tracks illicit money flows, is the most comprehensive attempt to date to identify the companies operating vessels where tens of thousands of workers every year are estimated to be trapped in unsafe conditions.

The report, published Wednesday, found that a quarter of vessels suspected of abusing workers are flagged to China, whose distant water fleet dominates fishing on the high seas, traditionally lawless areas beyond the jurisdiction of any single country. Vessels from

Russia, Spain, Thailand, Taiwan and South Korea were also accused of mistreatment of fishers.

Forced labour in the seafood industry is a rarely seen but common phenomenon, one increasingly recognised as a "widespread human rights crisis," according to the report's authors. The Associated Press in 2015 uncovered the plight of thousands of migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos who were abused while employed on Thai vessels whose catch often ended up in the United States.

Globally, as many as 128,000 fishers face threats of violence, debt bondage, excessive overtime and other conditions indicative of forced labour, according to the UN's International Labour Organisation.

US and European companies are under increasing pressure to clean up supply chains in labour-intensive industries where worker abuse is widespread. The Financial Action

Task Force set up by the Group of Seven wealthiest democracies has identified illegal logging and mining as a key driver of money laundering and encouraged its members to set up publicly available databases to raise awareness about the financial flows that fuel environmental crimes.

However, the seafood industry has so far escaped the same scrutiny, in part because governments often lack the tools to regulate what takes place hundreds of miles from land. This week, President Joe Biden's administration decided to abandon a planned expansion of the flagship Seafood Import Monitoring Programme used to prevent illegal fishing and forced labour on foreign vessels, which supply about 80% of the seafood Americans eat.

"We are once again seeing the heartbreaking reality of what is happening on some commercial fishing vessels out at sea and it's completely unacceptable," Beth Lowell, vice president in the US for the conservation

group Oceana, said about the report, which she had no role in.

"Forced labour and other human rights abuses should not be the cost for a seafood dinner."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Tuesday that it decided to shelve the planned expansion after receiving public feedback on the proposed rule changes and would instead focus its attention on improving the impact of the current import monitoring programme, which covers around 1,100 species.

Another obstacle to transparency: offenders are frequently licensed by governments like Panama and Belize with reputations for financial secrecy and minimal oversight of their fleets. Of the vessels suspected of abuse and whose ownership could be identified by the Financial Transparency Coalition, 18% flew so-called flags of convenience companies use to avoid careful examination and hide their shareholder structure.

## Opposition parties team up in Taiwan for Jan poll

AP ■ TAIPEI

Taiwan's two main opposition parties, both of which have vowed to restart talks with China, announced a joint presidential ticket for January's election in a deal that could bring a major political upset in the self-ruled island democracy.

The agreement would bring together Hou Yu-ih, the presidential candidate for the Kuomintang, one of Taiwan's two major political parties, and Ko Wen-je, of the independent Taiwan People's Party.

Up until now, both Hou and Ko have trailed in polls behind frontrunner William Lai, the Democratic Progressive Party's candidate who currently serves as vice president. Lai and incumbent President Tsai Ing-wen have both been criticized by Beijing as separatists who should be

blamed in the event a war erupts across the Taiwan Strait. China considers Taiwan as part of its territory and has not renounced the use of force to take control over it.

The Kuomintang, also known as KMT, has had a friendlier relationship with Beijing during former President Ma Ying-jeou's two terms, between 2008 and 2016.

The KMT maintains better communication with China is necessary to avoid a conflict. Meanwhile, the DPP's line of argument is that Taiwan does not seek to separate itself from China because it is already an independent country.

Ma on Wednesday hosted a meeting between Hou and Ko at which the two candidates agreed to use opinion polls conducted between Nov 7-17 to determine the make-up of their presidential ticket,

with the result to be announced on Saturday.

Hou said he and Ko's teams have "put aside their personal interests and moved forward" for a "common ideal, for the security of the country, and the well-being of the people".

Ko, meanwhile, called on the two parties to work together so "we can move forward".

Some polls have shown that if Hou and Ko were to team up, regardless of who would be the presidential candidate and the running mate, they could beat Lai, who is expected to run alongside Hsiao Bi-khim, Taiwan's representative to the United States. The DPP has yet to confirm Hsiao as Lai's running mate.

A fourth candidate, Terry Gou, the billionaire founder of tech giant Foxconn, is also running for president.

## Evacuated from Ukraine, Indian MBBS students resume studies in Uzbekistan

PTI ■ SAMARKAND (UZBEKISTAN)

Evacuated from war-hit Ukraine in 2021, hundreds of Indian MBBS students, who thought their academic journey was over, have resumed their studies and started new lives in a leading medical university in Uzbekistan.

The Samarkand State Medical University in Uzbekistan has accommodated over 1,000 Indian medical students from Ukraine after the Indian Embassy in Ukraine reached out to them enquiring if the affected students can seek a transfer.

Amit from Bihar's Begusarai, spent one night in a basement in Ukraine when Russia attacked. He was among the students evacuated by the Indian government under the "Operation Ganga" initiative.

"Operation Ganga" was the initiative launched by the government of India to bring back

Indians stranded in Ukraine. A total of 18,282 Indian nationals were evacuated under the initiative.

"I thought I wouldn't make it and would either die or be stranded in Ukraine. Once I was back home in India, me and my family were relieved but then began the never-ending cycle of uncertainty about what was next. I had finished three years of my MBBS in Ukraine and to start all over again or pursue something else was not an option I wanted to consider. I later decided to move to Uzbekistan," Amit told PTI.

Tanwi Wadhwa from Punjab's Ferozepur, who was studying at Bukovinian State Medical University in Ukraine, was apprehensive about joining the university due to the loss of a semester.

"I attended online classes for eight months. We were hopeful that the war would end and we would go back. Some students

even went back from different routes but I didn't want to take that risk. I evaluated all options from Georgia to Poland and decided to come to Uzbekistan. The university admitted us a semester back, I was initially apprehensive about the loss of one semester but later I changed my mind and it was worth the decision," she said.

Divyansh from Meerut who used to study at the same university as Wadhwa said Uzbekistan's universities offered teaching and learning in English and the curriculum was on the same lines.

"Not all countries have universities which offer English as a medium of instruction. So that was a very important factor. Quality of life is similar in Ukraine and Samarkand but this place feels safer now," he said.

Around 19,000 Indian students were studying in Ukraine when the Russian invasion began in February 2021.



# UNSC to make another attempt for resolution on Israel-Hamas war

**AP ■ UNITED NATIONS**

After four failed attempts, the UN Security Council is trying for a fifth time to come up with a resolution on the Israel-Hamas war, but it remains to be seen whether serious divisions can be overcome to produce a consensus on wording.

The current draft under negotiation would demand "immediate extended humanitarian pauses" throughout the Gaza Strip to provide civilians with desperately needed aid. It also would demand that "all parties" comply with international humanitarian law that requires protection for civilians, calls for special protections for children, and bans hostage-taking.

But the draft, proposed by council member Malta and obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, makes no mention of a ceasefire. It also doesn't refer to Hamas' surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7 that killed around 1,200 people and took some 240 others hostage. Nor does it cite Israel's retaliatory airstrikes and ground offensive in Hamas-ruled Gaza that the Gaza health ministry says has killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children.

The 15-member council, which has the responsibility for maintaining international



Palestinians look at destruction after Israeli strikes on Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Wednesday. AP/PTI

peace and security, has been paralyzed since the war began by its internal divisions. This is especially the case between China and Russia, which want an immediate ceasefire, and the United States, Israel's closest ally that has called for humanitarian pauses but objects to any mention of a ceasefire.

In the four previous tries, a Brazil-drafted resolution was vetoed by the United States, a US-drafted resolution was vetoed by Russia and China, and two Russian-drafted resolutions failed to get the

minimum nine "yes" voted needed for adoption.

Several council diplomats said the opposing sides were getting closer. Two said that a vote on the latest draft could come as early as Wednesday but that delegations were still checking with their capitals. The diplomats insisted on speaking anonymously because the negotiations are supposed to be private.

The resolution under consideration says the humanitarian pauses should be "for a sufficient number of days" to open corridors for unhin-

dered access by UN, Red Cross and other aid workers to get water, electricity, fuel, food and medical supplies to all those in need. It says the pauses also should allow repair of essential infrastructure and enable urgent rescue and recovery efforts.

After the failure of the fourth Security Council resolution, Arab nations turned to the 193-member General Assembly and succeeded in getting wide approval for a resolution calling for a "humanitarian truce" in Gaza meant to lead to a cessation of

hostilities between Israel and Hamas.

It was the first United Nations response to the war. But unlike Security Council resolutions, General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, though they are a barometer of world opinion.

The vote was 120-14 with 45 abstentions. Of the five veto-holding Security Council members, Russia, China and France voted in favor, the United States voted against and the United Kingdom abstained.

The General Assembly resolution was adopted Oct. 27 and Israel agreed Nov. 9 to four-hour pauses. But only very limited aid has been delivered to Gaza through the Rafah crossing from Egypt, and a humanitarian catastrophe has been brewing.

Richard Gowan, UN director for the International Crisis Group, said US opposition to a ceasefire "is a gift that keeps on giving for Russia diplomatically." He said that while many diplomats think Russia is demanding a ceasefire "for largely cynical reasons to make the Americans look bad," Moscow's position "is closer to the mainstream of council thinking, and the US looks isolated."

The irony is that the Security Council has called for ceasefires in wars from the Balkans to Syria "with little or no impact," Gowan said.

# Sunak hits inflation target amid Braverman's scathing attack

**PTI ■ LONDON**

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak appeared buoyant on Wednesday as official statistics revealed that inflation dropped to 4.6 per cent, meeting his end of year target to curb price rises against the backdrop of his sacked home secretary's attack claiming his "plan is not working".

The target to half inflation from the highs of over 10 per cent when he took charge at 10 Downing Street last year was among Sunak's top five priorities for his government.

The British Indian leader, who undertook a surprise Cabinet reshuffle earlier this week starting by sacking Suella Braverman for repeated insubordination, firmly declared that he will "stay the course" a day after his former Cabinet minister unleashed a scathing

attack on his leadership in a very public three-page letter.

"We have halved inflation, meeting the priority I set out in January," said Sunak in a statement.

"It's involved hard decisions and fiscal discipline, rejecting calls for higher spending and more borrowing. As many people continue to struggle, we must stay the course to get inflation all the way back down," he said.

It came as there remains disquiet within the ranks of the governing Conservative Party, with murmurings of a leadership challenge gaining some momentum with Braverman accusing Sunak of "betrayal" of the party's pledges to the British electorate.

As was expected, the Indian-origin minister intends to make life very difficult for her former boss from the back-

benches, and with the support of some on the very right of the party, after he sacked her with a Monday morning phone call.

"Someone needs to be honest: your plan is not working, we have endured record election defeats, your resets have failed and we are running out of time. You need to change course urgently," reads her scathing departure letter.

Accusing him of ignoring her many letters on issues such as illegal migration and clamping down on so-called "hate marchers" protesting against the Israel-Hamas conflict, the controversy courting former minister claimed Sunak had reneged on written promises he had made to her at the time of taking over as Prime Minister in October 2022 - even claiming her support was the "pivotal factor" behind him succeeding Liz Truss.

# Russian woman goes on trial in cafe bombing case

**St Petersburg (AP):** A woman went on trial Wednesday in the bombing at a St. Petersburg cafe that killed a prominent Russian military blogger after he was given a bust of himself that later exploded. Darya Trepova, 26, is charged with carrying out a terrorist attack, illegal trafficking of explosive devices and forging documents in the April 2 blast at the cafe in which

Vladen Tatarsky was killed and 52 others were injured.

She was arrested shortly after the bombing and faces up to 30 years in prison if convicted, according to Russian news reports.

Tatarsky, 40, was an ardent supporter of the Kremlin's military action in Ukraine and filed regular reports on the fighting from the front lines.

Trepova was seen on video presenting Tatarsky with the bust moments before the blast at the riverside cafe in the historic heart of Russia's second-largest city where he was leading a discussion.

Russian media have reported that Trepova told investigators she was asked to deliver the statuette but didn't know what was inside it.

# Imran completes 100 days in jail, party urges release, justice

**PTI ■ LAHORE**

As Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan completes 100 days in jail, his party on Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to ensure his immediate release and stop the trampling of the Constitution by the state.

"From being shot in an assassination attempt to his house being attacked, vandalised, tear gassed & now illegally incarcerated in a small cell while being denied access to justice, Imran Khan has stood on his principles and remained true to every word and claim of his," the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said in a statement.

Khan, 71, has been in the Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi after he was shifted there on September 26 from the District Jail Attock where he was taken after his arrest on August 5 following his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case.

His close aide and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, 67, arrested in the cipher case, is impris-

oned in the same jail. Khan and Qureshi have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

"History will remember Khan for standing on the right side when it mattered, along with over 10,000 other prisoners of conscience, and those who sacrificed their lives for Pakistan's Haqqeeqi Azadi (real freedom)," the PTI statement said.

The PTI said Khan is being punished for sticking to his principles and due to his uncompromising nature and firm stance to restore the sanctity of the Constitution and uphold the supremacy of the rule of law in the country.

It demanded the immediate release of the former cricketer-turned-politician and said the process to crush Khan's party using state power should be abandoned immediately.

"The state had been trampling the Constitution, law and values under its feet for the last 20 months to break Khan's morale. He is being subjected to the worst cruelty, brutality and bullying, but all the tactics

are proving to be unsuccessful," the party said.

It urged the Supreme Court to save the state from a major disaster and ensure free and fair polls.

The Election Commission of Pakistan has announced that general elections will be held on Feb 8, 2024.

All political parties except the PTI are allowed to run their election campaigns. The caretaker government and state machinery are not allowing the PTI to launch an election campaign in any part of the country.

Police recently arrested over 200 PTI workers in Lahore in a fresh crackdown against the PTI to stop it from running a political campaign.

"The party leadership believes an election without giving equal opportunities to the PTI will neither be accepted by most Pakistanis nor the world at large and will serve as a pain in the neck for both the new government and the establishment," PTI's central deputy secretary information Aamer Mughal said.

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**NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Regulation 42 & 43 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Company had, in their meeting held on November 14, 2023 declared an Interim Dividend of Rs. 0.90/- per Equity Share of Rs. 2/- each for the Financial Year 2023-2024. The Dividend will be paid to those Members, whose name appears in the Register of Members of the Company as on the record date i.e. November 24, 2023.

By order of the Board  
For Indag Rubber Limited  
Sd/-  
Company Secretary

Date: November 15, 2023  
Place: New Delhi

**Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar**  
Tender Notice Reference No. GNDU/PB/2023  
The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Item	Size	Qty.
1	Sunshine Super Printing Paper	23x36, 18.6kg, 70 GSM	250 Reams
2	Sunshine Super Printing Paper	17x27, 10.4kg, 70 GSM	80 Reams
3	Maplitho Paper Belt Graphic Paper	23x36, 21.3kg, 80 GSM	80 Reams
4	Ledger Paper Belt Graphic Paper	17x27, 14.1kg, 95 GSM	80 Reams

Closing Rate & Time: 30-11-2023  
For details log onto: www.eproc.punjab.gov.in  
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Professor Incharge  
Publication Bureau,  
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar  
NA/12/2025/2023/29766 Dated CHD - 11/15/2023

**BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES SADIQ ROAD, FARIDKOT (PUNJAB)- 151203**  
Ph: 01639-256232, 256236 Fax: 01639-256234

**B.Sc. NURSING COUNSELLING NOTICE (PPMCT-2023)**  
Physical counselling for left over seats for admission to B.Sc. Nursing for all PPMCT-2023 Qualified/ appeared candidates at all colleges/seats in state of Punjab will be held at Auditorium, GGS Medical College, Faridkot as under:

Date	Punjab State Candidates	Time
20.11.2023	All PPMCT Qualified/appeared SC/B & other reserve category candidates	Time 9:00AM
21.11.2023	All PPMCT Qualified/appeared open merit candidates	
22.11.2023	Other State Candidates	Time 9:00 AM

Note: 1. Annual fee in the shape of Bank Demand Draft favouring Registrar, BFUHS payable at Faridkot will be collected on the spot at counseling venue from selected candidates.  
2. The final vacancy position will be displayed at the counseling venue.  
3. The candidates who falls in clause 4 of Punjab Govt. Notification dated 04.07.2023 published in Prospectus shall be considered as Punjab State Candidates.  
For details & updates visit us at: www.bfhuhs.ac.in

Registrar  
nil/12/176/2023/29764 Dated CHD - 11/15/2023

**UDAY BUILDWELL PRIVATE LIMITED**  
CORPORATE OFFICE: 310, PALM SPRING PLAZA, SECTOR-54, GOLF COURSE ROAD, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122001  
Email Id: udaybuildwell@gmail.com, Telephone: 9871833428  
CIN: U45400DL2008PTC175635

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas, we Uday Buildwell Private Limited are in the process of undertaking of development of Commercial Colony (under left over land pocket policy) in village Kanhai, Sector-45, District Gurugram, Haryana, over an area measuring 0.375 acres (in addition to 0.65 acres, licence no. 204 of 2022 Dt. 13.12.2022) in accordance with the licence granted for an Commercial Colony, licence no. 189 of 2023 Dt. 15.09.2023 by Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.

And whereas, the Building Plan earlier approved at the time of grant of license for the said colony is now proposed to be revised on account of request made by Uday Buildwell Private Limited for revision of Building Plan of the said colony.

And whereas, the office of Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objections against the revision of Building Plan, as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the Building Plan. Accordingly vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the public in the said colony on the proposed revision of the Building Plan of the said colony. A copy of the earlier approved Building Plan bearing memo no. ZP-1712/PA(DK)/2023/9627, dated 05.04.2023 & Zoning Plan bearing drawing no. 8845, dated 14.12.2022 and the Building Plan now proposed to be revised (in principle approved) bearing memo no. ZP-1712/PA(DK)/2023/38531, dated 10.11.2023 & Approved Demarcation cum Zoning Plan bearing drawing no. 9607, dated 15.09.2023 is available for perusal at our office and also on website i.e. https://www.udaybuildwell.com and also displayed at our site office for information. The said Revised Building Plan can also be perused at the office of undersigned as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, Gurugram. Any public having any objection on the proposed revision in the approved Building Plan, may file his objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, Gurugram, within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision of the Building Plan.

Subhash Rustogi  
(Auth. Representative)

Place: Gurugram  
Date: November 15, 2023

**verka**  
THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.  
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66  
www.verka.coop

**Notice Inviting Tender**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Mohali Dairy a) Auction of cutting & lifting of different varieties of trees. b) Providing:- • Un-Skilled, Technical and Clerical Manpower etc. • Un-Skilled, Skilled, Semi-skilled and High-skilled labour etc.	205 No's (Trees) Annual Annual
2.	For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy Supply of Rice Husk	2500 MT
3.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy a) e tender for Advertisement material. b) Disposal of Unserviceable Material on time auction basis.	Annual
4.	For Verka Ludhiana Dairy a) Job contract for filling, packing and shifting of powder into 25 kg bags, ½ kg and 1kg SMP and WMP packets, packing of Ghee (all variants), packing and shifting of white butter box, packing of dahi (all variants) and shifting to incubation room/cold store. b) Supply, installation and Commissioning of:- • GLC Machine • RP-HPLC Machine	Rate Contract One time purchase 01 No. 01 No.
5.	For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) Outsourcing of security, horticulture & housekeeping activities. b) Job contract for outsourcing of housekeeping activities of old dairy, new dairy and lab etc. c) Engaging labour contractor for outsourced jobs of packing, filling and Shifting, Loading & Unloading of milk and milk products, packing material & ingredients. d) Operation, repair & maintenance of pouch packing machines, online coding machines, photo cell sensors and crate washers.	Annual
6.	For Verka Patiala Dairy Cekatainers for cheese Packing.	Annual
7.	For Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy a) e tender for engaging for labour contractor for outsourced job b) Operation, repair and maintenance of pouch packing machine (milk, dahi & lassi) including coding on pouches photo sensor.	Annual
8.	For Verka Jalandhar Dairy a) Hiring of warehouse/store for storage of SMP and WMP bags. b) Outsourcing of Milk Booths at:- 1. Guru Gobind Singh Avenue, Main Market Opp.H.no.739, Jalandhar. 2. Lalpat Nmagar, North Backside Petrol Pump, (Rose Park) Jalandhar. 3. Dushara Ground, Model House Jalandhar. 4. Sabji Mandi, Maqsudan, Jalandhar.	Annual/1800-2000 MT (Approx.) Three Year

**NOTE:**  
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.  
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

Incharge (Purchase)

**HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008  
Tel. +91 11 45108609, Fax: +91 1704 225178  
E-mail id: cs@himalayainternational.com | website: www.himalayafoodcompany.com

**EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half year ended		Year ended
		30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	31.03.2023 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	1106.68	1052.90	1755.43	2159.58	3382.39
2.	Net Profit for the period (before tax & exceptional items)	102.28	55.04	444.58	157.32	819.43
3.	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after exceptional items)	102.28	55.04	444.58	157.32	169.43
4.	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional items)	102.28	55.04	444.58	157.32	169.43
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	102.28	55.04	444.58	157.32	169.43
6.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- per share)	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29
7.	Earnings Per Share i) Basic in Rs. ii) Diluted in Rs.	0.18 0.18	0.10 0.10	0.77 0.77	0.27 0.27	0.29 0.29

**Notes:**  
1. The above unaudited results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and thereafter approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on November 14, 2023.  
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial results for the Quarter/ Half year ended September 30, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Unaudited Financial results for the Quarter/ Half year ended September 30, 2023 are available on BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and the Company website (www.himalayafoodcompany.com).  
3. Additional information on standalone financial results is as follows:

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half year ended		Year ended
		30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	31.03.2023 (Audited)
1.	Income from Operations	1106.68	1052.90	1755.43	2159.58	3382.39
2.	Profit before tax	102.28	55.04	444.58	157.32	169.43
3.	Profit after tax	102.28	55.04	444.58	157.32	169.43

For and on behalf of the Board  
Sd/-  
Man Mohan Malik  
Managing Director  
(DIN: 00696077)

Date: 14.11.2023  
Place: Paonta Sahib

# Greta Thunberg denies public order offence

**AP ■ LONDON**

Climate activist Greta Thunberg on Wednesday denied a public order offence after she was arrested last month at a demonstration against a major oil and gas industry conference in London.

The 20-year-old Swedish environmental campaigner was among more than two dozen people charged after protesters sought to block access to the luxury InterContinental Hotel in central London during last month's Energy Intelligence Forum, attended by some of the industry's top executives.

Thunberg was charged with breaching a section of the Public Order Act that allows police to impose limits on public assemblies. She and four other Fossil Free London protesters pleaded not guilty at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Wednesday.

Thunberg inspired a global youth movement demanding stronger efforts to fight climate change after staging weekly protests outside the Swedish Parliament starting in 2018.

The protesters were granted unconditional bail ahead of a trial in London scheduled for February 2024.

The court hearing drew crowds of photographers and protesters from groups includ-



ing Greenpeace, who gathered outside the building chanting and holding banners reading "Oily Money Out" and "Make Polluters Pay."

Thunberg and other climate protesters accuse fossil fuel companies of deliberately slowing the global energy transition to renewables in order to make more profit. They also oppose the British government's recent approval of drilling for oil in the North Sea, off the Scottish coast.

Thunberg inspired a global youth movement demanding stronger efforts to fight climate change after staging weekly protests outside the Swedish Parliament starting in 2018.

In July she was fined by a Swedish court for disobeying police and blocking traffic during an environmental protest at an oil facility. She had already been fined for the same offense previously in Sweden.

# Taliban minister attends meeting in Pakistan

**AP ■ ISLAMABAD**

Afghanistan's Taliban-led government attended a trade meeting in Pakistan despite tensions over the expulsion of Afghans living in the country illegally, officials said Wednesday.

Around 300,000 Afghans have returned home since last month, when Pakistan launched a nationwide crackdown on undocumented foreigners. The crackdown mainly affects about 1.7 million Afghans who fled during the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation of their country and after the Taliban takeover in 2021. The Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan has denounced the crackdown.

However, this week the Taliban government sent Commerce and Industry Minister Nooruddin Azizi to Islamabad for a meeting of commerce and trade ministers from Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Aziz met separately with Pakistani officials to discuss trade issues and the expulsion of Afghans. In a statement on X, previously known as Twitter, the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad said the three sides agreed to expand trade, improve transit facilities, increase joint investments and enhance transportation.



# Sensex, Nifty rally more than 1 per cent

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty jumped more than 1 per cent on Wednesday following heavy buying in IT, banking and oil & gas shares amid a global stocks rally on softer US inflation data.

An encouraging US inflation data has raised hopes for an end to interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 742.06 points or 1.14 per cent to settle at nearly a four week's high of 65,675.93. During the day, it zoomed 183.78 points or 1.25 per cent to 65,747.65. As many as 27 Sensex shares closed in the green while three in the red. The Nifty50 of National Stock Exchange climbed 231.90 points or 1.19 per cent to 19,675.45.

Among the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra rose the most by 3.77 per cent. Tata Motors, Infosys, Wipro, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Reliance Industries and Axis Bank were the major gainers.

"The market's strong gap-up jump in response to positive global cues on account of the



softer than anticipated US and UK's inflation data, highlights the optimism for an end to the interest rate cycle, as evidenced by the ease in bond yields.

"This is likely to draw FII flows into emerging markets, which is good for India considering the current better earnings season and the festive demand pick-up. The drop in the CPI for India also improved the mood. The rebound was broad based with IT, realty, oil & gas, metal, and auto leading the way," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.13 per cent and midcap index

climbed 0.91 per cent.

All indices ended in the green, with realty zooming 2.97 per cent, IT rallying 2.29 per cent, tech jumping 2.12 per cent, auto climbing 1.65 per cent, oil & gas (1.55 per cent) and energy (1.41 per cent).

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory.

European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended with significant gains on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.78 per cent to USD 81.83 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth

Rs 1,244.44 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Equity markets were closed on Tuesday on account of Diwali Balipratipada.

The BSE benchmark fell 325.58 points or 0.50 per cent to settle at 64,933.87 on Monday. The Nifty declined 82 points or 0.42 per cent to 19,443.55.

Continuing the downward trend, retail inflation slipped to a four-month low of 4.87 per cent in October, mainly due to easing food prices and inched towards the Reserve Bank's target of 4 per cent, according to government data released on Monday.

Wholesale price inflation remained in the negative territory for the seventh month in a row in October at (-) 0.52 per cent on easing prices of food items.

A negative WPI inflation, technically termed as deflation, means that overall wholesale prices have been falling year-on-year.

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# Exports rise 6.21 per cent to \$33.57 bn in October

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports rose 6.21 per cent to USD 33.57 billion in October this year, even as the trade deficit touched a record high of USD 31.46 billion during the month, government data showed on Wednesday.

Imports increased by 12.3 per cent to USD 65.03 billion in the month under consideration due to a jump in gold imports. Inbound shipments of gold rose by 95.5 per cent to USD 7.23 billion. Oil imports also increased by 8 per cent to USD 17.66 billion during the month.

The country's trade deficit in goods in October last year stood at USD 26.31 billion.

The deficit (difference between imports and exports) during October is the "highest" because of the largest import figures, Additional Secretary in the Commerce Ministry L Satya Srinivas told reporters here.

Cumulatively, exports during the April-October period of this fiscal contracted by 7 per cent to USD 244.89 billion, while imports fell 8.95 per



cent to USD 391.96 billion.

The trade deficit during the seven-month period was USD 147.07 billion against USD 167.14 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Gold imports during the period rose 23 per cent to USD 29.5 billion, while crude oil imports dipped by 18.72 per cent to about USD 100 billion during April-October this fiscal.

Briefing reporters on the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said the trade numbers in October reflect 'green shoots' of recovery in outbound shipments.

"I am hopeful that we will be crossing the last year's figures," he said, adding the positive growth is there despite a fall in commodity prices, "but we are

waiting and watching" the global situation.

Exports are impacted due to the geopolitical situation and other risks like high inflation and economic slowdown in advanced economies; the Russia-Ukraine war; China-Taiwan and China-US issues; and the Israel-Palestine war. De-globalisation and waning appetite for international trade are leading to tariff and non-tariff barriers, which also affect exports.

The country's exports were in a negative zone during February-July. After a revision of numbers by the ministry, the shipments showed 3.88 per cent positive growth in August, but in September it contracted by 2.6 per cent.

# Commerce Ministry expects to issue 20,000 status holder certificates to exporters this year: DGFT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry, which automated the process for issuance of exporter status certificates, is expected to issue about 20,000 such documents by the end of this year, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said this would be a big jump in the issuance of these certificates, and so far, they have issued over 40,200 status-holder certificates.

"There are another 2,000 applications, which are under scrutiny because of their prior history. But ultimately, those will

also get issued, and by the end of this year, we expect about 20,000 status holders to be recognised through this automated process," he told reporters here.

Last month, DGFT said that an exporter status certificate will now be issued based on the available electronic data, and traders will not have to apply to get the recognition.

These certificates provide certain privileges, including simplified procedures under foreign trade policy (FTP), priority custom clearances on a self-declaration basis, and exemption from compulsory negotiation of documents through banks and filing bank



guarantees for FTP schemes. Upon achieving prescribed export performance, status recognition as one, two, three, four and five-star export houses is accorded to the eligible applicants as per their export performance.

Sarangi said applications of exporters in the 'risk' category will be subjected to larger scrutiny. Exporters who default in fulfilling their export obligations are categorised as "risky".

Now, the exporters are not required to apply to the office of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for a Status Certificate, and the export recognition will be provided by the IT system based

on available Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) merchandise export electronic data and other risk parameters.

Earlier, the exporters had to file an online application along with an export certificate from a chartered accountant for a grant of status.

The DGFT Regional Offices are supposed to issue the certificate in three days.

Under the new arrangement, no applications are invited from exporters, and the certification is granted every year in August based on annual export figures available with the partner government agency -

DGCIS.

Exporters, who are eligible for a higher status based on additional export data relating to services export, deemed exports or double weightage to some entities like MSME, which is not getting captured in disaggregated form presently, can apply online for a status modification also at a later date.

The biggest increase in status certification is seen in the 1 Star category, which is the lowest category and requires an export performance of at least USD 3 million in the last three preceding financial years plus the three months of the current financial year.

# Imports from Russia up 64 per cent to \$36.27 bn in Apr-Oct

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's imports from Russia rose 64 per cent to USD 36.27 billion during the April-October period this fiscal on higher shipments of crude oil and fertiliser, according to the commerce ministry data.

With this, Russia has become India's second-largest import source during the first seven months of this fiscal.

The imports were USD 22.13 billion during April-October 2022.

From a market share of less than 1 per cent in India's import basket before the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia's share of India's oil imports rose to over 40 per cent.

India, the world's third-largest crude importer after China and the United States, has been buying Russian oil after some countries in the West shunned it as a means of punishing Moscow for invading Ukraine.

The ministry's data showed that imports from China dipped marginally to USD 60.02 billion during the period against USD 60.26 billion in the year-ago period.

Similarly, imports from the US declined 16 per cent to USD



24.89 billion during the period under review from USD 29.56 billion last year.

Imports from the UAE contracted 21 per cent to USD 24.91 billion during the period under review.

During the first seven months of this fiscal, imports also dipped from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Indonesia, Singapore, and Korea.

Among all the top 10 import source nations of India, imports from Switzerland increased to USD 13.97 billion as against USD 10.48 billion in April-October 2022 due to gold imports.

On the export front, India's exports to six of its top-10 destinations have recorded a negative growth rate during the

period.

During the first seven months of this fiscal, the country's merchandise exports to the US, the UAE, Singapore, Germany, Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia have declined.

However, exports to the UK, Australia and the Netherlands have recorded positive growth.

The outbound shipments to China rose to USD 8.92 billion during the period under review from USD 8.85 billion in April-October 2022.

India's overall merchandise exports rose by 6.21 per cent to USD 33.57 billion in October this year even as trade deficit ballooned to USD 31.46 billion during the month, government data showed on Wednesday.

# ONGC to invest ₹1 lakh cr to set up 2 petrochemical plants

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top oil and gas producer ONGC plans to invest about Rs 1 lakh crore in setting up two petrochemical plants to convert crude oil directly into high-value chemical products as it prepares for energy transition, top company officials said on Wednesday.

Crude oil, which companies like ONGC pump out from below seabed and underground reservoirs, is a primary source of energy.

It is processed in oil refineries to produce petrol, diesel and jet fuel. With the world looking to transition away from fossil fuels, companies around the globe are looking at new avenues to use crude oil.

Petrochemicals are chemical products derived from crude oil and used in the manufacturing of detergents, fibres (polyester, nylon, acrylic etc.), polythene and other man-made plastics.

At an investor call on the company's second-quarter earnings, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Director (Finance) Pomila Jaspal said the firm is looking to build separate oil-to-chemical (O2C) projects.

She, however, did not give details. "We have plans to invest Rs 10,000 crore by 2028 or 2030 in two projects in two separate



states," said D Adhikari, Executive Director and Chief of Joint Ventures & Business Development, ONGC, on the investor call.

"Our plan is to raise petrochemical capacity to 8.5-9 million tonnes by 2030." One project is likely to be set up by ONGC on its own and the other in a joint venture. The details were not shared in the call.

Demand for petrochemicals, the building blocks for plastics, fertilisers and pharmaceuticals, is projected to remain strong due to their wide range of uses across large industries, including construction, automotive and electronics.

Strengthening its chemicals business will also help the state-run oil explorer

State Petrochemical Corp (GSPC). Only ONGC is doing the equity infusion, which will all but edge GAIL out of the joint venture.

This, he said, would "temporarily" make OPaL a subsidiary of ONGC but the company wants to retain the joint venture nature of the company and will look to get a strategic partner in the next three years.

The equity infusion will help OPaL turn around and become profitable in fiscal 2024-25, he said.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that global oil demand will plateau by 2030 as penetration of electric vehicles and increased uptake of alternative drive technologies for commercial vehicles ebb demand for fossil fuels.

And so energy firms around the world are looking at alternatives.

Crude oil-to-chemicals (COTC) technology allows the direct conversion of crude oil to high-value chemical products instead of traditional transportation fuels.

It enables the production of chemicals exceeding 70 per cent to 80 per cent of the barrel-producing chemical feedstock as opposed to about 10 per cent in a non-integrated refinery complex.

cut its reliance on the volatile oil market and improve profitability in the long run.

ONGC already has two subsidiaries -- Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) and ONGC Petro-Additions Limited (OPaL) that run petrochemical units at Mangalore in Karnataka and Dabhe in Gujarat, respectively.

While MRPL is a profit-making entity, OPaL has a "distorted" capital structure, Adhikari said.

To correct this, the ONGC board has approved infusing Rs 18,355 crore capital in OPaL to raise its stake in the firm to over 96 per cent from the current 49.35 per cent, he said.

GAIL (India) Ltd currently has 49.21 per cent and the remaining 1.43 per cent is with Gujarat

# 42nd IIT fair inaugurated



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The much-awaited 42nd India International Trade Fair, an initiative of India Trade Promotion Organisation (A Government of India Enterprise), based on the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam — United by Trade" a mega event was inaugurated by Dipak Bandekar, Director of Information and Publicity today.

Information Officer, DIP, Allwyn X Pereira; Administrative Officer, IPB, Sadashiv Pandit; Information Assistant, DIP, Siddhesh Samant; Information Assistant, DoT, Rajendra Tari; Manager GTDC, Shankar Naik and Business Relation Officer, IPB, Vishant Naik were amongst those present on the occasion.

A brochure titled Atmanirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa was also released at the hands of Bandekar on the occasion.

The largest integrated trade fair has a wide spectrum of Business, Social, Cultural and Educational Dimensions that are weaved together where visitors and exhibitors, media persons, marketing professional, social activists, NGOs etc. to source their needs and objectives.

Government Organisations use this platform to spread awareness about their programmes and policies among the public. The fair is set up on a space admeasuring 100 Sq.mts. earmarked by ITPO in Hall No. 3 (New Hall) designed in line with this year theme with emphasis on projecting rich Goan Cuisine with courteous hospitality of Goan people and Goa's developmental achievements through Audio Visuals, Small Hoardings and Photographic display.

# Gold climbs ₹410; silver jumps ₹1,700

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price climbed Rs 410 to Rs 61,210 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid strong cues in the international markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 60,800 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also jumped Rs 1,700 to Rs 75,000 per kilogram.

up Rs 410, following a bullish trend in the overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities.

In the global markets, both gold and silver were trading higher at USD 1,970 per ounce and USD 23.27 per ounce, respectively.

Gold gains after soft US inflation data bolstered the view that the Federal Reserve's aggressive monetary tightening cycle has ended and traders have raised the bets for a rate cut in the next year," Gandhi said.

# Cipla completes stake sale in Uganda-based unit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drug firm Cipla on Wednesday said its subsidiaries have completed the sale of a 51.18 per cent stake in Uganda-based Cipla Quality Chemical Industries Ltd (CQCIL).

Cipla (EU) Ltd, UK and Meditab Holdings Ltd, Mauritius, the wholly-owned subsidiaries of the company, have completed the stake sale on November 14 for final consideration of USD 25 million, the Mumbai-based company said in a regulatory filing. Accordingly, CQCIL has now



ceased to be a subsidiary of the company with effect from November 14, 2023.

In March this year, Cipla announced that it had inked a pact with Africa Capitalworks to sell the 51.18 per cent stake in Cipla Quality Chemical Industries Ltd.

# Developing economies' quota in IMF can play pivotal role in safeguarding global financial stability, says CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The increase of developing economies quota in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) can play a pivotal role in safeguarding global financial stability by enhancing the multilateral lending agency's permanent resources, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said on Wednesday.

Participating in an event organised by the finance ministry, Nageswaran said the reforms of international financial institutions have to go beyond the World Bank and multilateral development banks (MDBs).

"The executive board of the IMF has proposed to the Board of Governors that a 50 per cent quota increase (should be) allocated to members in proportion to their current quotas," he said. The 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ) is likely to provide a greater say to developing economies in the International Monetary Fund.

"This quota increase can play a pivotal role in safeguarding global financial stability by enhancing the IMF's permanent resources and reducing its reliance on borrowed resources," he added. Nageswaran also pointed out

that during the G20 summit in Delhi this year, the leaders remained committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and continuing the process of IMF's governance reform.

Also, speaking at the event, Niti Aayog vice chairman Suman Bery said MDB reforms are incomplete without similar reforms of the IMF.

"Reforms of international monetary order need to come back to centre stage," Bery said.

He said India is going to attract more global finance. "But, we are not in a world where global financial structure is supportive of long-term growth," he said.



# World Cup qualifying in Africa starts

**AP ■ GENEVA**  
When World Cup qualifying starts in Africa on Wednesday, Morocco will be a hub of soccer action a year after the national team's historic run to becoming the continent's first semifinalist. Seven teams will play "home" games in Morocco over the next week, but Africa's stand-out team will not be among them. Morocco's first home game in qualifying for the 2026 tournament is in June. Morocco has several stadiums of international standard - as befits a country preparing to co-host the 2030 World Cup - when much of the rest of Africa has none and needs a temporary home. A strict policy by the Confederation of African Football since 2021 to drive construction and renovation of higher quality national stadiums has left 17 of 53 teams in action over the next week hosting games on neutral ground, far away from their fans at home. It is "totally unacceptable," CAF president Patrice Motsepe has said, that some members do not have a stadium that complies with standards to host international games for national and club teams. So, Ethiopia opens Wednesday in the western Morocco port



city of El Jadida hosting Burkina Faso about 5,500 kilometers (3,400 miles) from Addis Ababa. Niger's team will be about 2,200 kilometers (1,360 miles) from fans back home in Niamey - where it has not played since 2021 - when facing Tanzania at the 45,000-seat Stade de Marrakech on Saturday.

Also welcoming visiting teams in the next week are Egypt, Ivory Coast, Libya, Liberia, South Africa and Tanzania for games that do not involve the host country. The Gambia team will travel about 6,000 kilometers (3,700 miles) to go to Tanzania for back-to-back games, first facing Burundi then staying for its own "home" game four days

later against Ivory Coast. "We are committed to ensuring that at least one quality national stadium in every country is built, where none currently exists," CAF said in its annual report last year, adding the goal of "ensuring that our matches and competition are safe and healthy." Even at one of the best new stadiums in Africa - Olembe

Stadium in Yaounde, Cameroon - eight fans died in a crowd crush in January 2022 arriving for an African Cup of Nations game. The CAF push for improved stadiums also aims to raise standards for players, with better playing and training surfaces, plus fans, sponsors and media. Such a goal is typically achieved

with state support and money in Africa where close ties often bind sports and political influence. Motsepe, a South African mining magnate, has urged governments and heads of state to invest on visits to more than 30 of CAF's member federations. "It is not a football problem but an infrastructure issue," CAF said in a statement on Wednesday. "That is why we need governments to partner with football to ensure that countries can play at home." Stadium building in Africa often means partnering with China, like the \$500 million venue built in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, to host the 2015 African Games. In Niger, a delegation from the Chinese government met soccer and government officials in April about renovating the state-owned General Seyni Kountche Stadium. Niger has since had a military coup. In Ethiopia, building a new national stadium in a project with a Chinese state construction firm has reportedly been delayed by rising costs. FIFA pointed to success stories with its funding programs helping member federations in Liberia and Mauritania develop their stadiums, which are modestly sized rather than a 60,000-capacity project as in other countries.



## Son will join South Korea for its opening game in World Cup qualifying

**AP ■ SEOUL**  
Son Heung-min will join South Korea for its opening game in World Cup qualifying, with head coach Jurgen Klinsmann aiming to start the second stage of Asian competition with a statement win. The Koreans and Asia's five other 2022 World Cup participants start their qualification campaigns to appear at the 2026 tournament on Thursday. None of the continental heavyweights are taking this stage lightly, with European-based stars such as Son, Kaoru Mitoma and Mehdi Taremi picked for their national teams to take on some of the continent's lower-ranked rivals. South Korea kicks off against Singapore in Seoul with Tottenham star Son and Wolves forward Hwang Hee-chan leading the attack. Both have been in excellent form in the Premier League. Klinsmann is ready to play his strongest team, despite the fact Singapore is ranked No. 155, as he begins a bid for South Korea to qualify for an 11th successive World Cup. "You have to take them very seriously," Klinsmann, who was appointed in February, told a news conference in Seoul. "Your mind has to be in the right place. We have to be very sharp from the first moment." That's an approach that the likes of Japan, Australia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Qatar are also taking. The top two from each of the nine four-team groups will progress to the next stage of Asian qualifying, where they'll compete for one of the eight automatic spots at the World Cup -- double the continental quota available in 2022. Klinsmann dismissed the idea that this makes the road to the 2026 World Cup in the U.S., Mexico and Canada any easier. "All the teams that fight for a spot in the World Cup will fight even harder now," the former U.S. Coach said. "It will still be very difficult." Japan has appeared at every World Cup since 1998 and, now ranked No. 18, is Asia's form team with six wins from its last six games, a run that includes a 4-1 win in Germany and a 4-2 win over Turkey. Head coach Hajime Moriyasu wants to use that momentum to get off to a perfect start in Osaka against Myanmar, ranked 140 places below at 158th, and then against Syria

## Union Berlin parts ways with coach Urs Fischer

**AP ■ BERLIN**  
Union Berlin parted ways with coach Urs Fischer on Wednesday after a 14-game winless run in all competitions. In his five years in charge, Fischer led Union from the second division to the Bundesliga for the first time and then into European competition. He took the club into the Champions League after placing fourth last season to continue its impressive rise. However, results this season have been poor and Union has just one draw and 13 losses from its last 14 games in all competitions. Its last win was Aug. 26. A 4-0 loss to Bayer Leverkusen on Sunday left Union last in the Bundesliga and without a goal in any of its last four games in the German top division. Its four Champions League games have brought one point. "This is a very sad moment not only for me personally, but certainly for the entire Union family," Union president Dirk Zingler said in a statement. "It hurts that we have not managed to break the negative run of recent weeks. I am grateful and proud when looking back on the time we have spent and the successes we have celebrated together. As painful as this separation is, Urs Fischer is leaving as a friend who will always be welcomed by us with open arms." Zingler said he and Fischer jointly decided it was time for the Swiss coach to depart. Fischer said he hoped a change of coach could turn the team around. "I am very grateful for the confidence I have always felt here. Nevertheless, it feels right to make a change now. Sometimes a different face, a different way of addressing a team helps to spark a development," he said in the club statement.

## Wenger to inaugurate AIFF-FIFA academy in Bhubaneswar

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Legendary football coach Arsene Wenger will inaugurate the AIFF-FIFA academy, to be launched under the global football body's talent development scheme, in Bhubaneswar on November 21. Wenger, who is now the chief of FIFA's global football development programme, will be in India from November 19 to 23 and will meet ISL, I-League clubs besides entities involved with youth development in Indian football. Wenger was Arsenal's manager from 1996 to 2018, under whose tenure the club won three Premier League titles, seven FA Cups and remained unbeaten in 49 games. FIFA's talent development scheme aims to collaborate with member associations across the world to increase the competitiveness of their national teams. "Arsene Wenger will be here in



India from November 19 to 23. During this period, he and his team will meet ISL, I-League clubs and all those who are involved with youth develop-

ment in Indian football," said AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey in a release on Wednesday. "Our efforts would be to build this academy into a flawless one. We are confident that Wenger's vast experience and keen understanding of things would be of huge help in turning this academy into a world-class facility," he added. AIFF acting secretary general M. Satyanarayan said, it is a step towards All India Football

Federation's (AIFF) "long-term vision" and "investing in youth as young as below 14". FIFA has recommended Sergi Amezcua Fontrodona as the FIFA-trained coach, who will relocate to India to implement the project and act as the head coach at the FIFA-AIFF academy. Amezcua was previously involved with developing football in China as the project director at the Barca Academy Pro Haikou.

## Rory abruptly resigns from PGA Tour policy board

**AP ■ NEW YORK**  
Rory McIlroy resigned from the PGA Tour board on Tuesday, an abrupt move that comes as the tour is trying to finalize an agreement to create a new commercial enterprise involving Saudi Arabia's national wealth fund. McIlroy did not mention his decision earlier in the day at the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai, though one comment was telling about his three years on the board during some of the tour's most turbulent times. Asked if he liked having a seat at the table, McIlroy said, "Not particularly, no. Not what I signed for whenever I went on the board. But yeah, the game of professional golf has been in flux for the last two years." In a statement, PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan and board chairman Ed Herlihy thanked McIlroy for his dedication and commitment the last five years - two years on the Player Advisory Council, one as PAC chairman who sat in on board meetings, and the last two years as the first international player to serve on the board. "Rory's insight has been instrumental in helping shape the success of the tour, and his willingness to thoughtfully voice his opinions has been especially impactful," they said. "Given the



extraordinary time and effort that Rory - and all of his fellow player directors - have invested in the tour during this unprecedented, transformational period in our history, we certainly understand and respect his decision to step down in order to focus on his game and his family." The New York Times first reported McIlroy's resignation. Monahan said in a memo to players earlier Tuesday the tour was working toward finalizing an agreement with the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia and trying to narrow bids from a handful of private equity firms wanting to invest in the for-profit PGA Tour Enterprises. The deadline to finalize the tour's deal with the Saudis, an agreement announced June 6, is the end of the year, though the deadline can be extended.

## Home favourite Sinner records his first win over top-ranked Djokovic

**AP ■ TURIN (ITALY)**  
Jannik Sinner recorded his first win over top-ranked Novak Djokovic at the ATP Finals, delighting a raucous home crowd. Sinner triumphed 7-5, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (2) in a match spanning more than three hours on Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning. It was the 22-year-old Sinner's first win in their four head-to-head meetings. It also ended Djokovic's 19-match winning streak that stretched back to his five-set loss to Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final. Sinner sealed the result with a smash at the net to send the Turin arena into a frenzy. "There doesn't exist a better place to beat the World No. 1. After Wimbledon I said I felt a bit closer but I didn't even win a set," Sinner said on his on-court interview, which was interrupted by the crowd serenading him with "Ole, Ole, Ole, Sinner, Sinner." "Here I managed to play the most important points in the best way. There was a bit of tension when I lost the second set, it was very hard, but together with you (the crowd) we won together." The umpire had to tell the fans to be quiet several times during the enthralling encounter as



they fervently cheered the Italian player on and also booed Djokovic several times. The 36-year-old Djokovic, who normally enjoys huge support in Italy, lapped up the boos and even encouraged the fans to up their hostility toward him. Sinner, who beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in Sunday's opener, is now on the verge of reaching Saturday's semifinals. He next plays Holger Rune, who has one win after Tsitsipas retired early in their green group match and withdrew from the tournament. Djokovic, who is bidding to break a tie with Federer and capture a record seventh title at the tour finals, will play first alternate Hubert Hurkacz. Sinner didn't make it out of the

group stage in his only other appearance at the ATP Finals, an alternate in 2021. But the crowd sensed a huge win was on the cards when Sinner won nine straight points to finish the first set - rallying from 40-0 down to break Djokovic's serve and then holding to love. Sinner also broke again in the tie to lead 4-2 but Djokovic immediately managed to get his only service break in a match that mainly went with serve and saw 35 aces. Sinner is finishing up a year in which he has claimed four titles, including his first Masters 1000 trophy, and moved to a career-high No. 4 - the first Italian that high since Adriano Panatta nearly a half-century ago.

# Messi, Suárez face off in World Cup qualifying

## Brazil could field teenager Endrick

**AP ■ SAO PAULO**  
Lionel Messi and Luiz Suárez, close friends and former teammates at Barcelona, will renew their on-the-field rivalry on Thursday in World Cup qualifying. Messi, who appears to have recovered from a muscle injury in his leg, led Argentina to its third World Cup title last year and has his team in first place in the South American qualifying group for the 2026 tournament. The 36-year-old Suárez has just returned to Uruguay's national

team as he nears the end of a high-scoring season in the Brazilian league. The Argentines will take on two-time World Cup champion Uruguay at La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires. Also Thursday, Brazil will travel to face Colombia in Barranquilla as it tries to recover from a home draw with Venezuela and a loss at Uruguay in its previous two qualifying matches. Brazil coach Fernando Diniz, who recently won the Copa Libertadores with Fluminense, could use teenager Endrick

after calling him up for the first time. Argentina leads the 10-team South American qualifying group with 12 points from four matches. Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela have seven points each and are separated by goal difference. Colombia has six points, while Ecuador, Paraguay and Chile have four each. Peru has one point and Bolivia has zero. The next World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada will include 48 teams, meaning direct entry for the top six teams in South America. The



seventh-place team will contest an intercontinental playoff for a berth. Messi will likely be playing his last two matches of the calendar year against Uruguay and then Brazil next week at the Maracana Stadium. The eight-

time Ballon d'Or winner finished his season with Inter Miami on October 21. Suárez, a teammate of Messi at Barcelona from 2014-20, will return to Uruguay's national team for the first time under

coach Marcelo Bielsa. The veteran striker earned his place despite knee pain, which he doesn't hide during every match for Brazilian club Gremio. Both Argentina and Uruguay are expected to qualify for the next World Cup, but Messi and Suárez are not guaranteed to be with their national teams in 2026. Argentina left back Nicolás Tagliafico, however, is hoping Messi will stay in the mix if the team defends its Copa America title next year in the United States. "If we win, I think he might extend it a little more. If we didn't win the World Cup in Qatar, he would leave. But he did it and wants to enjoy it," Tagliafico told

newspaper La Nacion. "If we win Copa America, I am certain that will be an incentive for Leo to continue." Endrick, who is set to join Real Madrid in January, is expected to get some playing time at Colombia. The 17-year-old forward is likely to join Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo - both already playing for Madrid - up front. Casemiro and Neymar, two of Brazil's key players in recent years, are out with injuries. Brazil has had a tough time winning in Colombia in recent World Cup qualifying campaigns, and facing Argentina in the next match on Tuesday could make it more difficult. "We know that Brazil versus

Argentina is a different match because of it all," Brazil midfielder Bruno Guimarães said on Tuesday at the team's training ground in Teresopolis. "We have a big focus on Colombia, it is a tough and physical match. We are giving due attention to Colombia and then we will give it to Argentina." Colombia will field a recovered Luis Díaz, who on Tuesday was reunited with his father. Luis Manuel Díaz Jiménez was kidnapped by a guerrilla group in late October. He was released last week. Also Thursday, Bolivia will face Peru, Venezuela will host Ecuador, and Chile will take on Paraguay.





# BAVUMA CONFIDENT OF ENDING SEMIFINAL JINX

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Temba Bavuma was aware that Australia are not a "Mickey Mouse" team, but the South African captain on Wednesday sounded confident of his side's ability to defeat the five-time champions and end the Proteas' World Cup semifinals jinx.

Ahead of the last-four match here on Thursday, history is heavily stacked against the SA who have lost in the semifinals of the showpiece four times, with two of them coming against the Aussies.

"You know, we're not coming up against a Mickey Mouse team. Australia have a lot of experience and confidence in knockout games, so we've got to respect that," Bavuma said. Backed by some powerful batting performances, South Africa have been impressive in the league phase, but Bavuma said the semifinal would be a different ball game.

"I'd hate to say that we deserve to go through because of the way we played our cricket. I don't think that's the way things go."

"But I think from our performances, from the processes that we've followed to get to this point, we'll continue to lean on that and we believe that will take care of the result in itself," he said. However, that self-belief has not given way to overconfidence.

"A lot of people believe that this could be the year that we see ourselves within the final. As a team, individually we'd like nothing better than that. But we also respect the game of cricket," he said.



Bavuma said there is a sense of calmness in the dressing room unaffected by the adversities of 1992, 1996, 2007 and 2015 when they had endured semifinal heartbreaks.

"I guess they're all important in the semifinals. I think like you say with the way we've performed as a team it's obviously created a lot of positive sentiment but obviously high expectation," he said.

"There's a sense of calmness within the team and obviously the normal level of anxiety that you would expect of going into the game tomorrow. But I think we'll take a lot

of confidence with our performances up until this point," he said. Personally, Bavuma was excited to play in a World Cup semifinal.

"You want to treat it as just another game. But I guess you're forcing me to acknowledge that occasion. With that opportunity, I know it will mean a lot for the family and people back home."

"It would be nice to have another press conference with you guys on the 18th of November (ahead of final) -- but yeah try not to get too much into those emotions," he said.

Not 100% fit but confident of playing Bavuma had a hamstring issue during their last match against Afghanistan and the skipper said he's still not 100 percent fit for the semifinal.

"Physically, I feel alright, obviously not 100 per cent. I can't tell you medically, but I think for me from a feeling point of view, that's what I can attest to," he said.

Bavuma, however, said he's confident of making the playing 11.

"I'm quite confident, but I mean, it's not a unilateral decision that will be made. In

a state of mind, obviously a bit nervous about the game," he said.

Talking about his mediocre form in the event, Bavuma said he would take confidence from the good starts he had given with Quinton De Kock a couple of times.

"Yes, I haven't scored the bulk of the runs within the team. Got it in quite a couple of times, haven't converted."

"So, I guess from that point of view, also knowing that I play a key role with Quinton up top in terms of our partnership, we've been involved in a couple of 50 plus partnerships,

so I take a lot of confidence in that.

"I guess tomorrow my focus will be a lot on that, making sure that if we're batting first, we make sure we take care of that first 10 overs. And then generally after that, it's about me personally as a batter and if I can be ruthless."

Bavuma played down the pressure factor. "The pressure will always be there. I think even if at this point, I was averaging 50 or whatever, I'd still feel pressure. But you have to go out there and deal with it."

Two-spin ploy Bavuma said he would go with two spinners -- Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi -- the combination he preferred against India in their last match here.

"We feel that it potentially could be a wicket that assists the spinners a lot more. So, I guess naturally, so there will be a focus on our spin."

"If it is up to me, I'm definitely playing our two front line spinners. Keshav (Maharaj) and (Tabraiz) Shamsi. We obviously have Aiden (Markram) as well, who also gives us an option there," he said.

Their batting suffered a meltdown against India and were shot out for 83 with Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav sharing seven wickets between them in a group match here on November 5. But Bavuma said their batters don't have any insecurity complex.

"I don't think there's an insecurity or anything like that within our spin play as a team. We know we've played spin quite well from whatever angle you look at it statistically or whatever," he added.



## We've not faced any pitch issue so far: Australia skipper

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A raging pitch controversy may have taken the centre stage ahead of the World Cup semi-finals but Australia skipper Pat Cummins on Wednesday said they have "faith" in ICC and his team has not faced any issue so far in the ongoing tournament. Hours before India's highly anticipated semi-final against New Zealand at the Wankhede in Mumbai, reports emerged that the Indian cricket team management has sought a 'slow pitch' for the game.

"Yeah, I saw that (the report)... Obviously ICC have an independent pitch curator who manages that so I'm sure they are all over making sure it's fair for both teams," Cummins said ahead of their semifinal against South Africa at Eden Gardens.

"So far this tournament that we've played on, I've not seen any issue."

According to the report, a fresh pitch was originally planned for the first semifinal but now it will be played on an "used" surface to assist

the home team's spinners, leading to pitch alteration.

The report also claimed that if India make the final in Ahmedabad, a slow pitch is expected at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera. As per the ICC's Playing Conditions for the World Cup, the host association is "responsible for the selection and preparation of the pitch" and there is no requirement that a knockout fixture must be played on fresh pitches. Incidentally, the pitch on offer for Thursday's semifinal at the Eden Gardens is also an used surface and hosted the England-Pakistan group phase match.

The only stipulation in their Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process reads: "It is expected that venues that are allocated the responsibility of hosting a match will present the best possible pitch and outfield conditions for that match."

There has not been any official complaint from the Kiwis as both the teams inspected the pitch on offer at the Wankhede from close quarters on the eve of the match.

## PSL could be moved to UAE or SA due to elections in Pakistan

PTI ■ LAHORE

The Pakistan Super League (PSL) next year could be moved to the UAE or South Africa if the PCB doesn't get the government's clearance to host the event in February-March due to general elections in the country.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed on Tuesday, after a meeting of the PSL general council here, that it would seek formal advice from the government on finalising the PSL-9 dates because of the general elections slated on February 8.

The PSL is generally held annually between Feb 19-20 and March 20-21.

There has been talk in the PCB that some officials and franchise owners are in favour of the PSL to be held in UAE or South Africa next year to avoid any interruption in the schedule of matches.

The argument being given is that even the BCCI had organised the IPL in South Africa and UAE in emergency situa-



tions, such as the elections in India.

The early editions of the PSL were held in the UAE because no teams were willing to play in Pakistan due to security concerns.

But since 2021, the PSL has been held entirely in Pakistan, even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A reliable source said that opinion was divided on

whether the PSL should be held in Pakistan or abroad, with some franchisees and board officials keen on having it in the UAE while some others were resisting the move as it would impact the PCB's profits.

The PCB said that the franchisees had also asked the board to complete the process of selling the media and other rights of the PSL as soon as possible.

# Maxwell available for semifinal: Cummins

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Glenn Maxwell, whose thunderous knock against Afghanistan acquired the status of an epic, is on the mend and is available for the World Cup semifinal against South Africa, Australia skipper Pat Cummins said on Wednesday.

Showing incredible will-power, Maxwell had battled severe and multiple cramps in his body to conjure up a magical unbeaten double century to take Australia past the finish line.

Maxwell needed time to recover and had missed Australia's last match against Bangladesh on November 11 in Pune.

"Glenn Maxwell is all clear. He is all good. He was a little bit sore yesterday. We get scans a lot of the time just to make sure that if there is something, we know what we're dealing with and fortunately it came back all okay. So he's fine," Cummins said ahead of the semifinal.

Chasing 292-run target, Australia were struggling at 91 for seven in 18.3 overs when Maxwell took charge and lit up the Wankhede Stadium with his pyrotechnics on November 7.

Cummins said that Australia will announce their playing XI at the time of toss on Thursday. It remains to be seen whether Cummins goes with Marnus Labuschagne or Marcus Stoinis in the do-or-die match against the Proteas. "We will announce our XI at the toss tomorrow," said Cummins when asked if Australia will go into the match with an extra all-rounder or a batter.

The pitch of the Wankhede Stadium has come into focus in the lead-up to the first semifinal between India and New Zealand with foreign media indicating that the hosts could be micro-managing the pitch conditions for their World Cup campaign.

India has managed to get a used pitch for the semifinal



instead of a fresh pitch, it has been reported. However there is no rules that says a used pitch can't be picked for a semifinal match.

The ICC has clarified that "changes to planned pitch

rotations are common towards the end of an event of this length, and has already happened a couple of times."

Cummins said he has not encountered such an issue during their campaign here.

"Obviously the ICC has an independent pitch curator who manages that. I'm sure they are all over making sure it's fair to both teams. So far in this tournament that we've played on, I haven't seen any issues," said Cummins.

Cummins said he wants to savour the World Cup-winning moment in the ongoing showpiece, as he was not part of the playing XI in the final of the 2015 edition despite being a member of the squad. He had featured in just two league stage matches then.

Australia had defeated New Zealand by seven wickets in the 2015 World Cup final at the MCG with Mitchell Johnson and James Faulkner taking three wickets each. "I'd still say that 2015 World Cup was my career highlight, and I wasn't playing," said Cummins.

"But it was just the most magic moment. MCG, packed house, the whole of Australia behind us, winning a World Cup, which is rare."

## OTHER SPORT

# Lahiri looks to end title drought in Indonesia Masters golf

PTI ■ JAKARTA

India's Anirban Lahiri will look to end his long title drought when he returns to the BNI Indonesian Masters golf tournament starting here on Thursday.

Even though Lahiri has done well on the PGA Tour and now on the LIV Tour, a win has eluded him since the 2015 success at the Hero Indian Open.

Lahiri won in Indonesia in 2014 for his maiden victory away from India. He added the Venetian Macau Open in the same season, before winning the Maybank Malaysian Open and the Asian Tour Order of Merit the following season. The 36-year-old, who continues to play the LIV Golf League, finished runners-up in the 2022 edition in Indonesia.

"It's always fun to be back

here. I really enjoy coming back. I enjoy this golf course. I think it sets up nice for me and I've done well over the years and yeah, it's always fun to come here," said Lahiri.

"Over the years, Indonesia was one of my favourite stops when I was playing on the Asian Tour because there was a massive Indian expat community. "Royale Jakarta in 2014 was my first international win outside



of India and even before that, I had contended here and ever since I've come close on numerous occasions, so obviously, I enjoy playing here and looking forward to going one better than last year," he added.

While Lahiri won this event in 2014, no Indian has had as much success in Indonesia as Gaganjeet Bhullar, who has won three times in this country. In fact, Bhullar's first Asian

Tour success came in Jakarta, when he won the Indonesia President Invitational in 2009 and again bagged the title in 2013 and clinched the Indonesia Open in 2016.

The other Indians in the field are Rashid Khan, Ajeetesh Sandhu, Veer Ahlawat, Karandeep Kochhar, SSP Chawrasia, Shiv Kapur, S Chikkarangappa, Honey Baisoya and Yashas Chandra.