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# Shinde, Uddhav lose bow-arrow

EC's freeze on Sena, symbol during Andheri East bypolls

RAJESH KUMAR/PNS NEW DELHI

Neither Eknath Shinde nor the Uddhay Thackeray faction will be able to use the Shiv Sena's official symbol "bow and arrow" in the upcoming Andheri East Assembly byelection in Maharashtra.

In fact, the Election Commission on Saturday in its interim order also directed that both the factions even cannot use the name "Shiv Sena" till the matter is finally decided.

In an interim order over the claims by the rival factions for control of the organisation, the EC asked them to suggest by Monday three name choices for their respective groups, and also as many free symbols by 1 pm on October 10. The Commission can allocate the name and the symbol to both factions from the options submitted. The decision comes four months after Shinde took



away the Shiv Sena MLAs in the Maharashtra Assembly to replace Uddhav Thackeray as

Chief Minister. The EC said neither of the two groups led by Shinde (petitioner) and other led by Uddhav (respondent) be permitted to use the name of the party "Shiv Sena". Neither of the two groups shall also be permitted to use the symbol "bow & arrow", reserved for "Shiv Sena'. Both the groups shall be known by such names as they may choose for their respective groups, including, if they so desire, linkage with their parent party "Shiv Sena"; and both the groups shall also be allotted such different symbols as they may choose from the list of free symbols notified by the Election Commission for the purposes of the current by elections, the election watch

dog stated.
"Accordingly, both the groups are hereby directed to furnish, latest by 1:00 pm on 10th October, 2022, the names of their groups by which they may be recognised by the commission and to this end, give three options in order of preference, anyone of which may approved by the Commission and; the symbols which may be allotted to the candidates set up, if any, by the respective groups. They may indicate the names of three free symbols, in the order of their preference, anyone of which may be allotted to their candidates by the Commission," Chief Election Commission Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey said in their 13-page interim order on Saturday.

Continued on Page 2

## Cong prez contenders not 'remote controlled': RaGa

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday asserted that the two candidates in the party president's race were not remote controlled.
"Both the people (Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor) who are standing (for the Congress presidential election) have a position and perspective. They are people of stature and understanding. I don't think either of them is going to be a remote control. I think, frankly, this tone is insulting to both of them," Rahul said at a Press conference on the sidelines of his ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra

at Turuvekere in Karnataka. Rahul attacked the BJP and blamed it for spreading hatred and violence in the country. "We are not a fascist party. We are a party that believes in conversation and we welcome different viewpoints. We do know that in order to win elections we will have to work as a team," he said.

The Congress presidential election is scheduled for October 17 and the results will be announced on October 19. Gandhi and other leaders on Bharat Jodo Yatra will vote from a polling booth set up at the campsite for the yatra at Bellari in Karnataka.

The yatra will move to Andhra Pradesh for three days from October 18 and cover a distance of 95 kilometre in the State. It will return to Karnataka's Raichur and then move to Telangana, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said.

In reply to a question on his ongoing padyatra, Rahul said that the nationwide march was a form of tapasya (penance).
"I believe in tapasya. In this

communication with people, I wanted an element of suffering for myself. I did not want it to be easy," he said.

During the yatra, there is a realisation about the distance that has developed between the political class and the citizens, Rahul said.

"I find it (yatra) to be a very powerful experience. When you are walking on the road and talking to people who suffered, the communication is better," he said, adding that people were keen to share their

thoughts when they met him. He also attacked the BJP and the RSS and blamed them as the "singular reason" for the spread of violence and hatred in the country. People of the country are tired of such politics being pursued in the coun-

## **Cong slams hype over Gehlot's praise of Adani**

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try, he said.

BJP raps Cong for 'new found love'

PNS NEW DELHI/ JAIPUR/BENGALURU

Against the backdrop of industrialist Gautam Adani pledging an investment of ₹65,000 crore in Congressruled Rajasthan, former party chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he was not against the corporates but against complete monopolisation of businesses.

He also sought to clarify his stance on the issue after

Introducing

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot minced no words in making it clear that "Adani, (Mukesh) Ambani and Amit Shah's son Jay Shah are more than welcome in Paiaether" Rajasthan'

Both the corporate bigwigs have always been at the centre of Rahul's unrelenting attacks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi even though Adani has a load of investments in Chhattisgarh, another Congress-ruled State besides Jharkhand, where the party is in a coalition Government.

Continued on Page 2

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#### **India will buy oil** from country of its choice, Puri says in US

ing oil from Russia.

Detailed report on P2

#### **CAPSULE** 13 KILLED, 30 HURT IN BUS BLAZE IN NASHIK Nashik: At least 13 passengers,

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer, will continue to buy oil from any country that it has to, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said asserting that no country has told New Delhi to stop buy-

including a two-year-old child, were killed and 30 others injured after a private bus hit a trailer truck and caught fire in Nashik early on Saturday.

CBI QUIZZES SATYA PAL MALIK IN J&K SCAMS New Delhi: The CBI has

"examined" former Governor Satya Pal Malik in connection with two graft cases registered in J&K in April based on allegations levelled by him officials said.

## **Man-eating tiger** killed in Bihar

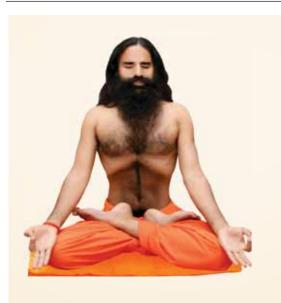
A tiger was shot dead at a for-est in Bihar's West Champaran district on Saturday after it allegedly killed nine people over the last few days, officials said. The tiger was shot dead at Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTP) in Baggaba by a Reserve (VTR) in Bagaha by a team of forest personnel brought in from Hyderabad and Patna, Chief Wildlife Warden Prabhat Kumar Gupta

"Forest personnel have been trying to cage the tiger that strayed out of the VTR area. The order for the killing was issued as per procedure when it was established that the tiger was accustomed to living in human habitation," he said.

The tiger killed nine people over the last few days, officials said. On Friday morning, 36-year-old Sanjay Mahto of Bagahi panchayat was found dead near the tiger reserve. Before that, the tiger had killed 12-year-old Bagadi Kumari of Sigadi village, they said.

'The carcass of the tiger has been sent for post-mortem as per the procedures. It will be cremated after completion of the formalities," said a senior district forest official.

"Our eight sub teams, each comprising one sharpshooter cornered the tiger in the sugarcane field and gunned it down. The tiger sustained four gunshot wounds and died on the spot," VTR director Nesh Mani said



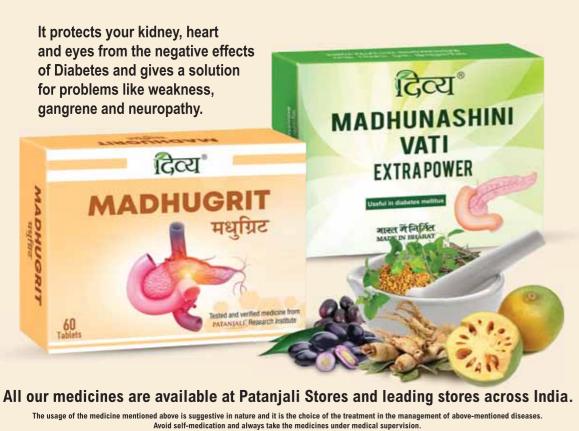


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## **India will buy oil from any** country of its choice: Puri

India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer, will continue to buy oil from any country that it has to, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said asserting that no country has told New Delhi to stop buying oil from Russia.

India, which has not publicly condemned Moscow for its 'special military action' in Ukraine, has become Russia's No.2 oil buyer after China as Western buyers stopped trading with that country and its oil prices fell.

Puri, who is here for talks with the US authorities on clean energy, said the government has a moral duty to provide energy at affordable rates to consumers.



"India will buy oil from wherever it has to for the simple reason that this kind of a discussion cannot be taken to the consuming population of India," he told a group of Indian reporters here. "Have I been told by anyone to stop buying Russian oil? The answer a categorical 'no'.'

He also expressed confidence that India would be able to mitigate a two million barrels per day cut in production by oil producers' cartel OPEC and its allies, known as OPEC+.

policy, which means you believe in energy security and energy affordability, you will buy from wherever you have to purchase energy from sources," Puri said after his bilateral meeting with the US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm.

With imports meeting 85 per cent of its oil needs, India has been diversifying its sources of oil purchases. Its refiners snapped up discounted Russian oil that was shunned by some Western buyers over Moscow's Ukraine invasion in February.

From making up for just 0.2 per cent of all the oil imported, Russia now is India's second biggest oil supplier after Iraq, accounting for about 18 per cent of all oil bought.

Drive in Kerala

to tame 'rogue'

buses after 9 die

in road accident

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

 $F_{\text{people, including five school students, in an accident}}^{\text{pollowing the death of nine}}$ 

involving two over speeding buses late Wednesday night in

Highway and the lambast by

the Kerala High Court on the

state of affairs of road safety, the

Motor Vehicles Department

and Police have launched a

programme to tame the rogue

Ramachandran of Kerala High

Court who came across the

news about the death of school

students and others in

Wednesday night's collision took

suo motu case against the erring

buses and asked the State

Transport Commissioner to

ouses and drivers.

Justice

Thrissur-Palakkad

## 13 killed, 30 injured as bus collides with truck in Maha

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

As many as 13 persons were killed and at least 30 others injured when a Mumbai-bound private sleeper coach bus collided with a speeding truck and caught fire at Nandur Naka near Nashik in north Maharashtra.

The mishap took place at around 5.30 am at an intersection near Mirchi Hotel Nashik-Aurangabad highway, when a luxury sleeper bus travelling from Yavatmal to Mumbai collided with a trailer truck going from Pune to Nashik and caught fire.

Al almost all persons who remained trapped inside the burning bus died on the spot. The injured were rushed to the district civil hospital.

The bus was gutted fully in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

On the occasion of 90th Air Force Day, Air Force

Station Jammu inaugurated

the Station Conference Hall

dedicated to 'son of the Soil' Flt

Flt Lt Bal gave the ultimate

Lt Advitiya Bal on Saturday.

sacrifice in the 'Line of Duty

on 28 Jul 2022 while flying a

Battle Inoculation Training

mission on a Mig-21 Type 69

of Air Force Station Jammu was

inaugurated by Praveen

Kumari (mother) and Sub Maj

Swaran Bal (father), parents of

braveheart Flt Lt Advitiya Bal

in the presence of Air

Commodore GS Bhullar, VM

(AOC Jammu) and Ruhi

Bhullar (President AFWWA

{L}) with senior Officers of

Banners calling Kejriwal

The 'Bal Conference Hall'

trainer aircraft.

Jammu Air Force station

launches conference hall

on 90th Air Force Day

the mishap. Eyewitnesses said that the blazing fire was so intense that no one came to the rescue of the passengers who were stuck inside the burning

Talking to media persons after visiting the mishap site, chief minister Eknath Shinde ordered an inquiry into the mishap. He said that he had giv en instructions to officials to identify accident spots in and around Nashik and take measures to prevent the recurring mishaps.

Shinde, who expressed his condolences to the bereaved families, met the injured persons at the Nashik district civil hospital.

Thechief announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the families of each of the persons killed in the

Station along with Principal of

Sainik School Nagrota

newly inaugurated conference

room was made between the

parents at Jammu with the CO

and Officers of Fighter

Squadron at Utarlai (Flt Lt

Bal's squadron), where the

young officer made supreme

hard work and perseverance

joined Sainik School Nagrota

and National Defence

commissioned into the Fighter

The officer with his sheer

sacrifice in the line of duty.

The first video call in the

Capt(IN) Desai.

Academy.

mishap and a compensation of Rs 50,000 to each of the persons injured in the mishap. "Instructions have been

given to the administration to provide medical treatment to the injured in the accident at government expense. The causes of the accident will be assessed through comprehensive investigation," the chief minister said.

Mourning those killed and wishing speedy recovery to those injured in the mishap, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said: 'Anguished by the bus tragedy in Nashik. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones in this mishap. May the injured recover at the earliest. The administration is providing all possible assistance to those

#### 14,000 watch mega Durga Puja carnival in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

About 14,000 spectators and 2,000 guests, including diplomats from various countries, on Saturday watched the grand Durga Puja carnival a mega annual show organised by the Mamata Banerjee Government — much in line with Delhi's Republic Day Parade — down the iconic Red Road.

The fest which was revived this year after two years' interval — in the wake of pandemic — was organised for the first time after Durga Puja was accorded the intangible heritage status by the UNESČO.

Such was the craze to witness the Saturday's show and such was the rush for passes that the government had to print additional passes, sources said.

respective Puja themes.

worth several thousand crores.

The colourful parade a brainchild of the Chief Minister witnessed 94 Durga Puja committees taking part in the show with their respective idols of the Mother Goddess and their individual artistic decorations based on their

The carnival that took place at the end of five-day festivities was highlighted by occasional participation of the Chief Minister who came down from the podium to join the performers in their respective

Meanwhile, Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari criticized the State Government for "wasting money in fun and frolic when thousands of the State's youth

are sitting jobless."
The Trinamool Congress immediately hit back reminding him how Durga Puja and the carnival was attracting tourists and creating jobs and economic activity

#### Navneet Mann (SDM, Alipur) and Sarjana Yadav (SDM, Chanakyapuri) have been assigned the e-Courts and e-Platform projects respectively.

**DELHI/NCR PULSE** 

New Delhi: The Delhi Government transferred the Special Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor to the MCD on Saturday and appointed three senior officers to the revenue department, which is executing various important projects, including digitisation of land records. In an order,

the services department of the city government said Sakshi Mittal, the

Namgyal Angmu has been appointed as the sub-divisional magistrate

(SDM), Kapashera and will look after the "Revenue Estates" project.

special secretary to LG V K Saxena, has now been posted as the

additional secretary of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)

SPECIAL SECY OF L-G TRANSFERRED TO MCD

MAN ROBBED OF ₹4L AT GUNPOINT IN SADAR BAZAR NEW DELHI: A 24-year-old man was allegedly robbed of Rs four lakh by three persons at gunpoint in north Delhi's Sadar Bazar area. Police said that the incident occurred on Friday and after scanning CCTV cameras in the area they have identified the accused and one of them has been arrested.

#### **NEIGHBOUR KILLS 8-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN NARELA**

**NEW DELHI:** An eight-year-old girl was allegedly killed by her neighbour in north Delhi's Narela area. However, the police ruled out any sexual assault angle in the case and attributed the murder to the strained relationship the victim's brother had with the accused. The accused and the victim's family lived side by side.

MINOR APPREHENDED FOR RAPING 4-YR-OLD GIRL

GURUGRAM: The Gurugram Police has nabbed a 15 year-old boy for allegedly raping an around 4-year-old girl in Sector 52 area. Police said that the incident occurred on Tuesday and the accused was neighbour of the victim and he was booked under POCSO Act at

## J&K cops' ops to bust sleeper cells after 3 more IEDs, bombs found



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

With the recovery of three more Improvised Explosive devices (IED's) and three sticky bombs from Malhar area of Kathua district on Saturday, the Jammu and Kashmir police have launched a massive operation to track down the footprints of members of the sleeper cell, activated by the Pakistan-based terrorist handlers to execute sinister terror plot across of drone sorties. Jammu division.

consignment explosives was recovered on the basis of interrogation of Jaishe-Mohammad operative Zakir Hussain Bhat. He was arrested by the police on October 2 in Kathua district. At the time of his arrest police teams have recovered a sticky bomb from his custody. Udhampur also witnessed twin bus blasts on September 28/29 in which timer IED's were used to trigger the blasts. Two civilians were injured in the blasts as both the

buses were empty at the time of

Additional General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh Saturday visited Kathua and also took stock of the ongoing investigations in the case. The officials of the security grid in the region are already on their tenterhooks as intelligence inputs revealed there could be more active OGW's present in the region and receiving the regular supplies being dropped from across the border with the help

IED's and sticky bombs were possibly transported inside the Indian territory through drones and the OGW's have ferried them to different destinations to trigger blasts on the directions of their handlers. According to police, these OGW's have been maintaining constant touch with their Pakistan based handlers through the social media platforms and receiving directions.

## Drone-based cross-border arms smuggling module busted in Punjab

**PTI** CHANDIGARH

 $P^{unjab\ Police\ has\ busted\ a}_{cross-border\ drone-based}$ arms smuggling module with the arrest of five men during the week, officials said on Saturday. A cache of sophisticated arms and ammunition were also recovered from them, Punjab Police said in a statement quoting Director-General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav.

The arrested accused

NOTICE

KANWAL NAIN SABHARWAL

S/o Tilak Raj Sabharwal R/o. B-318, Kendriya Vihar, Sector-51 Noida. I, hereby declared that while shifting from Chennai to Noida, I have misplaced my allotment letter & possession letter of my Flat B-318, Kendriya Vihar, Sector-51 Noida-201301. During transit anyone finding it may send this to

PUBLIC NOTICE

me on above mention address.

Plot No. 348, Ph-III, Sec-53, EPIP, HSIIDC, I.E., Kundli measuring 450 sq mtrs was allotted by the Corporation to Sh Shiv Narayan Sahu vide allotment letter dated 19.07.2011. The Corporation has been informed by the LR's that Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu had Informed by the LH's that Sh. Shiv Marayan Sahu had expired on 26.11.2020. The legal heirs of the deceased allottee Smt. Sharda Devi W/o Late Sh. Shiv Marayan Sahu, Sh. Ajay Sahu S/o Late Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu, Sh. Raj Kumar Sahu S/o Late Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu, Sh. Hatin Sahu S/o Late Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu, Smt. Hemlata Rathore W/o Sh. Girish Rathore & D/o Late Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu, Sn Ratingle & D/O Late Sh. Shin Warayayi Sauri, Jik Kiran Bahtria & D/o Late Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu, Smt. Poonam Gupta W/o Sh. Prabhat Kumar Gupta & D/o Late Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu, Smt. Deepti W/o Sh. Ashish Verma & D/o Late Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu, Smt. Bhawna Sahu W/o Sh. Akash Kumar Shah & D/o Late Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu, Smt. Shivani Sahu D/o Late Sh. Shiv Naraya Sahu have approached the Corporation for trans Sanu nave approacement he Corporation for transie of plot/share in the plot in question in favour of Smt Sharda Devi W/o Late Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu in this regard. The Corporation is in process of considering their request & transferring the said plot in favour o Smt. Sharda Devi W/o Late Sh. Shiv Narayan Sahu Through this public notice it is hereby informed that any person having reservation/ objection to sait transfer may file his/ her objection in writing befor the undersigned alongwith an affidavit within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no response is received within th aforesaid period, it will be presumed that no body has any objection to transfer of the said share in the plot and the Corporation shall go ahead with transfe of plot in favour of Smt. Sharda Devi W/o Late St For Haryana State Indl, & Infra Devip. Corp. Ltd Estate Manager For & behalf of Harvana State

Industrial and Infrastructure Dev. Coron. Ltd. Branch Office Industrial Estate Kundli

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publically notified that Flat No F-136B, Block-DS/MIG-III, Sector-22, Noida Has Been Allotted In The Name Of Krishan Autar Goel S/o Shri Ran Ine Name of Misnan Auter Goel Sro Snir Ram Charan Das Goel R/o H-32, Navin Shahdra Delhi 110032 had sold the said flat/house, on the basis of GPA to the following persons: A General Power of Attorney was executed in favour of Late Sunita Mathur W/o Shri Ashok Kumar Mathur R/o B-4, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi, on 67-1999 at Sub-Papietar Nickly and N. W. (Mel North 116). Registrar Noida, vide Book No IV Volume no 1166 1223 on pages 288/353-358 at Document No 17185 Dated 6.7.1989 and my wife expired on 9.2.2018 and registered WILL from Registered in favour of my wife Late Mrs. Sunita Mathur. She was expired on dated 9.2.2018 which is duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar Noida. There is no Agreement office of Sub Registiar Notes. Interes is no Agreement To Sell of the above said property executed by the allottee. And Whereas I, Ashok Kumar Mathur Slo Late Shri M C Mathur R/o F-136/B, Sector-22, Noida being a Special Power of Attorney holder (which is duly registered in the office of Sub Registran Neish Mich Special No. W. Vulcan No. 1166-20 Noida Vide Book No IV, Volume No 1166 on pages 288 and Document No 17185 and Addl Book No IV Volume No 1223 on pages 359-362 dated 6.7.1989) from original allottee in respect of the above noted flat /house and original allottee Krishan Autar Goel. And Whereas the original allottee Krishan Autar Goel also executed a WILL in favour of my wife Late Smt. Sunita Mathur which is duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar Noida Vide Book No 3 Office of Sub Registral Notice Book no. Volume No. 84 on pages 336-337 at Document No. 1940 dated 31.07.1989. And Wheres being J. Ashok Kumar Mathur Special Power of Attorney Holder of the above said property is going to be transferred in favour of my son Gaurav Mathur S/o Shri Ashok Kumar Mathur Jin 246. Eth. G. 147. 6th Appendix Kumar Mathur in R/o Flat No G-147, 6th Avenue Sector-4, Gaur City-1, Greater Noida West Chipyana Khurd Urf Tigri, Chhipyana Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. in blood relation, Now, if any one has / have any objection in transferring the Flat No F-136B, Block-DS/MIG-III, Sector-22, Noida from Ashok Kumar Mathur (SPA Holder) to his son Gaurav Mathur (in blood relation) he/she may submit his/her, objection in the Housing Departmen of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the publication of this notice.

include Surinder Singh of Barwala village in Tarn Taran and brothers Harchand Singh and Gursahib Singh of Valtoha in Amritsar.

The police have recovered Rs 1.01 crore in cash, 500 gram heroin, 17 pistols and 400 live cartridges, an MP-4 rifle and 300 rounds, two weighing machines and two currency counting machines from them, he said. On Wednesday, a team from Counter Intelligence, Amritsar, arrested two members of the module, including a prisoner identified as Jaskaran Singh and his aide Rattanbir Singh.

It also recovered 10 foreign-made pistols from locations pinpointed by them, taking the total recovery of pistols to 27. DGP Yadav said . Jaskaran and Rattanbir revealed that their associate Surinder had picked up a consignment of arms/ammunition they had earlier smuggled in from Pakistan with the help of

## CHE PIONEER S

• CHANGE OF NAME

Sumita Khatana D/o SP Khatana R/o. 850/13 Vijay Park, Gurgaon Haryana declare that Sumita and Sumita Khatana (W) are one and same person and shall henceforth be known as Sumita Khatana for all purposes.

**AASHIANA CGHS Ltd.** Co-Op, Group Housing Society Limited, Plot No.5, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091 PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Smt. Neelam Mukhija, W/o. Late Shri Satya Pal Mukhija, resident of House No. 29, Sector 16, Pan-chkula, Haryana 134109 has filed an application chkula, Haryana 134109 has filed an application with Aashiana Co-Op Group Housing Society ("the Society") for transfer of membership of Flat No. A-904 (Membership No. 1066), which is presently in the name of Shri Satya Pal Mukhija, in her favour. Smt. Neelam Mukhija has also submitted copy of a registered Relinquishment Deed executed in her favour by her two daughters. Smt Namrta Mukhija and Smt. Neetika Prabu, with respect to their respective 1/3rd undivided shares in the said property after the demise of Shri Satya Pal Mukhija. Any person or persons having objections to the transfer person or persons having objections to the transfer of the said membership in favour of Smt. Neelam Mukhija may file objections within on month from publication of this notice in the offices of the Society at Plot No. 5. Mayur Vihar Phase I Extension. Delhi 110091 failing which the said membershi will be transferred in her favour by the Society

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that Sushma Dhir Wo late Vinay Kumar Dhir claims to be owner and in possession of Property No. 64, Block A, Sector-93 B, Noida, UP(hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Transfer Letter Dated 23.07.2021 issued by Noida after the death of Vinay Kumar Dhir and said Vinay Chirokit at the Notice of the Not

Atik Ahmed Faroqi - Secretary

Kumar Dhir and said Vinay Kumar Dhir inherited the said property from Sushil Kumari Dhir vide transf others has agreed to create a mortgage in favour o our clients, IDFC FIRST BANK LTD, ITO Branch New Delhi. All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to said. notify the same in writing to us with supporting ocumentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 10 days from the date hereof, failing below within 10 days front in each relevol, talking which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respectives.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate For Diwan and Company LLF Advocates and Solicitors House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi -Mobile No. 981839999

## 'anti-Hindu' flagged in Guj

PTI AHMEDABAD

**R** anners terming Delhi Chief **D**Minister Arvind Kejriwal as "anti-Hindu" and showing him wearing a skull cap cities in Gujarat on Saturday, the day the AAP leader is on a visit to the poll-bound State to campaign for his party ahead of the Assembly elections.

Along with Kejriwal's pictures, some banners carried lines like "I consider Hindu religion as madness", while some others had "anti-Hindu Kejriwal go back" message.

These banners cropped up in Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodara cities, a day

Shinde

The EC had, on July 22,

followed by a reminder on

September 29 sought

documentation from both

groups regarding the support

enjoyed within the legislative

and organisational wings.

While the Shinde faction filed

some papers, the Thackeray

faction is yet to submit all

requisite documents and has

been seeking more time. The

last extended deadline for the

Thackeray group to submit

documents was 12 noon on

Friday (October 7). When the

documents did not reach, EC

wrote to the Thackeray faction

sharing the letter received

prompt response from the

Thackeray group at 4 pm on

Friday, seeking more time to

send documents to establish

support in legislature and

extend deadline and asked the

faction to send its reply by 2

But the EC refused to

organisational wings.

pm on Saturday.

The poll body received a

from the Shinde faction.

after a controversy erupted were to address a public over a video clip showing Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi minister Rajendra Pal Gautam at a "religious conversion" event where hundreds could be denouncing Hindu deities. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has slammed the minister and accused the AAP of hurting the sentiments of Hindus.

In Rajkot, the posters targeting the AAP and Kejriwal were destroyed by the party

Banners saying "anti-Hindu Kejriwal go back" were seen in Dahod town, where the Delhi CM and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann

Vivek Singh, representing

the Uddhav faction, has in his

letter dated 7.10.2022, sought

another four weeks of time

before the start of formal

hearing in order to prepare and

carefully understand the

documentation filed by the

is required, after submission of

documents and, listing of the

date of formal hearing by the

Commission, is a correct point.

However, the said time frame,

as will be decided by the

Commission in its assessment,

needed to ensure the due

process to be followed by the

Commission, is incongruent to

the timelines being invoked by

the two groups. Extension of

time lines may have a definite

bearing/consequences on the

smooth conduct of the

announced bye-elections, as,

both the Parties to the dispute

have claimed exclusive use of

the Shiv Sena symbol "bow &

arrow" and the party name of

"Shiv Sena", the EC said in the

order.

"That, a clear time frame

rival faction.

gathering on Saturday. These two AAP leaders have started their two-day Gujarat visit from Saturday.

The banners carried "I consider Hindu religion as madness", "I will not believe in Brahma, Vishnu, Ram and Krishna" and "I will not do 'shraddha pind daan' or any other Hindu ritual". However, all the banners had a common sentence - "These are the words and culture of AAP."

The AAP has positioned itself as a main contender of the BJP in Gujarat, where Assembly elections are slated to be held soon.

## Cong...

From Page 1

Rahul has in almost all his public speeches alleged that Modi only helps two-three of his capitalist friends like Adani and Ambani. The BJP on Saturday said Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's praise of industrialist Gautam Adani is a "tight slap on the face of the Congress high command" as it sought to "expose" the alleged "dual character" of the Opposition party.

Even as Gehlot showered praise on Adani at the 'Investors Summit" in Rajasthan on Friday, Rahul continued to make allegations on Twitter. Without taking any names, the Congress leader alleged that several crores rupees in loans of "capitalist friends" were waived off while others were living in debt.

But later at a Press conference on the sidelines of his ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul clarified his stand saying no CM could refuse such an

"No CM can refuse such an offer and it's not right for any

CM to refuse such business to

the State," Rahul said after BJP

lost no time in taking a swing at the Congress, comparing Gehlot's effusive praise of Adani to Rahul's frequent vilification of the business tycoon. Attacking the BJP for giving a monopoly to a few businessmen, Rahul said, "My question is why the BJP is giving a monopoly to twothree businessmen. They are helping with the concentration of money," he said by remarking he was not against any businessman, but was against monopolisation.

On the Rajasthan Governments stance, Rahul said, Rajasthan Government has not given any preference to the Adani Group. They have not helped him in any way.

Coming out in support of Rahul's defensive statements, Congresss media cell in-charge Jairam Ramesh said, much media hype is being created over Gehlot's meeting with Adani.

"No CM will say don't invest. Gehlot is very much against cronyism of the Modi variety. Much media hype is being created over Ashok Gehlot's meeting with Adani. Adani wants to invest approximately 60,000 cr in Rajasthan. No CM will sav don't invest. There are NO

special rules or policies for Adani by RJ Govt. Gehlot is very much against the cronvism of the Modi variety." Jairam said on a Twitter post.

Condemning the BJP for mocking the Congress after he lavished praise on industrialist Gautam Adani during the Invest Rajasthan summit, Gehlot said it was not a private programme and 3,000 delegates attended it. "It is not a private event, it

is an investors' summit. Are 3,000 delegates (who attended the summit) of the Congress?" Gehlot asked, asserting their ideologies could be that of the Congress or the BJP. Rajasthan BJP president

Satish Poonia, Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Rajendra Rathore, and party MLA Vasudev Devnani on Friday targeted the Congress over Gehlot's praise for Adani.

"In such a situation, why do they want to create a hurdle? I condemn these people. They talked about Gautam Adani. Be it Gautam Adani or any Adani or Ambani or Amit Shah's son Iav Shah, we will welcome all of them here. We want employment, we want investment," the Chief Minister said. It was not clear why

Gehlot clubbed Jay Shah's name with those of industrialists Ambani and Adani as the Union Home Minister's son is not known to have any major business interest.

Adani, the chairman of the Adani Group and the richest man in Asia, was seated next to Gehlot during the inaugural ceremony of "Invest Rajasthan", organised by the Congress-run State Government to attract investment.

industrialist announced plans to invest Rs 65,000 crore in Rajasthan over the next five to seven years, including the setting up of a 10,000-MW solar power facility, expansion of a cement plant, and upgradation of the Jaipur International Airport.

In his speech at the inaugural ceremony, Gehlot addressed the business tycoon as "Gautam bhai" and congratulated him for becoming the world's second richest person.

Interestingly, Adani has been meeting the leaders of non-BJP ruled States in recent times, including West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee. Adani is working on investments in the TMC-ruled State.

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## AAP failing on duties, got no satisfactory reply over issues: L-G

## Kejriwal hits out at BJP and L-G, says saffron party destroying lives of Delhiites through L-G office

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

fter Arvind Kejriwal's 'chill Aadvice, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday accused him and his partymen of crossing all bounds of propriety and "run-ning away" from their Constitutional duties and administrative responsibilities and he has not received any "satisfactory reply" from the AAP Government over issues related to excise policy, power subsidy and other matters raised by him.

In a tersely-worded letter to Kejriwal, Delhi Lt Governor said that the Government "which runs on the support of advts and bhashans (debates) seems to be alienating from



original work". Saxena said that his letters and instructions were meant to caution the Government against "errors and shortcomings" in its functioning yet he was personally attacked and became target of "baseless allegations."

Kejriwal also hit out at the BJP and Lt Governor, saying

the saffron party is destroying

the lives of people of the national Capital through Lieutenant-Governor. In a cheeky reply to Lt Governor's letter, Kejriwal tweeted, 'Another love letter has come".

He also accused the LG of destroying the lives of people in Delhi. "BJP is hell bent on

destroying the lives of the people of Delhi through LG.

Every day these people make a fuss about something or the other. I assure Delhiites that as long as this son of yours is alive, don't worry. I won't let any harm come to you," Kejriwal said in another tweet

In a six pages letter, Saxena accused Kejriwal and his associates of levelling false allegations and spreading them through social media causing "irreparable loss" to the people they targetted. "You and your associates first level baseless and false allegations, spread these allegations through media and social media and then run away.

When the facts come to

light, you shamelessly apologise even though irreparable injury has been caused to the accused person in the public domain and political advantage has been gained by you by then.

In the past too, you levelled such baseless allegations against ex-Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, ex-Union Minister Kapil Sibal and former Punjab Minister Bikram Singh Majithia and apologised later,' he added.

Saxena also took umbrage at Kejriwal's sarcastic remarks where he referred to a previous communication from Saxena as a "love letter", and hoped that he would instead accept it as a "letter of duty". Saxena's letter comes days after Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia accused him of interfering in AAP government's functioning up probes on its decisions and works. and "unconstitutionally" setting

Terming Sisodia's letter as well as those by other AAP leaders as "pointless" and "mis-leading", the LG added "I feel sad that apart from crossing all bounds of propriety, you and your associates are running away from your constitutional responsibilities. Your governance system

based on advertisements and speeches is getting completely alienated from the basic work of the people". "It is regrettable that when I informed you about these shortcomings and requested you to redress them as per my constitutional responsibility, you and your associates not only misled the people but also levelled baseless and personal allegations by not answering those issues," he

In the letter, Saxena

detailed 11 decisions taken by the Delhi government so far regarding a probe in the now scrapped excise policy, absence of Kejriwal or his ministers at an event attended by the President, power subsidy, recruitment of teachers, and several other points, and asked was he wrong in doing that.

Saxena said: "I would like to remind you that the issues that were conveyed to you in the letter constituted the feelings of all the common citizens of Delhi and the issues were related to administration.' Saxena urged Kejriwal "to refrain from doing so in future in the interest of political correctness, constitutional values, common social etiquette and national interest."

Responding to Sisodia's recent letter in which he reiterated his demand for a probe into the alleged Rs 6000-crore scam in the MCD, the LG said the matter was taken up by

The municipal corporation, as per the report, cancelled contract by taking action against the agency concerned for not depositing the amount in time and necessary action was also being taken for recovery of pending dues, he said.

## Rain heralds winter arrival, leads to jam, waterlogging

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Adecent pour in the national Capital on Saturday gave the public a first taste of the upcoming winter, but also led to waterlogging and traffic jams at several places in the city. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data, Delhi's Base station, Safdurjung observatory, recorded a rainfall of 25.3 mm from October 7 at 8:30 am till October 8 at 8:30 am.

However, the other weather stations in the city including Palam, Lodhi Road, Ridge, Mungeshpur, Najafgarh, SPS Mayur Vihar, and Sports Complex recorded rainfall of 4.4 mm, 19.4 mm, 29.0 mm, 10.4 mm, 4.5 mm, 1.0 mm, 5.0 mm, 6.5 mm and 3.5 mm

Anand Vihar, Wazirabad, the road stretch between INA Badarpur Road, Tughlakabad, Sangam Vihar, Kirari, Rohtak



Vehicles ply on Delhi-Gurugram Expressway during rain in Gurugram on Saturday

Najafgarh, Mahipalpur, and Rangpuri, were among several places which witnessed waterlogging, civic and PWD authorities

Road, Vikas Marg, near pictures of the waterlogged spots on social media. The Delhi Traffic Police has advised commuters to plan their journey accordingly. "Traffic is affected on New Rohtak Road said. People conveyed their in the carriageway from pain to authorities by posting Zakhira towards Anand Parbat

due to waterlogging near Anand Parbat red light. Commuters are advised to avoid the stretch," the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted. The commuters also took to Twitter to post updates regarding traf-

city.

Heavy traffic jam was reported from Zakhira flyover. Similar scenes were witnessed on Najafgarh road towards Bahadurgarh and on Ring Road from Raja Garden Chowk till Dhaula Kuan loop.

A commuter tweeted that the traffic was heavy from Naraina towards Moti Bagh on the Dhaula Kuan stretch. Another commuter said the red light at Punjabi Bagh Chowk was not working and there is heavy traffic jam due to rain and waterlogging.
Some of them said the

traffic is heavy near Anand Vihar, Red Fort, Mathur Road and Chhawla areas. Azad market red light chowk also witnessed traffic jam.

A senior police officer said adequate traffic police personnel have been deployed on field to ensure smooth traffic movement in the city. Another user said the traffic was heavy on National Highway-8 from Gurgaon border towards Delhi.

#### Traffic Police issues advisory ahead of Eid-e-Milad, Valmiki Jayanti STAFF REPORTERNNEW DELHI Ganj Gurudwara-Chandni Panchkuian Marg, Mandir

With celebrations of Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti and Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi processions on Sunday, the Delhi Traffic Police on Saturday issued an advisory regarding the traffic arrangements in the national Capital.

According to advisory, the followers of Maharishi Valmiki would visit the Valmiki temples in large numbers, consequently resulting in huge crowds and cultural programmes including bhajan/kirtans would also be organized at Valmiki temples.

Besides, some processions/Shobha Yatras would also be taken out by the devotees of Maharishi Valmiki," the advi-

On Sunday from 2 pm onwards, Maharishi Valmiki Janmotsav Committee, Delhi Pradesh would hold Shobha Yatra from Red Fort enroute via Gauri Shankar Mandir-Shish

Chowk-Town Hall-Nai Sarak-Badashabulla Chowk-Chawri Bazar-Hauz Qazi-Ajmeri Gate-Pahargani Pull-Pahargani-Chuna Mandi-Rama Krishna Mission-Chitra Gupta Road-and would conclude at Valmiki Mandir, Mandir Marg, it said. Balmiki Chaudhari

Sarpanch Committee (Regd.) Delhi Pradesh would also hold Shobha Yatra from Red Fort, the advisory stated.

Apart from these, various processions would also be taken out in other areas of Delhi from Khichdipur Colony in east Delhi, from 80 Gaj Colony in west Delhi, from Nand Nagri in northeast Delhi, from Bindapur village in southwest Delhi etc.

There shall be restrictions on movement of traffic on Netaji Subhash Marg, Chawri Bazar Road, Ajmeri Gate Road, Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Gupta

Marg and surrounding roads/stretches where the said processions will be taken out on Sunday, the advisory stated. Similarly, Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi will be celebrated in the city on

On this occasion, Markazi Anjuman-Eid-E-Milad-ul-Nabi would take out a religious procession from Bara Hindu Rao to Chowk Jama Masjid via Pahari Dhiraj-Chowk Bara Tooti-Sadar Bazar-Qutub Road-Lahori Gate-Khari Baoli-Masjid Fatehpuri-Katra Bariyan-Farash Khana-Lal Kuan-Chowk Hauz Qazi-Chawri Bazar-Chowk Jama Masjid, according to the advi-Apart from this, various

processions would also be taken out in northeast, south, central, southeast, Shahdara, outer north, east, outer, west and northwest areas of the

#### AIIMS releases phone number, asks doctors to report presence of touts inside campus



**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

racking the whip on unau-Cthorised people from private establishments who exploit patients, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) administration has shared a WhatsApp number and urged the doctors and staff members to report the presence of such agents on the hospital premis-

According to a circular issued by AIIMS Director Dr M Srinivas on Friday, the security staff shall ensure that all such people are handed over to the police outpost at the hospital for trespassing and exploiting patients. The information may also be e-mailed to director@aiims.Edu, the circular said.

It mentioned that unidentified and unauthorised individuals belonging to certain private companies, hospitals, laboratories and radiology centres etc., are often seen roaming inside the AIIMS campus to seek monetary gain from the patients.

It is also learnt that they facilitate the issuance of OPD cards and admissions. These agents also divert patients for laboratory or radiology investigations to private facilities. Some of them sell medicines disposables, surgical items and implants, the circular said.

All such unidentified individuals, vendors and agents are strictly barred from entering the hospital campus, according

to the circular.

"All the doctors, nurses and staff members are hereby instructed that, even on slightest suspicion of presence of any unauthorised and unidentified person in the campus or around the departments and areas of the campus, immediately report to the special WhatsApp 9355023969," it stated.

## Sisodia gives green signal for Nangloi WTP

on Saturday approved the conclock water supply in the national Capital. According to officials, with

the new filter house having advanced technology, the Nangloi WTP will be able to treat 10-15 per cent more water during the peak summer season and meet the increased Sisodia said the new filter

house will help meet the water supply demand in different areas of Delhi and overcome the shortage of drinking water in the summer season. "Existing filter beds in the

Nangloi WTP require upgrading, which might take some

The new filter house with space-saving technology will

is continuously working towards increasing the supply Delhi Deputy Chief of water by using modern tech-Minister, Manish Sisodia, niques," said Sisodia.

"The project will be implestruction of a new filter house mented by the Delhi Jal Board at the Nangloi water treatment at an estimated cost of Rs 59.7 plant (WTP) at a cost of Rs 59.7 crore. The construction of the the water treatment capacity of the Nangloi WTP," said the deputy chief minister.

"It will be able to treat 10-15 per cent more water during the summer season and in case of increased demand for

The deputy chief minister had directed the officials to complete the work of this new filter house in the stipulated time and ensure that during the entire process, all the standards of safety-security and quality are followed with commitment," said Sisodia.

Sisodia said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has been working to replace the old water pipelines in various areas across the take less time and give more national capital in a phased output. The Delhi government manner and also for laying new

pipelines. It has been working towards increasing the capacity of various WTPs and to provide pure drinking water to all the households, he added. "Under this project, two new pre-settling tanks will be constructed to deal with the prob-

In addition, inlet chamber flash mixers, high-rate lamella clarifiers and high-rate deep bed filters will also be constructed," said an official.

Presently, around 44 MGD of water is being treated through the existing filter beds of the 40-MGD Nangloi WTP.

WTPs have filter beds that are filled with sand. In the filtration process of water treatment, the remaining fine particles, viruses, bacteria, taste, odour etc. Are removed from the water.

The quality of the water deteriorates due to the failure of the filter beds, thus hampering the production of water.

In the coming days, the existing filter beds here might stop working, so it is important to solve this problem in time.

## MCD to beautify 375 public spaces ahead of G-20 meet

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW

A head of the upcoming G-20 summit, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will beautify 375 public spaces with exotic flowering plants in the national Capital, following Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's directions.

According to a senior MCD official, the civic body has started work on optimal utilization and beautification of urban green spaces by planting seasonal flowering plants to give an aesthetically pleasing environment at roundabouts, dividers, sidewalks of roads, land parcels below flyovers, vertical greens and recreational public spaces like parks, etc in preparations of the upcoming G-20 sum-

The Corporation has started preparing flower beds at these places where it will plant exotic flowering plants which

will add to the beauty of the city and will have a soothing effect on eyes and minds of citizens. The Corporation has earmarked 375 public places for planting exotic flowering plants in all its 12 zones. These places include 16 flyovers, 261 colony parks, 27 parks situated at markets, 62 parks situated on the main

road, and nine roundabouts.

While informing about main places that will be beautified in capital by MCD, he said that places where beautification will be carried out include Nehru place flyover, Sarai Kale Khan flyover, Lajpat Nagar flyover, South Extension flyover, Kalkaji flyover, Seelampur flyover, Gokulpuri flyover, Rani Jhansi flyover, Shalimar Park, Priyadarshini park, Teacher park Nimdi colony, Vaishali Vatika park Piitampura, etc. "MCDs Horticulture department will plant an exotic variety of flow-

ering plants to beautify areas.

#### Lonely jumbo to get South African mate

New Delhi: Shankar, the 26year-old African elephant from Zimbabwe at Delhi zoo, is likely to get a female companion from South Africa. Zoo Director Dharam Deo Rai said they had shortlisted South Africa as it has a good population of African elephants and could provide a suitable match for Shankar.

"It is not possible to relocate the elephant into the wild. Normally, we conduct a rewilding programme for animals born in zoos wherein the next generations of the animal are trained to hunt and their interaction with humans is minimised. It takes generations," he said. "One cannot expect an animal hand fed for 24 years to adapt to the jungle.'

Rai said the zoo authorities had been in touch with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) which facilitates animal exchange programmes.



of Prime Commercial (Rohini, Dwarka & other), Residential (New Rajender Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar & other), Institutional (including Religious plots), Industrial (Mangolpuri), Group Housing Plots (Rohini), Built up Shops, CNG Sites .....and many more.

(Leasehold including religious plots) **CNG Sites** 

fee basis)

(Freehold)

(Annual License

**Group Housing** 

(Freehold) Residential

(62 Freehold) + OSB (30 Freehold)

**Industrial Plots** 

Kiosk (21) + Janak

(Monthly License fee basis)

Place Shops (13)

**Small Size Residential Plots** (Rohini) (Freehold) **Mobile Tower** 

Commercial

Plots (Freehold)

**ASMPCH** (Ancilliary Services in Multipurpose Community Hall) (Monthly License fee basis)

**Built-up Shops** 

(Monthly License fee basis)

100 Function Sites advertised on 27.09.2022 for E- auction and the live bidding will be on 18.10.2022

#### **Important Dates & Events**

11.10.2022 11.11.2022 14.11.2022

17.11.2022

(Tuesday) Opening of Help Desk and commencement of e-Registration (Friday) (06.00 PM) Closing Time of e-Registration and online EMD submission

(Monday) Online Bidding of Institutional (167), CNG /Green Fuel Sites (2), Janak Place Shops (13) and Group Housing (4)

15.11.2022 (Tuesday) Online Bidding of Resdl. (62) and (OSB) (30), Kiosks (21), Mobile Tower(16) and LPC-ASMPCH (7) 16.11.2022 (Wednesday) Online Bidding for Industrial (36) and Commercial Estates Shops (130)

(Thursday) Online Bidding for Commercial Land (77), and Residential Plots of LAB Rohini- (50) For details about Plots/Properties and procedure, kindly visit our e-auction website www.ddaeauction.co.in Or click the Go to e-auction link available at our site www.dda.gov.in and download the same though "E-AUCTION OF PROPERTIES" link available at home page of e-aution portal. Intending bidders may register themeselves/their firms online at the above site through "REGISTER WITH US" link. Kindly note that digital signature of all the intending bidders are mandatory to

participate in e-auction of DDA, A Help Desk has been opened at the Nagrik Suvidha Kendra, Ground Floor, 'D' Block, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi which will start from 11.10.2022 to assist the intending bidders in the ongoing process of e-auction. For obtaining digital signatures and registration/training of prosepective bidders and for any other clarification on e-auction process, please contact our Help Desk No. 080-45811365/8800558944 from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm (all working days) or Sanjeev Kumar, Commissioner (LD)

For further details contact: Commissioner (LD), Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023



For more details dial Toll Free No.: 1800110332 Follow us on @@ddaofficial @@official\_dda



## BJP to make Assam flood-free in 5 yrs: Shah Gehlot's praise of Adani tight slap on

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday sought five more years to fulfill the BJP's third promise of making Assam flood-free. "Floods will be history," Shah said even as he emphasised the persistent focus of the Modi Government on the North-East in the last eight years compared to the "negligence" of the Congress regimes over seven decades triggering insurgencies in the region.
"We have already fulfilled

two other promises of ending terrorism and corruption, "Shah said, adding an "ambitious" flood mitigation project is being prepared.

On the issue of the contentious AFSPA, Shah said it will be removed only after installing peace in the State.

Shah was addressing a BJP workers' meeting after inaugurating the party's newly constructed State office in

Party president JP Nadda too joined Shah for the inauguration of the BJP office. Floods ravage Assam almost three-four times every year.

The average annual loss due to the disaster is to the tune of ?200 crore, according to the State Government. "In the BJP manifesto, we had promised an Assam free from terrorism, corruption and flood. We've already achieved the first two. Give us five more years, we'll make Assam free from flood.'



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and others during a public meeting at Khanapara ground in Guwahati on Saturday

Shah stated that he has already discussed the problem at length with the various stakeholders on Friday evening and "an ambitious project" is being prepared under the aegis of the North Eastern Council (NEC).

"In five years, the flood will be history. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is determined to make Assam a flood-free State," he added. The Union

Home Minister also stated that the party believes in strengthening internal security so that laws like Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) are not needed in society and its application is already withdrawn from around 80% of the Northeastern region. "AFSPA is

Rahul Gandhi had announced that AFSPA would be withdrawn if his party's

protection for army and secu-

government comes to power. I had said that security forces need to be strengthened," he added. Taking a dig at the Congress' ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', Shah claimed that former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had said goodbye to Assam during the 1962 India-China war and the grand old party had forgotten that Northeast even existed. "This region is three times the size of UP and it was full of separatist

and insurgent movements. The Congress watched silently the attempts to break

NE. Only Modi worked for this place and united the NE. "The Congress and those who went for 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', please listen. This is an example of how Northeast was united without giving a single lecture," he added.

Shah had in the Friday meet asked the Assam Government to devise a longterm plan to protect the northeastern State from flood so that more development can take place. Shah launched a scathing attack on the opposition Congress, saying that the seventy years of the grand old party pushed the North east to violence and anarchy.

Hitting out at the Congress, the home minister said, "Seventy years of Congress pushed North East to violence and anarchy. BJP's eight years under PM Modi joined it with the mainstream.

He also said, "We never imagined we would make a government on our own in Assam, during my Vidyarthi Parishad days. But today, the BJP's consecutive rule in the state has been ensuring an allround development", said Shah.

BJP has for second time returned to power in Assam and has formed or partnered governments in rest of states of the North-East with regional parties, almost wiping-out the Congress and the Left.

# face of Cong high command: BJP

PNS NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday said Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's praise of industrialist Gautam Adani is a "tight slap on the face of the Congress high command" as it sought to "expose" the alleged "dual character" of the opposition

BJP's Rajasthan president Satish Poonia ridiculed Congress' "double-standards", saying the party "changes its tune on Adanis when it comes to money" and recalled past anti-Adani comments of former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and other leaders of the

party.

"Kal tak jo tha virodi, aaj bana manmeet, dhan ki jagi ummeed to badli apni reet (the one who was being opposed until yesterday has come close today, with hopes of cash inflow, they changed their course)," he said.

Adani attended the Rajasthan investment summit on Friday and announced around Rs 65000 crore investments in the Congress-ruled State. Adani sharing the stage with Gehlot Minister at the summit has triggered a political slugfest between the BJP and the Congress. The BJP has mocked the Congress after Gehlot showered praises on

Adani, who has been consistently attacked by Congress leader Rahul who often took dig at the BJP alleging its proximity with the industrialist.

Punia said while Rahul Gandhi accuses the Centre of favouring Adani and Ambani, the chief minister of Rajasthan now favours the two business

BJP MLA and former minister Vasudev Devnani shared a picture of Gehlot seated with Adani at the Summit, saying it was a "tight slap" on the face of the Congress high command. In another tweet, Devnani shared a video in which Gehlot is seen congratulating Adani for his stellar success.

Devnani tweeted in Hindi, "The chief minister, who constantly attacks the central government by taking Adani's name, is not tired of praising him in front of crores of

Rajasthan citizens during the last days of his unstable government." "The 'rare photo' of chief minister@ashokgehlot51 ji with Adani, whom Congress prince @RahulGandhi keeps

#InvestRajasthaSummit today is a tight slap on the face of the Congress high command," he

"Rahul Gandhi's Congress party which constantly curses the central government in the name of Adani is now being kind to him. The head of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot is providing valuable land to Adani group on concessional rates," BJP's deputy leader of opposition Rajendra Rathore said.

The saffron party accused the Congress of possessing a dual character - saying that the grand old party says something and does the opposite.

## CBI examines Malik in cases he raised as J&K Guv

The CBI has "examined" for-▲ mer Governor Satya Pal Malik in connection with two graft cases registered in Jammu and Kashmir in April based on allegations levelled by him.

The CBI team took details of his observations earlier this week after his five years tenure as Governor ended on October 4, officials said. He was appointed as Governor of Bihar in 2017 after which he was sent to Jammu and Kashmir in 2018



#### 👔 DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS KATHUA

On 02.10.2022, one Jagdish Kumar S/O Sarnu R/O Bathri Tehsil Billawa lodged a written report at P/S Billawar stating therein that on 01.10.2022 her daughter namely Kajal Devi went for purchasing some household items at nearby village shop but didn't returned back. The complainan searched her daughter everywhere but no any clue could be struck out. On this, missing report vide DD No. 03 dated 02.10.2022 has been

**LOOK OUT NOTICE** 

During the course of investigation, best efforts were made to locate missing individuals, whereas they are still un-traced.
As such Description Roll/Photograph of said missing individuals are being

shared with the appeal that anybody having clue/information about he whereabouts may inform us accordingly. The informer will be rewarded

**Description Roll:** 

Kajal Devi · Father: Jagdish Kumar Permanent Address: Vill. Bathri Vill. Bathr Present Address:

Tehsil: Billawar Police Station Billawar Height 05 Feet 02 Inches

Complexion Wheatish Built: Eyes: Black Dogri/Hindi. Languages known:

communicated on following Contacts:-

. dpokathua@jkpolice.gov.in ( Mail ID) PCR Kathua-01922-234311(Phone/Fax

No: DIP/J-9831/22 Dated: 08.09.2022

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

# **PHOTOGRAPH**

#### Any information related to the whereabouts of the subject may be . DPO Kathua- 01922-234010 (Phone/Fax)

Sd/- Sr. Superintendent of Police Kathua

#### DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I. DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

VIJAY KISHORE & ORS. .Defendants MR. VIJAY KISHORE

House No.E-162, Sushant Lok, Phase-II, Sector-56 Defendant 1 Gurgaon Haryana-122011 MRS. SUNITA SINGH

House No.E-162, Sushant Lok, Phase-II Sector - 56, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011

SHUBHKAMNA BUILDTECH PVT. LTD. R/o. 197 E Pocket IV Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110091 Office: Plot No. GH/05 Sector - 137, Noida-201301

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs.48,23,705/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Five Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this

notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 18.10.2022 at 10:30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website: www.etribunal.gov.in Phone Number 011-23748473).

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex"

"Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be

available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in"

taken by Registrar / Recovery Officer-I/ and Recovery Officer-II shall be under the Public Notice Head In any exigency qua that, the Advocates / Litigants can contact the concerned

official at Ph. No.011-23748473. Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 05th July of 2022.

Respondent may contact under mention Phone number for

Mr. Amit K. Dar, Ld. Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi. Phone No.: 011-23748473, E-mail: drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in

By Order of this Tribunal,



tion of Article 370 in August 2019. Malik had issued statements criticising the Centre

during farmers' agitation and he subsequently moved to Meghalaya where his five-year tenure ended this month. Malik had claimed that he was offered a Rs 300 crore bribe for clearing two files during his tenure as the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir between August 23, 2018 and October 30, 2019. 'After going to Kashmir,

two files came to me (for clearance), one belonging to Ambani and another to an RSS-affiliated man who was a minister in the previous Mehbooba Muftiled PDP-BJP coalition government and claimed to be very close to the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi)," he had said.
"I was informed by secretaries in both departments that there is a scandal and I accordingly cancelled both deals. "The secretaries told me that 'you will get ₹150 crore each for clearing the files' but I told them that I have come with five kurta pyjamas and will leave with that only," Malik had told a gatherevent in Jhunjhunu in

Rajasthan in October last year. In April this year, the CBI registered the two FIRs in connection with corruption allegations levelled by Malik in the award of contracts for a group medical insurance scheme for government employees and civil work worth ₹2,200 crore related to the Kiru hydroelectric power project in the erstwhile state.

The central agency has booked Reliance General Insurance and Trinity Re-Insurance Brokers Limited as accused in its FIR related to a controversial health insurance scheme for Jammu and Kashmir Government employees reportedly cleared by Malik in state administrative council meeting on August 31, 2018. ... Unknown officials of Finance Department of Government of Jammu and Kashmir by abusing their official position in conspiracy and connivance with Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Ltd, Ŕeliance General Insurance Company Ltd and other unknown public servants and private persons have committed offences of criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct," the FIR alleged.

In the scheme which was initially signed up with RGIC for one year, the employees and pensioners would have got ₹6 lakh cover for themselves and five dependent family members by paying an annual premium ₹8,777 and ₹22,229 for employees and pensioners,

## All conscientious countries have responsibility to call out international terrorism, says MEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**▼**ndia on Saturday took strong Inote of comments by Foreign Ministers of Germany and Pakistan on Jammu and Kashmir and said all conscientious members of the global community have a responsibility to call out international terrorism, especially of a cross-border nature. Without directly naming

Pakistan, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Jammu and Kashmir has borne the brunt of a terrorist campaign for decades and it continues till now. He was responding to comments on Jammu and Kashmir by the Pakistani and German foreign ministers at a joint press conference in Berlin



conscientious members of the global community have a role and responsibility to call out international terrorism, especially of a cross-border nature," Bagchi said. "The Indian Union

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has borne the brunt of such a terrorist campaign for decades. This continues till now," he said. Bagchi said foreign nationals have been victims there, as also in other parts of India. "The UN Security Council and FATF are still pursuing Pakistan-based terrorists involved in the horrific 26/11 attacks," he said. "When states do not recognise such dangers, either because of selfinterest or indifference, they undermine the cause of peace, not promote it. They also do grave injustice to the victims of terrorism," Bagchi added.

At the press conference in Berlin on Friday, Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said peace inside South Asia would not be possible without the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and taking into consideration the aspirations of Kashmiri people.

## person, 1 poll seat: ECI proposal to Law Ministry | 1 held in ₹99.74 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar has once again taken up with the Law Ministry a nearly two-decade-old proposal limiting one person to contest only from one constituency at a time. At present, one eligible person can contest elections from two different seats or constituencies.

The move, first made way back in 2004, comes in the backdrop of the poll panel recently delisting 284 defaulting and non-compliant registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs).

As per statutory requirements under section 29A of the RP Act, every political party has to communicate any change in its name, head office, office bearers, address, and PAN to the Commission without delay. Eighty-Six RUPPs

were found to be non-existent either after a physical verification carried out by the respective Chief Electoral Officers of concerned states/UTs or based on the report of undelivered letters/notices from the Postal Authority sent to the registered address of the concerned

This decision against 253 non-compliant RUPPs was taken based on reports received from Chief Electoral Officers of seven states namely Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

These 253 RUPPs were declared inactive, as they did not respond to the letter/notice delivered to them and have not contested a single election either to the General Assembly of a State or the Parliament Election 2014 and 2019. These RUPPs were failed to comply with statutory requirements for more than 16 compliance steps since 2015. News agency ANI said the Election Commission has also proposed bringing down anonymous political donations from Rs 20,000 to Rs 2,000 to cleanse election funding of black

In the letter, CEC has recommended a slew of amendments to the Representation of the People (RP) Act.

According to the proposal, political parties are not required to report the cash received below Rs 2,000. As per rules in force currently, political parties have to disclose all donations above Rs 20,000 through their contribution report that is submitted to the

In his letter written to Union law Minister Kiren Rijiju in September, CEC also proposed to cap cash donation at 20 per cent or at Rs 20 crore

whichever is lower. Earlier, the income tax department conducted raids in multiple states as part of a pan-India tax evasion probe against certain registered unrecognised political parties (RUPP) and their alleged dubious financial trans-

The activities were taken by the department on a recent recommendation of the Election Commission which recently struck off at least 198 entities from its list of RUPP after they were found non-existent during physical verifica-

The poll panel had announced that it was taking action against more than 2,100 entities, categorised as RUPP by it, for flouting rules and election laws, including those related to the filing of monetary contributions, failing to update their address and names of office bearers.

# bank fraud case

PNS NEW DELHI

Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested one Gian Chand from the national Capital in connection with a bank fraud case involving Rs 99.74 crore by Deluxe Cold Storage & Food Processors Ltd. He was produced before the Special Court here which remanded him to ED Custody till October 17. The ED initiated money

laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR dated March 6, 2020 registered by Central Bureau Investigation (CBI) against Deluxe Cold Storage and Food processors Ltd, its Directors Amar Chand Gupta and others on the basis of allegations that directors of the firm in

conspiracy with each other and other individuals indulged in the misappropriation of bank funds, criminal breach of trust and manipulation of books of accounts through fictitious entities, the ED said in a statement. The accused are also alleged to have routed funds through shell entities and siphoned off the funds from company's accounts for their personal gains causing loss to the tune of Rs 99.74 crore to the public sector banks during 2015 to 2017.

The directors of Deluxe Cold Storage & Food Processors Ltd Amar Chand Gupta, Ram Lal Gupta and Raj Kumar Gupta are already in judicial custody in another case pertaining to Shree Bankey Behari Exports

## झारखंड सरकार, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय कम्बाइंड बिल्डींग, ओल्ड चास कोट एरिया, बोकारो।

ई- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा संख्या :- 18/2022-23/RWD/EE/BOKARO दिनांक -08.10.2022 कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. कार्य का नाम :-आईडेन्टी फिकेशन प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) कार्य का नाम संख्या / पैकेज संख्या की तिथि 62,47,600.00 बासठ लाख सैतालीस हजार 31.12.2022 नावाडीह प्रखंड पंचायत कंजिकरो अंतर्गत 1 RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ पिलपिलो के कुभियाबेडा मेन रोड से लेकर 01/2022-23 इमली पेड तक 1.00 कि0मी0 पथ का निर्माण

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय

:-- 28.10.2022 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे। 4. (क) जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, बोकारो (ख) कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो मे निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड़ किये गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि :— 29.10.2022 पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.30 बजे तक।

5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 01.11.2022 पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे। . निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्येपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो, कम्बाइंड बिल्डींग, सिविल एस0डी0ओ0, ऑफिस ओल्ड चास कोट एरिया, चास बोकारो, झारखंड, पिन— 827013

ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0- 9431060119 8. निविदा शुल्क झारखंड राज्य में अवस्थित भारतीय स्टेट बैंक/अन्य राश्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निविदाकार के नाम/अकाउंट से ही निर्गत बैंक ड्राफट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो के पक्ष में एवं बोकारो में

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है

PR.NO.279390 Rural Work Department(22-23):D

कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो।

## ED seizes ₹1cr in Delhi excise policy case during searches

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized about Rs 1 crore in cash after searches conducted in connection with a money laundering investigation into the alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped Delhi excise pol-

The searches were launched on Friday at about 35 locations in Delhi-NCR, Punjab and Telangana's capital Hyderabad. About Rs 1 crore cash has

been seized from a location during the raids conducted against liquor businessmen, distribution companies and linked entities, sources said. Some digital devices and documents were also seized, they said without divulging the loca-



made. Premises linked to a director of a Delhi-based TV news organisation, who is also on the board of a Telugu daily, a city-based businessman whose company imports and distributes various alcoholic beverages and a former Punjab MLA were also searched by ED officials in the fresh rounds of raids, they said.

The agency has conducted more than 103 searches in this case till now and last month arrested Sameer Mahendru, a liquor businessman and man-

aging director of liquor manufacturing company-Indospirit. The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR that had named Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia as a prime accused in the case as well as other individuals and entities. The scheme came under the scanner after Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the implementation of Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-He had also suspended 11

excise officials in the matter. The ED has questioned AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak and minister Satyendar Jain, who is lodged in Tihar Jail, while the CBI questioned a number of persons and arrested businessman Vijay Nair.

# 'American dream gone wrong'

## Says wife of Indian-origin Sikh man killed in US

≺his is the story of our American dream gone wrong," the grieving wife of an Indian-origin Sikh man killed along with three members of his brother's family, including an 8-month-old baby,

Bodies of 36-year-old Jasdeep Singh, 27-year-old Jasleen Kaur, their eight-month-old child Aroohi Dheri and the baby's uncle, 39-yearold Amandeep Singh were found on Wednesday evening in an orchard after they were kidnapped on Monday.

The family, originally from Harsi Pind in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, was kidnapped at a business in Merced County, California.

Jaspreet Kaur, Amandeep's widow, said in a GoFundMe fundraiser that her husband and his brother had been in the United States for 18 years and supported not only their families in California but also their elderly parents back in India.

"This is the story of our shared American dream gone wrong," she wrote. "Our loving family was violently taken away from us on October 3rd," the family's gofundme page said.



routinely donated food to the local food bank and never missed Sunday service in the local Sikh temple. They had a 9-year-old daughter and an 8year-old son.

The family's gofundme page said the two brothers were "the primary bread earners for the family (and) supported their elderly parents. the appeal said.

Jaspreet has organised this fundraiser.

The suspect in the killing of the Sikh family has been arrested. He once worked for the family's trucking business and had a longstanding dispute nasty" and culminated in an act of senseless killing, authorities and a relative said.

Authorities said they were kidnapped from the family's trucking business in the central California city of Merced, and parts of the kidnapping were captured on surveillance video.

Jesus Manuel Salgado, 48, was formally arrested late on Thursday on four counts of murder and four counts of kidnapping in the case, Merced County sheriff's spokesperson Alexandra Britton said.

The city of Merced has also organised a candlelight vigil for the family every night at 7 pm from October 6 to October 9.



## **UN:** Ukraine nuclear power plant loses external power link

Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the biggest in Europe, has lost its last remaining external power source as a result of renewed shelling and is now relying on emergency diesel generators, the UN nuclear watchdog said on Saturday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said that the plant's link to a 750-kilovolt line was cut at around 1 am on Saturday. It cited official information from Ukraine as well as reports from IAEA experts at the site, which is held by Russian

All six reactors at the plant are shut down but they still require electricity for cooling and other safety functions. Plant engineers have begun work to repair the damaged power line and the plant's generators — not all of which are currently being used — each have sufficient fuel for at least 10 days, the IAEA

said.
"The resumption of shelling, hitting the plant's sole source of

ly irresponsible," IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi said in a people were killed.

n't apportion blame.

The speaker of Crimea's

Ükrainian officials have

repeatedly threatened to strike

the bridge and some lauded the

destruction, but Kyiv stopped

short of claiming responsibili-

The bombing came a day after Russian President Vladimir

Putin turned 70, dealing him a

humiliating blow that could

lead him to up the ante in his

war on Ukraine. Hours after the

explosion, Russia's Defense

Ministry announced that the air

force chief, Gen. Sergei

Surovikin, would be the com-

mander of all Russian troops

first official appointment of a

single commander for the entire

Russian force in Ukraine. Over

the summer, the military

announced that Surovikin was

placed in charge of Russian

for Putin, a Kremlin-backed

In another potential setback

troops in southern Ukraine.

The statement marked the

fighting in Ukraine.

Kremlin-backed regional par-

liament immediately accused

Ukraine of being behind the

explosion, though Moscow did-

Grossi visited Kyiv on Thursday. He said he will soon travel to Russia, then make another trip to Ukraine, to further his effort to set up a "nuclear safety and security protection zone" around the plant, which he has advocated for weeks.

"This is an absolute and urgent imperative," he said. The IAEA didn't apportion blame for

the shelling.
Zaporizhzhia is one of four regions that Russian President Vladimir Putin has annexed in violation of international laws. While the nuclear plant has been under Russian control for months, the city of the same name remains under Ukrainian

Putin signed a decree on Wednesday declaring that Russia was taking over the plant. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry called it a criminal act and said it considered Putin's decree "null and void." Ukraine's state nuclear operator, Energoatom, said it would continue to oper-

## supply route; 3 dead An explosion caused the par-tial collapse of a bridge linking the Crimean Peninsula with Russia on Saturday, damaging a key supply artery for the Kremlin's faltering war effort in southern Ukraine. Russian authorities said a truck bomb caused the blast and that three

Russia-annexed regions in

Ukraine, announced a partial

Crimea bridge blast

damages key Russian

evacuation of civilians. Kirill Stremousov, deputy chief of Kherson's Russianappointed administration, told Russia's state-run RIA Novosti agency that young children and their parents, as well as older people, could be relocated to two southern Russian regions.

Russian lawmakers called for Putin to declare a "counterterrorism operation" in response to the bridge bombing. Such a move could be used by the Kremlin to further broaden the powers of security agencies, ban rallies, tighten censorship, introduce restrictions on travel and expand a partial mobilization that Putin ordered last

Russia's National Anti-Terrorism Committee said that a truck bomb caused seven railway cars carrying fuel to catch fire, resulting in a "partial collapse of two sections of the

A man and a woman who were riding in a vehicle across official in Kherson, one of four the bridge were killed by the recovered, Russia's Investigative Committee said. It didn't provide details on the third victim or on what happened to the truck driver.

The blast occurred even though all vehicles driving across it undergo automatic checks for explosives by state-ofthe-art control systems, drawing a stream of critical comments from Russian war bloggers.

The truck that exploded was owned by a resident of the Krasnodar region in southern Russia, Russia's Investigative Committee said. It said that investigators arrived at his home as part of the inquiry and are looking at the truck's route and other details.

The 19-kilometer (12-mile) bridge across the Kerch Strait linking the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov opened in 2018 and is the longest in Europe. The USD 3.6 billion project is a tangible symbol of Moscow's claims on Crimea and has provided an essential link to the peninsula, which Russia annexed from

## Biden's 'Armageddon' talk edges beyond bounds of US intel

**AP** WASHINGTON

 $P^{\text{resident Joe Biden's warning that}}_{\text{the world is at risk of a nuclear}}$ "Armageddon" was designed to send an unvarnished message that no one should underestimate the extraordinary danger if Russia deploys tactical nuclear weapons in its war against Ukraine, administration officials said

The president's grim assessment, delivered during a Democratic fundraiser on Thursday night, rippled around the globe and appeared to edge beyond the boundaries of current US intelligence assessments. US security officials continue to say they have no evidence that Vladimir nuclear strike.

Biden veered into talk about Ukraine at the end of his standard fundraising remarks, saying that Putin was "not joking when he talks about the use of tactical nuclear weapons or biological or chemical

weapons."
"We have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis," he added. He suggested the threat from Putin

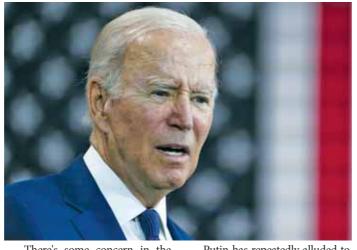
is real "because his military is - you might say - significantly underperforming.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre on Friday did not directly respond to a question about whether Biden had gone into the event intending to invoke Armageddon, as the White House sought to clarify the president's offthe-cuff comments. She told reporters: "Russia's talk

of using nuclear weapons is irresponsible and there's no way to use them without unintended consequences. It cannot happen." She added that "if the Cuban missile crisis has taught us anything, it is the value of reducing nuclear risk and not Biden's national security team for

months has warned that Russia could use weapons of mass destruction in Ukraine as it has faced a series of strategic setbacks on the battlefield. But the president's remarks were the starkest warnings yet by the US government about the nuclear stakes.

One US official said Biden was also trying to warn against underestimating the danger any level of tactical nuclear weapons.



There's some concern in the administration that Russia has determined it can use its nuclear arsenal in a manner short of a "full-blown" nuclear attack on Ukraine and face only limited reaction from US and Western allies who are determined to keep the Ukraine conflict from turning into a broader war, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss administra-

Putin has repeatedly alluded to using his country's vast nuclear arsenal, including last month when he announced plans to conscript Russian men to serve in Ukraine.

"I want to remind you that our country also has various means of destruction ... And when the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, to protect Russia and our people, we will certainly use all the means at our disposal," Putin said. "It's not

In Europe, leaders sought to turn down the volume after Biden's stark warning.
Asked about Biden's remarks,

French President Emmanuel Macron said it was crucial to speak with care on the nuclear threat. "I have always refused to engage

in political fiction, and especially ... When speaking of nuclear weapons," Macron said at a EU summit in Prague. "On this issue, we must be very careful." European Council President Charles Michel told reporters that

leaders take "every escalation very "Threats will not intimidate us," remain calm. We are going to keep

cool heads and we will, each time,

denounce the irresponsible character of these threats." Jean-Pierre reiterated on Friday the US has "not seen any reason to adjust our own strategic nuclear posture nor do we have indications that Russia is preparing to immi-

nently use nuclear weapons." It's not the first time that Biden's comments have appeared to push against the margins of US policy. Last month, Biden, in a CBS "60 Minutes" interview, said that "US forces, US men and women, would

defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion. The White House said after the interview that US policy toward

Taiwan hasn't changed. That policy says Washington wants to see Taiwan's status resolved peacefully but doesn't say whether US forces might be sent in response to a Chinese In March, as he wrapped up a speech in Warsaw, Biden seemed to

call for the ouster of Putin, saying, "For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power." Before Biden could the flight back to Washington, aides were scrambling to clarify that he wasn't calling for an immediate change in government in Moscow.

Earlier that month, Biden called Putin a "war criminal" for the Russian onslaught in Ukraine before the White House walked back the comments. The White House had been avoiding applying the "war criminal" label to Putin, because it requires investigation and an international

After Biden used the term, his then-press secretary, Jen Psaki, said the president was "speaking from his heart" and clarified that the administration acknowledged there is a process for making a formal determination.

As for Biden's latest eyebrow-raising remarks, "People sort of say, Oh, veah, it's Biden. You know, he says this stuff," said Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists, and a veteran of nuclear policy research.

"But overseas countries are saying, Whoa, this is what the US president says," Kristensen said. "And so ful about using big words" that in themselves can escalate nuclear tensions unintentionally.

Biden's strong choice of words could have an unintended impact with Russia, Kristensen said, the biggest problem with the president's latest comments.

"It's quite clear to me that Putin will be looking at this and say to himself 'Wow, you know, I got their atten-

## French politicians call for dialogues amid strikes

Several French politicians, including President Emmanuel Macron, have called for dialogues between TotalEnergies protesters and the company as strikes have led to fuel-related Several Total service stations

have been closed in the country, provoking fear of fuel shortage, reports Xinhua news agency. The strikers' actions are

leading to a decrease in fuel deliveries, and service stations are out of stock of petrol or diesel

At a press conference of the European summit in Prague on Friday, Macron also called on the workers of TotalEnergies who are still on strike for

"responsibility".

"I really call on the management and employee representatives of these companies to take responsibility so that these wage negotiations, since that is what it is about, should succeed and do not penalize the French," Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said on Friday.

Minister Delegate for Transport Clement Beaune told



the government is doing "everything" so that the current issue can be solved in the coming He said that the government

is also "in connection with TotalEnergies to try to facilitate social dialogue". Those who can wait a little

bit, do not rush to the gas stations, because that will worsen the problem," said Beaune. Speaking to the FranceInfo radio on Friday, Minister Delegate for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Olivia Gre-

goire called on companies to consider the demands of the workers on strike for an increase The strike started on

September 27, forcing the company to shut down temporarily the country's largest refinery in the Normandy region the fol-



 $M_{\text{release of their jailed}}^{\text{ilitants demanding the}}$  accomplices set up blockades on one of the major arteries linking Pakistan's restive provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), leaving a senior minister and several tourists stranded, a media report said on Saturday. A voice clip shared on social

media on Friday purportedly features Senior GB Minister Abaidullah Baig as saying that he was on his way from Islamabad to Gilgit when militants blocked the road to press authorities for the release of their accomplices from jail.

Habibur Rahman, GB's most wanted militant commander who was accused of killing 10 foreigners in Nanga Parbat, and his accomplices blocked the road in Thak village of Chilas in Diamer on Friday around 4 pm, leaving travellers on both sides stranded, the Dawn newspaper quoted a source as saying.

Sources said the militants were demanding the release of their accomplices, including those involved in the gruesome



murder of foreigners in the Nanga Parbat area and other terrorist incidents in Diamer.

Sources said political leaders and officials from the diswas no response from the police

Later, an audio clip said to be of the GB minister that surfaced on social media showed a man saying that negotiations with the commanders were underway who had two basic demands.

'They have sought the release of their accomplices from jails and imposition of Islamic laws, with no women sports activities," he said.

The incident surfaced as Pakistan senators from both sides of the aisle on Friday

Pakistan (TTP), while a senator sought a briefing over a recent threat alert issued by the interior ministry about the heightened risk of terrorist attacks by the banned outfit. Pakistan Peoples Party

surge in terrorist activities by the

outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban

(PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani, on a point of public concern, asked Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani to direct the interior minister to take parliament and the public at large into confidence about the present status of peace talks with the TTP.

## Britain could face blackouts this winter, warns report

IANS LONDON

 $B^{\text{ritish households could face}}_{\text{blackouts this winter if there}}$ are reduced European electricity imports and insufficient gas supplies in the country, a report

In the extreme scenario, it could erode the security of supply margins and mean some customers could be without power for pre-defined periods during the day, said the Winter Outlook Report published by



National Grid ESO, the electricity system operator for

However, the event is "unlikely", Xinhua news agency quoted the report as saying.

"This would be necessary to ensure the overall security and integrity of the electricity system across Great Britain. All possible mitigating strategies would be deployed to minimise the disruption," it added.

An analysis from energy consultancy Watt-Logic said that rolling blackouts are not likely this winter. It noted that various mea-

sures would be taken before possible blackouts, like appeals for unpaid voluntary demand reductions from households. This measure "could be very

effective if properly communicated", it added. But, "it is important to recognise the risks and manage them proactively, ahead of time, rather than relying on short-term demand reduction to avoid blackouts".

## 8 held for killing **Indian-origin teen** in Israel

IANS JERUSALEM

The police in Israel have arrested eight residents, all between the age groups of 13 to 15 for stabbing an Indian-origin teenager to death at a birthday party in the northern city of Kiryat Shmona, local media reported.

Yoel Lehingahel, 18, had immigrated from India less than a year ago with his family to Nof Hagalil, a city in the Northern

the north-eastern Indian-Jewish community of Bnei Menashe. Along with a 15-year-old

district of Israel. He belonged to

resident of the nearby Chatzor Haglilit town, police have detained seven more youths, all aged between 13 and 15, the Times of Israel reported.

## CNG, piped cooking gas prices hiked by ₹3

he prices of CNG and cooking gas piped to household kitchens in the national capital on Saturday hiked by Rs 3 each in step with rise in input natural gas prices.

The Rs 3 per kg increase in CNG price is the first hike in rates in over four months, while a Rs 3 per standard cubic metres increase in piped natural gas (PNG) was the first raise in two months.

CNG in the national capital territory of Delhi now costs Rs 78.61 per kg, up from Rs 75.61 per kg, according to the information posted on the website of Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) the firm which retails CNG and piped cooking gas in the national capital and adjoining

This is the 14th increase in price since March 7. Rates were last increased by Rs 2 per kg on May 21. In all, the CNG price has risen by Rs 22.60 per kg during this period. Since April 2021, CNG prices have increased by Rs 35.21 per kg or 80 per cent, according to data compiled by PTI.

Simultaneously, the rates of gas piped to household kitchens, called piped natural gas (PNG), was increased to Rs 53.59 per standard cubic metre in Delhi from Rs 50.59 per scm, according to IGL.

It is the 10th increase in PNG rates since August 2021. In all prices have gone up by Rs 29.93 per scm, or almost 91 per

 $E^{\text{-commerce platform Sho-}}_{\text{pify has committed to new}}$ 

practices to make consumers

safe from buying fake products

from webstores hosted by its

the Commission and the net-

work of national consumer

protection (CPC) authorities,

multinational e-commerce

platform agreed to make sev-

eral improvements to make

shopping safer for customers, bringing it in line with EU

internet users in the EU are

shopping online. This is a huge

market for scammers and

rogue traders to exploit, and

unless we act," said Didier

Reynders, Commissioner for

commitment to ensure that

traders operating on its plat-

form are aware of their respon-

"We welcome Shopify's

"Almost 75 per cent of

Following dialogues with

IANS LONDON

platform.

Shopify commits to safeguard

consumers from fake traders



IGL said rates of CNG and PNG have also been increased in Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram as well as other cities where it operates such as Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh and Ajmer in

The price increase follows the government raising natural gas prices by 40 per cent to a record USD 8.57 per million British thermal unit from October 1.

Natural gas, which is extracted from below earth's surface, is converted to compressed natural gas (CNG) for running automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking. It is also used to generate electricity and manufacture fertilizer.

Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) - the city gas operator in

Shopif

sibilities under EU law, and are

taken down if they break the

rules," Reynders said in a state-

nated following the receipt of

numerous complaints, which

peaked during the pandemic,

through the European

related to web stores hosted by

the platform, found to have

engaged in illegal practices,

such as making fake offers and

fake scarcity claims, supplying

counterfeit goods or not pro-

viding their contact details.

Consumer Centres.

The dialogue first origi-

Mumbai and adjoining areas earlier this week announced a Rs per kg hike in CNG price to Rs 86 per kg and a Rs 4 per scm increase in PNG price to Rs 52.50 per scm.

Analysts anticipate that CNG prices are likely to be hiked by Rs 8-12 per kg and PNG rates by over Rs 6, but in tranches, to account for the rise in input natural gas prices. Natural gas prices are up nearly 5x in just a vear - from USD 1.79 per mmBtu till September 2021 to USD 8.57 now.

For each USD per mmBtu gas price rise, city gas distribu-tion (CGD) entities need to raise the CNG price by Rs 4.7-4.9 per

Prices vary from city to city depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT.

#### Firms go for 25 kg packs to avoid 5% GST on pre-packed food items

IANS NOIDA



Five per cent GST is applied weighing less than 25 kg.

If a retailer buys a 25 kg packet directly from the distributor or product manufacturer and sells it in retail quantity, then the customers is saved from the

#### roads in 2 yrs: Heavy Industries Minister Adoption and Manufacturing Over 3,000 more electric buses will ply in different of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II) cities of the country in the next scheme for promotion of electric mobility in the country was two years under the FAME-II scheme, Heavy Industries

He added that already 3,049 e-buses are operating in the country.

Minister Mahendra Nath

Pandev has said.

The minister flagged off 175 e-buses for Gujarat (75) and Karnataka (100) on Friday here under the scheme. He was here to participate in a conference on Industry 4.0.

"Over 3,000 more buses will come in two years," Pandey said on the sidelines of the con-

approved. Through the scheme, it is planned to support 10 lakh e-two wheelers, 5 lakh e-three wheelers, 55,000 four-wheelers and 7,000 e-buses.

He also said the ministry has sent notices to two companies seeking information regarding the components used in their electric vehicles and whether these are locally produced or not as the firms have filed subsidy claims under the Rs 10,000 crore FAME-II

The government would



take action against the two electric vehicle manufacturers in case they are found to have not complied with the requirement of localisation under the

scheme, the minister said.

Over 3,000 more e-buses to ply on Indian

He, however, did not disclose the names of the compa-

However, a government official said notices have been

sent to Hero Electric and

'We have sought their reply on the notices. We have asked for some details," Pandey said, adding the government provides subsidies based on certain conditions that the EV makers have to meet under the scheme and one of the conditions is local production of compo-

"If they will be found violative of those provisions, then we will take steps as per that policy (scheme)...If somebody will not follow the government norms, then we will take action against them," he added.

The official said the two firms' subsidies have been suspended till the time their replies are received.

## Hoteliers: Business better than 2019, Happy days here again

With the famous jingle 'Happy Days Are Here Again' in their mind, about 40 General Managers of star hotels will ride out on their motorbikes from the city to Mamallapuram on Sunday morning.

With room rates heating

up, guest arrivals increasing, footfalls into their restaurants going up as well the online orders, hoteliers are happier a

The business now is better than what it was in 2019before the Covid-19 pandemic. It is not the pent-up demand but an organic demand, a couple of General Managers of star hotels told IANS.

As such the mood of the biking hoteliers has come full circle; the expedition began in 2020 to shrug off the dull Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

"The hotel industry was severely affected due to Ćovid-19. There were job losses, deep salary cuts. In 2020 when the lockdown was initially lifted, an idea struck me on organising a bike expedition by hoteliers. Many hotel GMs jumped at the idea and we started this," Shafee Ahmed, General Manager, E-Hotels, Express Avenue, told

The bike ride with tagline for the bike ride 'Rediscover Chennai, Rediscover Life' was held in 2021 and for a third year in succession, the city oteliers will be riding out on their motorcycles on Sunday morning to Mamallapuram

The event is now supported by the tourism departments of the central and Tamil Nadu governments, Ahmed said.



E-Hotels or the mega 650 rooms ITC Grand Chola, all the hotels here are now enjoying occupancies better than 2019 levels, officials told IANS.

"Our occupancy ratio used to be 80 per cent pre-Covid and now it is 85 per cent. Medical tourism has picked up as patients who had postponed their surgeries (elective surgery) are now travelling for treatment," Ahmed said.

That apart, travelling abroad has become a pain as the Visa process not only takes a long time but is also uncertain, so domestic tourism has picked up, Ahmed added. "Business is being driven

by the domestic sector, including corporates, and leisure guests, travelling from all over. weekend staycations, and food Songwadwala, Manager - ITC Grand Chola, Area Manager -South, ITC Hotels told IANS. 'ITC Hotels

Welcomhotels in Tamil Nadu are doing exceedingly well, surpassing even the pre-Covid era. ITC Grand Chola, Welcomhotel By ITC Hotels Chennai, Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels Kences Palm Beach, Welcomhotel GST Road, Welcomhotel Coimbatore are performing at peak levels both in volume and in ADRs (average daily revenue) - even bet-

While the sector in general is doing well, there are some pockets for whom the business is tad slow. "The business is sluggish

ter than in pre-Covid periods,"

Songwadwala added.

for hotels on the stretch where software companies, say Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) compared to others in the city or on the East Coast Road (ECR)," Yangya Prakash Chandran, Founder and CEO, Crossway Hotels and Resorts,

Crossway Hotels manages the Days Hotel By Wyndham Chennai OMR.

According to him, the software sector is still working in hybrid mode - work from home and office- and hence room check-ins and restauran footfalls are yet to gain momen-Another trend that

Chandran said is that local or standalone restaurants are doing good business while the restaurants at the star hotels are experiencing lower footfalls. However, some hotel restaurants are logging sales via Swiggy or Zomato.

With the star beach resorts on the ECR doing great business during the weekends rates ranging about Rs 14,000 per night- the hotels on the OMR with lower room rates are also getting good business.

"From the OMR hotels people drive to Mamallapuram and other spots. This works out economical for weekend getaways," Chandran said.

Hoteliers told IANS that the properties on the ECR stretch are having a great time with several mega events like the Chess Olympiad, kite festival, surfing festival and others held near Mamallapuram.

Apart from the room and restaurant business, the star hotels are also doing well in the banqueting segment.
While the beach resorts are

of the view that the wedding bookings could have been better, city hotels are not complaining. "For beach resorts, it is a

destination wedding or residential wedding where rooms are also part of the package. On the other hand, the city hotels So business is good," a General Manager of a star hotel told IANS preferring anonymity.

With good demand, the hotels were not only able to increase their room rates but



PTI KOLKATA

Bandhan Bank on Saturday said its collection efficiency ratio (CER) increased to 97 per cent, excluding NPAs and including restructured accounts, at the end of the second quarter of the current fiscal. The bank's CER stood at 96

per cent at the end of the first quarter of the 2022-23 financial

Its collection efficiency ratio at the end of the July-September period of FY'23 for microlending increased to 95 per cent as compared to 94 per cent which it registered at the end of the previous quarter, a spokesperson of the private lender said.

The ratio for other advances stayed at 99 per cent both in the first and second quarters of

As per the initial disclosures of the bank, loans and advances at the end of the second quarter stood at Rs 99,374 crore, reflecting a rise of 22 per cent year-on-year, while its total deposits increased by 21 per cent to Rs 99.365 crore at the end of September 2022 from Rs 81,898 crore in the similar period of the previous year.

CASA (current account, savings account) ratio at the end of the second quarter fell to 40.8 per cent as compared to 44.6 per

Retail to total deposits of the bank also declined to 74 per cent during the second quarter of the current financial year as compared to 84 per cent in the yearago period.

## Demand for due diligence of properties rising as builders, investors want to avoid risk: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With nearly USD 50 billion investment in real estate since 2012, property consultant Colliers India said the demand for technical due diligence of realty projects has increased as developers and investors look to safeguard their interests and avoid risks.

In its latest report 'Technical Due Diligence: Risk-proofing Realty', the consultant noted that the cost of conducting due diligence of a property is generally less than 0.3 per cent of the project cost, but the benefits are immense as it can save the stakeholder from substantial loss of money, time and legal hassles.

"As developers and investors venture into new geographies and asset classes, there is an increased demand for investigations into a real estate project across facets. Understanding associated risks and potential upsides of any prospective project has become pivotal to all stakeholders," the report said.

Investors, developers and occupiers of real estates space are looking for diligent investigation of properties, also known as technical due diligence in real estate parlance.

"Challenges such as structural defects, and statutory risks can have financial implications on developers, while creating a trust deficit for occupiers and investors," it noted.

Technical due diligence provides a structured, in-depth evaluation of properties by



undertaking equipment health assessment and outlining critical risks and issues, ranging from compliance and costing to project monitoring on a timely

The due diligence can be conducted in both completed and under-construction properties. The process is also being done in pre-construction stage for better planning. "Investments in real estate

are growing, with increased traction from global investors. In the last five years, foreign capital flows in real estate jumped 3 times to USD 24 billion compared to the preceding five-year period.

"As the country is seeing a spurt in investments, there is an increased demand for state-ofthe-art real estate projects which are technically and operationally compliant," said Jatin Shah, Managing Director, Technical Due Diligence, Colliers India.

All major real estate consultants, including Colliers India, are providing this technical due diligence service to their clients as part of their strategy to

expand revenue streams.

The technical due diligence helps investors in taking informed decisions and understand future potential, while it helps developers in identifying potentially successful projects. The occupiers of real estate space can negotiate a better

Prior to the COVID pandemic, the due diligence was largely conducted to check regulatory and compliance issues. The focus was on physical and statutory parameters.

However, after the pandemic, investors, developers and occupiers have intensified their efforts to improve their management approaches towards Environment and Social (E&S) "Stakeholders are looking to

be more aligned towards aspects of E&S, especially to benchmark the current building performance against sustainability criteria since the way enterprises deal with their E&S issues can impact its valuation and longterm performance," the report



## EV production likely to reach 54 mn units by 2029: Report

IANS NEW DELHI

The global electric vehicle production will grow at a compounded average annual growth rate (CAAGR) of 26 per cent, with volumes approaching 54.1 million units by 2029, a report has said.

The EV Powertrain semiconductor market is forecast to grow at a CAAGR of 31 per cent to reach \$27.3 billion by 2029, according to the report by market research firm Strategy Analytics. "Semiconductors required

for power electronics will comprise the largest market, with growth accelerating in line with the push towards battery electric vehicles and the move towards higher performing, more efficient wide bandgap semiconductors," said Asif Anwar, Executive Director at Strategy

The push to electric vehicles

is being dictated by consumer awareness and government regulations and mandates related to climate change and the need to reduce emissions and reverse the impacts of global warming.

Battery electric vehicles will be the catalyst for the growth in semiconductor demand.

Semiconductor demand include the key systems necessary for operation of mild hybrid, full hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and battery electric powertrains. This includes battery management systems, DC/DĆ converters, main traction inverter, electric motor, and onboard charger, said the report.

According to the report battery electric vehicles will comprise the largest market for semiconductors growing at a CAAGR of 39 per cent and account for 82 per cent of the total electric vehicle powertrain semiconductor market opportunity in 2029.

## Ambuja Cements gets shareholders' nod for raising ₹20K cr from Adani group firm

PTI NEW DELHI

mbuja Cements Ltd on A Saturday said it has received shareholders' approval for all proposals in its EGM, including a resolution to raise Rs 20,000 crore from an Adani group firm and appointment of Gautam Adani and others on the board of the company.

The Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) has passed the special resolution proposing to raise Rs 20,000 crore by issuing securities on a preferential basis to Harmonia Trade and Investment Ltd, an Adani group entity, with 91.37 per cent votes, Ambuja Cements said in a regulatory update.

Resolutions to appoint Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, his son Karan Adani and two directors and four independent directors on the board of Ambuja Cements were also approved by the shareholders.

The proposal for the appointment of Gautam Adani was approved with 96.51 per cent of the valid votes cast in favour, while the appointment of Karan Adani received 99.96 per cent votes, as per the scrutiniser's report on the voting

The shareholder also approved all special resolutions related to the appointment of independent directors, the amendment to the Articles of Association (AoA) and the change of its registered office to Ahmedabad-based Adani Corporate House.



Gautam Adani, who is now the chairman of the board of Ambuja Cements after its takeover by the Adani group, was not present at the EGM His son Karan Adani chaired the EGM in his absence.

Ambuja Cements, which also owns 50.05 per cent of ACC Ltd, had called an EGM of the shareholders on Saturday.

Earlier this week, institutional investor advisory firm IiAS had recommended the shareholders of Ambuja Cements to vote against the proposal to raise Rs 20,000 crore from the Adani family

It had also advised shareholders to vote against the appointment of Ameet Desai and Purvi Sheth as independent directors of the company.

Ambuja Cements had sought shareholders' approval on 12 resolutions, which included preferential allotment of 47.74 crore warrants at a price

band of Rs 418.87 to Harmonia Trade and Investment Ltd, totalling Rs 20,001 crore, in one or more tranches.

Last month, the Adani group announced the completion of the acquisition of Ambuja Cements and ACC for a total consideration of USD 6.5 billion (about Rs 53,800 crore), which includes the buyout of Swiss major Holcim's stake in the two firms and subsequent open offers to minority shareholders.

Days after the acquisition, the Adani group pledged its entire stake in Ambuja Cements and ACC Ltd worth USD 13 billion (around Rs 1.07 lakh crore) to the Hong Kong branch of Deutsche Bank.

Adani acquired Ambuja Cement and ACC through Mauritius-based SPV Endeavour Trade and Investment Limited (ETIL), which is owned by Xcent Trade and Investment

## Pankaj Advani pockets world title number 25 in Kuala Lumpur

ndia's leading cueist Pankaj Advani on Saturday claimed ▲his 25th world title after outclassing compatriot Sourav Kothari 4-0 in the 150 up billiards final at the World Championships here on Saturday. Advani manoeuvred his cue like a magician's wand as he entertained the spectators who showed up in large numbers.

In the first frame, Advani made his intentions clear that this title was his from word go. He opened the proceedings without any delay to secure the first frame with a 149 break while his opponent, who is still seeking his maiden IBSF World title, had yet to score a point in the 150-up format.

The best-of-seven summit clash saw Advani compete fiercely to ensure he completed a billiards National-Asian-World golden trifecta in the same calendar year for a record fifth time.

The second frame went Advani's way after Kothari failed to capitalise with the limited chances given to him by his worthy opponent. With the help of a 77 break, Advani was halfway



home with a 2-0 lead. There on, Advani turned on the heat, mesmerising the Malaysian crowd with some fine billiards.

Advani's craftsmanship saw him make the tournament's highest break of 153 in the third bringing himself one frame away from familiar glory.

In the fourth frame, Advani proved yet again why he is the man to beat in the 3-ball sport as he put together exquisite breaks of 86 and 60 unfinished to put the last nail in the coffin

Kothari's forgettable final, witnessed a total of 72 points

and seal the deal.

scored by him while Advani amassed over 600 points to defend his title for a fifth year in a row. Due to the pandemic, the event last took place in 2019 and got revived after a three-year gap

An elated Advani said,"It's a dream to defend a world title for five times in a row. Truly pleased

with how I've played and won every billiards event I participated in this year. Feel honoured to bring to my country yet another gold medal at a world level.' Advani's last world title

came over 12 months ago in Qatar where he won the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup.

## Swiatek made to fight by qualifier to reach Ostrava semis

Two Grand Slam champions fought for nearly two hours each to top American qualifiers and reach the Agel Open semi-

No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek got past former junior partner and rival Caty McNally 6-4, 6-4, and Barbora Krejcikova was the first of three Czechs in the quarterfinals to advance when she ended the career-best run of Alycia Parks 7-6 (7), 6-3.

Swiatek, champion of the French and U.S. Opens, will next face Ekaterina Alexandrova or local wild card Tereza Martincova, while Krejcikova lined up Elena Rybakina.

Swiatek and McNally won the 2018 Junior French Open doubles and McNally won both of their junior meetings.

'Tactically it was easier to prepare, because I know her game style (from juniors)," Swiatek said. "She's playing differently to other players. But on the other hand, a lot of time has passed since we played last time. I knew she'd made progress and I had to be ready."

Swiatek, the only seed to make the last eight, was under pressure on serve from the outset and was broken first. In the second set, she led 3-0 but

was pegged back to 3-3. Rybakina beat McNally, the lowest ranked Wimbledon champion Petra woman ever to reach the Kvitova 7-6 (5), 6-4 in their first Ostrava quarters at 151st, had

career meeting.

They couldn't break each other in the first set, which was settled in the tiebreak when Kvitova followed a double fault with a netted backhand.

Rybakina finally broke for 4-3 in the second, and lost only one point in her last two service games, capping the match with

## India register hat-trick wins at AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers

#### Beat Mayanmar 4-1

PTI AL KHOBAR (SAUDI

▼ndia registered a hat-trick of Lwins in their ongoing AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers campaign, defeating Myanmar 4-1 at the Prince Saud Bin Jalawi Stadium here.

All four strikes for India came in the later part of the first half on Friday night with captain Vanlalpeka Guite and forward Thanglalsoun Gangte scoring two goals apiece.

The first half began as a battle of attrition with no major chances being created. Both the sides looked to build up from the back and control posses-

The first shot on target came in the 21st minute through Korou Singh, who shot from the edge of the penalty area but lacked suffi-

Six minutes later, the first everyone in the penalty box



and flew past the goalkeeper into the net. The goal sparked the game into life as India proceeded to score three more goals in a 12-minute spell.

Lalpekhlua was brought down in the penalty area in the 32nd minute and Gangte was on hand to slam home a powerful spot-kick. Two minutes later, Guite

added his second as Korou intercepted the Myanmar goalkeeper's pass and the Indian skipper latched on to the loose ball and finished tidily.

free-kick from long range beat right found an unmarked Gangte inside the penalty area

three minutes from the break but his shot went over the crossbar. However, the forward registered his second goal of the evening in the 44th minute after finding the goalkeeper out of position and beat him with an instinctive finish from outside the box.

India picked up from where they left off in the second half, creating a flurry of attacks and posing questions to the opposing defence. At the hour mark, against the run of play, Myanmar pulled a goal took a deflection and found the back of the net.

#### **National Supporters** announced for FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Odisha Tourism, Hero MotoCorp, NTPC Limited, Power Grid Corporation of India and United Phosphorus Limited (UPL) were on Friday announced as the national supporters of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

The 2022 edition of the prestigious tournament will be ĥeld in three cities – Bhubaneswar, Goa and Navi Mumbai from October 11 to 30.

"We are extremely grateful for their contribution towards hosting this major international tournament," All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey, who is also the chairman of the Local Organising Committee (LOC)

for the tournament, said.
"Our Public Sector Units have always supported the growth and development of sports. Their dedication towards paving a pathway for young women to take up footgreat joy and hope for the future of Indian football."

## UP survive a scare to join Maha, Haryana and Karnataka in semis

Tttar Pradesh pulled off a 5-4 win against West Bengal in a thrilling penalty shootout to progress to the hockey semifinals at the 36th National Games here on Saturday.

Formidable Haryana and Karnataka also booked their berths in the last 4, beating Tamil Nadu and Gujarat 3-0 and 11-2 respectively.

In a late match, Maharashtra scored thrice and conceded one against Jharkhand to join them in the semifinals.

Maharashtra will now take on Uttar Pradesh, while Harvana face off against Karnataka for a place in the men's summit clash on Monday.

The women's semifinals will be played on Sunday with Haryana taking on Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh meeting Punjab. Tamil Nadu's frontline failed to deliver when it mattered most, missing easy chances even as their defence managed to hold the Haryana strike force.

Venkatajalapathy was very



11 break chances and Swiatek

10. But Swiatek converted four

solidate early service breaks in

each set against Parks and had

to save a set point in the first. Parks, ranked 144th, helped

her with nine double faults.

Krejcikova couldn't con-

New Wimbledon champion

and McNally only two.

saves, including a penalty stroke in the third quarter of the game.

Haryana, however, went ahead in the ninth minute, when skipper Bharat slapped home from close range.

Defender Mandeep Mor converted Haryana's fifth penalty corner to make it 2-0 in their

#### 36th National Games

Karnataka's Sheshe Gowda BM hogged the limelight, netting only the second hat-trick of the Games as they thrashed hosts Gujarat. Karnataka played well below

Abhishek put it beyond Tamil to risk injury to their key play-Nadu's reach, adding one more. ers ahead of the semifinals.

Nataraj claims sixth gold in 100m

freestyle at National Games

Goals came at regular intervals and halfway through Karnataka had a cushion of

Gowda BM (3), Mohammed Raheel Moussen, Pranam Gowda YM Harish Mutagar (two each), Nachappa, S V Sunil (one each) scored for Karnataka, Himalay Thakur reduced the

## England women beat US 2-1 in statement victory at Wembley

 $T^{\text{en weeks after conquering}}_{\text{Europe, England women}}$  proclaimed themselves ready for even more after beating the world champion United States 2-1 in a friendly at Wembley Stadium. Lauren Hemp and Georgia

Stanway scored to help England beat the U.S. For the first time since 2017 and less than 10 months before the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Stanway's penalty in the 33rd minute put the hosts in front for good before 76,893 fans. Victory extended England's unbeaten run to 23 games under coach Sarina Wiegman.

"It was a great result," Hemp told broadcaster ITV. "There's a lot of preparation now for the World Cup. It's important that

we stay grounded."

England, which won the European championship in late July, took the lead in the 10th when Beth Mead sent a low cross into the box, U.S. Defender Alana Cook tried to make a sliding block but the ball wiggled through to Hemp, who finished from close range.

The Americans equalized just before the half-hour mark. Millie Bright tried to pass out of the back to a tightly covered Stanway, and Lindsey Horan poked the ball forward to Sophia

Smith, who turned and fired low to the left corner past a diving Mary Earps. Stanway made amends from the spot, though, shooting the ball into the right corner as goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher went the wrong way.

Minutes later, the visitors thought they tied the game again but Trinity Rodman's strike was ruled out for offside.

England and the U.S. Wore teal armbands in solidarity with sexual abuse victims and together held a banner that read "Protect the Players" just before kickoff. A report this week into the scandals that erupted in the National Women's Soccer League last season found emotional abuse and sexual misconduct were systemic in the league.

There was also a moment of silence for the victims of the deadly crush of fans at a soccer match in Indonesia.

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers and wide receiver Allen Lazard were among the stars in attendance. The Packers play the New York Giants on Sunday in an NFL game at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. "Ted Lasso" actor Jason Sudeikis was also on hand.

U.S. Wing Crystal Dunn went on as a second-half substitute — less than five months after giving birth to her son. It was her 124th international appearance and first in nearly 13



Lyon ended a four-game los-ing streak but blew the lead against promoted Toulouse in a 1-1 draw in the French league.

The result on Friday did not relieve the pressure on Lyon coach Peter Bosz, who was booed by the fans when the stadium announcer read his name before kickoff. At fulltime, Lyon supporters loudly jeered their team. Lyon remained in seventh place, eight points outside the top three spots.

"Nobody is happy with that result," Lyon midfielder Corentin Tolisso said. "It's not good took the lead in the second

Goa will host the 37th edition of the National Games

in October next year, the

Indian Olympic Association

has conveyed to the IOA its in-

principle approval to host the

next edition of the National

Secretary, Sports and Youth

Affairs, Goa, IOA Secretary

General Rajeev Mehta wrote:

"IOA is pleased to note the

whole-hearted support of the

Government of Goa to host

the 37th National Games in

Goa in 2023, hence conveying

IOA's approval to orgainse

the 37th National Games in

In a letter to Ajit Roy,

The Goa state government

confirmed on Saturday.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Games.



enough. Everyone must put himself into question." Lyon

"The Goa delegation may

receive the IOA flag in the

Closing Ceremony of the 36th

National Games on 12th

October, 2022 in Surat,

dates for the event will decid-

keeping in view of the dates

of 19th Asian Games, which

will be held from 23rd

September to 8th October,

the National Games in 2008,

but due to different reasons the

state has failed to host them,

forcing the IOA to shift the

36th edition to Gujarat, who

agreed to conduct the event in

a short span of time.

Goa got the rights to host

2022 in Hangzhou, China."

The IOA, however, said the

"The date of the 37th

Gujarat.

ed later.

minute with a deflected shot from Brazilian winger Tete, who notched his fifth league goal.

## PTI ■ RAJKOT Olympian Srihari Nataraj ended his campaign in the

National Games swimming competition with his sixth gold medal in the men's 100m freestyle at the Sardar Patel Aquatics Complex here on Saturday.

Nataraj won in 50.41 seconds, a new National Games

Through the week, the swimmer from Karnataka watched his senior Sajan Prakash (Kerala) claim five gold, two silver and a bronze medal.

On Saturday, Nataraj stormed to a 100m freestyle win



with Sajan finishing seventh. He accomplished his mis-

sion of claiming the two freestyle sprint gold medals to add to the two backstroke titles besides anchoring Karnataka relay squads to two gold.

SP Likhit made a clean sweep of the three men's breaststroke events by winning the 100m event, helping Services to increase their haul of gold to 44 so far and maintain a gap with second-placed Haryana, who have 30 gold. Maharashtra continued

their bid to challenge Haryana, with just two gold medals fewer. Karnataka have risen to the fourth spot with 23 gold medals,

including 19 from the Aquatics competitions

Tamil Nadu, whose 4x100m Medley relay squad defeated Karnataka in the final event of the Aquatics competition for the team's only gold from the swimming pool, are in fifth place on the medal table.

#### Goa to host 37th National Uttam Singh to lead Indian junior Games in October 2023: IOA hockey team in Sultan of Johor Cup

after a closely-fought match against Great Britain, will take on Australia, Japan, South Africa, hosts Malaysia and defending champions Great Britain in this year's tour nament, which is being held after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The India colts will be captained by Uttam, who featured in India's Junior World Cup campaign at home in 2021 as well as debuted for the senior side at the Asia Cup 2022 held in Jakarta earlier this year. Boby Singh Dhami has been named as

Goalkeepers Mohith HS and Ankit Malik have been selected in the team along with defenders Amir Ali, Shardanand Tiwari, Rohit, Amandeep Lakra, Cyril The midfield will be under the watch-

ful eyes of Vishnukant Singh, Rajinder

Singh, Ankit Pal, Poovanna CB, Amandeep and Johnson Purthy. In the forwardline, skipper Uttam will lead the charge along side Angad Bir Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Boby and India will begin their campaign against

23, Japan on October 25, Australia (October 26) and Great Britain (October 28). The top two teams from round robin league will progress to the the final on

October 29. Speaking about the team's preparation, coach C R Kumar said, "We have a well-bal-

anced team with almost seven players who were part of the 2021 Junior World Cup team and some of them have also had a stint with the senior men's team. "This is an important and very presti-

gious tournament in the junior hockey calendar and we are quite excited to begin our campaign against hosts Malaysia," he



## Women's Asia Cup: India ride on top-order show to beat host Bangladesh by 59 runs

↑ hafali Verma once again showed her match-winning prowess with an attractive 55 off 44 balls as India out-batted Bangladesh by 59 runs to win their fourth match and clinch a semi-final spot in the Women's Asia Cup T20 here on Saturday.

After an indifferent batting show in the defeat against Pakistan, the 'Women In Blue' put up a much improved performance scoring 159 for 5, largely due to a 96-run opening stand between Shafali and stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana (47 off

Credit should also go to Jemimah Rodrigues, whose 35 not out off just 24 balls helped the Indian team score nearly

Bangladesh managed 100 for 7 at the end of 20 overs and never looked like being in the hunt for a victory.

With 8 points from five games, India are on top of the seven-team table with a match left in the round robin stage.

Having never chased a total beyond 142 in their entire T20I history, Bangladesh did try their bit but could never force the momentum against a solid Indian bowling attack which kept things tight.

After a shoddy fielding effort against Pakistan, it improved by a couple of notches on the day as there were no easy runs in store. The hosts



couldn't even score 50 in the first 10 overs and scoring more than 110 runs in the back-10 was virtually impossible for them.

None of the Indian bowlers were off target for the better part with Sneh Rana (1/17 in 3 overs) and Deepti Sharma (2/13 in 4 overs) being parsimonious as ever. Even Shafali's loopy legbreaks (2/10 in 4 overs) seemed unplayable

The slowness of the track also meant that spinners could vary the pace and most of the balls were not coming onto the

The two openers Fargana Hoqie (30 off 40 balls) and Murshida Khatun (21 off 25 balls) could add only 45 in the first nine overs and Bangladesh actually were thrown out of the contest at that stage

Earlier, Shafali showed why she is one of the most destructive batters in this format as she struck five fours and two huge sixes. En route her fourth halfcentury in T20Is, Shafali also completed 1000 runs in the

With the elegant skipper Mandhana for company, the duo added 96 in just 12 overs. Mandhana as usual peppered

the field with six crisp bound-

Once both Mandhana and Shafali, who tried a reverse slog, were dismissed, Bangladesh could briefly put brakes on scoring but the in-form Jemimah used her cricketing smarts to find the gaps as she and Deepti Sharma added 29 in just 2.3 overs to set a challeng-



## Proud of the way girls came back after loss to Pakistan: Mandhana

India's stand-in captain Smriti Mandhana lauded her team's comprehensive 59-run victory over Bangladesh in the Women's Asia Cup, terming it as a "good comeback" within 24 hours of losing to Pakistan in a low-scoring contest.
India, now with four wins

out of five games, are through to the semi-finals of the continental event.

"It was disappointing in the last match (versus Pakistan). It's good to comeback after that loss, really proud of the girls. Today it was a total team performance," Mandhana said after

tributed 47 off 38 balls, the regular vice-captain was all praise for young Shafali Verma and the talented Jemimah Rodrigues. "Shafali batted well, and

also Jemimah played well. We could have scored 10 runs runs more while batting. We had to keep bowling dot balls, and we had to wait for their batters to make mistakes, which they did. Our bowlers bowled really well," she added.

Player-of-the-match Shafali, who also had a career-best bowling figures of 2/10, admitted that pitch was not conducive for stroke-play.

"I am always ready to give my best for the team (with the

cult pitch for batting as the ball kept low. I have put in a lot of hardwork and want to thank my family and friends for their

support.
"We are very happy with our performance, everyone played really well." Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana blamed poor execu-

tion in the Powerplay while bowling as the reason for her team's defeat. "We didn't bowl well in the

powerplay. We bowled too many loose balls. We couldn't get many runs in our powerplay either. Our main bowlers couldn't execute their plans," she



## India eye all-round improvement in must win ODI against South Africa

PTI RANCHI

Deepak Chahar's unavailability due to an ankle injury will complicate selection matters with India looking for a much improved bowling performance in a must win second ODI against South Africa here on Sunday.

Never before a bilateral ODI series has looked so out of context with the T20 World Cup in Australia beginning later this month.

All eyes are now on Rohit Sharma and Co who have already checked in Perth for their T20 World Cup warm-up matches.

The three-match ODI series in India offers little incentive to the fringe players who have missed the flight to Australia.

But with Chahar injuring his ankle ahead of the first ODI in Lucknow and his back troubling him again, it gives India plenty of soul-searching to do on

Avesh Khan have so far failed to impress and that might open the door for uncapped Bengal pacer Mukesh Kumar.

On the batting front, it will be important for Shreyas Iyer to score some runs under his belt as the top-order batter is among the reserve batters for the T20 World Cup.

Iyer, who has been named vice-captain for the series, bailed India out of a top-order collapse on Thursday.

Known for his weakness against short balls and slow strike rate against the pacers, Iyer played a counter-attacking

But the biggest positive for India out of the second ODI was the performance of Sanju Samson, who has not been able to cement his place in the team seven years after his

Samson's 63-ball 86 oozed maturity and offered a sense of calmness in the middle-order as

Mohammad Siraj and he took calculated risks in India's narrow loss.

The happy-go-lucky Shikhar Dhawan has already shown his leadership potential with a second stride in the West Indies and Sri Lanka.

Dhawan will hope that he returns among runs to give the team a solid start, while the talented Shubman Gill will also look to reaffirm his credentials as an ODI opener.

Unlike India, the Temba Bavuma-led South Africa have much to play for with crucial Super League points on offer which will give an automatic qualification for them for the next year's ODI World Cup. Personally, Bavuma is going

through the worst phase of his career with his scores in the series reading 0, 0, 3 (T20s) and 8 at Lucknow With T20 World Cup in two

weeks' time, the Proteas skipper will look to find his form in

David Miller has proved to

be the nemesis for India this series with an unbeaten century in Guwahati and 75 not out in the last match and the lefthander would look to continue his rich form.

The Kagiso Rabada-led pace attack, which copped criticism in the preceding T20 series, also looks to be back in business.

Teams (from)

India: Shikhar Dhawan (c), Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohammad Siraj Deepak Chahar, Mukesh Kumar, Rajat Patidar, Shahbaz

Ahmed and Rahul Tripathi. **South Africa:** Temba Bavuma (c), Janneman Malan, Quinton de Kock, Aiden Markram, Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Wayne Parnell, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Tabraiz Shamsi, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Anrich Nortje and Andile Phehlukwayo.

## **Won't call Dhawan-led Indian ODI side second string: Maharaj**

PTI RANCHI

There may be no Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli as India regulars are in Australia for the upcoming T20 World Cup but the ODI side under Shikhar Dhawan is still world class, said South African leftarm spinner Keshav Maharaj on Saturday.

The Indian fringe players are in action in the ongoing three-match ODI series against South Africa.

"I would not call it a second string Indian side. India have so much talent that they can field four-five proper international sides," Maharaj said on the eve of the second and penultimate

"Having said that, a lot of the guys have IPL and have international experience. There are world class performers out

after losing the first ODI by nine runs in Lucknow on Thursday. The Temba Bavumaled visitors had lost the T20I leg

"It's always nice to play well

against India. Obviously, you want to prepare yourself. They have a world class batting lineup," Maharaj said. Tabraiz Shamsi, who was

once the No 1 T20I bowler in the world, looked out of sorts in the series opener as he was taken to the cleaners by the Indian batters. He returned with figures of 1/89 from his eight overs.

But Maharaj backed Shamsi, saying the Lucknow match was a rare off day for the left-arm wrist spinner. "I don't think he really had

a poor outing. Figures don't exactly tell you the true reflection of the way someone bowled. "The Indian batters had to

take on someone and unfortunately it was him on the day. I thought he held his nerve real-Maharaj said.

"Obviously, picked up crucial wickets to open up. I don't think his form is a concern. It's



only a matter of time till he bounces back. We know what he is capable of.'

Here in the hometown of Maharaj said he would love to have a chat with the Indian

"I never got the opportuni-

ty to play with him. But I would love to have a chat with him. He's been a world class performer, more especially from There's a lot of things that peo-

## Often rushed into big events, India S&C coach feels camp in Perth will help players immensely ahead of WC

PTI PERTH

India's strength and conditioning coach Soham Desai feels the team is often "rushed" into big tournaments and the ongoing preparatory camp here ahead of the T20 World Cup will give the players much needed time to unwind as well as work on their specific skills to deal with Australian con-

India had their first training session here on Friday and will be playing two warm up games on October 10 and 13 before they travel to Brisbane for the ICC organised practice matches ahead of their World Cup opener against Pakistan in Melbourne on

"The upcoming 8-10 days are very crucial for us leading into the World Cup and



I can't thank the management and BCCI enough to get these 8 days because we always feel we are rushed into the big tournaments playing so much cricket as Indian team.

... But these 8 days, we are going to gradually build ourselves both physically as well as on the skills front to lead us nicely into the first game of the World Cup," Desai

told the BCCI website. Ahead of the team's departure to Perth, head coach Rahul Dravid had said that the idea behind the camp was to get used to the pace and bounce in Australia since most of the players did not have a lot of experience of playing in these conditions .
"The goal in Perth specifically is to get

some time on these pitches as well as to break the monotony of playing two back to back bilateral series in India.

"It is going to be a good time for the group to unwind as well build on specific skill set that is required for the Australian conditions," Desai added.

#### wickets Pak win again in tri-series, beat NZ by 6

**AP** ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Pakistan captain Babar Azam struck an unbeaten 79 from 53 balls and shared a 61-run partnership with Shadab Khan in a six-wicket win over New Zealand on Saturday in the Twenty20 tri-series.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson made the unusual decision to bat first after winning the toss and the Black Caps managed only 147-8 in their 20 overs, stalled by tight bowling from Haris Rauf and Mohammad Wasim.

The New Zealanders then had to bowl as spring temperatures dropped to single figures and the outfield at Hagley Oval became damp and dewy. The bowlers could do little to arrest Babar and Shadab as the ball



became wet and slippery.

New Zealand was 70-1 after 10 overs with Devon Conway and Kane Williamson at the crease. Conway made 36 from balls and Williamson 31 from 30 in an innings which promised a more robust total.

But the pair were out within two overs of each other as New Zealand slumped to 137-6.

Mark Chapman produced a defiant innings for the home side with 32 from 16, including three fours and two sixes. But he was out at 142 as New Zealand lost

five wickets for 33 runs in the last

New Zealand might have had some hope when topranked T20 batter Mohammad Rizwan fell lbw to Tim Southee for 4 in the fifth over, leaving Pakistan on 36-1.

Babar and Shadab, which came as the cold settled in, shut New Zealand out of the game. Shadab batted higher in the

But the partnership between

order than usual and struck two fours and two sixes in a 22-ball innings of 34. Babar reached his half century from 33 balls and was able

to control Pakistan's run chase, leading his team to victory with 10 balls remaining. He struck the ball with superb power and placement to tally 11 bound-

New Zealand had a faint hope still as Pakistan needed 24 runs from the last 18 balls. But Babar struck two fours and Haider Ali hit a four and a six in the 18th over, bowled by Blair Tickner, to make the finish to the run chase a cakewalk.

"Me and Shadab decided that I was going all the way and he would take the chances," Babar said. "When we settled down and assessed the wicket I decided I was going to play to the end and managed to do

Pakistan won the opening match of the tri-series by 21 runs over Bangladesh. New Zealand will play Bangladesh on Sunday. The series is the last buildup

for the teams ahead of the T20 World Cup which begins in Australia on Oct.

## **Deaf Cricket: India enter** final, beat SA by 7 wkts



PTI AJMAN (UAE)

India cricket team for the hear $oldsymbol{1}$  ing impaired entered the final of the Deaf International Cricket Council T20 Champions Trophy beating South Africa by seven wickets in the Qualifier 1 encounter, here on Saturday. India had earlier won all their

three round-robin matches against Bangladesh, Australia and South

Batting first, South Africa managed only 100 runs and then India cantered home in 15.5 overs, losing only three wickets.

India's Sai Akash was the top scorer with 36 runs. Among bowlers, Kuldeep Singh took three wickets and was adjudged 'Man of New Delhi, October 9, 2022

# a the pioneer of the

You have to be confident enough to pick yourself up and go to 30 meetings and be told no every time and not take that to heart — Jodie Comer





# NOT A ROSY FOODGRAIN SCENARIO

The government which once claimed it was ready to 'feed the world, is now restricting export. The message is loud and clear, writes RAJESH KUMAR

s India staring at a foodgrain shortage, especially of wheat and rice due to depleting stocks? The grim possibility has raised concerns despite constant assurances by the government.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs data shows that it has a stockpile of 44.1 million tonnes of food grains on September 30, 2022 — 20.9 million tonnes of rice and 23.2 million tonnes of wheat. The stock was 49.28 million tonnes before September 1, 2022, with 27.95 million tonnes of rice and 24.82 million tonnes of wheat. The data show the depletion of grain at a worrying rate.

In April, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told US President Joe Biden that India could feed the world if the World Trade Organisation permitted it to supply to needy countries. However, in May, India restricted the export of wheat to enhance domestic availability. This month, it also banned the export of broken rice and imposed a 20 per cent export duty on non-Basmati rice (except for parboiled rice) to boost domestic supplies amid a fall in area under paddy crop in the current Kharif season.

The government which once claimed it was ready to 'feed the world, is now restricting export. The message is loud and clear.

Last month, even at a meeting in Geneva, the US and the European Union raised questions over India's export-ban decision, stating it could have adverse implications on global markets. Defending its decision, the government clarified that the ban on the export of broken rice, which is used in poultry feed, follows a rise in the grain's exports in recent months which put pressure on the domestic market. In the case of wheat, food security concerns necessitated export curbs.

The Ministry of Food has claimed rice production could fall by 10-12 million tonnes during the Kharif season of this year, due to a fall in paddy sowing area.

The Ministry of Agriculture's first Advance Estimates of production of major Kharif crops for 2022-23 pegged Kharif rice production at 104.99 million tonnes during the current season in wake of uneven monsoon. This production estimate is 6 per cent lower than the production of 111.76 million tons (mt) during the last season.

The Kharif rice production estimates are lower than the target of 112mt set for the current season and 105.21mt figure of 2020-21. The dip in Kharif rice production is

significant in view of the requirement of rice for distribution under the National Food Security Act 2013. The total production of Kharif rice during 2022-23 is estimated at 104.99 million tonnes. It is higher by 4.40 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2016-17 to 2020-21) average Kharif rice production of 100.59 million tonnes.

The ministry said that the total foodgrain production in the Kharif season is estimated to be 149.92 mt, which is much lower than the target of 163.15mt for the Kharif 2022-23 and the production of 156.04mt during the last Kharif (2021). In 2021, the total Kharif foodgrain production stood at 150.58 mt.

As the sowing of Kharif (summer) crops almost comes to an end, as per the agriculture ministry data released on September 30 the overall paddy sowing area in the Kharif season was reported at 40.2 million hectares (mh), s 4.7% less than year ago. The data showed that the area planted to paddy remained at 402.88 lakh hectares (ha) so far this Kharif season of the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), as against 423.4 lakh hectares in the year-ago period, 20.16 per cent less as compared to the previous year.

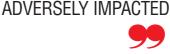
Less coverage in paddy area was reported from Jharkhand (9.32 lakh hectare), Madhya Pradesh (2.22 lakh hectare), West Bengal (3.65 lakh hectare), Uttar Pradesh (2.48 lakh hectare) and Bihar (1.97 lakh hectare). Paddy coverage remained less even in these states: Assam (0.95 lakh ha), Andhra Pradesh (0.75 lakh ha), Chhattisgarh (0.63 lakh ha), Tripura (0.27 lakh ha), Meghalaya (0.21 lakh ha), Odisha (0.21 lakh ha), Nagaland (0.21 lakh ha), Punjab (0.12 lakh ha), Goa (0.03 lakh ha), Mizoram (0.03 lakh ha), Sikkim (0.02 lakh ha) and Kerala (0.02 lakh ha). Paddy coverage has been affected due to deficit rainfall.

Consequently, the total sown area under Kharif crops declined 9.37 per cent to 1102.79 lakh hectares so far this Kharif season, as against 1,112.16 lakh hectares in the year-ago

The finished paddy crop also reportedly suffered massive damage due to heavy rains in north India during the last 15 days across the country. Rain particularly affected crops in Punjab-Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha.

The Kharif season contributes more than 85% of the total rice production in the country. In the 2021-22 crop year, the country produced a record 130.29 mt of rice. Overall production of Kharif foodgrain — rice, pulses

KHARIF IS THE MAIN CROPPING SEASON IN INDIA AND IT PIVOTS ON MONSOON RAINS. **ABOUT 60 PER CENT** OF INDIA'S GROSS **CROPPED AREA HAS** ASSURED IRRIGATION. THIS IMPLIES THAT **ABOUT 48 PER CENT** AREA DEPENDS ON MONSOON RAINS FOR IRRIGATION. EVEN IN IRRIGATED AREAS. RAINS ARE NEEDED TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON ELECTRICITY AND DIESEL. SO, IF THERE IS A SERIOUS **DEFICIENCY IN** RAINFALL, CROP PRODUCTION AND ITS COSTS OF **CULTIVATION ARE** 



**BOUND TO BE** 

and coarse cereals in the 2022-23 crop year is estimated to decline by more than 6% to 149.92 mt against 156.04 mt in the previous

year crop year.

Kharif is the main cropping season in India and it pivots on monsoon rains. About 60 per cent of India's gross cropped area has assured irrigation. This implies that about 48 per cent area depends on monsoon rains for irrigation. Even in irrigated areas, rains are needed to reduce dependence on electricity and diesel. So, if there is serious deficiency in rainfall, the crop production and its costs of cultivation are bound to be adversely

impacted.
Despite a good monsoon figure at an all-India level, the rain deficiency in Bihar stood at 31 percent; Jharkhand 20 percent; Sikkim 22 percent; Eastern Uttar Pradesh 32 percent; Western Uttar Pradesh 35 percent and Punjab 20 percent so far. These states are known for paddy cultivation.

Besides deficit rainfall, this monsoon season has also seen instances of floods, like in Madhya Pradesh, and increased intensity of rains in a shorter period, like in Maharashtra.

Apart from rains, virus attacks in Punjab and Haryana are reducing tillage in paddy crops. First, wheat suffered shrivelling due to historical levels of heat during the critical harvest months of March and April 2022 and now the paddy crop is infested with the virus. Thankfully, the virus attack is limited to only some regions of the states.

The commodity prices in the international market were already at a 10-year high before the Russia-Ukraine war. The war and the consequent sanctions on Russia have disrupted the food supply chain, thus increasing the demand for Indian wheat. Both Russia and Ukraine are the major exporters of wheat, accounting for around one-fourth of the global wheat trade. Before the war, Ukraine and Russia accounted for a third of global wheat and barley exports.

India's retail inflation moved higher to 7 per cent in August due to higher food prices. The figure stood at 6.71 per cent in July. The consumer price index-based inflation continued to stay above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent for the eighth straight month in 2022. The figure stood at

5.66 per cent in December 2021.

The Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs said retail prices of rice in the domestic market will remain under control, helped by a ban on exports of broken rice and sufficient stocks in its godowns. The ministry claimed that all-India domestic wholesale prices of rice and wheat decreased by 0.08 per cent and 0.43 per cent respectively over the week. By imposing the ban on the export of broken rice, the government has "successfully ensured domestic food security, availability of domestic feed for poultry and cattle feed,

while keeping a check over inflation as well as domestic price of rice", the ministry said.

The restriction has been imposed to ensure adequate availability of broken rice for consumption by the domestic poultry industry and for other animal feedstock; and to produce ethanol for the successful implementation of EBP (Ethanol Blending Programme). The

government has not made any changes in the policy relating to par-boiled rice and basmati rice. Par-boiled and basmati rice constitute around 55 per cent of total rice exports from India.

The average retail price of rice stood at Rs 37.65 per kg, as per the data compiled by the department of consumer affairs.

India consumed 109.5 million tonnes of rice in the year 2021-2022, according to a report by the federal agency United States Department of Agriculture in June 2022. This means there may be a shortage of around 4.5 million tonnes of rice this year.

India, which commands 40 per cent share in the global rice trade, exported 21.23 million tonnes of rice in the 2021-22 fiscal as against 17.78 million tonnes in the previous year. During the April-August period of this fiscal, 9.35 million tonnes of rice have already been exported.

According to data available on the Department of Consumer Affairs portal, the all-India daily average retail prices of rice were higher by 9.03 per cent, wheat by 14.39 per cent and wheat flour by 17.87 per cent as compared to their prices a year ago. The all-India daily average wholesale prices of rice were higher by 10.16 per cent, wheat by 15.43 per cent and wheat flour by 20.65 per cent as compared to their prices a year ago.

(The writer is a Special Correspondent of The Pioneer)

# THIS OLD PERSON'S DISEASE HITS YOUNGSTERS HARD

Nearly 30 - 40 lakh people, particularly young males in India suffer from Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS), a form of inflammatory arthritis that predominantly affects the spine and sacroiliac joints (where the spine connects to the pelvis), causing debilitating pain in the region. If left untreated, AS can cause permanent joint damage and disability in many patients. Since it usually afflicts youth (17 to 42 years of age), it has huge physical, psychological, economic and, societal consequences, finds ARCHANA JYOTI

It is a form of arthritis that causes chronic (long-term) spine inflammation. It inflames the sacroiliac joints located between the base of the spine and pelvis. This inflammation, called sacroiliitis, is one of the first signs of AS. Inflammation often spreads to joints between the vertebrae, the bones that make up the spinal column. This con-

dition is known as spondylitis.

Some people with AS experience severe, persistent back and hip pain and stiffness. Others have milder symptoms that come and go. Over time, new bone formations may fuse vertebrae sections together, making the spine rigid. This condition is called ankylosis.

#### How common is AS?

Ankylosing spondylitis belongs to a group of diseases known as spondyloarthropathies. . It is a common rheumatic disease with more than 4 million patients in Asia alone.

#### Who might have ankylosing spondyli-

Anyone can get AS, although it affects more men than women. Symptoms usually appear in people between the ages of 17 and 45. AS has a genetic link and may run in families.

About 95% of people who have AS have a variation of the human leukocyte antigen-B gene (HLA-B). This changed, or mutated, gene produces a protein called HLA-B27 that increases disease risk. However, most people with a mutated HLA-B gene don't get AS. In fact, 80% of children who inherit the mutated gene from a parent with AS don't develop the disease. More than 60 genes have been linked to the condition.

#### Having one of these conditions may also increase the risk:

- Crohn's disease.
- Ulcerative colitis. Psoriasis.

Symptoms typically appear between the ages of 17 and 45 but may develop in younger children or older adults. Some people have persistent pain, toms. Symptoms may flare up (worsen) and improve (go into remission) off and

#### **RIPPLING AFFECT OF AS**

AS may affect more than the spine. The disease may inflame joints in the pelvis, shoulders, hips and knees, and between the spine and ribs. People with AS are more prone to spinal fractures (broken vertebrae). Other complications include:

- Fused vertebrae (ankylosis). Kyphosis (forward curvature of the
- Osteoporosis.
- Painful eye inflammation (iritis or uveitis) and sensitivity to light (photophobia).
- Heart disease, including aortitis,
- Chest pain that affects breathing.
- Jaw inflammation.
- Cauda equina syndrome (nerve scarring and inflammation).

#### **DIAGNOSIS AND TESTS**

There isn't a test that definitively diagnoses ankylosing spondylitis. After reviewing your symptoms and family history, your healthcare provider will perform a physical exam. Your provider may order one or more of these tests to

help guide diagnosis: Imaging scans: Magnetic reso-

nance imaging (MRI) scans can detect spine problems earlier than tradition-X-rays. Still, your provider may order spine X-rays to check for arthri-

Blood tests: Blo od tests can check About 8% of people of European descent have this gene, but only a quarter of them develop ankylosing

#### **MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT**

tis or rule out other problems.

Exercise: Regular physical activity can slow or stop disease progression. Many people experience worse pain when they're inactive. Movement seems to lessen pain. Your healthcare provider can recommend safe exercises.

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs): NSAIDs, including

ibuprofen (Advil®) and naproxen (Aleve<sup>®</sup>), ease pain and inflammation.

Disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs): Medications such as sulfasalazine reduce pain and joint swelling. The drugs also treat lesions Newer DMARDs called biologics help control inflammation by changing the immune system. Biologics include tumor necrosis factor (TNF) and interleukin inhibitors (IL-17). But these are

Corticosteroids: Injectable corticosteroids temporarily ease joint pain and inflammation.

Surgery: A small number of people with ankylosing spondylitis may need surgery. Joint replacement surgery implants an artificial joint. Kyphoplasty corrects a curved spine.

## **Poor QoL in AS patients due** to ignorance by physicians and society: study

Eafflicted with the inflammatory, chronic condition Ankylosing spondylitis (AS), a study has confirmed that they are leading a poor quality of life (QoL) and immediate intervention is needed to re-address their grievance at every level whether psychological, economical or societal.

The authors' observation may guide the Government to urgently look into the agonising suffering of the patients who are mostly youth in the age group of 17-42 years.

Based on a survey conducted at a hospital setting, Latika Gupta, Sakir Ahmed, Durga Prasanna Misra, Vikas Agarwal from Department of Clinical Immunology, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow and V Gautam Dhar Choudhury from Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Command Hospital, Lucknow found that AS patients have poorer quality of life than patients with rheumatoid arthritis and healthy individuals, possibly due to poor control of disease activity.

The society suffers from loss of productivity as most patients belong to the working age group in the population, noted the authors of the study, "Poor quality of life in Indian ankylosing spondylitis patients" published in the Indian Journal of Rheumatology in 2018.

They pointed out that despite the multifaceted effects of disease, poor QoL in AS remains largely ignored by the physicians and the society. Most patients in our country cannot afford biologics, which can improve not only physical and functional outcomes but also QoL

"Chronic inflammatory back pain with early morning stiffness is the clinical of hallmark AS. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory

per cent in most cases.

"Hence, most individuals suffer from residual stiffness and pain despite NSAIDs, leading to compromised quality of life (QoL). Since most affected individuals are young, the disease results in deteriorated academic and professional performance and consequently poor mental health," noted the researchers.

AS is often not listed in the list of diseases covered by insurance agencies. Thus, it is important to evaluate disability in young population consequent to the disease and generate data to prompt measures by the community for the greater benefit of patients and the society, recommended the

It further observed that apart from poor QoL due to active disease, it can also be a surrogate for damage. "Advanced disease is marked by spinal ankylosis. Loss of lumbar lordosis and thoracic kyphosis, with cervical fusion and consequent immobility, results in the classical question mark posture. Apart from this, recurrent attacks of uveitis can adversely affect vision. Anemia due to chronic disease and inflammatory bowel disease contribute to fatigue and poor work capacity," the study said.

The agony does not end here. The authors also highlighted that the AS also poses a significant economic burden on patients consequent to recurrent hospitaliza-tions, sickness absenteeism, and unemploy-

Studies like this are important to make sure doctors and other care providers better understand the debilitating impact that AS can have on patients' quality of life.

#### In addition to standard AS treatments, these steps may also help ease inflammation and

- Eat a nutritious diet: Fried foods, processed meats and foods high in fat and sugar can
- have an inflammatory effect. Maintain a healthy weight: Obesity and excess weight puts pressure on joints and
- Limit alcohol consumption: Drinking too much alcohol can weaken bones and increase the risk of osteoporosis.
- Stop smoking: Tobacco use accelerates spinal damage and intensifies pain.

#### PREVENTION

Because ankylosing spondylitis has no known cause, there isn't any way to prevent

#### When should I call the doctor?

You should call your healthcare provider you have AS and experience:

\*Chest pain/ Difficulty breathing/Vision problems/Severe back pain or other joint pain/Spine rigidity/Unexplained weight loss

(Inputs from Cleveland Clinic)

#### Ankylosing Spondylitis On The Body IMPAIRED VISION PAIN IN THE NECK STIFF SPINE Pain and stiffness in the lower back can lead to stooped posture. SHOULDERS TAKE A DEEP BREATH TIGHTNESS IN THE CHEST **ENLARGED AORTA** DYSFUNCTION HEART HEALTH Scars in the bundle of erves at the spine's base can interfere with bowel control. EXERCISE IT'S IN THE BLOOD Exercise, especially swimming or water aerobics, can help keep bins flexible BLADDER DYSFUNCTION IN THE KNEES ce of AS arthritis DYSFUNCTION SCALY SKIN FOOT FUNCTION Pain and stiffness in the feet and ankles can interfere with mobility.

The Effects of

## PATIENT'S My Life With Ankylosing Spondylitis

For patients who are diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS), learning how to fight the chronic disease in itself can be an emotionally draining and frightening experience. Musical instrument player-turned-journalist ANKUR SHUKLA shares his story and his bid to help others with The HEALTH PIONEER.

Tt can be a frustrating process to I feel unwell for long without knowing what's causing your pain. AS hit me when my career as an instrument player was at its peak in 2015-16. But it took innumerable rounds to several doctors and umpteen medical tests to identify the disease which initially started with an unbearable pain in my lower back even as X-ray reports were giving me a clean chit. For years, before the formal diagnosis, I struggled to live with the unbearable pain.
To add to my woes, a doctor

not only wrongly declared that I was having bone TB but also put me on a related line of treatment that included injections. It only worsened my situation. Due to its side effects, while I became bedridden, a delay in diagnosis started to cause postural deformity in my body. My neck was bending forward and I could not under-

stand anything. I had to quit my love for musical instrument Sitar, as I couldn't sit for long hours. Again, a string of investigations was conducted. In the end, a medical board of doctors was set up in the hospital and my HLA-B27 test was done. Subsequently, I was declared to be suffering from AS.

Clearly, there is a lack of awareness about this disease not only at the societal level but also at the medical level. Even though a physician can diagnose this disease, it can only be treated by a specialist Rheumatologist.

The disease not only affects you physically, it also has psychological, socio-economic consequences. The pain commonly causes feelings of fear, helplessness, anxiety, and sadness.

During the course of my treatment, I found that a large number of youth are suffering from AS, becoming jobless and considering themselves a burden on their families and economy. The biggest side effect of this dis-



ease is that it fuses all the joints of the body—which affects the spine and hip joint the most. There is no treatment available in medical science for this disease and its causes are also not known. Its management is very expensive and unfortunately there is no provision of providing health insurance to the patients affected by AS in our country

DURING THE COURSE OF MY TREATMENT, I FOUND THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF YOUTH ARE SUFFERING FROM AS, **BECOMING JOBLESS AND** CONSIDERING THEMSELVES A BURDEN ON THEIR FAMILIES. IRONICALLY, THIS DISEASE HAS BEEN **DELISTED BY THE INSURANCE** REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT **AUTHORITY (IRDA) AS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES** DO NOT CONSIDER IT TO

BE SERIOUS AND FATAL

This disease has been delisted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) as government agencies do not consider it to be serious and fatal. But overall, this disease leaves you handicapped at a young age. Although my reflexes saved me to some extent, there were some side effects on my body which can be somehow corrected with surgery.

Cut to present: This experi-

ence has inspired me to give back and improve the lives of others going through similar pangs. I have started the online campaign CAAS India and created the website https://caasindia.in to create awareness about this little known but serious disease.

I am raising awareness about the physical and mental effects of AS. I believe that help from authorities like ensuring insurance besides positive thinking can reduce the agony of the suf-



# Futility of PFI ban: Islamist bodies' rebirth

 $T^{he\ Popular\ Front\ of\ India}_{(PFI),\ a\ radicalised\ Islamist}$ organisation that operated for the last three decades, has been proscribed along with its associate organisations by the Government of India.

The PFI took various forms in carrying out its radical activities before it was slapped with a ban last month. Accused of carrying out violent activities and playing crucial roles in whipping up the anti-CAA and pro-hijab fury, the PFI had been under scanner by law enforcement agencies which arrested hundreds of the PFI members across India.

However, just a week after the ban, writings have emerged on the roads in Dakshin Kannada, claiming the return of the PFI. The ban on the PFI has triggered protest by the members of the outfit and the sympathisers. These coordinated protests raise a couple of pertinent questions: What are the socio-political implications of the ban?, and, Will the ban on the PFI curb religious radicalisation in India? The answers to these questions, to a great extent, lie in the genesis and the activities of the PFI.

#### **Genesis of PFI**

An enquiry into the genesis of the PFI takes one to three erstwhile Islamist outfits. They were the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), the Islamic Sevak Sangh (ISS), and the National Democratic Front (NDF) Several members of the

PFI who used to be active members of the SIMI were associated with the ISS. Once the ISS was banned, these members formed the NDF in 1993. Along with aggressively propagating radical Islam, the NDF was also involved in several violent activities such as the infamous Marad massacres in January 2002 and May 2003. With the SIMI being pro-



scribed in 2001 and the NDF defamed because of its violent activities, the NDF members planned to form a new organisation to avoid surveillance and a likely ban by the State. Accordingly, before the PFI was banned, the members of the NDF and two other like-minded outfit — the Karnataka Forum for Dignity from Karnataka (KFD) and the Manitha Neethi Pasarai from Tamil Nadu — met twice (January 25-26, 2004 in Bengaluru and November 26-27, 2005 in Hyderabad) under the banner of South India Council to decide on the for-

mation of a new outfit.

Since its formation in 2006, the PFI has been working in association with several organisations in many States of India. They are the Citizens' Forum in Goa, Nagarik Adhikar Suraksha Samiti in West Bengal, Community Social and Educational Society of Rajasthan, Karnataka Forum of Dignity (KFD) in Karnataka, Liong Social Forum in Manipur, and the Association of Social Justice in Andhra

An important aspect of the PFI and its associate organisations, which often goes over-

looked, is its clandestine effort to avoid any Islamic title to the organisations. This camouflage helps the PFI and its associate organisations masquerade as "neo-social organisations" working for the upliftment of the downtrodden and thus preclude surveillance by the law enforcement agencies. It is evident from several front organisations through which the PFI carries out its radical activities. The camouflaged names of these front organisations are: the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), Campus Front of India

(CFI), National Women's Front

(NWF), Rehab India Foundation (RIF). and the Empower India Foundation (EIF). It is pertinent to mention that the CFI, the student wing of the PFI, played a crucial role in the Hijab row initially in Karnataka and subsequently in some other States of India.

Going by the allegations made by the law enforcement agencies of Kerala and some other States, the violent activities of the PFI include the cutting up of the hand of a teacher in Kerala in 2010, the killing of Hindu organisation members in Karnataka, active role in the anti-CAA and the Delhi riots

in 2020 and manufacturing the Hijab fury recently. While a politico-legal action in terms of banning the PFI is needed, it would certainly not suffice in delegitimising the ideology and curbing radicalisation.

#### What lies ahead?

Drawing from the evolution of the PFI through multiple incarnations in the past, there is no guarantee that it would not incarnate in a new form in the future. Radical groups such as the PFI often function through a victim narrative that helps them easily connect with the limited but

vulnerable sections of the Muslim community.

The proscription of SIMI is an important case in point. Several members of the SIMI who were arrested following the ban were acquitted of all charges since the legal system of India did not find merit in the claims of the law enforcement agencies. Their acquittals after a substantial time behind bars were capitalised by the PFI to whip up their supposed indignation. The manipulation of the victim narrative helps them garner support even from the otherwise nonradicalised members of the community.

The well-organised PFI will make every attempt to play the victim and might emerge with a new name and organisational structure. As mentioned earlier, a politico-legal action will have temporary success in terms of putting an immediate check on the activities of the outfit. However, to delegitimise the radical ideology, there is an urgent need for the State to invest at the social level. It is at the social level that most radical and extremist organisations garner their support and sustain. Considering the deep-rooted communal divide in India, the organisations like the PFI will not find it any difficult to mobilise a section of the Muslims to bat for it. Hence, the Central and State governments need to reach out to the Muslim society through well-meaning civil society organisations to win them away from the nefarious objectives of PFI-like organisations. In the absence of investing and working at the social level, legal action of banning an outfit will hardly contribute to curbing radicalisation in India.

(The writer is Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru)

A mere legal ban on a radical organisation is inadequate to break the spell cast by the Islamist bodies who cash in on the siege mentality of a section of the Muslim community. The Central and **State Governments** need to reach out to the Muslim society through wellmeaning civil society organisations to win them away from the nefarious objectives of PFI-like organisations



ANSHUMAN BEHERA

### **PERSPECTIVE** -

# **Cooperatives to empower rural India**

**Governance structure** of these PACS and LAMPS need significant improvement, but it is true that these societies can transform the life of citizen in rural India by meeting almost all the requirements of the family besides supporting the **Government in** providing an effective and efficient outlet to address the concern of rural citizens. First time a sincere and sustainable long-term approach is being designed to strengthen the cooperatives in rural India



DINESH TYAGI

The Government of India has established a separate Ministry for Cooperation in order to promote and strengthen the cooperative societies at the grassroots level. While hectic work has begun at this new Ministry under the leadership of Amit Shah at an unprecedented pace and the success of cooperative society in some States as Gujarat, Maharashtra are being studied for replicating these models, various options need to be examined to ensure success and timely completion of the vision.

With the advent of technology, efforts are also being worked out to improve the technology infrastructure to enhance the efficiency of these societies in service delivery. Shah at a recent event on cooperatives announced that the Government proposes to set up more than 3 lakh cooperatives, preferably one in every panchayat, to strengthen the community ownership model for citizen empowerment and enhancing efficiency in service delivery.

What are the options available to achieve the same? First option is to improve the existing Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and Large Area Multi-Purpose Societies (lAMPS) and other societies; build capacity, enhance business opportunities, support in technology and management, besides improving the members' volvement

This will require an active participation of all the State Governments and co-operative functionaries at every level. The Government of India proposes to get this supported by NABARD, which at the State level has built up some relations with State Governments and will be able to get the adequate support for the same.

Currently there are more than one lakh PACS and



an average one society catering to the need of about six villages. They perform various functions such as operating ration shops, procurement centres for crops for State agencies and supply of essential and other commodities to its members.

Governance structure of these PACS and LAMPS need significant improvement, but it is true that these societies can transform the life of citizen in rural India by meeting almost all the requirements of the family besides supporting the Government in providing an effective and efficient outlet to address the concern of rural

Vaidyanathan Committee report for Restructuring Rural credit institutions in 2004 made significant recommendation for improvement in the quality of

erisation, etc, for PACS and LAMPS. The Government of India also allocated Rs 15,000 crore for the revival of these institutions.

However, there has not been any significant improvement in performance, health of these grassroots level cooperatives. With the formation of a separate Ministry, first time a sincere and sustainable longterm approach is being designed to strengthen the cooperatives in rural India. Thus, the strengthening and improving the existing PACS/LAMPS will continue to be challenging keeping in view the earlier attempts made for the same. The experience shows that the constraints are not of intent or of monetary resources but of the strategy and approach.

Another option for the

existing CSC (presently more than 4 lakh in rural areas) into cooperatives. Recently in his address to the nation on Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the entrepreneurship skills of the CSC village level entrepreneur (VLEs), especially in rural India. These CSCs are delivering G2C and B2C services to citizen. They are helping them getting benefit of all Government schemes and programmes. Almost every section of the society is being provided support by the CSC — old, infirm (pension, tele medicine), women (education and skilling), farmers (supply of inputs, tele agriculture), youth (competitive exam, employment opportunity), children (Bal Vidhyalya). Besides, the CSC is also supplying the products of various companies as

well as helping local SHG sell their produce. The CSC functioning is what the Government envisage for the co-operatives in every pan-

chavat. As the framework for service delivery and support already exist with CSC, conversion of them to cooperative will serve the purpose of Government to set up 3 lakh societies. As these CSC already have the computing infra, the Government will save substantial cost. What is, however, required is to train and build the capacity of the CSC for making him/her understand the ethos and culture of cooperatives. The CSC has to make every beneficiary/customer as member, and it has to become truly a "Community Service Centre", operated and managed by the community.

With increase in penetra-

tion of broadband through BharatNet, Fintech instrument like UPI and formation of Farmer Produce Organisation (FPO), these CSC can truly empower communities, enhance their income, serve as aggregator of demand and supplies thereby meeting last mile logistic requirements for farm produce as well as products of large companies who want to

The business model of CSC is already designed to technology usage and meeting the emerging aspirations of the community and therefore will be sustainable.

access rural markets.

The CSC is working with Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand to revive and strengthen the PACS and LAMPS with limited success as only the service delivery is being enhanced, however the governing structure remain the same.

In Tamil Nadu, there are 4,474 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies, however, more than 4,000 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Society (PACCS) has CSCs in the rural areas of the State.

Besides delivering other services, these PACCS are also delivering the CSC services thereby enhancing their acceptance in the community and improving the financial con-

Similarly, out of 4,400 LAMPS and PACS operating in Jharkhand, 537 LAMPS and PACS having ICT infrastructure were initially selected by the Cooperative Department, Government of Jharkhand, for their working as CSCs. CSC's vision behind this collaboration is to empower more members of rural community because on an average, one society consists of 500 members.

However, the objective of LAMPS and PACS having CSC services is to enhance bouquet of services to their members and meet almost all their requirements. In the first stage, services like DigiPay (AEPS), e-Shram Services, CSC Grameen e-Store, CSC Agri Services, all PM Schemes (PMKMY, PMK-ISAN, PMSYM, PMJAY, etc) and various other Digital Seva Services of CSCs are being provided by the LAMPS and

Banking Correspondence Services, CSC WiFiChoupal, Aadhar service, etc, will also be delivered to ensure the doorstep delivery of services by high-speed internet to rural community.

Department of coopera-Government of tion, Jharkhand, is providing IT infrastructure like laptop, power backup and printer for the smooth operation and delivery of services. These associations are, however, for strengthening the service delivery of the existing LAMPS /PACCS and have limited success in view of the Governing structure remaining the same. This does not fulfil the Government vision of promoting an inclusive ownership societies model.

It is time to redesign and relook at the relationship.

The option to convert all the CSC into cooperative in view of the ability to serve the community effectively and efficiently appears to be more appropriate in view of the complexity of improving the existing PACS /LAMPS.

This will also support in Government vision of setting up 3 lakh cooperative in rural India within defined time frame. Digital India objective of promoting digitally inclusive societies will also be fulfilled. This model will promote Gram Swaraj and Atmanirbhar Bharat in its true sense.

(The writer is former Managing Director, Common





























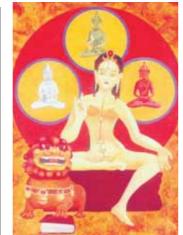




#### ARIES March 21-April 19

Those who want to get fit might need to put forth some effort by sticking to a workout schedule. Negativity is vanishing, especially within. You will feel more at ease and confident because of this. Both physically and intellectually, you feel powerful. On the job, you will put in a lot of effort, but nothing has happened yet. It is challenging to receive praise for a job well done. Be cautious with your money. Replan your investmentrelated responsibilities. Limit your spending to maintain your balance. There should be a new beginning in your relationship. Even while people could be pressuring you to make a commitment, you were not yet prepared for one. But you now believe that this is your chance to succeed. Your romantic life is in a good place right now.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



#### **LEO** July 23-Aug 22

You need to be strict this week and set boundaries in some cases. There should be no compromising on the health front. To provide harmony to life, either direct or indirect spiritual influence is required. Some seasonal ailments could arise as a result of your careless attitude toward health issues. Watch out for issues related to the common cold, cough, constipation, bowel syndrome, and being overweight. On the professional front, things are improving and strengthening for you. You are equipped to meet any challenge. You have a lot of imagination and drive. This week, if you have applied for a job, you might be contacted for an interview. There may be a change of address, either at work or at home. A deeper understanding between you and your spouse is suggested in romantic relationships. Give your companion some room to breathe.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

You must be realistic when it comes to your health. Listen to your body, not to your heart. You need to change your eating patterns and sweet food cravings. To enhance your health, you should exercise more and learn more about nutrition. If you go with the flow at work, a carefully planned project is likely to succeed. Be cautious when communicating verbally. Maintain your composure while you take on the obstacles. This week, you are getting the full benefits of your capacity for logic and reasoning. Feel free to share your feelings on a personal level. If you have any kind words to share, do it right now before it is too late.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Friday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

Explore how you can get healthier. This is a fantastic time to take some time off and focus only on improving your lifestyle, diet, and work-life balance. Body, mind, and spirit must all be in balance. In the workplace nationce is a must. Develop plans to increase outputs and achieve successful outcomes but try to keep them to yourself. If you need help figuring out a better way to execute your job, do not be afraid to ask. If you are searching for employment, you might need to look in a different direction or industry than the one you have been focusing on. Relationship-wise, warmth, caring, and concern for one another both at home and in a committed partnership are indicated

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Green Lucky day Saturday



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Make sure you prioritise and value your health. Count your blessings. Despite the fact that your health may not always be as excellent as you would like it to be, it is still better than many other people's. Be thankful for what you have You should not limit yourself in terms of your career. Be cautious when communicating. If you are determined to force your ideas down someone's throat, do not be shocked if they resist. Conflicts and disagreements are likely. which will act against you. Make peace with a person who appears to be against you personally. The mind must be freed, and the heart must be reconnected. Find a means to break free from suspicion and envy. and then re-establish trust

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Friday



#### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Your health is likely to receive some excellent news soon. It is important for those who are awaiting test results to know that nothing so serious is indicated. To overcome your current health issue, you only need to take a brief course of medication. Increase your consumption of liquids, juices, and fibre foods. On the professional front, fresh opportunities will be surfacing, giving you hope for the future. This week's money inflow seems promising. If you play your cards well, you could land a prestigious assignment. There might be a problem with the relationship. There may be major disagreements with the spouse. When the situation calls for it, you might be stubborn, but you should bend the rules when it comes to your loved ones.

Lucky number 123 | Lucky colour Brown **Lucky day** Saturday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

You will balance obstacles and blessings this week with ease. This week, you will be bursting with energy. The negative aspects of the past are gone. For a higher quality of life, spending money on medical testing is likely. You have certain plans regarding your professional life. It could be a change in employment, launch of a new business, or anything else that increases your exposure. Despite the fact that things have been miserable at work for a while, there is reason for optimism and eager anticipation. You are prepared to begin a new chapter in your romantic life. If you are committed to your partner, good things are in store for you.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Sunday



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You need a break this week. Allow yourself some alone time to escape the routine of your day. When you are awaiting test results, you are probably anticipating good news. You could use spirituality to relieve stress and live a healthy life. The moment is now to start practising yoga and meditation. On the career front, good news is in store for this week. In order to handle a challenging situation, guidance from someone will be helpful. You could feel pressured to take on additional tasks and obligations. You might be unsure of the circumstances surrounding the ancestors' property on a personal level. Talk about them with a family member you trust. Concerns regarding the children's future, their education, their marriages, and expenses are anticipated

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Thursday



#### **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

You have an adventurous and energised attitude this week, so you are ready to face obstacles head-on. In terms of your health, you are on the right track. Your devotion for your health is now yielding great rewards. You experience a strong sense of vitality, liveliness, and chirpiness. Your cheerfulness and upbeat attitude will enhance the charm of your personality. In terms of work, you maintain a happy outlook while taking it easy and concentrating on your tasks. Your thoughts and mind are in harmony. There is a danger that others will exploit your efforts. To stay on the right path, apply intelligence rather than simply obeying directions. On a personal level, lots of enjoyment is in store. You will reap significant rewards from your reputation and goodwill.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



#### **CANCER** June 21-July 22

Due to your workload this week, you will feel lost. You should be intellectually and physically aware. Pay attention to what your body is saying. Take good care of it and give it natural things to eat. Avoid fast food and fried foods You must stop all of your bad behaviours. On the job front, you might be assuming a new role or a different set of duties. There is a chance for a promotion, a pay increase, or company success. In terms of money, you feel at peace. Plans for corporate expansion might come to fruition this week. Something emotionally unpleasant happens on the personal front. In a difficult relationship, you could lose your composure.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You will feel strong and healthy this week, with plenty of energy and vitality. You have a strong sense of focus, concentration, and what you want out of life. You are capable of striking a balance between your responsibilities on a professional and personal level Leaving nothing undone at work will work in your favour in terms of your job. There may be some fear in your mind if you recently started a new business or employment. To ensure complete understanding between you and your co-workers, ask questions and engage in active listening. Relationship-wise, be prepared to reconcile your bonding with someone who has mistreated you in the past. Love grows, and you will as well. The future seems bright and content in all

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour White Lucky day Tuesday



#### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week balance is necessary in every aspect of life. You should be able to balance your career and personal obligations with taking care of your health. Maintain a healthy diet, regular exercise, and downtime. Between busy periods, take a brief nap to unwind and re-energize yourself for the challenges ahead. This week, the financial aspect of your profession is well taken care of. Media, finance, and the arts professionals will probably do better. Use your inherent strength, communication talents, and common sense. The time is right; realise all of your potential. Making new contacts now will pay off for you. Stop being overly formal with your partner; doing so might stop you from communicating your actual feelings. Your loved ones also require your

ucky number 11 | Lucky colour Beige

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picking up lead from the previous issue, the question that arises: how comes the Devatas, the individually evolved ones had to face the humiliation at the hands of evil forces? Evidently, there had to be something wrong with them, which brought them to such a pass. Possibly, overtaken by their egotistic sense of being superior ones; they mistook themselves to be unassailable. And they were so engrossed in their individualistic pursuits that impending danger eluded their attention. Also, they did not care to remain true to their collective obligations. The inevitable had to happen. I implies that just being placed on a high pedestal, would not suffice ensuring one's own well-being, unless the collective existence is well secured. It is important to note that individ-

ual energies provided by the Devatas, when put together, turned into a mighty force, which is personified as Durga, that tamed the demons. The obvious implication is that only when we put in all acts together, both individually and collectively, that we could be at our best. Second, life does not necessarily move to our asking. We

need to be well geared up to take on impending challenges if any, to ensure individualistic as well as collective well-being.

Even otherwise, we are to necessarily contend with disparate people all around, quite good in number, some of them even acting weird. Our plane of living, therefore, remains a fertile ground for arousal of conflicting interests. We, therefore, need to be prepared to take on danger inherent in the existential order itself. So, no matter how virtuous a person individually is, unless he remains live to existential needs, life may turn into a nightmare, both individually and collectively. Therefore, the callings of life need to be attended holistically. The *Devatas* would have been caught unawares during one of their unguarded moments, which led to their humiliating defeat at the hands of the evil-forces.

The legend pertaining to the making of the Mother does also hint on evolution and devolution of nature driven energies - from a singularity to multiple chains, and then back to the primal-source - which drives through the world process. In a related sense, it

## Durga reminds us of our collective obligations named "Durga", which in linguistic



may be quite fair to reason out that the Mother contains in Her, the essence of all forces in operation in the universe, which is why when they all joined, She

could make her appearance. She, therefore, symbolises convergence of all nature driven energies, vital to our existence. It is in this spirit that She is

terms means something ordinarily unassailable. Out of that primal source has evolved a complex chain of creative forces, each personified as a Devata specific. And, which following an intelligent design laid down by nature, creates, sustains, and recycles the manifest dynamic world. And, with time, having exhausted their sustainable limit, these forces, and thereby the world, may revert to the primal source. Out of the seeds of life that these forces carry back, a fresh creation chain may get excited. Thus, goes on a continued chain of evolution and devolution with no beginning or end in final sense.

Now, why the form of a Mother, and not a male or just a feminine presence? Ancient India's learned masters, seeing truths from human perspective, had very well understood double propensity inherent in all empowerment tools, be they physical, material, or intellectual. Accordingly, they felt the need to educate all and sundry on how to judiciously use Shakti, in the larger interest of the individual self, humanity as a whole and overall existential needs. As we are aware, a mother uses her Shakti and all resources available, to bear, produce, and nurse her child, till they qualify to manage on their own. She bears with all the pains in the process, yet she rejoices for what she has brought up. And, in her true motherly spirit, it remains a selfless exercise on her part, as she does not expect anything in return thereof at least in immediate terms. There can be, therefore, no better simile than that of a mother, which may be suggestive of judicious and selfless application of Shakti.

Let us now have a look at wholesome form in which the Mother Goddess is popularly visualised. Mounted on a Lion, She is usually perceived having 10 hands. In 8, She is shown holding different weapons, each offered by one or the other *Devata*. In remaining two, She is shown with a conch shell (Blowing instrument) in one and Lotus flower in the other. Continued ......

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