




**CITY: Pg 3**  
'AQI breaches 300-mark, Kolkata witnesses very poor air quality'



**NATION: Pg 5**  
At 75.6%, Himachal registers record voter turnout



**FILM: Pg 12**  
'Pathaan', 'Dunki', 'Jawan' will be 'superhits': SRK



T20 WORLD CUP

# England crowned champions, beat Pakistan by five wickets

## They chased down target in 19 overs to regain title they had won in 2010 in West Indies

MELBOURNE: England's golden generation of white-ball cricketers overcame a spirited Pakistan to win the T20 World Cup with a five-wicket victory in the title clash, here on Sunday.

The Pakistani fans had hoped for an encore of 1992, when Imran Khan's team created history at this very venue, but Pakistan's batting resembled more like their 1999 World Cup final effort at the Lord's.

Their batting had imploded in that final as they couldn't negotiate Shane Warne in that contest and today it was Rashid Khan, who had a stranglehold over Pakistan as his loopy flighted leg breaks flummoxed the batters.



England's captain Jos Buttler celebrates with the trophy

**Highlights**

- » Ben Stokes (52 not out off 49 balls) just like the 2019 ODI World Cup, anchored the chase
- » Shaheen Shah Afridi could not bowl his full quota of overs after suffering a hamstring injury
- » The Player of the evening was certainly left-arm seamer Sam Curran, whose couple of spells heavily tilted the game in the favour England

The total of 137 for 8 that Pakistan managed after being asked to bat was never going to be good enough.

The seasoned Ben Stokes (52 not out off 49 balls) just like the 2019 ODI World Cup, anchored the chase despite occasional scratchiness and had a calm Moeen Ali (19) as an ideal foil.

They chased down the target in 19 overs to regain the title they had won in 2010 in the West Indies. **Continued on P4**

## Punjab govt tightens gun regulations

**MPOST BUREAU**

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab government on Sunday banned the public display of firearms, including on social media, and songs allegedly promoting gun culture and violence, as it tightened regulations after facing flak from the Opposition over the law and order situation.

The state government also directed a review of arms licences within the next three months, with no new licence to be issued during the period, and surprise checks, according to an official order.

A complete ban should be imposed on carrying and displaying weapons at public gatherings, religious places, wedding ceremonies and other events, the order said.

Directions were also issued for registration of an FIR against those indulging in hate speech against any community, the order said.

The Bhagwant Mann government has been under fire from opposition parties Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal and BJP - for the alleged deteriorating law and order situation after a string of sensational killings.

The state witnessed the murder of Shiv Sena (Taksali) leader Sudhir Suri on November 4 and Dera Sacha Sauda follower Pardeep Singh on November 10. Both of them were under police protection.

Earlier the killing of international Kabaddi player Sandeep Nangal Ambian in Jalandhar **Continued on P4**

## EAM Jaishankar discusses Ukraine conflict, bilateral ties with Blinken

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI/PHNOM PENH: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken here on Sunday and discussed bilateral ties, the raging Ukraine conflict, energy issues, G20 and the situation in the Indo-Pacific, days ahead of a possible meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden.

The meeting between the top diplomats of the two countries took place on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Summit here in the Cambodian capital.

Jaishankar is accompanying Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is leading the Indian delegation to the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and the 17th East



Asia Summit here.

Jaishankar and Blinken met days ahead of a likely bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Biden on the margins of the G-20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia from November 15-16.

"A good meeting with US Secretary of State @SecBlinken. Discussed Ukraine, Indo-Pacific, energy, G20 and bilateral relations," Jaishankar said in a tweet, indicating the topics he discussed with Blinken.

"I met Indian External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar on the margins of the @ASEAN summit today in Phnom Penh to discuss ongoing efforts to expand our partnership & mitigate the effects of Russia's war on Ukraine. The U.S. supports India's #G20 Presidency," Blinken tweeted.

Jaishankar's meeting with Blinken took place after his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on Tuesday and talks with Ukraine foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba on Saturday here.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has said that President Biden and Prime Minister Modi have a productive and very practical relationship. **Continued on P4**

## 'FUNDAMENTALS OF THE SYSTEM CAN BE FINE-TUNED'

# Collegium system is here to stay, nothing wrong with it, says former CJI UU Lalit

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: On the criticism surrounding the Collegium system of 'judges appointing judges' in the higher judiciary, Former Chief Justice of India UU Lalit on Sunday said there is nothing wrong with it.

"The Collegium system is here to stay and it is an established norm where judges choose judges," he said, adding that the fundamentals of

the system can be fine-tuned.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had recently criticised the Collegium system for being opaque. "No system can be 100 per cent perfect. But we need to strive for a better system. When Parliament passed the National Judicial Appointments Commission in 2015, the Supreme Court struck it down. They (SC) should have told us which system would be better," Rijiju had said.

Terming the Law Minister's comments as his "personal opinion", Justice Lalit asserted, "The Collegium system has got the approval of five judges' Bench of the Supreme Court."

Lalit said that it would be the government's prerogative to bring back the NJAC if it decides to do.

"But so long as that is not brought in, we will have to follow the established mechanism," he said.

Lalit also said that if the

## CM to unveil 5 statues of Birsa Munda from Jhargram

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will be present in Jhargram on November 15 (Tuesday) to celebrate the birthday of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda.

Banerjee will unveil five statues of the tribal leader at five places virtually as a mark of tribute to Birsa Munda from a programme which will be held at Silda in Jhargram.

The five statues that will be unveiled include 4 in Junglemahal districts - at Silda in Jhargram, at Keshiary in West Midnapore, at Midnapore town, in Bankura and another at Madarihat in Alipurduar district which is dominated by tribal population. Banerjee will also distribute 1000 dhamsa, madol (traditional percussion instruments) among the tribals on the day.

In 2020, Banerjee declared a government holiday on November 15, the occasion



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

of Birsa Munda's birthday to acknowledge his contribution to the freedom struggle of Bengal. A floral tribute is offered at the tribal leader's photograph at Nabanna.

Several programmes will

also be held at the district level on the day as a mark of respect to Birsa Munda.

A seven feet statue of the tribal leader of the Munda community has earlier been installed at Bandwan in Purulia— another Junglemahal district.

Birsa Munda's slogan, "Let the kingdom of the queen be ended and our kingdom be established" had threatened the British Raj.

He had led the movement against the atrocities of the then British Government on the tribals. He had protested against the reign of terror which was unleashed by the British against the tribals.

Senior BJP leader Amit Shah during his visit to Bankura in November 2020 had garlanded the statue of a hunter mistaking it to be that of Birsa Munda. The sentiments of the tribal community were hurt by such an act by Shah who happens to be the Home minister.

## Ban on 5 drugs of Ramdev's firm revoked

DEHRADUN: An order asking Yoga guru Ramdev's Divya Pharmacy to stop the production of five medicines for diabetes, blood pressure, goitre, glaucoma and high cholesterol has been revoked by the Uttarakhand Ayurveda and Unani Licensing Authority.

Amending the earlier order, the authority on Saturday issued a fresh one allowing the firm to continue the production of these medicines.

Observing that there was an error in the previous order dated November 9, the drug controller of the state health authority GCN Jangpangi said it had been issued in haste. "We should have given the company time to explain its stand before issuing the order," Jangpangi said.

Ramdev's close aide Acharya Balkrishna expressed his gratitude to the state government for rectifying the error. **Continued on P4**

## Istanbul: Bomb hits major avenue, kills 6

ISTANBUL: A bomb exploded on a popular pedestrian street in Istanbul on Sunday, killing six people, wounding dozens and sending people fleeing as flames rose.

Footage posted online showed ambulances, fire trucks and police at the scene on Istiklal Avenue, a typically crowded thoroughfare popular with tourists and locals and lined with shops and restaurants. In one video, a loud bang could be heard and flames could be seen, as pedestrians turned and ran away. Social media users said shops were shuttered and the avenue closed down.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called the blast a "treacherous attack" and said its perpetrators

would be punished. In addition to the six dead, Erdogan said another 53 were wounded, according to information he received from the Istanbul governor.

Turkey was hit by a string of deadly bombings between 2015 and 2017 by the Islamic State group and outlawed Kurdish groups.

Five prosecutors were assigned to investigate the blast, state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

Turkey's media watchdog imposed temporary restrictions on reporting on the explosion a move that bans the use of close-up videos and photos of the blast and its aftermath. The Supreme Council of Radio and Television has imposed similar bans in the past, following attacks and accidents. AGENCIES

## Biden-led Democrats keep control of US Senate



WASHINGTON: The Democrats will retain majority control of the US Senate with two of its candidates projected to win their pivotal races against Republican rivals, in a major boost to President Joe Biden, who welcomed the election results on Sunday, saying he was feeling "good" and looking forward to the second half of his term to fulfil the promises made to the American people.

Biden's Democratic Party defied the historical trend of midterm elections breaking against parties in power, cementing its majority in the upper chamber of the US Congress.

In the November 8 midterm election, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto from Nevada is projected to defeat Republican challenger Adam Laxalt, who was endorsed by former president Donald Trump, while Senator Mark Kelly is set to defeat Republican Blake Masters in Arizona.

The result, the best midterm performance for a sitting party in 20 years, means the Democrats will now have 50 seats in the 100-member Senate - with the Republicans currently on 49. Georgia is still waiting on a Senate result and will hold a run-off election on December 6, after neither candidate won an outright majority.

The United States Senate has 100 seats and in the existing Congress, both the Democrats and the Republicans had 50 members each with Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democratic, casting her vote in case of a tie, in her capacity as its chairperson. **Continued on P4**

# Mukesh Ambani enters race to buy English football club Liverpool: Report

According to 'The Mirror', current owners FSG are willing to sell the club for £4 billion

LONDON: Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani has entered the race to bid for world-renowned English football club Liverpool FC's takeover, reported a leading English daily.

The English Premier League giants have been put up for sale by their current owners Fenway Sports Group (FSG), who bought the Merseyside club in October 2010 and have reportedly appointed Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley to assist them in selling the team.

According to 'The Mirror', the FSG are willing to sell the club for 4 billion British pound.

Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries and rated by Forbes as the eighth richest person in the world, has enquired



about the club, the English daily reported.

Few associated with the Mumbai-headquartered Indian multinational conglomerate, however, could not confirm the development.

A statement from FSG read: "There have been a number of recent changes of

Few associated with the Mumbai-headquartered Indian multinational conglomerate, however, could not confirm the development

ownership and rumours of changes in ownership at EPL clubs and inevitably, we are asked regularly about Fenway Sports Group's ownership in Liverpool.

"FSG has frequently received expressions of interest from third parties seeking to become shareholders in Liver-

pool. FSG has said before that under the right terms and conditions, we would consider new shareholders if it was in the best interests of Liverpool as a club."

The Anfield outfit has enjoyed immense success under FSG with Jurgen Klopp's side winning a Premier League title, a Champions League, FA Cup, Carabao Cup and European Super Cup over the past few years.

Others in the fray include parties from the Gulf and the USA.

Ambani's company owns Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket side Mumbai Indians and also runs the Indian Super League football event besides being the commercial partners of the All India Football Federa-

tion (AIFF).

Apart from football and cricket, RIL has tied up with the Indian Olympic Association and the Athletics Federation of India to support athletes in multiple events. These include the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and the Olympics.

Reliance will also set up the first-ever India House at the Paris Olympics in 2024 as part of the association.

A recent GroupM report on sports sponsorship in India says that non-cricket sporting activity - including football and kabaddi - contributed to 12 per cent of the Rs 9,500-crore overall sports advertising spends in 2021. Cricket stands at about 88 per cent of the overall sports ad spend. AGENCIES

শিশুরাই হল জীবনের বিকশিত ফুল...



Greetings on Children's Day

Mamata Banerjee  
Chief Minister, West Bengal  
Government of West Bengal

ICA-D 2034 (20)/2022



15-YR-OLD DIES AT PVT HOSP IN SREERAMPUR

# More than 1.5K dengue cases detected in past 48 hours

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Around 1,539 dengue positive cases have been detected across Bengal in the past 48 hours. According to the Health department figure, 594 new cases were found in the state on Sunday.

Around 4,959 samples were tested on Sunday while on Saturday around 7,545 dengue tests were done. The number of daily dengue infections remained at 945 on Saturday.

A 15-year-old girl died of dengue at a private hospital in Sreerampur in Hooghly on Saturday night. The patient was suffering from fever for the past few days.

A resident of Baidyabati, the patient was admitted to the hospital on Friday evening. As many as 9 people so far have died of dengue in Hooghly.

As the dengue cases have



Around 4,959 samples were tested on Sunday PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

gone up in Kolkata, there has been a huge demand for platelets in all blood banks. In many blood banks, a crisis of platelets occurred.

Some local residents at ward number 24 under Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) staged protest demonstrations alleging that garbage

remains heaped on an abandoned piece of land and cleaning drive is not carried out. They demanded the arrest of the land owner.

According to the Health department sources, the dengue situation is worse in North 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Murshidabad

## Highlights

» According to the Health department sources, the dengue situation is worse in North 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Murshidabad and Jalpaiguri

» Under KMC, borough XII has been majorly affected with ward 101 under the same borough witnessing an increase in dengue cases by 40 in the 42-43 week while ward 109 registered a rise by 48 cases during the same period

» Borough XII has so far registered a cumulative case of around 1,128 till 43 week. Borough X saw a cumulative case up to 856 till the 43 week

and Jalpaiguri.

Under KMC, borough XII has been majorly affected with ward 101 under the same borough witnessing an increase in dengue cases by 40 in the 42-43 week while ward 109 registered a rise by 48 cases during the same period.

Borough XII has so far registered a cumulative case of around 1,128 till 43 week. Bor-

ough X saw a cumulative case up to 856 till the 43 week. State Health department is already sending special teams to the affected districts to monitor if the anti dengue drive is carried out properly.

State government has asked the hospitals in the affected areas to run round the clock fever clinics in the wake of the rising number of dengue cases.

# Critical surgery: NRS doctors save lives of mother & infant



Representative Image

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: NRS Medical College and Hospital has given a fresh lease of life to a mother and her newborn by successfully conducting the delivery, after it was detected that the umbilical cord was looped around the infant's face inside the womb. Such a condition could have cut off the oxygen supply to the baby's brain.

A senior doctor at the gynecology department of the hospital said that sometimes it is found that the umbilical cord is wrapped around the baby's neck once or twice. But, in this case the cord was wrapped around the infant's face five times, he added.

Experts say that in such cases the umbilical cord can 'strangle' a baby by cutting off

## Key Points

» It was detected through an ultrasound that the umbilical cord was looped around the infant's face inside the womb. Such a condition could have cut off the oxygen supply to the baby's brain

» A senior doctor at the gynecology department of the hospital said that sometimes it is found that the umbilical cord is wrapped around the baby's neck once or twice. But, in this case the cord was wrapped around the infant's face five times, he added

oxygen flow to the brain or compressing the carotid artery. The umbilical cord may also become compressed against itself or the baby's neck, which reduces the flow of oxygenated blood through the umbilical cord. Although extremely rare, constriction of the umbilical cord by an amniotic band can cause its strangulation followed by a stillbirth, the doctor said.

It can be said that the umbilical cord is a lifeline for a baby in the womb. Running from the baby's abdomen to the placenta, the umbilical cord usually contains three blood vessels. It provides oxygen, blood, and nutrients to the

developing fetus. Mousumi Mondal (23), a resident of South 24-Parganas was supposed to deliver her baby at 37th week.

It was decided that normal delivery would be carried out. As the woman reported labour pain, the doctors were ready to carry out normal delivery. As the doctors faced difficulties, they conducted an ultrasound on the patient. It was found that the umbilical cord was wrapped around the baby's face. Even the heart beat rate of the baby had dropped. The doctors then conducted emergency surgery. The baby was delivered.

# Covid: Active cases stands at 260; 18 fresh infections reported



Representative Image

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: State on Sunday registered 18 Covid cases while on Saturday 21 new cases were reported. Active cases in Bengal stood at 260 out of which 256 are in home isolation and four in different hospitals.

Daily Covid infection slightly jumped in Bengal on Friday when 24 cases were reported while on Thursday the figure was registered at

12. The figure stood at 14 on Wednesday.

Covid situation in the state has much improved in the past couple of weeks with daily infection consistently remaining below 30.

No Covid death was reported in the state on Sunday while on Saturday one died of Covid.

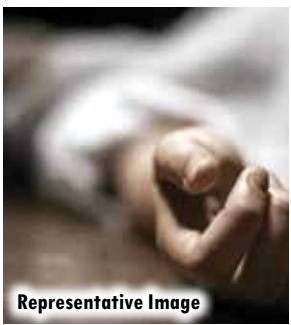
Fatality rate was registered at 1.02 per cent on Sunday. The Covid positivity rate on Tues-

day stood at 0.43 per cent. The figure remained at 0.37 per cent on Monday and 0.48 per cent on Sunday.

State has seen 21,18,339 Covid cases so far out of which around 20,96,548 people have been recovered. Around 5,216 samples were tested in the state on Sunday. Bengal has so far seen 21,531 Covid death tolls so far. Around 26,749,735 Covid sample tests so far till date.

As many as 24 patients have been discharged from hospitals in the past 24 hours as they recovered from Covid. Recovery rate stood at 98.97 per cent on Friday. Around 4 Covid patients are undergoing treatment in hospitals while 256 people are in home isolation. None is in Safe homes. State has so far administered around 7,30,37,451 first doses of Covid vaccine and around 6,49,48,679 crore second doses cumulatively till Sunday.

# Behala youth's body found in Bagnan



Representative Image

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Mystery shrouds over the death of a youth from Behala who was missing since Friday.

The youth identified as Subhadeep Roy (26) of 5, Satyen Roy Branch Road in Behala was found dead in Bagnan on Sunday afternoon.

Roy on Friday morning around 6:30 am left for the office which is located near the Exide Crossing. When he did not return home on Friday night, his family members called his colleagues. Surprisingly they came to know that Subhadeep did not attend office on Friday.

On Saturday Subhadeep's mother Namita Roy lodged a missing diary at the Behala police station. As per protocol, the details of Subhadeep were updated in the missing persons' portal and messages were sent to all the police stations across the state.

On Sunday afternoon, Behala police station received an email from Bagnan police station in Howrah where it was mentioned that Subhadeep's body was found in Bagnan area on Sunday morning. However, no injury marks were found on the body. An unnatural death case has been registered and a probe is on.

# 'Rlys to allocate seats to all women travelling alone in long-distance trains'

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The Minister of State for Railways Darshana Jarosh on Saturday said that the railways will implement a system of allocating seats to all women travelling alone in long-distance trains.

The minister said that this system will be implemented in the reserved order system. Jarosh made this announcement during her inspection visit of



Representative Image

Howrah Station of Eastern Railway.

She also spoke with women Railway Police Force (RPF)

This system will be implemented in the reserved order system, says minister

personnel who are part of the Meri Saheli initiative, which first started in September 2020 in South Eastern Railway (SER) and was later extended to other railway zones including East-

ern Railway. The members of the Meri Saheli force informed the Jarosh of the problems faced by women travelling alone in long-distance trains.

The main objective of the force is to look after the safety and security of women passengers particularly women travelling alone, single elderly women and women traveling in long distance trains with children.

"For each long distance

train, personnels are informed of the phone number and seat number of women, primarily ones travelling alone. A woman RPF personnel then approaches the woman and notes down her name while letting her know that in case of any trouble while traveling, they can contact the woman RPF personnel present," a senior official at Eastern Railway said.

The personnel will keep a tab on the women passengers

throughout the journey and in long distance trains they reportedly keep a track on the phone numbers of the women travellers.

There is also SOS contact and alarm will help the passenger to reach out to the RPF personnel in one touch in case of any problem. The women RPF personnel will track the location of the passenger's tower location and immediately alert a local railway police unit.

# 'Civic body to repair footbridge on Atreyee canal at Rs 48 cr'

The bridge will save travel time for residents of Balurghat

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

BALURGHAT: A damaged footbridge on Atreyee canal will be repaired soon, said Trinamool Congress-led Balurghat civic board Chairman Ashok Kumar Mitra.

"We will repair the footbridge soon. A fund of Rs 48 crore has already been allocated for the repair work. A tender work as a part of the process was completed. The checklist will be prepared shortly," Mitra said.

An official source said the iron bridge was built up on Atreyee canal adjacent to the main market area between Gitanjali and Dak Bungalow with an objective to reduce the distance for the local residents.

"Many local people residing in Gitanjali and Dak Bungalow areas used to use it as an alternative way. Around three years ago, the 100 metre-long with six feet width was broken in the



The 100 metre-long bridge, which was built some 20 years back, was damaged about three years ago PIC/MPOST

middle part and the concerned civic board authority instructed people not to use it until it is repaired. Now the people are being forced to cover a long distance between Gitanjali and Dak Bungalow areas. During rush hours of week days, it is also problematic for them to use the main road on foot following the vehicular movement," said the source.

The source said the bridge was built up around 20 years ago. Around 5000 people, including senior citizens and school students, had been using it on a regular basis.

The residents had earlier demanded its immediate repair so that it can be used again. Mitra after taking the charge of the newly-constituted board had assured the locals to repair

'Now, the people are being forced to cover a long distance between Gitanjali and Dak Bungalow areas'

it as early as possible.

Locals have expressed their happiness after hearing the news. "The footbridge is an important connectivity for the people residing in both sides of Gitanjali and Dak Bungalow areas. Over the past three years, we had been covering a long distance as the bridge is of no use. If it is repaired, the distance will be reduced. Many elderly citizens and school-goers will be benefited as it is risky for them to use the main road due to the vehicular movement on weekdays during the daytime," said a local Satyam Das.

# Gosaba: Youth kills mother after altercation

KOLKATA: A youth killed his mother following an altercation after she killed a vulture which was his pet at Gosaba in South 24-Parganas on Saturday night.

The accused youth identified as Bholanath Biswas has fled and is still absconding.

According to sources, the accused youth identified as Bholanath Biswas kept a vulture as his pet. But Bholanath's mother Sabitri was against keeping the vulture at home. Sabitri reportedly killed the vulture when Bholanath was not home. After returning when he saw the vulture dead, he became furious and started assaulting his mother. He even took a sharp weapon and stabbed Sabitri. Later Bholanath poured kerosene and set her on fire. Immediately after the incident he fled. Local people informed the police. Cops have recovered the body and sent it for autopsy. A massive manhunt is on. MPOST

# News at a Glance

## MAN STEALS RS 75K CASH AND SEEDS WORTH RS 5L FROM PURULIA SHOP

KOLKATA: Tension spread at the Arsha area in Purulia after a thief sneaked inside a seed shop and took away Rs 75000 from the cash box. The thief was seen kissing the bundle of the notes before leaving the shop. According to the shop owner, Budheswar Kumar told the cops that his shop was closed since November 3 to November 8 as he was in Tamil Nadu with his family. On November 9 when he opened his shop, found the cash box was broken and the entire money was gone. Kumar claimed that apart from money, seeds worth about Rs five lakh were stolen. A robbery case has been registered at the Arsha police station.

## AWARENESS PROCESSION FOR WORLD DIABETES DAY INAUGURATED

KOLKATA: The New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) Chairman Debashis Sen on Sunday inaugurated an awareness procession for the celebration of World Diabetes Day, which falls on Monday at Swapno Bhor Seniors' Park.

## ACCIDENTAL INSURANCE COVER: DEPT OF POST TAKES UP AWARENESS DRIVE

KOLKATA: The Bengal Circle of the Department of Post is taking up massive public awareness for popularising its accidental insurance cover. The policy has not picked up its desired pace in the state.



WATER SPRINKLING VEHICLES TO SETTLE DUST PARTICLES TO BE USED

# ‘AQI breaches 300-mark, Kolkata witnesses very poor air quality’

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Kolkata that was cleanest during October in years and had started deteriorating since the first week of November has entered in the “very poor” category.

As per data available from monitoring stations of West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB), the AQI in Victoria Memorial area shot up over 300 microgrammes per cubic metre on Sunday morning remained so even during the evening too. AQI over 300 means respiratory illness on prolonged exposure.

“The very poor quality of the city’s air may degrade the precious white Makrana marbles of the heritage monument of Victoria Memorial. The state Environment department should join hands with the



In Belur Math which is also a heritage site and a religious place, AQI was in the poor category

West Bengal Heritage Commission or the Heritage wing of Kolkata Municipal Corporation and take some strong measures to curb air pollution in and around Victoria,” Environmentalist Somendra Mohan Ghosh said.

In places like Ballygunge, Jadavpur, Bidhannagar the AQI level remained well above 200-

mark almost throughout the day. The poor category 201-300 means breathing discomfort to most people on prolonged exposure.

In Rabindra Sarobar too, the AQI was in the poor category during Sunday morning. It was only at Fort William where AQI still remained in the moderate category.

Highlights

» In places like Ballygunge, Jadavpur, Bidhannagar the AQI level level remained well above 200-mark almost throughout the day

» In Rabindra Sarobar too, the AQI was in the poor category during Sunday morning

» The most alarming level was recorded at Ghusuri in Kolkata’s adjacent Howrah district where AQI shot up to nearly 350-mark

The most alarming level was recorded at Ghusuri in Kolkata’s adjacent Howrah district where AQI shot up to nearly 350-mark. Rabin-

dra Bharati in North Kolkata was also in the high 200 range throughout the day. In Belur Math which is also a heritage site and a religious place, AQI was in the poor category.

As per Breezometer that combines big data and machine learning technology for providing information on air quality in places like Sealdah, Dum Dum, Kasba where there is a reasonable amount of traffic movement the AQI reached the ‘very poor’ category.

The WBPCB will start using water sprinkling vehicles for settlement of the dust particles on the road from this week itself. The urban local bodies will also join hands with PCB in this initiative. The exercise will be taken up not only in Kolkata but also in the other five non-attainment cities- Howrah, Asansol, Durgapur, Barrackpore and Haldia.

## Dum Dum: One held for murder of woman

KOLKATA: Police on Saturday night arrested a daily wage labourer for the alleged murder of a woman whose body was found from a bush on the bank of a canal at Nalta Kalibari area of Durganagar in Dum Dum.

The accused person identified as Raju Dutta of Badra Tinpukur in Dum Dum confessed that he killed the woman identified as Kakali Dutta (Saha) after an altercation. Police informed that Raju and Kakali were in a relationship despite the woman being married. Kakali reportedly used to visit Raju’s rented place of stay in Durganagar. On Wednesday an altercation took place between Raju and Kakali. Suddenly Raju hit her head with a brickbat and Kakali fell on the ground unconscious. When Raju was sure that Kakali had died, he took the body to the nearby bush and covered it with debris.

Police claimed Raju is a Bangladeshi national who had come to India about 47 years ago without valid documents.

MPDST

TET 2014 & 2017

## ‘Names of 163 out of 268 dismissed teachers not in list of passed candidates’

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The lawyer representing one of the litigants may submit an affidavit at the Supreme Court after claiming that the names of 163 primary teachers out of 268 primary teachers did not appear in the list of Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) 2014 or 2017 passed candidates list.

The West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBBPE) released a list of TET 2014 and 2017 passed candidates in accordance with the order of the Calcutta High Court. According to agency news, WBBPE president Goutam Pal has said that the matter is under trial.

Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay canceled the jobs of 269 primary teachers after concerns were raised about their recruitment. Thereafter an appeal was filed against the order in the Division Bench of Calcutta High Court. Division Bench

### One of the litigants may submit an affidavit claiming the same at the SC

had upheld the order of termination. One of the primary teachers was reportedly able to get their job back after proving the validity of employment in the Calcutta High Court.

While the rest of the primary teachers had approached Supreme Court. The Supreme Court had granted an interim stay on the Calcutta HC order on the cancellation of 269 primary teachers’ jobs, who had secured a position despite allegedly failing the written test. Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay canceled the jobs of these primary teachers in connection with the recruitment corruption case. The judgment was upheld by the division bench of the Calcutta High Court.

## Milestone: Abhishek congratulates football club for promotion to CFL premier division in maiden season



Abhishek Banerjee interacts with players and staff of the Diamond Harbour Football Club

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee congratulated the staff and players of Diamond Harbour Football Club, a club that he patronises, for being promoted to the Premier Division of the Calcutta Football

League in its maiden season.

In a message, he said: “The great Pele said success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do. Our players and staff at Diamond Harbour Football Club

## ‘Temp dips to 18.8°C in city, western districts get colder’

‘Low pressure may form over SE Bay of Bengal on Nov 16’

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Kolkata’s temperature on Sunday dropped to 18.8 degree Celsius while in some of the western districts people witnessed much colder weather.

The Regional Meteorological Centre in Alipore said the city’s temperature will drop further in the next couple of days. Many of the South Bengal districts will witness a temperature around 14 degrees Celsius in the next couple of days. Mercury dropped by 2 degrees in the past 24 hours.

As the impact of the western disturbances ceased, the cold wind started blowing uninterrupted from the north western parts of the country.

There may be fresh western disturbances in the north western side, it will bring rain and snowfall in Jammu Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh. If the western disturbances enter the eastern



FILE IMAGE

Himalayan parts of Darjeeling, Sikkim, Kalimpong, there may be a possibility of snowfall in these regions.

People in various South Bengal districts witnessed mist early in the morning. Jhargram registered its lowest temperature at 16 degree Celsius on Sunday while Purulia recorded its lowest temperature at 14.4 degree Celsius. The MeT office said that a low pressure may form over south-east Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sagar on November 16. It may gain some strength and may move towards Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The MeT office earlier predicted that people in south Bengal

### ‘South Bengal districts will witness temperature around 14 degree Celsius in the next couple of days’

would experience winter chill from this week as the mercury will slide down. It also predicted that some of the North Bengal districts may receive light rainfall in the next couple of days. North Bengal districts may soon record the lowest temperature around 4 degree Celsius.

The lowest temperature in South Bengal already touched 20 degree Celsius in the first week of November. The MeT office said that the temperature during night may remain around 17-18 degree Celsius in the next couple of days. People will get a feeling of a winter chill once the mercury drops below 15 degree Celsius.

## 3-yr-old’s father accused of killing his child held; mother absconding

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Police arrested the father of the three-year-old child who was allegedly murdered by him in Anandapur.

Acting on a tip-off, cops nabbed the accused Bijoy Boral from the Tiljala area on Saturday night. Earlier police had informed that the accused person is Bijoy Mondal but on Sunday it was rectified and cops claimed that the correct name of the accused is Bijoy Boral.

During interrogation, Bijoy reportedly confessed that on November 6, he was having liquor when his three-year-old son Rohan asked to take him to the bathroom. As the child kept on asking, Bijoy got irritated and slapped his son.

Later he pushed his son and the child’s head hit the wall causing an injury. As soon as the child fell unconscious, Bijoy realised his mistake and rushed him to a doctor.

Bijoy and his wife Soni told the doctor that their son

### The couple buried the body on November 7 at the Gobra Hindu Burial Ground and fled

had fallen inside a bucket full of water. However, it is still unclear whether the doctor had declared the child dead or he died after returning home, and why the burial ground staff did not raise a question about the death certificate of the child.

The couple buried the body on November 7 at the Gobra Hindu Burial Ground and fled.

Police had initiated a murder case based on a complaint lodged by the child’s grandmother Mina Bibi on November 9 who doubted her son-in-law had killed her grandchild.

Police are searching for Bijoy’s wife as well. Meanwhile, police are waiting for the autopsy report to ascertain the exact cause of death.

## State mulls to hold spl screening of films for kids at Radha Studio

Key Points

- » The special screening for children at Radha Studio is likely to be held every Sunday after the end of the Kolkata International Film Festival, slated to be held from December 15 to 22
- » The special children’s film show will be held from 10 am to 12.30 pm before the beginning of the normal film shows that start at 1 pm
- » Three such screenings have already been held with Councillors and the response has been overwhelming

SOUMITRA NANDI

KOLKATA: The state government has made plans to host a special screening for children at Radha Studio every Sunday after the end of the Kolkata International Film Festival slated to be held from December 15 to 22.

The special children’s film show will be held from 10 am to 12.30 pm before the beginning of the normal film shows that start at 1 pm.

“There is a section of children who hardly get a chance to go to multiplexes for watching movies due to financial constraints or for their socio-economic background. Our target is to take these children for watching movies along with their friends and give them a chance of socialising in a suitable environment. The councillors in their respective wards with the help of the school heads will rope in children for watching these special screenings,” a senior official of the state Information & Cultural Affairs department said.

Three such screenings have already been held with Councillors and the response

has been overwhelming. The initiative is the brainchild of state Sports and Youth Affairs minister Aroop Biswas who is an MLA of Tollygunge.

Radha Studio, located on the ground floor of the Cinema Centenary Building, close to MR Bangur Hospital opened its door to the screening of commercial films regularly from May 6. Now, the 152-seat auditorium exhibits film shows in the same pattern as Nandan regularly. The screening committee that selects films for Nandan I and Nandan II does the same for this venue too. The ticket rates are only Rs 30.

Single-screen theatres like Malancha and Madhuban located in the Tollygunge constituency have closed down. So, Radha Studio is attracting a good crowd during weekends, and a majority of the shows are going full house.

Old timers are nostalgic at the start of screening at this address with the plot housing Radha Studio, which saw the birth of Doordarshan in Calcutta in 1975 before it moved to its current premises in Golf Green.

শিক্ষা আনে সভ্যতা  
সভ্যতা আনে মানবিকতা

**Free of cost  
Smartphone/ Tab**

Students studying in Class 12 under the administrative control of State-Government schools and madrasas, will receive a sum of ₹10,000 each in their bank accounts to purchase tablet PC or smartphone of their choice for the purpose of online education.

State Government will provide free of cost smartphone/tab to more than 10 lakh students

Hon'ble Chief Minister  
**Mamata Banerjee**  
will initiate the process

14 November, 2022 | 12 noon  
Netaji Indoor Stadium

ICA-D 2035 (21)/2022

School Education Department,  
Government of West Bengal

**RUPANNO**  
appearing in a new incarnation

Hon'ble Chief Minister  
**Mamata Banerjee**  
will inaugurate  
**RUPANNO, the building of  
West Bengal Joint Entrance  
Examinations Board**  
in virtual mode

14 November, 2022  
12 noon  
Netaji Indoor Stadium

August presence:  
**Bratya Basu**  
Minister-in-Charge  
Department of School  
and Higher Education  
Government of West Bengal

- The West Bengal Joint Entrance Examinations Board established in 1962, is one of the premier Institutions for conducting national level entrance examinations.
- The Board conducts the entrance examinations for almost all professional courses in West Bengal.
- The new building with six floors, has about 48,000 sq. ft. area.

The Board is committed to help the students, aspiring for higher education in the forthcoming days

**West Bengal Joint Entrance Examinations Board**  
DB-118, Sector 1, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 064

Department of Higher Education,  
Government of West Bengal



# Explosion on railway track in Udaipur; NIA investigates

Officials said mining explosives were used in blast at Odha bridge near Kewda Ki Naal, which comes under Jawar Mines police station of Udaipur

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

UDAIPUR (RAJ): An explosion occurred on a railway track here on Sunday, hours before the recently inaugurated Asarwa-Udaipur Express train from Ahmedabad was to pass. Police said they are investigating all angles, including sabotage.

Officials said mining explosives were used in the blast at Odha bridge near Kewda Ki Naal, which comes under the Jawar Mines police station of Udaipur. “Local people informed us about the explosion in the morning. We have found some explosives on the track and efforts are being made to identify those responsible,” Station House Officer (SHO) Anil Kumar Vishnoi said. Railway Minister Ashwini



Police personnel investigate after an explosion on Udaipur-Ahmedabad railway track in Udaipur on Sunday

PTI

Vaishnaw said the blast was reported about 35 km from Udaipur. “We have our best on the spot - ATF, NIA and RPF. The accused will be severely punished,” he said. The bridge restoration team is also on the site. Rajasthan

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the incident was worrying and ordered Director General of Police Umesh Mishra to investigate the matter thoroughly. Mishra said efforts were being made to identify and arrest those responsible.

### Highlights

- » Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the blast was reported about 35 km from Udaipur
- » The bridge restoration team is also on the site
- » Teams of the Forensic Science Laboratory and the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) visited the spot and conducted investigations

“Necessary action is being taken in coordination with railway officials,” he said.

The DGP further said that central agencies were cooperating in the probe.

Teams of the Forensic Science Laboratory and the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) visited the spot and conducted investi-

gations. Another police official said a “Superpower 90” detonator was used for the explosion. “The blast appears to be well-planned. Due to the alertness of the local people, the matter came to light and a major incident was averted,” he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had flagged off the inaugural run of the Asarwa-Udaipur Express from the Asarwa railway station in Ahmedabad on October 31.

Following the explosion, the train was halted at the Dungarpur station, a railway spokesperson said.

Udaipur Superintendent of Police Vikas Sharma said all angles, including sabotage, were being probed and the work to restore the tracks was underway. Police and railway officials are also at the spot for the investigation, the SHO said.

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: MPs from various parties have skipped the Parliamentary Standing Committee meetings after they were reconstituted in September to deliberate on the Bills for introduction in Parliament during 2022-23, according to the data on the Lok Sabha website.

After the reorganisation of 13 Standing Committees of the Lower House, 22 meetings were held from October to November 2022 for selecting the subjects to be considered during the year 2022-23 in which only 16 members were present on an average, the data showed.

The Standing Committee of Parliament consists of 31 members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in which 21 are from the Lower House and 10 from the Upper.

On an average, more than 40 per cent of members were absent in the meetings of more than a dozen Standing

**The Standing Committee of Parliament consists of 31 members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in which 21 are from the Lower House and 10 from the Upper**

Committees of the Lok Sabha, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, External Affairs, Commerce, Housing and Urban Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, it showed.

The BJP which has the largest number of members on the committees also accounted for the highest absentees.

Notable members who were absent from the meetings of these committees were Manmohan Singh, Rahul Gandhi, P

Chidambaram, Manish Tewari, Deepender Hooda (all Congress); Jaya Bachchan (SP); Hema Malini, Maneka Gandhi, Pragya Singh Thakur, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Pravesh Sahib Singh Verma, Kirit Premjibhai Solanki (all BJP); Ilaiya Raja (nominated); Harbhajan Singh and Sanjay Singh (both AAP); Simranjit Singh Mann (Akali Dal Amritsar) etc.

Akali Dal’s Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Trinamool Congress’s Abhishek Banerjee and Kalyan Banerjee, independents Kapil Sibal and Navneet Rana, RJD’s Misa Bharti were also absent from the committee meetings.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been raising this issue to ensure the presence of BJP MPs in the Parliamentary committees.

According to statistics, only 12 members were present in the meeting held on October 10, of the 31-member Standing Committee attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing.

### PICTURESQUE



Birds swim in the Ana Sagar lake during sunrise in Ajmer district on Sunday

PTI

## If ordinance sent by state govt targets me, will refer it: Kerala Guv

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ NEW DELHI: Kerala Governor Arif Mohamed Khan said that if the ordinance sent to Raj Bhavan by the CPI(M)-led government was intended to target him, then he will not sit in judgement over it and would refer the same to the President.

Khan, while speaking to reporters in Thiruvananthapuram, said that the state government exercised its powers under the Constitution when it came out with the ordinance and sent the same to the Governor.

“If I am the target, then I shall not be the judge in my own cause. I won’t declare it now. I will see it and if I come to the conclusion that the purpose is to target me, then I shall not sit in judgement (over it). I shall refer (to the President),” he said.

State Minister for Local Self-Governments and Excise M B Rajesh, meanwhile, said that the government expects the Governor to act in accor-

**The Kerala cabinet on November 9 had decided to come out with the ordinance amidst the Left government’s ongoing tussle with Khan over functioning of universities, including appointment of Vice Chancellors, in the state**

dance with the Constitution.

Rajesh, while speaking to reporters in Thiruvananthapuram, said that the state government exercised its powers under the Constitution when it came out with the ordinance and sent the same to the Governor.

“It is legal, constitutional and in accordance with the rules. We can now only expect that everyone will act in accordance with the Constitution,” he said.

Khan reached Delhi on Saturday evening, a Raj Bhavan source said.

Earlier that day, the Left government in Kerala sent, to the Raj Bhavan, its ordinance to remove the Governor from

the post of Chancellor of universities in the state.

The Kerala cabinet on November 9 had decided to come out with the ordinance amidst the Left government’s ongoing tussle with Khan over functioning of universities, including appointment of Vice Chancellors, in the state.

The ordinance intends to appoint eminent academicians as Chancellors of the universities in the state in place of the Governor. The decision of the Pinarayi Vijayan-headed government has been opposed by both the Congress and BJP as both parties have alleged that the move was aimed at turning universities in Kerala into “Communist centres.”

## Gujarat voters will teach BJP a lesson this election: Gehlot

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

JODHPUR: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said there is a strong anti-incumbency wave against BJP in Gujarat and voters will “teach them a lesson” in this assembly election.

Polling for the Gujarat assembly election will take place on December 1 and 5.

Inflation, rising unemployment and poor infrastructure are a cause of concern in Gujarat and the people there will vote on these issues, he told reporters on the sidelines of Rajasthan Digifest 2022 here.

“Once upon a time, roads were in a good condition there, now they are not. Students are neither getting jobs nor are they being given employment opportunities. Even if they get jobs, their salaries are low. Employees are unhappy. There is a lot of fear among people in Gujarat,” the senior Congress

leader said. “In the upcoming elections, people will teach them a lesson. There is a huge anti-incumbency wave going on in the state which will be seen in the results of this election,” he said.

The Gujarat assembly elections are witnessing a three-way contest among the ruling BJP, which has been in power in the state for 24 years, the opposition Congress and the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which has kicked off a high-pitched campaign.

Gehlot, a senior All India Congress Committee (AICC) observer for the Gujarat elections, said the people of the state are “fed up with unemployment and rising inflation.” “There is no Gujarat model. That was Modi’s model which has been exposed completely now. The people have understood that the employment problem is terrible and there is inflation in the state,” he said.

### From Page 1

## England

Experienced Haris Rauf and young Nasim Shah bowled their hearts out to prevent it from becoming a one-sided game but Stokes soaked the pressure along with Ali as the duo put on a 48-run stand for the fifth wicket to nail the win that avenged England’s loss to the same rivals in the ‘92 World Cup final.

Pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi also could not bowl his full quota of overs after suffering a hamstring injury while fielding and that too helped England.

The Player of the evening was certainly left-arm seamer Sam Curran, whose couple of spells heavily tilted the game in the favour of England.

Stokes took 30 balls to measure the Pakistani attack but with no scoreboard pressure, the southpaw pressed the accelerator just when needed to finish the match.

The MCG rooted for Pakistan but no one grudged when Stokes pumped his fists after what had been an incredibly difficult few years, battling depression and mental health issues.

In front of an audience of 80,462, two highly-rated but not enough celebrated T20 bowlers Curran and Rashid scripted the win.

The duo put relentless pressure on the Pakistan batting line-up to restrict the opposition to a below-par 137 for eight.

Curran, who made comeback from an injury earlier this year, has been England’s go-to bowler in the compe-

tition and he proved that on the big stage with brilliant figures of 4-0-12-3.

The wily Rashid (4-1-22-2) wasn’t going to be left far behind as he choked the run-flow in the middle overs with as many as 25 dot balls between him and Curran.

The MCG track had enough bounce and pace but Buttler’s best-performing bowling duo (Curran and Rashid) did exactly the opposite — taking the pace off their deliveries.

Rashid flighted and lowered his pace to 75 kmph while Curran bowled between 126 kmph to 130 kmph which made run scoring difficult for the Pakistani batters.

Both Babar (32 off 28 balls) and Mohammed Rizwan (15 off 14) started on a cautious note as they had been doing for the past one year.

Curran, England’s most consistent bowler in the tournament, angled one across at fuller length and Rizwan didn’t have enough width to drive as he dragged that back to the stumps.

Babar hit a couple of boundaries but as it has been for him generally, it was more of a struggle to keep the scoreboard alive.

At the start of the back-10, when Jos Buttler introduced Liam Livingstone to bowl his off-breaks, Shan got 14 runs with a down-the-ground boundary and a six.

But Babar at the other end was foxed by Rashid as he shaped to play the cut and found a googly cramping him for room to give a return catch to the English leg-spinner of Pakistani descent.

Ifthikhar Ahmed (0) would like to forget the evening as he was kept under a tight leash by Rashid and then

Stokes bowled one in the channel to get a nick as Pakistan slumped to 85 for 4 in the 13th over.

Shan built a launchpad for himself and threw it all away as Curran tested his patience with variations of cross-seam deliveries and cutters.

## US Senate

In Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a beaming Biden said of the election results: I feel good. I’m looking forward to the next couple of years.

“I’m not surprised by the turnout. I’m incredibly pleased by the turnout. And I think it’s a reflection of the quality of our candidates. And the they’re all running on the same programme,” Biden said.

Biden, 79, said winning a 51st seat from the Georgia runoff next month would be important and allow Democrats to boost their standing on key Senate committees.

“It’s just simply better,” Biden said. “The bigger the number, the better.”

Retaining Senate control is a huge boost to President Biden over the remaining two years of his first term in the White House and how much leverage his party will ultimately have.

This election is a victory a victory and a vindication for Democrats, our agenda,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told reporters in New York. He described it as a victory for the American people.

Once again President Biden defied expectations. These midterm election results show best midterm

performance for an incumbent President’s party in 20 years since George W Bush’s GOP gained seats following 9/11. Ajay Bhutoria, deputy National Finance Chair of the Democratic National Committee, told PTI on Saturday after the Nevada election results.

Before the elections, political pundits and pollsters predicted a red wave which was not to be seen anywhere during the November 8 midterm polls.

Four days after the elections, the opposition Republican Party is struggling to gain the majority in the House of Representatives, which as per the pollsters, looked like a wave for them.

As of Saturday night, the Republicans had either won or were leading in 213 seats as against 203 of the Democratic Party, with 218 being the halfway mark. This better-than-expected performance by the Democrats is attributed to the people-friendly policies of President Biden and the tilt of the youth towards him.

Republicans say they are confident they will secure majority in the House even as they voice dismay that the size of their numbers over Democrats is likely to be far smaller than pre-election predictions that forecast a “red wave” of Republican winners filling the House chamber in January, when the new Congress is sworn in.

The victory is a major boost to President Biden in the second half of his term, both for his legislative agenda and his ability to appoint top judges and other key officials.

Under President Biden’s leadership, Democrats have shown surprising strength. Democrats have also been successful in governors’ races,

winning in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania and the Senate seat in Pennsylvania, Bhutoria said.

With votes still being counted across the country, Republicans still have the opportunity to win control of Congress. But the results are uplifting for Democrats who were braced for sweeping losses, he said.

This is the first time we have an Indian American Lt Governor in Maryland - Aruna Miller and we also have 5th Indian American congressman in the house - Shri Thanedar. Overall, people voted for President Biden’s call to save and protect the Democracy, abortion rights and economy, restoring the soul of our nation, Bhutoria said.

The New York Times described the Saturday results as a decisive moment in an extraordinary midterm election in which Democrats defied historical patterns and predictions of major losses.

Control of the House has still not been decided, several days after an Election Day that fell short of predictions that Republicans would sweep to power in Washington in a repudiation of President Biden’s leadership, the daily reported.

The Washington Post described it as welcome news for Biden, who it said was staring down the possibility of humbling defeats as the election neared.

Now, the Senate, which oversees the confirmation of executive branch personnel and federal judges, will stay in his party’s corner. A Senate majority will also give the president and his party more say over legislative debates on domestic and foreign spending and other major issues, the daily reported.

According to Republican Sampat Shivangni, national president of the Indian American Forum for Political Education, the elections brought surprising and unexpected results.

It was assumed that Republicans will have a heyday and win easily both the House, and Senate and President Trump will ride the wave and announce his candidacy for Presidency in 2024, he noted.

However, the performance of the Republican Party has been far below expectations.

The US Congress will have a slim majority for Republicans, he said. AGENCIES

## Ramdev

In its earlier order, the Authority had asked Divya Pharmacy to stop the production of five of its products — Bpgrit, Madhugrit, Thyrogrit, Lipidom tablets and Eyegrit Gold tablets — which were being promoted as medicines for blood pressure, diabetes, goitre, glaucoma and high cholesterol.

The previous order said the company can restart manufacturing these products only after the authority approves their revised formulation sheets. The action was taken following a complaint filed by a doctor from Kerala, K V Babu, in which he had accused Divya Pharmacy of violating the Drugs and Magic Remedies (objectionable advertisement) Act and Drugs and Cosmetic Act.

Babu had lodged his complaint against the firm with the Authority in July and followed it up with another via email on October 11.

AGENCIES

## Jaishankar

Sullivan said that President Biden was looking forward to seeing Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Bali.

“I would point out Prime Minister Modi has already been to the White House since President Biden took office, and the two of them have had the opportunity to meet in person multiple times and to talk by phone and on video multiple times,” he told reporters at the White House on Thursday.

He said the two leaders see common interests on a number of critical issues and have really worked together to strengthen the US-India partnership.

“When you add all that up, it is a productive, very practical relationship,” Sullivan said.

“President Biden is looking forward to seeing Prime Minister Modi at the G-20 this year, as we look ahead to the next year,” he said.

India will hold the presidency of the G-20 next year and there is a possibility of a US presidential visit to the country.

India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

Since the Ukraine conflict began in February, Prime Minister Modi spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a number of times.

WITH AGENCY INPUTS

## Punjab



# At 75.6%, Himachal Pradesh registers record voter turnout

In the 2017 Assembly polls, 75% exercised their franchise

ASHWINI SHARMA

SHIMLA: Himachal Pradesh has registered a record polling of 75.6 per cent in the Saturday's voting for 68 assembly constituencies, breaking all previous records in the state, including the 75 per cent turnout in the 2017 polls.

The detailed statistics of the votes polled though EVMs and postal ballots were released by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Maneesh Garg here on Sunday. The high polling percentage has raised the hopes of the Congress to stage a comeback to power after five years while the BJP is confident about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma working in the state, once again, to change the custom of rotating governments in the state.

"It's 100 per cent. We are forming the next government," said Vikramaditya Singh, MLA and son of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh. Singh is contesting for the second time from Shimla (rural), earlier a constituency of his father.



The highest polling percentage of 85.25 per cent was reported from Doon assembly constituency in Solan district

MPOST

As per the figures released Sunday evening, the poll percentage through EVMs is 74.6 per cent. Besides this, 1 per cent postal ballots had been received already taking the overall turnout to 75.6 per cent till now.

Nearly 2 per cent postal ballots are yet to be received. The highest polling percentage of 85.25 per cent was reported from Doon assembly constituency in Solan district and lowest of 62.53 per cent in Shimla (Urban). Chief Minister Jai

Ram Thakur's constituency Seraj received 82.10 per cent polling. Thakur is comfortably placed in his constituency for being elected for the sixth time.

A comparative analysis of the constituencies viz: Dharampur, Jaisinghpur, Shimla, Baijnath, Bhoranj, Solan, Kasumpti, Sarkaghat, Jaswan Pragpur, Hamirpur and Badsar revealed that out of 11 constituencies improved remarkably in higher voting turnout almost by 7 per cent.

While 76.8 per cent of the total female electorate exercised their franchise, it was 72.4 per cent among men

The percentage point increase in Dharampur was 6.93 i.e from 63.6 per cent in 2017 to 70.54 per cent.

Similarly in Jaisinghpur, the percentage increased from 63.79 in 2017 to 65.31 per cent. In Bhoranj, it has increased from 65.04 to 68.55 per cent.

In Solan, it has improved from 66.45 to 66.84 per cent. The district of Solan polled 77.08 per cent votes while Bilaspur with its four constituencies polled 76.44 per cent votes showing highest polling of 82.10 per cent at Naina Devi.

Bilaspur is the district where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of Rs 1,470 crore AIIMS project which he inau-

gurated in October 2022. The BJP is expecting gains from the project but the presence of rebellion in the contest could be a problem. Two constituencies where the poll percentage dipped include Shimla(U) and Baijnath. Maneesh Garg said that the Election Commission of India, on their visit to the state, had also asked and guided the state to focus on low voter turnout ACs and thanked them for the same.

As per the CEO, there were a total 27,88, 925 male voters and 27,36, 306 females. The third gender voters were 38.

Out of these, the total percentage of male population who exercised their right to franchise was 72.4 per cent and that of females was 76.8 per cent. Besides, the third gender poll percentage was 68.4 per cent. During the elections, BJP banked on its double engine sarkar theme and gave a slogan --- Riwaaz Badlega while Congress star campaigner Priyank Gandhi Vadra told voters not to change the custom of alternating the government.

## 'Yatra will ensure govt is held accountable on people's issues'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Sunday said the Bharat Jodo Yatra has been successful in achieving its objective of raising people's issues and going forward it will ensure that the government is held accountable.

The opposition party also asserted that "untruths" spread about Rahul Gandhi to malign his image have been "demolished" by the Yatra and his "reality" has come to the fore before the country.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar said the Yatra has been successful beyond expectations.

"When it started, there were a lot of questions about whether people would come or not or whether we will be able to cover 25 km every day. The last 60 days have passed in a jiffy now," he said.

"Yatris have gone beyond physical pain. The yatra has achieved its first objective. Yatris have become comfortable with the yatra, the yatra has become comfortable with the country and the country has become comfortable with yatra," said Kumar, one of the participants who would walk



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with supporters during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Hingoli district on Saturday

PTI

Yatris have gone beyond physical pain. The yatra has achieved its first objective

the full distance from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

Yatra has achieved its first objective and people know that it is being undertaken to highlight their issues, he said.

It has to now move towards its second objective which is to make the government of the day accountable on issues of the people and country, Kumar said.

Asked if there has been a change in Rahul Gandhi's image due to the Yatra, Kumar

said, "So much had been said about Rahul Gandhi. Reporters ask if his image will improve, I would say his reality will be before the people of the country."

"All the things that were said about Rahul Gandhi that he is not serious, will go abroad, will not walk, will go on a vacation, will not stay in a container, all this has ended. Crores were spent to malign his image, but his reality has been brought out just by walking on the road," Kumar said.

Kumar also hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks that he receives "2-3 kg" of abuses every day, and said those spreading hatred are also playing the "victim card."

## Maharashtra's political atmosphere has become polluted: Sanjay Raut

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday claimed Maharashtra's political atmosphere has become polluted where many people are out to "destroy" each other. Raut said he realised this again after coming out of jail on November 9.

The Rajya Sabha member was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case on August 1 this year and granted bail by a court in Mumbai on November 9. On Sunday, he resumed his weekly column Rokhthok in 'Saamana', the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena faction's mouthpiece of which he is the executive editor.

The Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra collapsed in June this year following a rebel-

lion led by Sena leader Eknath Shinde, who later became the chief minister with the BJP's support. "There is a feeling of hatred and politicians have now reached a stage where they don't want their opponents even to be alive. Maharashtra's political atmosphere has become polluted where people are out to destroy to each other," Raut claimed.

"When I was asked about (Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader) Devendra Fadnis's comment that bitterness in politics has to end, I replied that he is speaking the truth and media started saying I have toned down," the Sena leader said. "Democracy and freedom do not exist now, these are merely names now," Raut claimed.

AGENCIES

## Gujarat polls: Cong announces fifth list of six candidates

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Sunday released its fifth list of six candidates for the Gujarat Assembly elections scheduled to be held in December in two phases.

The six candidates declared by the party included Manhar Patel from Botad in place of Ramesh Mer.

The total number of candidates declared so far by the party is 109. The Congress had on November 4 released its first list announcing the names of 43 candidates for the elections. On November 10, the

party came out with another list with 46 names. It released a list of seven candidates on Friday but one was a replacement for the earlier announced candidate. A fourth list of nine candidates was released on Saturday. Among the candidates named in the fifth list are Jayanti Jerajbhai Patel from Morbi, Jivan Kumbharvadiya from Jamnagar Rural, Chhattarsinh Gunjariya from Dhrangadhra, Mansukhbhai Kalariya from Rajkot West and Divyesh Chavda from Gariadhar.

AGENCIES

SATYAPRAKASH SHARMA

BHOPAL: President Draupadi Murmu is likely to attend a state-level celebration, being organised on November 15 as a part of the nationwide Tribal Pride Day in Shahdol of Madhya Pradesh, to mark the birth anniversary of Adiwas icon Birs Munda. MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday informed about the President's visit to the state by posting a series of tweets.

"Honourable President will arrive in Shahdol to attend the Janatiya Gaurav Divas celebration. Her first arrival in Madhya Pradesh as a President is a pride for us," the CM tweeted. "Today, I invited her to come to MP. It is our felicity that the honourable president has accepted the invitation," Chouhan also tweeted.

He said in another tweet,



President Draupadi Murmu

"The whole MP will listen the address from the President. Welcome Rashtrapati Mahodaya on the soil of MP."

The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs will organise nationwide celebrations to mark the birth anniversary of Birs Munda, who is revered as God among tribal communities across the country. Munda was a well-known freedom fighter, social reformer and famous tribal leader. The Union government has asked its various ministries and the gov-

Honourable President will arrive in Shahdol to attend the Janatiya Gaurav Divas celebration. Her first arrival in Madhya Pradesh as a President is a pride for us

ernments of states and union territories to participate in the programmes organised by the state tribal research institutes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 15 last year had announced in Bhopal that the birth anniversary of Birs Munda would be celebrated as the Tribal Pride Day to commemorate the contribution of tribal communities to the history and culture of the nation.

The state-level celebrations will be organised in tribal-dominated Shahdol division and in all tribal blocks of the state. Chouhan has engaged himself in the preparations to mark the historic celebration.

On Sunday, he flew to Shahdol to ensure all the arrangements, and before that, he had invited the chiefs of the tribal communities and discussed the the arrangements with public representatives, traditional Tadv, Patel and other representatives who have arrived from different districts.

After losing the Assembly elections in 2018, BJP came to power in 2020 after toppling the Congress government in a dramatic political incident and it has started focusing on tribal voters. Since then, the BJP-ruled government has launched various schemes to woo the tribal communities.

## Cong & AAP make Old Pension Scheme restoration demand major poll plank in Gujarat

Oppn aims to garner support of lakhs of govt employees who are up in arms against Bjp govt over new pension scheme

OUR CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD: The demand for restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS) has emerged as a major poll plank in Gujarat with both the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party promising to implement it if voted to power in the state where the Assembly elections are scheduled next month.

With this promise, the opposition parties aim to garner the support of lakhs of government employees who are up in arms against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government over the new pension scheme.

Elections for the 182 member Gujarat Assembly will be held in two phases on December 1 and 5. The Gujarat government had introduced the new contributory pension scheme for employees joining the service on or after April 1, 2005. As per its notification, it will make a matching contribution of 10 per cent of the basic pay plus dearness allowance (DA) contributed by the employees in the NPS fund.

Under the Centre's scheme, the government will contribute 14 per cent against an employee's contribution of 10 per cent of his/her salary and DA with effect from April 1, 2019.

After protests by employees in Gujarat, the state government had said the new pension will not be applicable to those employees who had joined duty before April 2005. It also promised to increase its contribution

There are nearly seven lakh government employees who are pressing for the demand for the OPS, including around 70,000 primary schools teachers who joined before 2005 on a fixed salary

in the fund to 14 per cent from the 10 per cent earlier.

The employees have staged massive agitations against the government in Gujarat while demanding restoration of the OPS because they believe the New Pension Scheme is not in the interest of the retiring employees. With the BJP government not acceding to the demands of the employees, the Congress and the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP have assured to bring back the OPS, in one of their most emphatic poll promises. Both the parties have assured the agitating employees that the new pension scheme (NPS) will be scrapped and the OPS will be resorted. They have given the examples of their governments in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh (where Congress is in power) and Punjab (governed by the AAP) to drive home the point. "We launched an agitation with 15 demands, of which those related to restoration of the OPS and fixed salary issue were not accepted. The government formed a committee. It said it will increase its contribution to the NPS fund but no notification was issued," Digvijaysinh Jadeja, working president of the Akhil Bharatiya

Prathmik Shikshak Sangh, a body of government primary school teachers, said.

There are nearly seven lakh government employees who are pressing for the demand for the OPS, including around 70,000 primary schools teachers who joined before 2005 on a fixed salary. Jadeja had in February 2019 led an agitation where around two lakh primary school teachers proceeded on 'mass casual leave' and gathered to protest outside the Gujarat Assembly in capital Gandhinagar.

The agitation was revived ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections when thousands of state government employees, including school teachers, joined the mass casual leave protest across the state in September this year. The agitation had forced the government to mellow its stand on the issue and it promised to take the decision on the OPS at the right time, saying it was a policy matter. Mahesh Mori, convener of the Rashtriya Samyukt Morcha, a body of state government employees, said that the government's promises were only verbal and no notification was issued to make it official.

## 20% of fuel used in brick kilns to be paddy straw, directs Punjab govt

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab government, which is making continuous efforts in the management of paddy straw, has decided to make it mandatory for brick kilns that 20 per cent of their fuel be paddy straw.

This was disclosed by Environment, Science and Technology Minister Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer in a press communique on Sunday.

He said that under the guidelines of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the state government has issued a notification that 20 per cent of straw pellets for brick kilns must be used as fuel.

He also said that brick kiln owners have been given six months to prepare for this new management and action will be taken against those who do not implement these instructions after May 1, 2023.

Meet Hayer said that in situ and ex situ works are being done by the state government to help farmers in stubble management and deal with the problem of pollution caused by stubble burning.

The farmers of Pun-



jab have been provided 1.25 lakh machines on subsidy for in situ stubble management whereas under ex situ, industries are being encouraged to use stubble as fuel.

Efforts are being made to generate CNG, electricity and other energy sources from straw, said the minister.

Meet Hayer said that under the new decision, 20 per cent use of straw as fuel in brick kilns will give a big boost to straw management and farmers will also get financial help by selling straw.

He further said that the department of environment and science and technology will provide all technical assistance to the brick kilns.

Besides, all deputy commissioners have also been asked to follow these instructions under the notification issued in this regard. MPOST

### West Bengal leads in Health Services

Hon'ble Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** will launch two new schemes for State's growing health sector **Tele-Mental Health Services & 16 slice CT scan machine at Darjeeling** for the people of hilly areas

Date: 14 November, 2022 | Time: 12 noon  
Venue: Netaji Indoor Stadium

Tele-Mental Health Services:

- 24x7 telephone services to deal with issues regarding mental health
- A total of 40 counselors and 25 doctors will provide these services
- Call toll-free helpline 18008914416 or 14416 for counseling and doctor consultation

16 slice CT scan machine at Darjeeling

- Inauguration of first ever 16 slice CT scan machine at Darjeeling District Hospital. This will benefit people of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Mirik Sub-divisions
- The State Government will provide this service on PPP model
- The estimated cost of this project is 2 crores

Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal



# Anyone casting evil eye on India is given befitting reply: Def min

Rajnath Singh unveils statue of Prithviraj Chauhan at Jhajjar, Haryana

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday asserted that safeguarding national interests is the main focus of the BJP-led government and anyone casting an evil eye on India is now given a befitting reply.

“India is no longer weak. We believe in peace,” Singh said, adding that a befitting reply is now given if anyone tries to harm us.

Our soldiers have proved this time and again, Singh said referring to the 2016 surgical strikes and 2019 Balakot airstrikes.

He also mentioned about the bravery shown by soldiers during the Galwan Valley standoff in eastern Ladakh.

He also said to get rid of the colonial mindset, the Narendra Modi government has taken a number of initiatives, including a new Indian Navy ensign inspired from Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji, abolition of around 1,500 obsolete British-era laws, renaming of Rajpath as Kartavya Path and



installation of a grand statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that Haryana is a land rich in culture, bravery, and glorious history that spread our culture's message throughout the nation and the world. He stated that he salutes such a brave land, which is an

inspiration of sacrifice and bravery. The statues of great brave sons like Prithviraj Chauhan and Rao Tula Ram teach us to move forward in life.

The Defence Minister said this while addressing the public gathering after unveiling the statue of Prithviraj Chauhan in Kulana village of Jhajjar district on Sunday.

Rajnath Singh stated that he salutes such a brave land (Haryana), which is an inspiration of sacrifice and bravery. The statues of great brave sons like Prithviraj Chauhan and Rao Tula Ram teach us to move forward in life

Rajnath Singh saluted the glorious personality of Prithviraj Chauhan and remarked that Haryana's winds are filled with bravery. The great history of Haryana is thought to have served as an example for others both in the country and abroad. He said that in every village of Haryana, remarkable stories of valour and pride of our soldiers can be heard. Our soldiers are protecting the borders of the country. He stated that the feasibility of Sainik School in the Matanhail of district Jhajjar will be examined, and he committed that necessary action will be taken in this regard. He said that Haryana is becoming a partner in the development of the country under the able leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. He stated that

India has set a unique identity in the world today and that with the goal of overtaking countries like America and China by 2047, India is on its path to achieving that goal.

Chief Minister Khattar stated that Prithviraj Chauhan has a remarkable history and we all should draw inspiration from his life, bravery, and selflessness and also ensure to spread his message among the youth. Prithviraj Chauhan transformed the social and cultural direction of the nation. The Chief Minister said that it was unfortunate that the distorted form of history was showcased for many years, so the government has announced to build a research institute and memorial in the name of Prithviraj Chauhan in Taraori.

# ‘100 new colleges in next 5 yrs by upgrading dist hospitals’

The proposed colleges will be set up in 100 districts where there is no private or government medical colleges

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Union Health Ministry has drawn a proposal to set up 100 new medical colleges by 2027 by upgrading district hospitals under the fourth phase of a scheme that aims to boost the availability of human resources for the health sector.

The colleges will be set up under the centrally sponsored scheme for the “establishment of new medical colleges by upgrading district or referral hospitals” at an estimated cost of Rs 325 crore per college on the basis of central and state share of 60:40, official sources told.

The funding pattern for the northeastern and special category states is in the ratio of 90:10 between the Centre and the state.

The Department of Expenditure has approved the pro-

The colleges will be set up under the centrally sponsored scheme for the ‘establishment of new medical colleges by upgrading district or referral hospitals’ at an estimated cost of Rs 325 cr per college

posal of the Health ministry, and a cabinet note in this regard has already been drafted, official sources said.

In the last three phases, 157 medical colleges were approved, and 93 of them have become functional while others are at different stages of construction.

These proposed 100 medical colleges will be set up in 100 districts which have a population of more than 10 lakhs and where there is no private or government medical colleges.

“The proposal to set up 100 medical colleges by upgrading district hospitals in the fourth phase of the scheme has been

approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), after which a Cabinet note has been prepared,” an official source said.

Further, the centrally sponsored scheme has a new component of providing Rs 10 crore each for setting up of nursing colleges attached with the existing 157 medical colleges already approved in the first three phases, the source added.

But this will require amendment in the existing minimum standard requirement regulations of the NMC in which such attachment of medical and nursing colleges is not allowed.

COVID

## Active cases dip to 12,307

NEW DELHI: India logged 734 new coronavirus infections taking the tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,46,66,377, while the active cases dipped to 12,307, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll has climbed to 5,30,531 with three more fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

A decrease of 199 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,23,539, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website 219.80 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

## Inclement weather puts off Skyroot's maiden rocket launch to Nov 18

NEW DELHI: Inclement weather conditions have put off the sub-orbital launch of India's first privately developed rocket – Vikram-S – by three days to November 18, the Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace said on Sunday.

“Due to the inclement weather forecast, we have been given a new launch window from Nov 15-19 for our Vikram-S rocket launch from Sriharikota, with the most likely date being Nov 18 at 11:30 a.m.,” a Skyroot Aerospace spokesperson said. The launch was earlier scheduled for November 15. The maiden mission of Skyroot Aerospace, named ‘Prarambh’, will carry payloads of two Indian and one foreign customers and is set for launch from ISRO's launchpad at Sriharikota.

AGENCIES

## Pb: 4 of family killed in road accident

AMRITSAR: Four members of a family were killed when their motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle in Ajnala near here, police said on Sunday.

Station House Officer of Ajnala Police Station Supinder Kaur said the accident took place on Saturday night.

Surjit Singh (35), his wife Santosh Kaur (32) and their daughter Preet Kaur (7) and son Sonu (5) were crushed to death, she said.

The bodies have been sent for postmortem examination, Kaur said, adding that efforts were on to identify the vehicle that hit the motorcycle.

AGENCIES

## Mohan Bhagwat on 4-day visit to Chhattisgarh

JASHPUR: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat will arrive in Chhattisgarh on Sunday evening for a four-day visit during which he will unveil the statue of former BJP MP and Union minister late Dilip Singh Judev in the tribal-dominated Jashpur district, a Sangh functionary said.

Bhagwat will reach Jashpur in the evening where he will unveil the statue on Monday and address a public meeting to mark the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, said Kaniram, the prant prachar pramukh of the Sangh's Chhattisgarh unit.

These programmes are being organised by Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, a frontal

organisation of the RSS, which carries out welfare activities for forest dwellers in the tribal-dominated remote areas, he said.

The Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas is observed on November 15, the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda, to commemorate the contribution of tribal freedom fighters.

On Tuesday, Bhagwat will attend the ‘path sanchalan’ programme to be jointly held by the RSS' Surguja and Koriya districts wings in Ambikapur, the headquarters of Surguja district, Kaniram said.

The RSS chief will also address a programme where Sangh members will be present, he said.

MPPOST

# Army Chief Gen Pande leaves for France on 4-day visit

The visit aims to further strengthen the ‘bonds of trust’ between the Indian and French armies

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande on Sunday left for France on a four-day visit with an aim to further strengthen the “bonds of trust” between the Indian and French armies amid the fast-evolving security matrix and the geopolitical situation.

Gen Pande will hold extensive talks with the top military brass of France including the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Chief of the Army Staff and the Commander of the Land Combat Forces.

“The Chief of the Army Staff has proceeded on a visit to France from November 14



Army Chief General Manoj Pande with Chief of Staff of French Air & Space Force General Stéphane Mille, in New Delhi, Nov 2022

FILE PHOTO

to 17.

“During the four-day visit, he will be meeting his counterparts and senior military lead-

ership of France with an aim to enhance defence cooperation between both the nations,” the Army said.

It said Gen Pande will lay a wreath at Neuve Chapelle Indian Memorial, which commemorates the sacrifices of 4,742 Indian soldiers during the First World War.

“He is scheduled to call on the Chief of the Defence Staff, Chief of the Army Staff, and Commander Commandement des Forces Terrestres (CFT) / Command of the Land Combat Forces, where he will discuss avenues for enhancing India-France defence relations,” the Army said in a statement.

It said the Army Chief will be visiting Ecole Militaire, comprising various military training establishments in Paris, and address senior staff

officers attending a course at Ecole de Guerra-T, which is a French military academy.

He will also be visiting Military Schools at Draguignan, which are premier training establishments that train commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers.

“The ever-expanding defence cooperation engagements which encompass a broad spectrum of activities have established a strong bonhomie across every level of the two Armies,” the Army said.

“The visit of Chief of Army Staff to France will further strengthen the bonds of trust and understanding between the two armies,” it said.

## Gujarat: CBI arrests 2 CGST officials for demanding Rs 75,000 bribe

AHMEDABAD: The CBI has arrested two officials of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) at Ankleshwar in Gujarat's Bharuch district for allegedly demanding a bribe of Rs 75,000, an official said on Sunday.

CBI arrested a superintendent and assistant commissioner of the CGST, who were produced before a court and remanded to police custody till Monday, the official said.

As per a CBI release, the accused allegedly demanded Rs 75,000 from the complainant for transportation of goods from Modasa to Vapi (both in Gujarat) through his jurisdiction.

The complainant also claimed that the accused had demanded a monthly undue advantage of Rs 1.5 lakh for regular movement of goods in his jurisdiction, the probe agency stated.

MPPOST

# 60 years on, martyr of 1962 Sino-Indian War yet to receive central govt honour

Little we know about Havildar Shere Thapa of Indian Army who singlehandedly delayed waves of assault of Chinese Army in Upper Subansiri sector: Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR: “Little we know about Havildar Shere Thapa of Indian Army who singlehandedly delayed waves of assault of Chinese Army during the 1962 war in Upper Subansiri sector,” Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu had tweeted earlier this year as he unveiled a bust of the unsung hero, who is still awaiting central government recognition.

Thapa of the Indian Army's 2nd Battalion of Jammu & Kashmir Rifles had killed 79 Chinese soldiers alone and injured many more in the battle fought at the Subansiri sector of Arunachal Pradesh in November, 1962, before laying down his life, according to official records.

Sixty years on, the martyr, lost in the annals of history, is

Thapa of the Indian Army's 2nd Battalion of Jammu & Kashmir Rifles had killed 79 Chinese soldiers alone and injured many more in the battle fought at the Subansiri sector of Arunachal Pradesh in November, 1962, before laying down his life

yet to get his due commendation, rued Thapa's commanding officer 2nd Lieutenant Amar Patil, who retired as a colonel.

Lok Sabha MP from Arunachal East Parliamentary Constituency Tapir Gao had in September last year called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and submitted a letter, requesting him to confer gallantry award posthumously on the havildar.

Born in Nepal in 1928, Thapa had served in JAK

Regiment Special Force from December 27, 1945 to December 31, 1956 and became part of Indian Army on January 1, 1957.

He was later appointed as platoon havildar under Subedar Sher Bahadur.

“Thapa was deployed in the protective patrol at Tama Chung Chung ridge near Rio Bridge in Upper Subansiri district to cover the tracks coming from Sino-Indian border,” the retired colonel said.

“On November 18, 1962

about 200 PLA soldiers sneaked in through the Tama Chung Chung Ridge and ran into the protective patrol of 2 JAK RIF. Havildar Thapa was manning the border from a well-camouflaged vantage point high on the mountains. His gun boomed relentlessly, like a roaring tiger, knocking down many Chinese. He went on firing non-stop without food (as supply lines were cut off) and sleep for three days, while his lone soldier-friend continued changing the carbines, till the duo ran out of ammunition,” Patil told.

The pile of bodies of Chinese soldiers was “so high” that the river failed to carry them, he said.

“When the Chinese firing stopped, Thapa came out of his bunker for a respite. He looked towards the heap of mortal

remains with great satisfaction but death was awaiting him. A wounded Chinese soldier fired, killing him instantly,” the octogenarian war veteran said.

The gallant action of Thapa delayed the Chinese advance for nearly 72 hours, he stated.

“In the encounter, over 70 Chinese soldiers, including a senior officer, were said to have been killed,” the retired army officer said.

Thapa may not have won any award but his bravery is remembered by locals, who hold him in very high esteem, he underlined.

The havildar was survived by wife and two children, but little is known about their whereabouts, Patil said.

Indian Army later constructed a memorial near Rio Bridge, as a mark of tribute to the valiant soldier.

## Nation Briefs

### TWO SRI LANKAN BOATS APPREHENDED FOR FISHING IN INDIAN WATERS

VISAKHAPATNAM (AP): The Coast Guard has apprehended two Sri Lankan fishing boats with 11 crew onboard for fishing in Indian exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and escorted them to Kakinada for further investigation. The fishing boats from the neighbouring country were apprehended by ICGS Vignraha, about 175 nautical miles from Kalingapatnam, on November 10 and brought to the shore on Saturday for interrogation. The Lankan vessels were engaged in fishing in Indian EEZ without valid licences and documents, according to an official release. As per the Maritime Zones of India Act 1981, fishing and poaching by foreign vessels in Indian exclusive economic zone is an offence.

### SUPREME COURT LAWYER JOINS BJP

NEW DELHI: A Supreme Court lawyer who worked as a legal advisor to governors of several states joined the BJP here on Sunday. Vikas Bansode joined the party at its headquarters in the presence of its national general secretary C T Ravi. Ravi told reporters that Bansode had worked as a legal advisor to former governors, including late Congress leader Hansraj Bhardwaj, of states of Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He knows many opposition leaders inside out and that is why some of them are losing sleep at his decision to join the BJP, Ravi said.



EDITORIAL

Awaiting a paradigm shift

The 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP27), being held in Egypt, is a golden opportunity for countries to clear the logjam in the path of climate action. Global collaboration is undoubtedly the keyword when it comes to tackling the magnitude of climatic threats we have been facing presently. COP27 is markedly different from the previous versions due to certain reasons. Firstly, it has come at a time when climatic aberrations are approaching a saturation point of sorts. Secondly, it is being held in Africa — a continent which remains the worst sufferer of climate disasters that are taking a heavy toll on lives and livelihoods. Proportional and parallel to the intensification of climatic aberrations, debates and discussions, too, have reached the peak — without much action though. The theme of COP27 — ‘Together for Implementation’ — is aptly reflective of the prevailing circumstances. While the first keyword signifies the much-needed global cooperation, the second a fatigue from inactive discussions. As is known, the world today stands divided on the climate action front — the rich world is pushing developing countries to enhance climate action and wean them away from the use of non-renewable sources of energy while the developing world is demanding appropriate streamlining of climate finance. India, as a leader of developing countries, has come to the centre-stage of the climate action deliberations. At the COP27, right from the beginning, it has held the crux of entire deliberations — climate finance — to the forefront. With a largely suitable setting at the COP27, whether India will be able to break the ice is a critical question. But the focus is right. Until now, the loud talks around climate action have led to a faulty perception that a lot is being done in this regard while, in reality, very little action has materialised. Idea is abstract, and not sufficient in itself. It has to be backed by concrete action. And action at large scale is not possible without appropriate finances. Amid mutual blame games between the developed and the developing world, lack of climate finance is the real curse. As an acknowledgement of their responsibility for overexploiting natural resources to the planet’s detriment, the developed countries at COP15 in Copenhagen (2009) had decided to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to help developing countries tackle the effects of climate change. Despite heavy talks, this promise remained largely a promise. As per a report by the Centre for Science and Environment, the climate finance flow has increased since the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015 but still remains substantially low. In 2015, the overall flow was USD 44.6 billion, and rose to USD 80.4 billion in 2019 and USD 83.3 billion in 2020. This was still below the USD 100 billion promise. If it were USD 100 billion a year, would a significant part of the problem be solved? Certainly not. A standing committee on finance has estimated that USD 6-11 trillion are required till 2030 to meet the targets set by developing countries in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Essentially, the annual USD 100 billion funding flow has by and large become obsolete. Developing countries’ insistence upon it is only symbolic. It is against this background that the developing world is pushing for the new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG) — a brand new climate finance target that may run in trillions. An Indian delegation at the meeting averred that the “ambitious goal set down by the developing countries requires substantive enhancement in climate finance from the floor of USD 100 billion per year”. The nature of this financing should be “long-term, concessional, and climate-specific with equitable allocation between adaptation and mitigation projects.” Transparency is the key word making the rounds. It is reassuring to see that climate deliberations are heading towards a paradigm shift. It remains to be seen how far the developing countries will succeed in bringing about a positive change on the climate action front.

TALKING SHOP



RAJEEV NARAYAN

It is all around us and is now (c)overtly visible, but we nonetheless continue to recuse ourselves. Eventually, we shall pay, petulant as we pretend to be. What’s wrong? It is a factoid. We are shamelessly pretending to be blind

Looming breathlessness

It surrounds us, pollution. It is overtly visible. Yet we transgress. At the end of the day, inordinate souls will pay. What is going so wrong in almost all of us?

“Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become (large) global garbage cans”  
– Jacques-Yves Coustea

Taunt the titans, and they shall surely and eventually strike back, amid-a-force. That is now happening, with a vehemence that is scary and advancing rapidly. Smog of a vicious variety surrounds us and is quite overwhelmingly visible, but we recuse ourselves nonetheless. On a recent drive back to Delhi from Amritsar, I witnessed the mayhem of pollution in its real propensity. At 10 and 11 am, the mis-sus and I rejoiced for a mite over the onset of fog, till we realized that it was just environmental smut (smog) in its most devilish *avataar*. And all along the highway, farmlands were ablaze, spewing untold ashes and particulates into the skies, fanned by north-westerly winds, on to Haryana and Delhi-NCR.

If we go back just a few weeks, despite the hammering verdict of the Supreme Court, Delhi had firecrackers screeching and booming our very innards (I am yet to see a report on how many were arrested or brought to book for their vagrancies). Clearly, we are a true and pliable democracy, one that absolves even law-breakers when they demerit set practices and norms, more so in the name of religious, mental fervour and obstinate discrepancy. We shan’t learn, it seems, even though our skies and lungs bespeak a whimsical tale, a pathetic and less-than-altruistic illustration of the aberration that we have begotten upon ourselves.

How do I manifest this? Well, give me a paragraph or more and I shall show you what we were supposed to be, and what we have turned



Around 80 per cent of people living in Delhi now allegedly suffer from respiratory ailments due to pollution

out to be instead. The numbers shall talk and I find myself and my words a-numbed and a-humbled, much at the feet of symbolic and inundating victories through ache-able and destitute histrionics.

What a drive...

The numbers shall talk, again, and no one can negate them. In all, around 80 per cent of people living in Delhi now allegedly suffer from respiratory ailments due to pollution. Come a bit hither to Uttar Pradesh, where 11 cities have recorded less-than-apt air quality. Here, the ruling party’s Varun Gandhi has quoted rather eloquently, recently, that 110,000 infants were killed in 2019 alone due to air pollution, born after the parents’ long-term exposure to outdoor and household pollution. More so, 1.67 million annual deaths are being (ex)tolled amongst the adult population in this region alone.

Let’s move on then to air purifiers, whose demand has boomed. In Delhi, where pollution-related curbs were lifted and schools opened, the air quality remains “very poor”.

It is thus a tough phase for a majority of Indians who can’t afford air purifiers—I am one of them. For us, life continues amid phlegm, dust and breathlessness. Children grow up with stunted lungs, most amid abject poverty. Mothers clutch dying children and wail their eyes out, but there is no reckoning of whatsoever thereof. At the other end of this (in)glorious spectrum, a new India thrives in SUVs and merry holiday shenanigans.

I saw a gist of this problem with my own eyes—or perhaps I didn’t—for it was all a blurred miasma. The more I drove, the less I could see. I witnessed hundreds of kilometers of a mess that farmers will not admit to, but are creating each year, just before-winter. Governments, apparently, are less than efficacious or capable. They are so impotent or inept that they can’t stop the burning of stubble. Whoa and behold, some entrenched agents even instigate this. End of day, there’s fire, fire, everywhere, and not a g\loot to see.

A complex problem

The situation is complex

and involves many-a-scare intricacies, in this instance the burning of stubble, some resultant dust and a hell of a lot of industrial pollution. Your world and mine is not ideal, nor is this your predicament alone. In a clean and unencumbered world, we may have manifested and corrected our response and responded to this hiatus. Today, we see neither. We are now witnessing a climactic mayhem. How so? Here is how.

Of the 30 most polluted cities in the world, 21 are in India. And at least 14 crore people in India breathe air that is at least 10 times or more polluted than the WHO safe limit. And 13 of the world’s 20 cities with the highest annual levels of air pollution are in India. Wow and woah! Sadly, a further 51 per cent of pollution in India is caused by industries, 27 per cent by vehicles, 17 per cent by crop-burning and 5 per cent by other sources. Yet, we rejoice. Let’s guess which city leads the list in India in terms of abject pollution—Amritsar it is. And that is exactly where I drove from last week.

You want more? India is

the world’s largest consumer of fuel-wood, agricultural waste and biomass for energy. We annually use 14.87 crore tonnes of coal replacement worth of fuel-wood and biomass for energy. The overall contribution of fuel-wood, including sawdust and wood waste, is 46 per cent, all told, the rest being agricultural waste and biomass dung. In urban areas, traditional fuel constitutes 24 per cent and we tend to burn ten-fold more than the United States itself.

What is moral?

Not much. Except that we are running out of resources, give or take a pinch. We are also running out of spleen, guts and nuts. These depletions alone exemplify our running out of breath. I thus tend to look helter and skelter, hither and thither, but I find little solace. For there is little left in that beatified and forgotten whirlwind—the dream is all but gone, as are our wonder-years.

Thus then, I go for a drive down bully-lane, driven by my own redoubtable past. Instead of the bulwark and the edifice that I grew up with and saw till some years back, I now hear un-answerable questions—‘*Kal kya hoga*’ (What shall happen tomorrow)? ‘*Aap meri dekhbhal kareng?*’ (Will you take care of me).

I can answer only with a saying from James Holzhauer, “(I know that...) Life goes on if you make a big bet and lose. But if you don’t give yourself the best chance of winning, you’re going to kick yourself tomorrow.” Through the mist of the fog and the smog that I have witnessed personally, mostly self-created and all ill-contained, we have already kicked ourselves in some rare parts. Let’s see how we sustain.

The writer is a veteran journalist and communications specialist. He can be reached on [narayanrajeev2006@gmail.com](mailto:narayanrajeev2006@gmail.com). Views expressed are personal

An artist with pen

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is widely regarded for his political prowess and intellect but what is often ignored is his excellence in the writing craft

It is almost a rule that we remember individuals for their achievements in their respective fields of popular repute. While doing so we tend to ignore or overlook other accomplishments where they truly displayed merit. How many of us really know that Subhas Chandra Bose, apart from being the patriot of patriots, was also the pioneer of the concept of planning in India. Similarly, we are not so keen to appraise that Gandhiji used to edit as many as six newspapers. This is to an extent applicable when we make an assessment of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru whose name we all memorize as the first Prime Minister of India. Pandit Nehru, along with his achievements as a freedom fighter and as a political leader, was also gifted with the art of expression. He was a devoted writer who could easily combine his intellect with meticulous choice of words. Such was his command over the language that even when he wrote things like chronicles or historical commentaries, the readers experienced a kind of ease and refreshment: it was never drab narration of facts. Pandit Nehru had the opportunity of looking into the diversities of life. He was also well versed in various subjects. Combining his self-acquired knowledge and legacy of learning, Pandit Nehru could churn out thoughts which were not so pedagogical and yet they carried profound sense of understanding. Even with his schedule of activities which, on many occasions, sent him behind the bars, Nehru was never tired of writing. Ironically, some of his best works evolved during his tenure of imprisonment — like ‘*Letters from a Father to His Daughter*’ (1929), ‘*An Autobiography*’ (1936) and ‘*The Discovery of India*’ (1946). All these books have been read around the world.



Nehru’s writings bore a kind of sublimity coupled with penetrative discourse

“I am not a man of letters” wrote Jawaharlal Nehru in one of his missives from jail to his daughter Indira, but of course he was. Nehru changed the course of Indo-Anglican prose; his literary works intertwine literature, history and science all together. All through his life Nehru did not spare any opportunity of writing. His words took the form of drafts and resolutions for the Congress Party. He was exposed to writing essays on contemporary issues for newspapers and journals. Nehru was equally active in penning letters addressed to his friends and colleagues. As the Prime Minister of India, Nehru had the habit of writing long letters to the chief ministers every fortnight. It is clear that despite the responsibilities he had to shoulder, words were always favourite to Nehru for delineating a sense about the

late when he describes it as a “Charter of Slavery”. Such use of antithesis not only pronounces the poignancy of rejection, it also reveals appropriate usage of words. Nehru advocated freedom of press; he considered fearlessness to be mandatory for members of the press. Yet his writings bore a kind of sublimity coupled with penetrative discourse. There is no point of overt excitement in Nehruvian articles. Deep words of protest sound with dulcet manifestations of the English language.

Pandit Nehru was pragmatic enough to understand the utility of communication in English though English happened to be the language of the colonial masters. Like many contemporary Indian leaders, Pandit Nehru accommodated English in his conversation. He strongly believed that in order to reach the world, the importance of the English language was immense. Even if one wants to glorify the heritage of India, to the outside world, English would be utterly needed. This is exactly what Nehru has done in ‘*Discovery of India*’. There is no doubt that the work itself has unveiled India not only before the West but also before many Indians. In ‘*Letters from a Father to His Daughter*’, the way Nehru’s explanation of our epics is not only beneficial to children but it is also beneficial to anyone who is willing to know about our epics in a succinct form. Nehru wrote in various forms — autobiography, letters, historical study, journalism and others. While doing so he strengthened these genres in Indo-Anglian writing. He proved before the world how Indians can frame different pieces of writing. At the same time, Nehru’s works provided a model to contemporary writers and even to those who came afterwards. Today when the entire world pre-

fers lucid writing, we will have to acknowledge that Nehru achieved it much early. He was way ahead of his time in his literary technique that relied on words pleasing to the ear as well as to the mind. In his works like ‘*Glimpses of World History*’ Nehru maintained a kind of objectivity of treatment, which is a point of learning even for modern chroniclers.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a democrat who loved freedom. His writings bear that stamp of free-flowing mind. His prose hovers on the poetic border. Personally, Pandit Nehru was a great admirer of Robert Frost and it is heard that he often used to quote the concluding lines of ‘*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*’. His prose took us miles away from the dreariness of mundane exercise, combining memories of the past and fancies of the future. Nehru was a rationalist in his writings. He featured topics which would draw the attention of the readers. His works can be defined as a delightful cup of intellectual champagne. They inform us, they guide us and they delight us. Nehru is modern in his literary approach although there are touches of romantic temperament in his works. Nehru had a natural metaphoric cast of minds that finds apt portrayal in his writings. His use of images conveys ideas so clinically that the readers easily co-relate words with ideas — who can forget his historic ‘*Tryst with Destiny*’ speech where he says India shall wake to life and freedom. There may not be any better speech declaring the birth of a nation attaining independence. Pandit Nehru remains a writer who can safely claim to be our contemporary.

The writer is an educator from Kolkata. Views expressed are personal



Dear Editor

UNFORGETTABLE TRASHING

This is in reference to the editorial, ‘Outclassed’. India is not likely to forget the thrashing it has received at the semi-finals of the T20 World cup. England could have easily scored another 50 runs easily in the remaining four overs if required. All the post mortems are doing no good to cricket in India. When Pakistan sneaked into the semis thanks to the Netherlands, there were a lot of conspiracy theories floating around that the game was rigged to enable an India Pakistan final so that the ICC could rake in the money. Hopefully, such rumours would now end, not just for this tournament but also for others. Some of the memes on social media were hilarious. But nothing can beat the predictions of a panel of astrologists appearing on a popular Hindi channel who predicted an India victory not just in the semis but also the finals!

—ANTHONY HENRIQUES, MUMBAI, via email

ALREADY DELAYED

This is in reference to the news report, “Withholding names for appointment in higher judiciary not acceptable: SC”. Expressing deep anguish over the Centre not clearing the names recommended by the collegium for appointment of judges in high courts and the SC, the Supreme Court on Friday said that such practice was not acceptable and sought an explanation from the law secretary. The Court further observed that the Centre was not following the guidelines framed by it last year for appointment of judges in a time-bound manner. Incidentally neither has the government attempted to revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) since 2015, nor has SC taken meaningful, proactive steps towards fostering transparency or diversity. Therefore, given that the law as it stands now authorises the collegium to propose judicial appointments, there must be no inordinate delays in appointing judges cleared by the body – government may object only in rare cases and do so quickly. The Centre is free to enact an NJAC but until then both the collegium and government must adhere to set timelines in clearing names.

—KHOKAN DAS, KOLKATA, via email

millenniumpost.in

Log on to write letters to the editor or send them to

[letter2editor.mp@gmail.com](mailto:letter2editor.mp@gmail.com). You can also send your comments to The Editor, Millennium Post, Pratap Bhawan, 5 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110 002



ZELENSKY VOWS TO KEEP PUSHING RUSSIAN FORCES

# After Kherson, Kyiv vows to keep driving out Moscow

Russian retreat from the Ukrainian city marked a triumphant milestone for Kyiv

MYKOLAIV: Ukraine’s president vowed to keep pushing Russian forces out of his country after they withdrew from Kherson, leaving behind devastation, hunger and booby traps in the southern Ukrainian city.

The Russian retreat from Kherson marked a triumphant milestone in Ukraine’s push-back against Moscow’s invasion almost nine months ago. Kherson residents hugged and kissed the arriving Ukrainian troops in rapturous scenes.

“We will see many more such greetings” of Ukrainian soldiers liberating Russian-held territory,” President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address on Saturday.

He pledged to the people in Ukrainian cities and villages that are still under occupation: “We don’t forget anyone; we won’t leave anyone.”

Ukraine’s retaking of Kherson was a significant setback for the Kremlin and the latest in a series of battlefield embarrassments. It came some six weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin annexed the Kherson region and three other provinces in southern and



Ukrainian National guard soldiers fire at Russian positions from an anti-aircraft gun in Kharkiv region

eastern Ukraine in breach of international law and declared them Russian territory. Driving toward Kherson from the Mykolaiv region, AP reporters saw downed electrical lines, used projectile casings and the decomposed carcass of a cow. Several destroyed tanks lined the muddy road.

As Ukrainian forces on Sunday consolidated their hold on Kherson, authorities contemplated the daunting task of clearing out explosive devices and restoring basic public services in the city. One Ukrainian

official described the situation in Kherson as “a humanitarian catastrophe.” The remaining residents in the city are said to lack water, medicine and food. There are shortages of key basics such as bread because of a lack of electricity.

Ukrainian police called on residents to help identify collaborators with Russian forces during the eight-month occupation. Ukrainian police officers returned to the city on Saturday, along with public broadcasting services, following the departure of Russian

troops. The national police chief of Ukraine, Ihor Klymenko, said on Saturday on Facebook that about 200 officers were at work in the city, setting up checkpoints and documenting evidence of possible war crimes.

In what could perhaps be the next district to fall in Ukraine’s march on territory illegally annexed by Moscow, the Russian-appointed administration of the Kakhovka district, east of Kherson city, announced Saturday it was evacuating its employees.

“Today, the administration is the number one target for Ukrainian attacks,” said the Moscow-installed leader of Kakhovka, Pavel Filipchuk.

“Therefore, by order of the government of the Kherson region, we, as an authority, are moving to a safer territory, from where we will lead the district,” he wrote on Telegram.

Kakhovka is located on the left bank of the River Dnieper, upstream of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station.

The deputy head of Ukraine’s presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said six

people died on Saturday as a result of Russian shelling. Writing on Telegram on Sunday, he said four people were killed and one wounded in Ukraine’s eastern Donetsk region, two were killed in the Kherson region, and two wounded in the central Dnipropetrovsk region. In Kherson, photos on social media Saturday showed Ukrainian activists removing memorial plaques put up by the occupation authorities. A Telegram post by Yellow Ribbon, the Ukrainian resistance movement in the occupied regions, showed two people in a park taking down plaques picturing Soviet-era military figures.

Moscow’s announcement that Russian forces were withdrawing across the Dnieper River, which divides both the Kherson region and Ukraine as a whole, followed a stepped-up Ukrainian counteroffensive in the country’s south.

In the past two months, Ukraine’s military claimed to have retaken dozens of towns and villages north of the city of Kherson, and the military said that’s where stabilisation activities were taking place.

AGENCIES

## Ukraine war, tensions with China loom over big Bali summit

NUSA DUA: A showdown between Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin isn’t happening, but the fallout from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and growing tensions between China and the West will be at the fore when leaders of the world’s biggest economies gather in tropical Bali this week.

The Group of 20 members begin talks on the Indonesian resort island Tuesday under the hopeful theme of “recover together, recover stronger.”

While Putin is staying away, Biden will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and get to know new British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Italy’s Giorgia Meloni.

The summit’s official priorities of health, sustainable energy and digital transformation are likely to be overshadowed by fears of a sputtering global economy and geopolitical tensions centered on the war in Ukraine. The nearly nine-month-old conflict has disrupted trade in oil, natural gas and grain, and shifted much of the summit’s focus to food and energy security.

The US and allies in Europe and Asia, meanwhile, increasingly are squaring off against a more assertive China, leaving emerging G-20 economies like India, Brazil and host Indonesia to walk a tightrope between

## The Group of 20 members begin talks on the Indonesian resort island Tuesday under the hopeful theme of ‘recover together, recover stronger’

bigger powers.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has tried to bridge rifts within the G-20 over the war in Ukraine. Widodo, also known as Jokowi, became the first Asian leader since the invasion to visit both Russia and Ukraine in the summer. He invited President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, not a G-20 member, to join the summit. Zelenskyy is expected to participate, likely online.

“One of the priorities for Jokowi is to ease the tension of war and geopolitical risk,” said Bhima Yudhistira, director of the Center of Economic and Law Studies in Indonesia’s capital, Jakarta.

Last year’s G-20 summit in Rome was the first in-person gathering of members since the pandemic, though the leaders of Russia and China didn’t attend.

AGENCIES

## Slovenia votes for president

LJUBLJANA: Slovenians were voting in a presidential runoff on Sunday that could elect the small European Union’s country’s first female head of state, as well as representing a test for the country’s new liberal government.

Liberal candidate Natasa Pirc Musar was leading in the pre-election polls against conservative Anze Logar, although she trailed the former foreign minister in the first round of voting two weeks ago.

Since none of the seven contenders who competed in the first round managed to gather more than 50 per cent of the ballots and claim outright victory, Logar and Pirc Musar went forward to a runoff.

Analysts in Slovenia have predicted centrist and liberal voters would rally behind Pirc Musar.

Casting her vote in a village on the outskirts of Ljubljana, the capital, Pirc Musar urged people to go to the polls and said she would be home with family until the results are announced, “perhaps reading a book.”

The winner will succeed President Borut Pahor, a centrist politician who sought to bridge Slovenia’s deep left-right political divide during his decade in office. Having served two five-year terms, Pahor was ineligible to seek a third.

AGENCIES

## Saudi Arabia has ‘green vision’ at COP27, critics unmoved

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Hydrogen cars and vehicles that capture their tailpipe pollutants. Computer mice made from recycled ocean waste plastic. Hundreds of millions of trees planted in the desert. Saudi Arabia’s vision of an environmentally friendly future is on display just a short drive from the venue of the U.N. climate summit being held in Egypt.

What’s not highlighted in the glossy gallery are the earth-warming fossil fuels that the country continues to pump out of the ground for global export. Fossil fuel emissions are the

reason why negotiators from nearly 200 countries have gathered at the annual two-week conference, haggling over how pollution can be cut and how fast to do it.

In and around the conference, Saudi Arabia is presenting itself as a leader in green energies and eco-friendly practices, with flashy pavilions, glossy presentations and optimistic assessments of technologies like carbon capture, which can remove carbon dioxide from the air but is costly and years away from being deployed at scale.

“We have hugely ambitious goals and targets,” Saudi climate envoy Adel al-Jubeir said at the two-day Saudi Green Initiative Forum on COP27’s sidelines. “We want to be an example to the world in terms of what can be done.” The effort is part of a large push by Saudi Arabia, which has some of the world’s largest reserves of oil and is a leader of the OPEC oil cartel, to make the case that the nation should be part of the transition to renewable energies while holding on to its role as the top global crude oil exporter.

AGENCIES

## ISRAEL POLLS Netanyahu vows to be ‘PM of everyone’

JERUSALEM: Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday promised to be the “prime minister for everyone” after Israeli President Isaac Herzog officially invited the country’s longest-serving premier to form the new government.

Netanyahu, who has won the backing of 64 Members of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), has been assigned the task to form the next government, a statement from the Presidency said, days after the November 1 election, the fifth in four years, to break the political



Benjamin Netanyahu

ical impasse that had paralysed the Jewish nation.

“I decided to bestow upon you, MK Benjamin Netanyahu, the mandate to form a government,” President Herzog told Netanyahu during a meeting at the president’s residence.

Israel’s longest-serving leader, 73-year-old Netanyahu has won a record five elections to hold office five times - more than any other prime minister in the country’s 74-year history.

Netanyahu will have 28 days to form the government.

AGENCIES

## Southeast Asian leaders: Region no proxy for any powers

PHNOM PENH: Indonesia’s president vowed on Sunday not to let Southeast Asia become the front lines of a new Cold War amid increasing tensions between the United States and China, saying as his country took over the chairmanship of the influential Association of Southeast Asian Nations that it would not become “a proxy to any powers.”

Joko Widodo said the 10-nation bloc with a combined population of some 700 million people “must be a dignified region” and “uphold the values of humanity and democracy” principles that have been challenged by last year’s military takeover in Myanmar and concerns about human rights in Cambodia.

“ASEAN must become a peaceful region and anchor for global stability, consistently uphold international law and not be a proxy to any powers,” he said.

AGENCIES

## Two historic aircraft collide at Veterans Day show in Dallas

DALLAS: Two historic military aircraft collided and crashed Saturday during an air show in Dallas, exploding into a ball of flames and sending black smoke billowing into the sky. It was not clear how many people were on board.

Emergency crews raced to the crash scene at the Dallas Executive Airport, about 16 kilometers from the city’s downtown.

News footage from the scene showed crumpled wreckage of the planes in a grassy area inside the airport perimeter. Dallas Fire-Rescue told The Dallas Morning News that there were no reported injuries among people on the ground.

Anthony Montoya saw the two planes collide.

“I just stood there. I was in complete shock and disbelief,” said Montoya, 27, who attended the air show with a friend. “Everybody around was gasping. Everybody was bursting into tears. Everybody was

in shock.”

Officials would not say how many people were on board the planes, but Hank Coates, president of the company that put on the airshow, said one of the planes, a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber, typically has a crew of four to five people. The other, a P-63 Kingcobra fighter plane, has a single pilot.

No paying customers were on the aircraft, said Coates, of Commemorative Air Force, which also owned the planes. Their aircraft are flown by highly trained volunteers, often retired pilots, he said.

A team of National Transportation Safety Board investigators will arrive at the scene of the crash on Sunday.

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson said the NTSB had taken control of the crash scene, with local police and fire providing support.

“The videos are heart-breaking,” Johnson said on Twitter.

AGENCIES

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Executive Engineer, Central Mechanical Division, Nirman Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata-91 on behalf of the Governor of the West Bengal asked for percentage rates for the AMC work (Total: 10 Nos.) against e-NIT No. UDMA/E-NIT/CMDO/07/2022-23. Details may be seen at W.B. Tender Portal. Last date of bid submission is 29.11.2022 upto 11:00 hrs Sd/- Executive Engineer, Central Mechanical Division.

ICA-T19309(3)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
O/o the Superintending Engineer, PWD South-Western Electrical Circle, Sahid Mangal Pandey Sarani, Midnapore-721101  
**Notice Inviting e-Quotation**  
No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIQ23/2022-23 Tender ID: 2022\_WBPWD\_421324\_1  
Name Of Work: (i) works for (G+3) model for single 100 bedded covid ward at Khatra SD Hospital, in the district of Bankura—SITC of Air-conditioning system. Last date of submission of bid: 28.11.2022 upto 12:00 hrs. Further details can be seen in the above mentioned office during working hours or in Official Website [www.pwdwb.gov.in](https://www.pwdwb.gov.in) For all details and online tender submission visit <https://wbntenders.gov.in> Sd/- SE, SWEC, PWDtE.

ICA-T19321(3)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**KMDA TENDER NOTICE**  
e-NIT No: KMDA/HOUSING/EE/DIV-III/ Circle II/NIT-96/2022-2023  
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, DIV-III, Circle II, Housing Sector, KMDA (Erstwhile KIT), Unnayan Bhavan, Dt-13, Sector-II, 1st floor, Block-A, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, from reliable, resourceful, bonafide and experienced firms / companies / individual / partnership / firm contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Dismantling and recasting of platform of OH Tank, replaced by PVC tank with roof treatment and other allied works at roof DS-II Building in KIT Scheme, Civic Center, Utaganda under KMDA, Housing Sector., Rs.16,01,827/- (including GST & LWC), Rs.32,050/-, 03 months, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 02.12.2022 upto 17:00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-797) [www.kmda.wb.gov.in](http://www.kmda.wb.gov.in) [www.wbntenders.gov.in](http://www.wbntenders.gov.in)

ICA-T19301(3)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**Re-e-TENDER NOTICE**  
Sealed bids are invited in respect of e-NIT (NIQ) Ref. No. WBSSCL/MD/KOL/NIQ-31-E/2022-23 Re-tender (2nd Call) dated-09.11.2022 for "Supply and installation of different agricultural implements in different districts of West Bengal upto G.P. level under different govt. scheme / programme." Last date of submission of tender documents: 06.12.2022 upto 04.00 P.M. (online). For further information/corrigendum (if any) please follow the website [www.wbntenders.gov.in](http://www.wbntenders.gov.in) Details may be obtained from the website [www.wbntenders.gov.in](http://www.wbntenders.gov.in) Sd/- Managing Director, WBSSCL.

ICA-T19290(3)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
City Centre, P.O. Debbhog, Haldia Dist. Purba Medinipur, PIN-721057 Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
NIT No. 21/HDA/ES/2022-2023 (2nd Call)  
Online (E-Tender) tender in a two bid system is hereby invited for "ROOF TREATMENT AND INSIDE REPAIRING OF ONE NO OFFICE ROOMS OF DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOL, NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AT DURGACHAK." Estimated Cost of work: 4,16,613.00 (including GST and Labour Welfare Cess) Document downloading date: 15.11.2022 to 25.11.2022 upto 2:30 p.m. Starting date of bid submission: 21.11.2022 at 10:00 a.m. Last date of online bid submission: 25.11.2022 upto 03:00 p.m. Information in details is available in the office and in the website of HDA: [www.hda.gov.in](http://www.hda.gov.in) E-Tender can be submitted through: [www.wbntenders.gov.in](http://www.wbntenders.gov.in) Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA.

ICA-T19305(3)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
The Executive Engineer Salt Lake Construction Division invites e-tender vide Tender ID No. 2022 UDD 420198\_1 vide NIT No. WBUD MAD/SL/PNT-04(e)/2022-23 of ES, SC Division dated: 07.11.2022 Value of work is Rs. 9,70,971.00. Bid submission start date 14.11.2022 at 11:00 hrs. Last date of submission of bid online only is 21.11.2022 upto 11:30 hrs. All documents can be seen / obtained from the website <https://wbntenders.gov.in> Detailed information can also be seen in the website <https://www.wburbanservices.gov.in> and Office Notice Board. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Salt Lake Construction Division.

ICA-T19307(2)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**KMDA TENDER NOTICE**  
e-NIT No: 14/SE/C-II/R&B/KMDA of 2022-2023 (2nd Call)  
Online Tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, Circle-II, R&B Sector, KMDA, Unnayan Bhavan, 7th floor, Block-A, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from reliable, resourceful, bonafide and experienced firms / companies / individual contractors, for the work, Sl.No., Name of Work, Value of the work, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, (1) Yearly maintenance involves of Pot holes repair of carriage way, repair of railing, lowering-refixing and maintenance of height barrier including uprooting the plants of the Vidyapati Setu at Sealdah and 02 Bypass Bridges over Eastern Drainage canal at HG-GC Block and AL-BL Block Salt Lake., Rs.14,53,822/-, Rs.29,056/-, 365 days, (2) Yearly maintenance involves of Pot holes repair of carriage way, repair of railing, lowering-refixing and maintenance of height barrier including uprooting the plants of the Vidyapati Setu, at Gaurbari, Bharat Sevashram Bridge, Buntly Bridge, Vivek Park Bridge, Kamdhari Bridge, Kalitola Bridge over Tolly's Nullah and Kathpool Bridge over Circular Canal north side of Aurobinda Setu., Rs.10,93,512/-, Rs.22,870/-, 365 days, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 02.12.2022 upto 14:00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-799) [www.kmda.wb.gov.in](http://www.kmda.wb.gov.in) [www.wbntenders.gov.in](http://www.wbntenders.gov.in)

ICA-T19303(3)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**IRRIGATION AND WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
e-NIT No.: WBWI/EE-I/LDD/e-NIT-15/2022-23  
e-Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible bonafide contractors for 03 (Three) no. works. Last date & time of bid submission is 28.11.2022 till 16:00 Hrs. Details of tender Notice may be seen at <http://wbntenders.gov.in> or <http://wbwid.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, Lower Damodar Irrigation Division.

ICA-T19326(3)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED**  
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)  
CIN No: U40102WB1961SG025250  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
NIT No. (1) PP/381/2022/TS/E-214 for Annual Repairing Maintenance and Minor Re-Constn. works of Township Building (Residential and Non-residential) roads, drains, culverts and other Civil Engineering Assets of DPL for the year 2022-2023 (Gr.-D). (2) PP/382/2022/TS/E-215 (Work description is as same as Sl.No.1) for (Gr.-E). (3) PP/384/2022/TS/E-216 (Work description is as same as Sl.No.1) for (Gr.-F). (4) PP/383/2022/TS/E-217 (Work description is as same as Sl.No.1) for (Gr.-G). For Sl.Nos. 1 to 4, Bid submission end date: 24.11.2022 and Bid Opening date: 28.11.2022 respectively. (5) WBDPL/PP/T/GM/PP-152/2022/EMPH/E/224 for Up-gradation of U#7 Passenger Lift, Technical Building, D.P.S. Bid submission end date: 22.11.2022. Bid Opening date: 25.11.2022. For further details, please visit: <https://wbntenders.gov.in> / [www.dpl.net.in](http://www.dpl.net.in)

ICA-T19318(2)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
O/o the Superintending Engineer, PWD South-Western Electrical Circle, Sahid Mangal Pandey Sarani, Midnapore-721101  
**Notice Inviting e-Quotation**  
NleQ No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIQ21/2022-23, Tender ID: 2022\_WBPWD\_421304\_1. Name Of Work: El works for (G+3) model for single 100 bedded covid ward at Contal SD Hospital, in the district of Purba Medinipur—SITC of Air-conditioning System. Last date of submission of bid: 28.11.2022 upto 12:00 Hrs. & NleQ No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIQ22/2022-23. Tender ID: 2022\_WBPWD\_421309\_1. Name Of Work: El works for (G+3) model for single 100 bedded covid ward at Haldia SD Hospital, in the district of Purba Medinipur—SITC of Air-Conditioning System. Last date of submission of bid: 28.11.2022 upto 12:00 Hrs. Further details can be seen in the above mentioned office during working hours or in Official Website [www.pwdwb.gov.in](http://www.pwdwb.gov.in) For all details and online tender submission visit <https://wbntenders.gov.in> Sd/- SE, SWEC, PWDtE.

ICA-T19323(3)/2022

**TENDER NOTICE**  
NIT No.: WBZA-29/Over Headed Tank / G M Z of 2022-23  
Tender ID: 2022 DOFR 421920\_1  
The undersigned invites Tenders for repair, renovation & extension of 2 Nos. Over Headed Tank at Garchumuk Mini Zoo, Howrah. Details of which can be seen at <http://wbntenders.gov.in> & <http://westbengalforest.gov.in> Last date of Bid submission is 28/11/2022 Sd/-  
The Ex-officio Director, Garchumuk Mini Zoo & Divisional Forest Officer, Howrah Division

ICA-T19315(2)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ABRIDGED E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tender NIT No. 4/NGP/DCF/URF/2022-23 The undersigned invites e-Tender from eligible contractors/suppliers regarding maintenance works under Namami Gange Plantation Project, for the year 2022-23 under Urban Recreation Forestry Division, 3rd year maintenance (2022-2023) work at various location under Calcutta South Range, Urban Recreation Forestry Division. For e-Tender details can be seen at <https://wbntenders.gov.in> Sd/- (Shri Ram Prasad Badana, IFS) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Urban Recreation Forestry Division.

ICA-T19315(2)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ABRIDGED E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tender NIT No. 33/DCF/URF/2022-23 (3rd Call), 34/DCF/URF/2022-23 (3rd Call) & 36/DCF/URF/2022-23 (3rd Call). The undersigned invites E-Tender from eligible contractors/suppliers for various works regarding Phoolmeela 2022-23 under Urban Recreation Forestry Division. Details can be seen at <https://wbntenders.gov.in> Sd/- R.P. Badana, IFS, DCF, URF Division.

ICA-T19311(2)/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tender - 02 to 03 SILV(H)CAMP/A-2022-23 is invited from the eligible contractors as follows: a) Total No. of works: 2 (Two) Nos. b) Nature of work: (1) Setting up of new Clonal hedge for Gamar and Teak by procuring clonal seedling from certified sources at Bhutabari Nursery & (2) Erecting fencing around nursery at Lava. c) Bid submission starts dt. 16/11/2022 from 10:00 p.m. d) Last date of Bid submission: 23/11/2022 upto 5:00 p.m. e) Name of website: <https://wbntenders.gov.in> Details of work and other terms and conditions can be seen in said website and office notice board of Silviculture (Hills) Division, Sankar Villa, Laden-La Road, Darjeeling-734101. Sd/- Pankaj Suryawanshi, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Silviculture (Hills) Division.

ICA-T19313(3)/2022

## US, Japan, S Korea vow unified response to North Korea threat

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have skyrocketed in recent months

PHNOM PENH: US President Joe Biden and the leaders of Japan and South Korea on Sunday vowed a unified, coordinated response to North Korea’s threatening nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, with Biden declaring that the three-way partnership is “even more important than it’s ever been” when North Korea is stepping up its provocations.

Biden met separately with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol before all three sat down together on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Cambodia.

The US president began by offering condolences for a crowd surge during Halloween festivities in Seoul that killed more than 150 people, saying the US had grieved with South Korea.

The meeting was heavily focused on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s recent escalations, although Biden said the three leaders would also discuss strengthening supply chains and preserving peace across the Taiwan strait, while building on the countries’ support for Ukraine in the face of Rus-



Missile launches from North Korea

sian aggression.

Biden had also planned to seek input from Kishida and Yoon on managing China’s assertive posture in the Pacific region on the eve of his face-to-face with President Xi Jinping.

“We face real challenges, but our countries are more aligned than ever, more prepared to take on those challenges than ever,” Biden said. “So I look forward to deepening the bonds of cooperation between our three countries.”

Both Yoon and Kishida discussed the ongoing displays of aggression by North Korea, which has fired dozens of missiles in recent weeks. The launches include an intercontinental ballistic missile 10 days ago that triggered evacuation alerts in northern Japan, and

as the allies warn of a looming risk of the isolated country conducting its seventh nuclear test in the coming weeks.

Referring to the crowd surge that occurred in the Itaewon neighbourhood in Seoul, Yoon said, through an interpreter: “At a time when South Koreans are grieving in deep sorrow, North Korea pushed ahead with such provocations which lays bare the Kim Jong Un regime’s true inclinations.”

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Saturday that Biden would use the meetings to strengthen the three countries’ joint response to the dangers posed by North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

“What we would really like to see is enhanced trilateral security cooperation where the three countries are all coming together,” he said.

“That’s acutely true with respect to the DPRK because of the common threat and challenge we all face, but it’s also true, more broadly, about our capacity to work together to enhance overall peace and stability in the region.”

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have skyrocketed in recent months as the North continues its weapons demonstrations and the US and South Korea launched stepped-up joint defence exercises.

Earlier this month, the South Korean military said two B-1B bombers trained with four US F-16 fighter jets and four South Korean F-35 jets during the last day of “Vigilant Storm” joint air force drills. It was the first time since December 2017 that the bombers were deployed to the Korean Peninsula. The exercise involved a total of roughly 240 warplanes, including advanced F-35 fighter jets from both countries.

North Korea responded with its own display of force, flying large numbers of warplanes inside its territory.

AGENCIES



# IOC to recycle 20 mn PET bottles annually for eco-friendly uniforms

IOC has already committed to a net zero emission target by 2046

NEW DELHI: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, will recycle 20 million discarded mineral water, cold drink and other PET bottles annually to make eco-friendly uniforms for staff that man its petrol pumps and LPG distributor agencies, its chairman said.

In a glittering ceremony titled 'Unbottled - Towards a Greener Future', IOC Chairman SM Vaidya launched a special 'sustainable and green' uniform exclusively designed for nearly 3 lakh fuel station attendants and LPG gas delivery personnel of the company. "There are 3.1 crore footfalls at our petrol stations every day. We deliver 27 lakh LPG cylinders per day and refuel 3,500



aircraft daily. Our tank trucks traverse 15 lakh kilometres a day. We are there everywhere," he said at the launch event.

IOC, which meets as much as half of the nation's fuel needs, has already committed to a net zero emission target by 2046 and is now venturing into recycling PET bottles, he added.

Empty PET packaging dis-

carded by the consumer after use becomes PET waste. IOC will deploy an agency to collect such bottles - 20 million annually - and convert them into yarn to weave or knit fabric. This will then be supplied to a textile company for manufacturing uniforms for IOC's petrol pump attendants and LPG gas agency staff.

IOC is the first Indian firm to directly venture into the recycling of PET bottles.

The dress materials for these uniforms have been extracted from recycled polyester derived from the processing of used and discarded PET bottles. This initiative would support recycling about 405 tonnes of PET bottles, equivalent to offsetting over 20 mil-

lion bottles yearly.

Bollywood actor and environmental activist Bhumi Pednekar lent her name to the initiative.

Vaidya said, "These eco-friendly uniforms will shine as our green commitment, and I am delighted that our frontline energy soldiers will don them".

"About 8 million metric tonnes of plastic enter the ocean annually, and about 150 million metric tonnes circulate in our marine ecosystems. At this pace, by 2050, there will be more plastics in the sea than fish. The conversion of plastic bottles into fabric is a beautiful example of how diligent handling of problems opens doors to new opportunities," he noted.

AGENCIES

## Sebi to take part in IITF

NEW DELHI: With an aim to spread financial literacy and investor education, capital markets regulator Sebi will participate in the India International Trade Fair at the national capital beginning Monday.

During the 14-day event, Sebi, market infrastructure institutions and industry associations will be organising activities such as talk shows by market experts, quizzes, skits and muppet visuals at investor awareness shows.

Also, there will be a display of major investor friendly policies and facilities and demo of SCORES, which will inform the investors about the Indian securities market, provide information for various products, spread investor education and caution the public against illegal money mobilisation schemes.

The theme of the event for this year is 'Nivesh Ka Amritkal'.

AGENCIES

## Mukesh Ambani's Jio strongest telecom brand in India: TRA

NEW DELHI: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio is India's strongest telecom brand in India, ahead of Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd, according to brand intelligence and data insights company TRA.

TRA, formerly Trust Research Advisory, in its 'India's Most Desired Brands 2022' ranked companies according to their brand strength.

Reliance Jio topped the telecom category, followed by Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea Ltd and BSNL.

In the apparel category, Adidas was the top brand followed by Nike, Raymond, Allen Solly and Peter England.

BMW topped the automobile list, followed by Toyota, Hyundai and Honda, while LIC was ranked 1 on the banking and financial services index



## ITC topped the diversified conglomerate list, followed by Tata and Reliance

that had State Bank of India at number 2 and ICICI Bank at 3rd.

Kent topped the consumer appliances ranking, followed by Livpure and Okaya. In consumer electronics, LG, Sony

and Samsung were the top three brands.

ITC topped the diversified conglomerate list, followed by Tata and Reliance.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) topped the energy list, followed by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Adani.

In the food and beverages category, Amul was the top brand, followed by Nescafe while Fogg was the top FMCG brand, followed by Lakme, Nivea and Colgate.

Philips topped the fast-moving electrical goods list, Mi on the gadgetry list, Himalaya in healthcare, ITC Hotels in hospitality, ACC in manufacturing, KFC in retail and Dell in technology.

Amazon, Facebook, Flipkart and Google were top-ranked firms on the internet brands list.

AGENCIES

## ALL INDIA 69<sup>TH</sup> CO-OPERATIVE WEEK CELEBRATIONS

# ‘Co-operative – As It Stands Today’

ASIS CHAKRABORTY

Chairman, West Bengal State Co-operative Housing Federation Ltd & Vice Chairman, West Bengal State Co-operative Union

Co-operation is an instrument of economic development of the disadvantaged areas. The non-exploitative character of co-operatives voluntary nature of their membership, the principle of one-man vote, decentralised decision-making and self-imposed curbs on profit eminently qualified them as an instrument of development combining the advantages of

private ownership with public good. It is a process of mutual help on the democratic principle. Co-operation has been known and practised in this country since time immemorial. So, co-operation is not, in any way, new to India.

Co-operation is vital to the achievement of common goals in any society. Co-operation refers to the action of working together. The spirit of co-operation rose as far back

as our early ancestors when they shared hunting, fishing, and farming practices to help each other survive. Co-operation is essential in furthering development in any field as it enables collective action toward positive outcomes that benefit many. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much," as the widely used quote by American Writer and Educator Helen Keller.

In ancient India, it took four



principal forms- Kula, Grama, Shreni and Jati. Historically speaking, Kula was the first

form of co-operative activity that emerged in Indian society. It was both a political and

socio-economic organisation in which kinsmen, friends and relatives worked co-operatively to promote their economic, social and political interests. With the expansion and stabilisation of society, the aspects of economic and social co-operations gradually narrowed to the limits of joint family which

## Co-operation is vital to achievement of common goals in any society

has survived to the present day.

In the present era, the idea of co-operative enterprise took concrete shape for the first time in India in 1904. Co-operation was considered as a measure to solve the problem of rural indebtedness. Accordingly, the Co-operative Credit Societies Act was passed on 25th March 1904. The Act pro-

vided the conditions for formation of Credit Societies only.

From 1904 to till date we may divide the history of the co-operative movements into following heads: Early Stage of Development, Period of Hurried Expansion, Period of Unplanned Expansion, Period of Consolidation and Reorganisation, Period of Recovery, and Period of Planned Developments.

Now on the eve of Co-operative week if we discuss the Entrepreneurship Development and Strengthening Public Private at Co-operative Partnership, we can clearly observe that adequate, sustainable, and reliable infrastructure is critical for stimulating the economic growth or at least keeping pace with current growth rates, offering new economic opportunities, facilitating investment in human capital, and achieving sustainable development goals

thereby extending a nation's global reach and it should be easily achieved through introduction of the Public-private Co-operative Models. The aim should be to establish joint enterprises to which the member delegates contribute their functions accordingly. It should be a long-term, regulated co-operation between the different sectors for the efficient fulfilment of public tasks. It should be the realisation of economic advantage and it may help to achieve efficiency gains and may mitigate the additional cost of private finance, and thus relieve state budgets, which is especially important in countries operating under tight budgets.

At the end, we may say that the greater economic efficiency of the co-operative principle is one of the deepest causes of their triumphant and astonishing growth in the face of every obstacle.

মাটিব টানে মানুষের সাথে-সমবায়

মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মমতা বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের অনুপ্রেরণায়

**৬৯তম নিখিল ভারত সমবায় সপ্তাহ উদযাপন**

১৪ই নভেম্বর থেকে ২০শে নভেম্বর, ২০২২

**কেন্দ্রীয় সমাবেশ**

১৪ই নভেম্বর, ২০২২ বেলা ১১টায়

মহাজাতি সদন, ১৬৬, চিত্তরঞ্জন এভিনিউ, কলকাতা-৭০০ ০০৭

—ঃ মূল ভাবনাঃ—

**স্বাধীনতার ৭৫ বর্ষঃ সমবায়ের বিকাশ ও ভবিষ্যত ভাবনা**

—ঃ আজকের বিষয়ঃ—

সহজভাবে সমবায় জেম পোর্টালের ব্যবহারের মাধ্যমে সমবায় ব্যবস্থা ও বাণিজ্যিক প্রসার

উদ্বোধক  
**শ্রী অরুণ রায়**  
মাননীয় ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী  
সমবায় দপ্তর, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

প্রধান অতিথি  
**শ্রী শোভনদেব চট্টোপাধ্যায়**  
মাননীয় ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী  
কৃষি দপ্তর, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

—ঃ গৌরবময় উপস্থিতিঃ—

**শ্রী রথীন ঘোষ**  
মাননীয় ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী, খাদ্য দপ্তর, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

**শ্রী মেহাশিস চক্রবর্তী**  
মাননীয় ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী, পরিবহন দপ্তর, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

**শ্রী জগদীশ প্রসাদ মিনা,** আই.এ.এস  
মাননীয় সচিব, সমবায় দপ্তর, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

**শ্রী অতনু চট্টোপাধ্যায়,** আই.এ.এস  
মাননীয় সমবায় সমিতি সমূহের নিবন্ধক, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ

অনুষ্ঠানে পৌরহিত্য করবেন

**শ্রী স্বর্ণকমল সাহা**  
মাননীয় বিধায়ক ও সভাপতি, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ রাজ্য সমবায় ইউনিয়ন

**পশ্চিমবঙ্গ রাজ্য সমবায় ইউনিয়ন**

আচার্য প্রফুল্ল চন্দ্র সমবায় ভবন  
ভিডি-১৮/৬, সেক্টর-১, সন্টলেক সিটি, কলকাতা-৭০০ ০৬৪

Best wishes for :

**69<sup>th</sup> All India Co-operative Week Celebration**

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# Sembcorp acquires Vector Green

The acquisition will bring its gross renewable energy capacity to 8.5 GW

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Singapore-listed utility company Sembcorp Industries Ltd on Sunday said it will acquire clean energy platform Vector Green Energy for Rs 2,780 crore to expand its renewable energy footprint in India to 3 gigawatts (GW).

Vector Green Energy, owned by funds managed by the Indian subsidiary of Global Infrastructure Partners, has 519 megawatts of operational (495 MW solar and 24 MW wind) and 64 MW of solar projects under development. The firm reportedly also has 1 GW of investment-ready assets in the pipeline.

The completion of the acquisition in the next three months will bring the Singapore-based group's gross renewable energy capacity to 8.5 GW, closer to its 2025 target of 10 GW of gross installed renewable capacity, Sembcorp said in a statement.

The acquisition complements Sembcorp's existing portfolio which comprises 90 per cent of wind energy projects. A solar heavy portfolio of Vector Green Energy will balance it and increase Sembcorp's



Sembcorp Industries Ltd

PTI

spread from 7 states in India to 13 states.

Also, with as much as 90 per cent of operational capacity, Vector Green Energy provides a portfolio that will contribute to cash flows immediately.

Vector Green Energy has a 19-year weighted average remaining life of pacts to sell power. It has signed power purchase agreements for all but 24 MW or 4 per cent of the portfolio.

Vipul Tuli, CEO of South Asia, Sembcorp Industries, said: "This acquisition brings the significant utility-scale solar capacity to our India busi-

ness, which will complement our existing wind portfolio. It also broadens and deepens our renewable energy capabilities and presence across states in India, and positions us well for further green growth in the country."

With this acquisition, Sembcorp will now have a portfolio of 8.7 GW, comprising 6.7 GW operational and the rest under development.

Tuli said, including Vector Green, Sembcorp's gross renewables portfolio installed and under development in India will total 3 GW, comprising 1 GW of solar assets and

2GW of wind assets.

"Sembcorp Industries (Sembcorp) announces that its wholly-owned subsidiary, Sembcorp Green Infra Limited, has signed an agreement with India Infrastructure Fund II, a fund managed by Global Infrastructure Partners India Pvt Ltd, to acquire 100 per cent interest in Vector Green Energy Private Limited (Vector Green) for a base equity consideration of approximately Rs 2,780 crore," it said in the statement.

The completion of the acquisition is subject to customary closing conditions and is expected by the first quarter of 2023.

Besides Sembcorp, electricity producer Torrent Power Ltd too was interested in Vector Green Energy. But, the Singapore utility won the race.

India is seeing a spurt in investments in the renewable sector as it targets to cut 1 billion tonnes of carbon emissions by the end of this decade and reach net-zero by 2070.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has also pledged to cut emissions by 45 per cent from 2005 levels and use non-fossil fuel sources to power half its installed generation capacity by 2030.

Wong Kim Yin, Group President & CEO, Sembcorp Industries, said: "Sembcorp remains committed to growing its renewables portfolio in India, one of the fastest growing renewables markets in the world. This acquisition is aligned with the Group's brown-to-green transformation strategy. With the completion of this acquisition, Sembcorp's gross renewable energy capacity will increase to 8.5 GW, pushing us closer towards our 2025 target of 10 GW."

## COMPETITION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

# 'Revised combination assessment timelines to provide biz certainty'

Mergers and acquisitions are referred to as combinations

**NEW DELHI:** The revised timelines proposed in the competition law will help in making the assessment of combinations swift and time-bound as well as provide certainty to businesses, according to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

A bill to amend the Competition Act is now being examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance.

One of the amendments proposed is to reduce the time limit for approval of combinations to 150 days from the current 210 days and another is that the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has to form a prima facie opinion within 20 days for expeditious approval of combinations.

Generally, mergers and acquisitions are referred to as combinations in competition law parlance.

The corporate affairs ministry has said the overall time limit for assessment of combinations is being reduced to make the process swift and time-bound.

"Time frame of 20 days will provide certainty in terms of a

The proposed amendment will reduce time limit for approval of combinations to 150 days from current 210 days and CCI has to form a prima facie opinion within 20 days for expeditious approval of combinations

prima facie view failing which it will be considered as deemed approved. This will provide certainty to businesses," the ministry said in a recent submission made before the panel. This was in response to comments made by various stakeholders on the changes proposed to the competition law.

According to the ministry, CCI has maintained that approval is accorded generally within 17-18 days but sometimes, it has not taken a prima facie view beyond 30 days which is provided in the combination regulations. There is no cap at present for taking a prima facie view.

Another amendment seeks to balance the flexibility in proposing modifications with the timely review and completion of combinations.

CCI may issue a statement

of objections to parties to a combination, then the parties may offer modifications along with their response to the statement. Then, within an adequate time frame, the modifications may be negotiated and considered by both sides, as per one of the proposed amendments.

The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 5. It will be the first time since the enforcement of the Competition Act in 2009 that amendments will be made to the Act.

The Competition Act was brought in 2002 and subsequently, it underwent amendments in 2007 and 2009. In May 2009, the antitrust provisions of the law came into force and two years later, the CCI started screening mergers and acquisitions.

AGENCIES

## DICGC settles claims worth Rs 8,516.6 crore

**NEW DELHI:** Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation settled claims amounting to Rs 8,516.6 crore during 2021-22 of about 12.94 lakh depositors of liquidated banks, merged entities and those placed under restrictions by the Reserve Bank.

All commercial banks, including branches of foreign banks functioning in India, local area banks, regional rural banks, small finance banks and payment banks, are covered under the Deposit Insurance Scheme.

Out of the Rs 8,516.6 crore claims settled by the DICGC, Rs 5,059.2 crore were towards liquidated and merged banks and Rs 3,457.4 crore pertained

to banks under All Inclusive Directions (AID) of the RBI, said the annual report of DICGC.

Under AID, restrictions are imposed on withdrawals of deposit.

The report said that during the fiscal ending March-2022, claims worth Rs 5,059.18 crore were paid to nearly 10.34 lakh depositors of liquidated and merged banks.

A total of Rs 3,457.44 crore was paid to about 2.6 lakh depositors of banks under All Inclusive Directions, it added. All the claims were related to co-operative banks.

"There were no claims from commercial banks," the report said.

AGENCIES

## 'Rising' interest rates to mute bond issuance

**MUMBAI:** Corporate bond issuance is likely to remain muted witnessing 4-5 per cent growth this fiscal to touch Rs 41.42 lakh crore on rising coupon rates, despite the draw-down more than doubling in the second quarter, a report said.

Bond sales more than doubled to Rs 2.1 lakh crore in the second quarter from the first quarter, when it was at a multi-year quarterly low of Rs 1 lakh crore, as banks issued bonds worth an all-time high of Rs 53,900 crore, and NBFCs, traditionally largest players in the market, issuing securities worth Rs 1.1 lakh crore in Q2, according to an analysis by Icm Ratings.

Non-banking lenders have remained the largest issuers of

NBFCs have remained the largest issuers of bonds with a share of 47% in the first half, followed by corporates and banks at 33% and 20%, respectively

bonds with a share of 47 per cent in the first half, followed by corporates and banks at 33 and 20 per cent, respectively, down from 50, 40 and 10 per cent, respectively from H1FY22, according to the report.

Thanks to bumper sales in Q2, the overall bond issuances rose to Rs 3.3 lakh crore in the first half, and the agency expects Rs 3.7-4.2 lakh crore sales in H2 FY23, marginally higher than the year-ago period, taking the volume of outstanding bonds to Rs 41-42

lakh crore by March 2023. However, this translates into a muted on-year growth of just 4-5 per cent, net of redemptions, with the incremental issuance rising by Rs 7-7.5 lakh crore, up from Rs 6.8 lakh crore in FY22.

The agency attributes the muted volume growth to the rising interest rate regime, which will force issuers to offer higher coupon rates/higher yields which may lead to increased appetite for investors.

The agency expects the 10-year G-Sec yields to harden

to 7.7 percent short-term and remain between 7.3 and 7.7 per cent long term, which will also lead to higher yields from corporate bonds.

Even as domestic bond issuances more than doubled in Q2, external commercial borrowings (ECBs) remained subdued due to rising funding costs overseas.

During the first five months of FY23, ECBs approvals sought from the Reserve Bank fell by 24 per cent to USD 8.3 billion. Given the larger increase in policy rates by central banks and the resultant jump in borrowing costs overseas, the all-in borrowing costs for domestic corporations have been higher than domestic funding costs and are likely to remain so near term.

AGENCIES

## Apple rolls out beta programme for 5G on Apple devices

Software upgrade enables 5G access on Apple devices, as and when service providers enable 5G network access

**NEW DELHI:** Apple Inc has rolled out a beta programme to enable 5G on Apple devices as the upgrade lets users try out pre-release software.

This software upgrade enables 5G access on Apple devices, as and when service providers Jio, Airtel and Vodafone enable 5G network access, sources said.

Apple Users have to enrol for the Beta Programme on the website, install a profile and download the software.

Jio users using iPhone 12 and above, in cities where JioTrue5G has been rolled out, will be invited to the Jio Welcome Offer. Jio Welcome Offer



provides unlimited 5G data at up to 1 Gbps speed to users at no additional cost.

However, there is a condition that prepaid users must be on active Rs 239 and above plan. All Postpaid users are eligible for this trial.

Airtel is not providing any special 5G offer like Jio to their

users. In the cities/areas in which the Airtel 5G network has been launched, users can trial 5G services as a part of their existing plan, once they have updated the latest Apple Beta software.

While an email sent to Apple did not solicit an immediate response, the firm had last month stated: "We are working with our carrier partners in India to bring the best 5G experience to iPhone users as soon as network validation and testing for quality and performance is completed. 5G will be enabled via a software update and will start rolling out to iPhone users in December".

AGENCIES

## Reliance, Nayara Energy to gain from European energy crisis, says Report

**MUMBAI:** The ongoing energy crisis in Europe is expected to benefit Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy as these are among the Asian refiners that produce winter-specification diesel for the European Union, according to a report.

State-owned oil companies are not into exports and that gives an advantage to Reliance – the largest importer of Russian crude and also the largest exporter of diesel from the country – and Russia's Rosneft-owned Nayara.

The energy crisis will only get further aggravated going forward as from next month Opec's 2-million barrel per day production cut comes into force, and from February 5 the ban on Russian imports of refined products comes into force, say oil analysts at LSG group's market data provider Refinitiv.

State-owned oil companies are not into exports and that gives an advantage to Reliance – the largest importer of Russian crude and also the largest exporter of diesel and Russia's Rosneft-owned Nayara

According to them, since the war began in Ukraine, Reliance and Nayara have imported almost 10 times more Russian crude from the pre-invasion levels, at 2.82 million tonnes per month during March-September.

AGENCIES

## Funds vanish at bankrupt crypto exchange FTX

Exactly how much money is involved is unclear, but analytics estimated that \$477 million was missing

**NEW YORK:** Collapsed cryptocurrency trading firm FTX confirmed there was "unauthorized access" to its accounts, hours after the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Friday.

The embattled company's new CEO John Ray III said Saturday that FTX is switching off the ability to trade or withdraw funds and taking steps to secure customers' assets, according to a tweet by FTX's general counsel Ryne Miller. FTX is also coordinating with law enforcement and regulators, the company said.

Exactly how much money is involved is unclear, but analytics firm Elliptic estimated Saturday that USD 477 million was missing from the exchange. Another 186 million was moved out of FTX's accounts, but that may have been FTX moving assets to storage, said Elliptic's co-founder and chief scientist



Sam Bankman-Fried

FILE PHOTO

Tom Robinson.

A debate formed on social media about whether the exchange was hacked or a company insider had stolen funds, a possibility that cryptocurrency analysts couldn't rule out.

Until recently, FTX was one of the world's largest cryptocurrency exchanges. It was already short billions of dollars when it sought bankruptcy protection Friday and its former CEO and

founder, Sam Bankman-Fried, resigned.

The company had valued its assets between USD 10 billion to USD 50 billion, and listed more than 130 affiliated companies around the world, according to its bankruptcy filing.

The unravelling of the once-giant exchange is sending shockwaves through the industry, with companies that backed

Until recently, FTX was one of the world's largest cryptocurrency exchanges. It was already short billions of dollars when it sought bankruptcy protection on Friday and its former CEO and founder, Sam Bankman-Fried, resigned

Frances Coppola, an independent financial and economic commentator. 'And that is just tragic, really.'

The timing and the extent of access that the assumed hacker appeared to achieve, siphoning money from multiple parts of the company, led Coppola and other analysts to theorize that it could have been an inside job.

FTX said Saturday that it's moving as many digital assets as can be identified to a new "cold wallet custodian," which is essentially a way of storing assets offline without allowing remote control.

"It does look as if the liquidators didn't act fast enough to stop some kind of siphoning off of funds from FTX after it filed for bankruptcy, and that's bad, but it just shows how complex this thing is," Coppola said.

Initially, some people were hoping that perhaps all the

missing funds were liquidators or bankruptcy administrators trying to move assets to a more secure spot. But it would be unusual for that to happen on a Friday night, said Molly White, cryptocurrency researcher and fellow with the Library Innovation Lab at Harvard University.

"It looked very different from what a liquidator might do if they were trying to secure the funds," she said.

White also said there are signs of possible insider involvement. It seems unlikely that someone who is not an insider could have pulled off such a massive hack with so much access to FTX systems."

The collapse of FTX highlights the need for cryptocurrency to be regulated more like traditional finance, Coppola said. "Cyprto isn't in the very early stages anymore. We've got ordinary people putting their life savings into it."

AGENCIES





# England's Sam Curran named player of tournament in T20

England had restricted Pakistan to 137 for eight in 20 overs in World Cup



MELBOURNE: England left-arm pacer Sam Curran was named the player of the tournament following his team's five wicket win over Pakistan in the T20 World Cup final here on Sunday.

Curran, who made a come-

back from injury earlier this year, was also the player of the match for his remarkable figures of three for 12 in four overs in the summit clash.

He ended the tournament with 13 wickets at an impressive economy rate of 6.52 runs



per over. "MCG has big square boundaries, so I knew my into the wicket type bowling would work and try to make them hit square of the wicket. We felt the wicket was not as good as we thought it would be.

"It was nipping around everywhere and it was challenge to chase. I go into the wicket with my slower balls and try to keep the batsmen guessing," Curran said after the game. England had restricted Pakistan to 137 for eight in 20 overs. Ben Stokes then scored an unbeaten 52 off 49 balls to help England lift their second T20 World Cup title.

"We are World Champions, how good. Incredibly special (to have Stokes). He is someone I look up to and always turns up when the team needs him, people question him but there's no questioning him, he's the man," said Curran.

"To be honest, I am little bit lost for words, it has been a great tournament. First time for me in a World Cup and we have won it.

"I wanted to be adaptable coming into the tournament. I haven't bowled much at the death before and that is one area I want to keep improving. I want to improve my batting though it is tough to get to bat in this line-up," said the left hander when asked about the road ahead.

SCORECARD	
	
PAKISTAN	ENGLAND
Rizwan (WK) b Sam Curran 15, Babar Azam (C) and b Adil Rashid 32, Mohammad Haris Stokes b Adil Rashid 8, Masood Livingstone b Sam Curran 38, Ifkhar Ahmed Jos Buttler b Stokes 0, Shadab Khan Chris Woakes b Chris Jordan 20, Nawaz Livingstone b Sam Curran 5, Mohammad Wasim Jrc Livingstone b Chris Jordan 4, Shaheen Afridi not out 5, Haris Rauf not out 1; Extras: 9; Total: 137 (8 wks, 20 Ov); Bowling: Stokes-4-0-32-1, Chris Woakes-3-0-26-0, Sam Curran-4-0-12-3, Adil Rashid-4-1-22-2, Livingstone-1-0-16-0, Chris Jordan-4-0-27-2.	Jos Buttler (C & WK) c Rizwan b Haris Rauf 26, Alex Halesb Shaheen Afridi 1, Philip Saltb Ifkhar Ahmed b Haris Rauf 10, Ben Stokes-not out 52, Harry Brook Shaheen Afridi b Shadab Khan 20, Moeen Alib Mohammad Wasim Jr 19, Liam Livingstone not out 1; Extras: 9; Total: 138 (5 wks, 19 Ov); Bowling: Shaheen Afridi-2-1-0-13-1, Naseem Shah-4-0-30-0, Haris Rauf-4-0-23-2, Shadab Khan-4-0-20-1, Mohammad Wasim Jr-4-0-38-1, Ifkhar Ahmed-0-5-0-13-0. RESULT: England won by 5 wickets

## PV Sindhu pulls out of BWF World Tour Finals

NEW DELHI: Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu has withdrawn from the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals as she is yet to fully recover from a stress fracture on her left ankle.

The 2018 edition champion Sindhu had sustained the injury on way to her title winning run at the Commonwealth Games in August.

The BWF World Tour Finals is scheduled to be held in Guangzhou, China from December 14.

"Her doctor has advised her to take some more time so that she recovers completely ahead of the new season. She has discussed about the pros and cons but with so much restrictions in Guangzhou and also keeping new season in mind, she has taken this decision," Sindhu's father PV Ramana told PTI.

"She has already started



her training a couple of weeks back and by January she will be fully fit. So in view of all these reasons, she sent a mail to BAI informing about her decision.

"She will need to be at her best for next year which will have Asian Games and also the 2024 Paris Olympics qualification, playing about 22 tournaments will be tough, so she is taking extra care."

Sindhu's withdrawal means HS Prannoy remains the only representative from India at the prestigious tournament.

While Prannoy is ranked third in the Race to Guangzhou ranking, Kidambi Srikanth too has an outside chance if he does well at the Australian Open super 300 beginning in Sydney on Tuesday.

Lakshya Sen had also withdrawn from the Australia event due to a throat infection.

## Nunez double secures Liverpool win against Southampton

LIVERPOOL: Darwin Nunez signed off for the World Cup in style by scoring twice in Liverpool's 3-1 win against Southampton in the Premier League.

The Uruguay international took his season's total to nine goals in all competitions, which is one more than Sadio Mane at the same stage last year. Nunez's strikes underlined his growing influence on Liverpool, with seven goals in his last 10 appearances. It also ensured Jurgen Klopp's team headed into the Premier League's break for the World Cup in high spirits

after such an uncertain start to the season. Back-to-back league wins against Tottenham and Southampton will lift the mood around Anfield after losing four times already. With qualification to the round of 16 of the Champions League also secured, it means Liverpool can look ahead to the resumption of the campaign in December with some optimism. A title challenge may already look beyond Klopp's team but the German will see green shoots of hope, not least in the form of his major summer acquisition, Nunez.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER			
e-Tender Notice for Repair and Renovation work for establishing satellite eye OT at Taki RH under Harnabad Block, Basirhat Health District (Electrical Works), vide NIT No-18/2022(2nd call), dt- 10.11.22 (last date-22.11.22). For details visit: <a href="http://www.wbtenders.gov.in">www.wbtenders.gov.in</a> and <a href="http://basirhathealthdistrict.in">http://basirhathealthdistrict.in</a> Sd/- CMOH, Basirhat cum Secretary, DHFWs, Basirhat Health District.			

ICA-T192812|2022

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE			
NIT No. 01/2022-2023 e-Tender is invited by the Commandant, Gorkha Bn, Siliguri, Darjeeling, for Construction of Sentry Post 1, Sentry Post 2 and Sentry Post at main gate of Gorkha Bn, Siliguri, Darjeeling. Estimated cost Rs. 3,61,353.00/- Earnest money Rs. 7250/- period of completion 30 days. The last date for submission of e-tender is within 07 days from the date of publications. The bid forms and others can be obtained from the website <a href="https://wbtenders.gov.in">https://wbtenders.gov.in</a> Sd/- Commandant, Gorkha Battalion, Siliguri, Darjeeling.			

ICA-T193282|2022

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE			
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, e-Tender is invited by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Diamond Harbour Health District, South 24 Parganas, Pin-743331 for the work construction of common collection site, Repair & Renovation works of HMCS, shed for DRs building from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 22/11/2022 at 5:00 P.M. For Details, Please visit the website <a href="http://www.wbtenders.gov.in">www.wbtenders.gov.in</a> or the Office of the Undersigned. Sd/- CMOH, DHHD.			

ICA-T192832|2022

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL O/O DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ARD & PO, PASCHIM BARDHAMAN STATE POULTRY FARM, DURGAUR, PIN- 713202 Phone- 0343-2554455, email- ddardpaschimbardhaman@darahwb.org			
TENDER ID-2022_ARD_414881_1 e-NIT No. WBARD/Heifer/NIT02/2022-23 e-Tenders are invited from the SHG or Sangha of SHG or any agency or suppliers/Individuals having experience in this field for rate contract for twelve months for supply of cross-bred Jersey/upgraded Gir heifers up to GP Level of different Blocks in the District of Paschim Bardhaman. Intending bidder may download the tender documents from the website <a href="http://wbtenders.gov.in">http://wbtenders.gov.in</a> / <a href="http://wbard.gov.in">http://wbard.gov.in</a> . Documents can be downloaded up to 5.00 PM on 22.11.2022 and Bid submission is up to 5.00 PM. on 22.11.2022.			
Sd/- Deputy Director, ARD & PO, Paschim Bardhaman			

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-Tender				
Type of Scheme	NIT	No. of Scheme	Fund	Last Date of Bid submission
Construction of Toilet Block for female at Pingla Block premises under Pingla Panchayat Samiti.	65 (3rd Call)	01	15th FC	22.11.2022 upto 17:30 hrs.
Installation of six(6) nos water treatment Plant under Pingla Panchayat Samiti.	66-71 (2nd Call)	06	15th FC	22.11.2022 upto 17:30 hrs.
Construction of Seven (7) nos. Tali Pailing under Pingla Panchayat Samiti.	72-78 (1st Call)	07	15th FC	22.11.2022 upto 17:30 hrs.
Pre-bid Meeting: 17th November 2022 at 14:00 hrs onward Details of the Tender notice is available in <a href="https://wbtenders.gov.in">https://wbtenders.gov.in</a> Sd/- Executive Officer, Pingla Panchayat Samiti Memo No. 2742(2)/Advt./ICA/Paschim Medinipur Dated - 11.11.2022				

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-Tender			
Type of Scheme	NIT	Fund	Last Date of Bid submission
Infrastructure Strengthening of 2 (two) nos Sub Center to Health Wellness Center (SC to HWC) within Pingla Dev. Block.	BDO/PINGLA/e-NIT/67-68 (3rd Call) /XV FCHG/2022-23	XV FCHG	22.11.2022 up to 17:30
Construction of Boys toilet at Dangaiba No-02 Primary school.	BDO/PINGLA/e-NIT/69 /M.A.M.E.D./ 2022-23	M.A. M.E.D.	22.11.2022 up to 17:30
Pre-bid Meeting: 17th November 2022 at 14:00 hrs onward Details of the Tender notice is available in <a href="https://wbtenders.gov.in">https://wbtenders.gov.in</a> Sd/- Block Development Officer Pingla Development Block Memo No. 2744 (2)/ Advt./ICA/Paschim Medinipur Dated - 11.11.2022			

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL E-TENDER NOTICE NO- WBFOR/DFOPUR/NIT-36 /2022-23 (PROJECT 05 & 10) (2nd Call) CONSTRUCTION OF WATER DETENTION STRUCTURE UNDER DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, PURULIA DIVISION OF 2022-23 (2 nos) (2nd call)			
E-Tender Notice in the prescribe format is invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Purulia Division from bonafide P.W.D Supplier/Firm for E-TENDER NOTICE NO- WBFOR/DFOPUR/NIT- 36 /CONSTRUCTION OF WATER DETENTION STRUCTURE UNDER DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER PURULIA DIVISION OF 2022-23 (PROJECT 05 & 10) (2nd call) as per enclosed list. Necessary information about the tender may be seen in the office of the undersigned. The date of publication of tender is 14.11.2022. The last date of submission of Bid 30.11.2022. The date of opening of technical bid is 03.12.2022. For terms and conditions and other details visit website <a href="https://www.wbtenders.gov.in">https://www.wbtenders.gov.in</a> and office of the undersigned. Memo no 1772/ICA/PURU dated: 21/10/2021			
Sd/-Divisional Forest Officer Purulia Division			

## England change history

DEBASHIS DATTA

### Highlights

MELBOURNE: The Melbourne Cricket Ground was abuzz during the dinner break. There is no doubt that the decibel level of this field would have exceeded if it was India-Pakistan final.

Another reason why excitement didn't build is because the gallery was empty to begin with. As the match progressed, the gallery was filled to the brim with excitement as Pakistan finished at 137 for 8. Sam Curran (3 for 12), Adil Rashid (2 for 22) bowled a controlled and professional line and length. Chris Jordan chipped in beautifully (2 wickets for 27 runs).

Kevin Curran's son was given the 'Man of the Match' award. Sam Curran also picked up the recognition of 'Man of the Series' by bagging 13 wickets. All in all, the English bowlers took Pakistan by storm with some brilliant bowling.

Shan Masood (38), Babar Azam (32) tried hard. But as the first wicket pair was broken at 29 runs, the consistency of the Pakistani batting was lost.

With comparatively a modest target to defend, the Pak bowlers tried to overpower by bowling fast. But it was not enough. This England team is very professional. Jos Buttler himself knew this best. So, he made no mistake in announcing the party in Trafalgar Square in advance.

The 100,000-seat stadium

» Kevin Curran's son was given the 'Man of the Match' award

» All in all, the English bowlers took Pakistan by storm with some brilliant bowling

» England had to wait till the 19th over to win because Shaheen and Shadab Khan were there

» After winning the 50-over World Cup at Lord's in 2019, England won the 20-over

was empty. Shaheen Afridi brought the touch of the timber by bowling Alex Hales in the first over. Who is the most dangerous bowler at the moment in world cricket? Shaheen's name will be the most contested in the quiz contest.

England had to wait till the 19th over to win because Shaheen and Shadab Khan were there. Finally the victory came with 6 balls to spare. After winning the 50-over World Cup at Lord's in 2019, England won the 20-over World Cup in Melbourne in 2022.

The power of the English is gradually increasing with the white ball.

During the dinner break, many did not want to understand that there would be a competitive atmosphere in the match.

Not only Shaheen or Shadab, but Rauf and Wasim too were trying to keep England tied with lively bowling.

54 off 45 balls, Pakistan regained strength after Brooke got out. Once the situation was 40 runs off 28 balls. 19 runs from 12 balls, in that situation - a short but important innings by Moeen Ali put England in control of the match. There was great excitement among the English supporters in the gallery.

With the question, do you think Ben Stokes will lose? Stokes is in charge of building the innings. There were 5 boundaries and an over boundary in the innings of 52 runs off 49 balls.

Mohammad Wasim Jr sent back Moeen.

Will Pakistan return to the game? The question did not last long. Ben Stokes got the winning run by sending Wasim to the mid-wicket boundary.

Jos Buttler then took over the MCG from the dugout. In 1992, I saw the opposite picture in the 50-over World Cup final.

Ian Botham, Alan Lamb left the field heartbroken. And that day Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, Javed Miandad were all over the field.

Did England take revenge for that defeat 30 years ago?

I was seeing a placard in the hands of the Pakistanis in the gallery at the beginning of the game, 'History will repeat today'. No, the Babars could not repeat history.

NOTICE	
West Bengal Pollution Control Board	
In compliance with Notification No. S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India, it is hereby notified that, the Public Hearing for the proposed expansion of Sponge Iron Plant (60,000 TPA to 1,90,000 TPA) along with new installation of Manganese Sinter Plant (1x60 TPD), Ferro Alloy Plant (2x9 MVA) with Jigging Plant (2x30 TPD), Chrome Briquette Plant (1x20 TPH) and 33 MW Captive Power Plant (25 MW CFBC & 8 MW WHRB) at Plot No. G-4/A, Mangalpur Industrial Estate, Raniganj, Dist - Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal by M/s. Shreesatya Sponge & Power Private Limited is hereby scheduled on <b>22.12.2022 at 12.00 Noon</b> at MIDWAY NO. - 1 Hotel, G. T. Road (NH-2), Punjabi More, PO - Searsole Rajbari, Raniganj, Dist - Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN - 713358.	
Any person or association of persons who feel that he / it might be affected or the local authority involved, may consult the copies of Executive Summary of the project (English and Bengali) and draft EIA-EMP report would be available at the (1) Office of the District Magistrate, Dist - Paschim Bardhaman, Govt. of West Bengal (2) Office of the Additional District Magistrate (LR), Paschim Bardhaman (3) Office of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Asansol (4) Office of the Block Development Officer, Raniganj, Paschim Bardhaman (5) Office of the General Manager, D.I.C., Paschim Bardhaman (6) Office of the Sabhadhipati, Paschim Bardhaman Zilla Parishad (7) Office of the Raniganj Panchayat Samity, Paschim Bardhaman (8) Office of the Ballapur Gram Panchayat, Paschim Bardhaman (9) Office of the Environmental Engineer, Asansol Regional Office, WBPCB, Kalyanpur Satellite Township Project (KSTP), Kalyanpur, Asansol - 713305, Dist - Paschim Bardhaman (10) Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal, Pranisampad Bhavan, 5th Floor, Block 'LB-2', Sector - III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata 700 106 (11) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Kolkata, IB-198, Sector - III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 106 (12) Head office of West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Paribesh Bhawan, 10A, Block - LA, Sector - III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 106, Executive Summary, Draft EIA report and the application form of the project would also be available in the website of the Board: <a href="http://www.wbpcb.gov.in">www.wbpcb.gov.in</a>	
Any person or groups who might be locally affected from the proposed project or activity may participate in the public hearing to be held on <b>22.12.2022 at 12.00 Noon</b> at MIDWAY NO. - 1 Hotel, G. T. Road (NH-2), Punjabi More, PO - Searsole Rajbari, Raniganj, Dist - Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN - 713 358. They may make verbal or written suggestions / objections in the matter in the public hearing meeting. Any other concerned persons having a plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity may make suggestions / objections in writing to the Chief Engineer (EIM Cell), Paribesh Bhawan, 10A, Block - LA, Sector - III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 106 before the date of public hearing.	
Member Secretary West Bengal Pollution Control Board	

NOTICE	
West Bengal Pollution Control Board	
In compliance with Notification No. S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India, it is hereby notified that the Public Hearing for the proposed Synthetic Resin Production Plant (UF Resin & MF Resin) at Plot No. 766, JL no. 6, Khatian No. 205, Rahimpur More, Ethelbari, Dist - Alipurdwar, West Bengal by M/s. Bansal Udyog is hereby scheduled on <b>15.12.2022 at 12.00 Hrs.</b> at the project site of M/s. Bansal Udyog at Plot No. 766, JL no. 6, Khatian No. 205, Rahimpur More, Ethelbari, Dist - Alipurdwar, West Bengal.	
Any person or association of persons who feel that he/it might be affected or the local authority involved, may consult the copies of Executive Summary of the project (English and Bengali) and draft EIA/EMP report which would be available at the (1) Office of the District Magistrate, Alipurdwar (2) Office of the Additional District Magistrate and DL&RO, Alipurdwar, (3) Office of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Alipurdwar Subdivision, Alipurdwar (4) Office of the Block Development Officer, Uttar Madarihat Development Block, Alipurdwar (5) Office of the General Manager, D.I.C., Alipurdwar, (6) Office of the Sabhadhipati, Alipurdwar Zilla Parishad (7) Office of the Uttar Madarihat Panchayat Samity (8) Office of the Sishujhumra Gram Panchayat, Alipurdwar (9) Office of the Environmental Engineer, Siliguri Regional Office of WBPCB, Paribahan Nagar, PO - Matigara, Siliguri, Darjeeling, PIN - 734010 (10) Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal, Pranisampad Bhavan, 5th Floor, LB-2, Sector - III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata 700 106 (11) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Kolkata IB-198, Sector - III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 106 (12) Head office of West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Paribesh Bhawan, 10A, Block - LA, Sector - III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 106, Executive Summary, Draft EIA Report and the application form of the project would also be available in the website of the Board: <a href="http://www.wbpcb.gov.in">www.wbpcb.gov.in</a>	
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Member Secretary West Bengal Pollution Control Board	



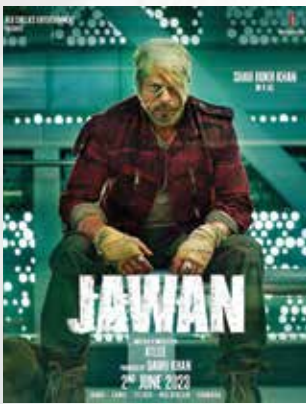


# ‘Pathaan’, ‘Dunki’, ‘Jawan’ will be ‘superhits’: SRK

The Bollywood superstar is excited to see himself ‘back on the silver screen’, just like all his fans

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who’s returning to the big screen after a hiatus of over four years, is looking forward to the release of ‘Pathaan’, which arrives on January 25, 2023. After that, he has Atlee’s ‘Jawan’ and Rajkumar Hirani’s ‘Dunki’, both of which are slated for release in 2023. Despite the long gap, the actor said at an event that he is ‘not nervous’. Instead, he is excited to ‘see Shah Rukh Khan back on the silver screen’, just like all his fans.

Shah Rukh Khan recently attended the 41st edition of the



Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) 2022 at Expo Centre in Sharjah, UAE. He was honoured with the ‘Global Icon of Cinema and Cultural Narrative’ award at the event and he also interacted with journalist Faye D’Souza there.

On being asked if he is nervous about his upcoming releases, SRK replied, “I don’t think I need to be nervous. They’re all going to be superhit films.”

He further explained why

his statement is not ‘arrogant’: “That’s the belief I sleep with, I wake up with and that’s the belief that makes the 57-year-old me do stunts and work 18 hours a day. If I didn’t have that belief that I was making a product that lots of people were going to like, then I wouldn’t be able to do it. So, it’s not an arrogant statement; this is what I like to believe. It’s a child-like belief that ‘look, I have prepared my best, I have done my best and I am going to pass with flying colours.’”

Recalling how he has had the same self-confidence since he was a child, SRK said, “I remember acing my mathematics exam. I remember doing very well and as a result, I got 3 out of 100. But I thought I had really done well.” Shah Rukh spoke about the inherent uncertainty surrounding a film’s success: “Sometimes that happens with movies also. I do make a ‘Zero’. Sometimes my efforts come to the fore and there is a ‘Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge’.”

AGENCIES



## Rakesh Kumar breathes his last in his 80s

MUMBAI: Veteran director Rakesh Kumar, known for films like ‘Mr Natwarlal’, ‘Khoon Pasina’, ‘Do Aur Do Paanch’ and ‘Yaarana’ with megastar Amitabh Bachchan, has passed away.

According to media reports, the filmmaker died after a long battle with cancer on November 11. He was in his 80s.

Kumar served as assistant director to Prakash Mehra’s 1973 blockbuster ‘Zanjeer’, headlined by Bachchan, before foraying into directing with ‘Khoon Pasina’ in 1977. His film credits also included movies such as ‘Commander’, ‘Kaun Jeeta Kaun Haara’ and ‘Suryavanshi’.

Bachchan also shared the news of Kumar’s death in a post on his official blog on the night of November 12.

“Morose is the day, for another colleague has left us and me in particular. Rakesh Sharma, first assistant director to Prakash Mehra on ‘Zanjeer’, then independent director for other PM (Prakash Mehra, as we often joked with him, as the PM of the country) films and singularly, ‘Hera Pheri’, ‘Khoon Pasina’, ‘Mr Natwarlal’, ‘Yaarana’, et al and such great cama-

radierie on sets and elsewhere, socially, during events and Holi,” the 80-year-old actor wrote.

Bachchan said Kumar has left an imprint that is ‘hard to remove or forget’.

“His sense of screenplay and direction, writing and execution on the spur of the moment and the fun times on location during ‘Nattu’ and ‘Yaarana’; his complete faith in his worth and the ease with which he would grant us the liberty of skipping shootings on an odd day, just to be able to spend time relaxing, fooling around and being in the company of uncontrollable laughter and gaiety,” he added.

The ‘Uunchai’ star remembered Kumar as the ‘most affable and kind-hearted human’ who was always ready to deal with the inconveniences faced by artists.

“You made many of us prominent with your innovative ideas for story and film, Rakesh and you shall ever be remembered,” he added.

Kumar is survived by his wife, son and daughter. A prayer meeting was held for him on November 13 in Andheri. PTI

## 6th edition of VoW begins in Dehradun

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

On November 12, Valley of Words’ sixth edition began with music from the mountains resonating in the Dehradun valley. Under a bright blue sky, VoW 2022’s colours set the perfect stage for authors, panelists, winners, artists, guests, judges, jurors, students and teachers who all came together to celebrate the written word.

Dhol Damaun’s music set things in motion as Uttarakhand’s governor, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Gurmit Singh, gave his inaugural speech. This was followed by him launching the VoW 2022’s ‘First Day Cover’, along with launching editions of the magazines ‘The Book Review’ and ‘Tadbhav’, which carry English and Hindi reviews of all the 40 short-listed books under eight categories for 2022. The director of the Uttarakhand Cultural Department, Beena Bhatt, Uttarakhand Chief Postmaster General Amitabh Kharkwal and NABARD director Bhaskar Pant were also present on the stage.

In his inaugural speech, Gurmit Singh spoke about the power of words and his association with ‘VoW’. Encouraging the audience to write



In his inaugural speech, Gurmit Singh spoke about the power of words and his association with ‘VoW’

and read and elaborating on the power of the written word, he said, “If you see the word ‘speak’ and remove the first letter ‘S’, then you have ‘peak’ and that is where words can take you. Speak when you must and speak well!” This was followed by a wonderful dance and mime performance by students from the Bajaj School of Learning, who got everyone’s feet tapping and left the audience smiling long after their

performance was over.

Multiple panels were held on the Plenary Lawn, including the school debate’s finale, ‘Iti Nritya’, which featured Mohiniyattam and Kathak performed by classical dancers Nirmuktha Arun and Esha Nana; ‘Kavi Sammelan’ and ‘Mushaira’ and a thorough discussion on ‘Film Industry as the Growth Driver of Uttarakhand’s Economy’, with Satish Sharma, Kunal Malla and Abhinav Kumar. In the end, a soulful musical was performed by artists from the ITC Sangeet Research Academy.

At ‘Hall of Words’, many sessions were held, like the launch of Nirmal Kanti Bhat-tacharjee’s translation of the late Samresh Bose’s book ‘In Search of Pitcher of Nec-

tar’, a scintillating discussion between Satish Aikant and VoW awardee Rudrangshu Mukherjee on his book ‘Tagore and Gandhi: Walking Alone, Walking Together’ and Professor Mukherjee’s conversation about the Indian texts with panelists Raja Sekhar Vundru and others. The younger audience witnessed Ratna Manu-cha and Richa Jha having a book discussion on ‘When Mommy was a Little Girl’ with VoW awardee Mamta Nainy. Poet Rati Agnihotri brought together a galaxy of hand-picked poets from Dehradun with Kaushik Ghosh and others for a beautifully curated ‘Poetry Café’.

Many book launches and conversations took place at

‘Conversations in the Valley’, including the talk on the book ‘Yaadon Ke Bikhre Moti: Batwaare Ki Kahaniya’; the book launch session of Uttarakhand ki Patrakarita: Swatantrata Andolan se Vartaman Tak’ and the launches of Dr Anita Jain Bhatnagar’s books, ‘Dilli Ki Bulbul’, ‘Baal Kahani Chauri Chaura’ and ‘Miss Seha’, which were discussed with Palak Jha, Sachin Chauhan and Anjali Rana. Lovers of Hindi literature were in for a treat as the event organised a conversation on contemporary writing in Hindi. The first day’s session of the ‘VoW International Literature and Arts Festival’ concluded with authors Geeta Gairola and L. Aruna Dhir talking about their books, ‘Gunje Anhad Naad’ and ‘Hotel Adventures with the Stars’.

NABARD organised a special exhibition featuring several stalls and the GI products of Uttarakhand, including the beautiful art form ‘Aipan’. The ‘Iti Lekh’ exhibition has multiple book stalls from publishers around the country, especially many Hindi publishers this year. While ‘Iti Smriti’ has sustainable ‘VoW Memorabilia’ products, volunteers have set up their exhibitions for their various artistic endeavours.

## It feels so inclusive: Priyanka Chopra

Actor, producer and entrepreneur Priyanka Chopra enjoys a massive fan following not only in Bollywood but also in Hollywood. Recently, she opened up about her journey in Hollywood and how the diversity in the entertainment industry is an exciting time for actors.

The ‘The Sky Is Pink’ star stated that as an actor, she was always thinking about an opportunity in English language movies because they travel universally vs a specific language.

Elaborating further, Chopra added that it’s really an exciting time to not just be able to be a part of cinema no matter where in the world you are from, but to be a part of Hollywood English international cinema, which was always a check in the box for actors like her who come from outside of America.

“It feels so inclusive,” she said. Priyanka further added that diversity now feels more real to her. She said that streaming has given us the ability to not just be a part of English-language movies but also, they have our movies. She also revealed that her mother watches Korean dramas all night. The actor is very excited to be able to see such incredible diversity.

On the work front, Priyanka will soon be seen in ‘Love Again’, co-starring Sam Heughan and Celine Dion. She also has OTT series ‘Citadel’, which is backed by Russo Brothers. Back in Bollywood, Priyanka has signed up to play the lead in Farhan Akhtar’s upcoming film ‘Jee Le Zaraa’, which also features Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif in lead roles. This road trip drama is scheduled to go on floors next year.

AGENCIES



## ‘Awareness is the only weapon to fight against diabetes’

Diabetes in India has traversed from high-income to middle-income and underprivileged sections

DR SMITA JOSHI

When the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic hit the world, it disproportionately affected the population with diabetes, exposing them to a high risk for severe illness and mortality. Globally, diabetes was responsible for over 40 lakh deaths in 2019. It was the leading cause of end-stage kidney disease, adult-onset blindness, cardiovascular diseases and premature deaths across the countries.

India is home to the world’s second-largest adult diabetes population and every sixth person with diabetes in the world is an Indian. The past three decades have witnessed a 150 percent increase in the number of people with diabetes in the country. The growing prevalence of pre-diabetes indicates a further increase in diabetes in the near future. Diabetes in India has traversed from high-income to middle-income and underprivileged sections of our society.

With over 10 lakh children

and adolescents in the world having type 1 diabetes, India has the highest number of incidents and prevalent cases of this condition in the world. Children with this condition need support to survive by using insulin and other therapies to live their entire life without stigma, restrictions or disabling complications due to their illness.

Intensive management of all aspects of diabetes, especially glycaemic control, is now the gold standard in type 1 diabetes management. At the same time, there is a significant advancement in technology for diabetes care, including newer insulin analogues, pumps, automated insulin delivery systems and sensors. A multidisciplinary team of providers is essential for comprehensive diabetes management.

Unfortunately, in India, there is an extreme lack of awareness regarding children having type 1 diabetes, so scientific protocol for this management is not maintained and premature deaths of diabetic children occur.

Awareness is the only weapon to fight against diabetes.

In the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that is, Gujarat, close to his birthplace, Vadnagar, is another town called Visnagar, where a conversation took place between a poverty-stricken mother and her little daughter. With tear-filled eyes, the mother shared her anxiety with a doctor. The intensity of her sadness could be felt from the fact that she said it must be their countless sins in past lives on account of which she had to administer insulin to her frail, diabetes-stricken four-year-old daughter, as many as three to four times a day. A heart-wrenching experience! Yet, stopping her emotional mother mid-sentence, the little girl said, “Mother please don’t cry. The needle doesn’t hurt me at all. But your tears and headache hurt me way much more.”

Hearing this exchange between the mother and tender-aged daughter proved to be an emotionally disturbing experience for the doctor as her eyes filled with tears of compassion. I, as a doctor, narrated the

deeply moving scenario to my sister, Dr Shukla Raval. We both then took an oath to use our own resources and put in our utmost efforts, day and night, to create awareness of children’s diabetes and spread knowledge together with a better understanding of type 1 diabetes and its management.

We began our humanitarian drive of creating awareness of child diabetes with full zeal. From February 28 to March 14, 2019, we drove in our car from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari, met doctors, NGOs and other members of the society and stirred awareness about diabetes’ presence in children. We also held talks about methods of preventing diabetes complications, its management and solutions. This 3,500-kilometer north-south stretch was covered at our own cost as we overcame hardships and hurdles effortlessly. We met the president of AAPI in Atlanta and shared the stage at the ‘AAPI Convention’ on July 4, 2019. On returning to India, we appealed to the Indian government to help dia-

betes-afflicted children.

As soon as the intensity of the Coronavirus spread reduced, the campaign picked up the pace as we reached out to diabetic children in far-flung areas where medical help was scarce.

A point to note is that to manage and check diseases that afflict children, there is a very good national health program, namely, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK). Ironically, type 1 diabetes is not included in this health program for children. As a result, diabetic children are unable to receive any benefit under this program, which is meant for every child in India. Interestingly, the RBSK health program works on a 4D concept, which stands for coverage of ‘any deficiency, any defect, any disease and any developmental delay in children’. Type 1 diabetes can’t be ignored as a serious disease as it pertains to the deficiency of the insulin hormone, posing a threat to life. Diabetes is a malfunction of the pancreas, which secretes this hormone.

Diabetes should be covered

under RBSK. It must be a part of the ‘National Health Scheme’ so that there are widespread beneficiaries as 30 other diseases are part of this government scheme.

There is another program titled ‘Non-Communicable Disease Program’ (NCD) at the national level for the management of diabetes in India. Unfortunately, at the ground and village levels, screening and management programs for only 30 years plus age group is catered to under this scheme. Thus, a huge gap exists between the NCD program’s policy on paper and its actual implementation at the rural and grassroots levels.

Once again, child health and welfare are omitted. Consequently, children, who are sufferers of diabetes there, have no government health programs. Such an approach indicates that scientific management of type 1 diabetes is not covered under any national health program, RBSK or NCD.

(Dr Smita Joshi is a writer, a doctor and a diabetic expert by profession)