

## Charges of abetment of suicide of a lady staff cited

### Probe ordered against former AC, Rangat



KARTIK

**MAYABUNDER, NOV 10/--/** The Chief Judicial Magistrate, North & Middle Andaman, Mayabunder has ordered the Rangat Police Station in Middle Andaman to treat the complaint filed by the mother against the former Assistant Commissioner, Rangat as FIR and start a probe against the former Assistant Commissioner, Rangat into allegation pertaining to abetment of suicide. The complainant (mother of a government employee working in AC's Office, Rangat who committed suicide) approached the CJM, N&M Andaman with the complaint on which the Court ordered the PS Rangat to start an investigation. The complainant has filed a petition under section 156(3) of the Code of Criminal procedure against Mr. Piyush Vijay Singh, ex-Assistant Commissioner, Rangat, Mr. Hukum Ram, erstwhile Deputy Superintendent of Police, Rangat, Middle Andaman, SHO Rangat and SHO, Pahargaon. According to sources, after examining the complaint the CJM in his direction mentioned the said upon perusal

of the complaint and the materials on record, the daughter of the complainant was compelled to commit suicide at her home at Rangat upon Piyush Vijay Singh, Assistant Commissioner, Rangat, who was involved in an intimate relationship with her and refused to marry her after promising to do so. The late daughter of the complainant was working at the office of Piyush Vijay Singh, Assistant Commissioner, Rangat. The late daughter of the complainant was found hanging in her government quarter at Rangat.

The specific allegation is found to be made against Piyush Vijay Singh, former Assistant Commissioner, Rangat and so far as the other persons named in the complaint are concerned, no direct allegations have been leveled against them. Fingers are also pointed on the Police for not retrieving Whatapp text messages sent by the deceased woman to her friend mentioning in the message that she would be committing suicide.

Advocate Arbinda Nandhi, R/o Harinagar under Mayabunder Tehsil has taken up the petitioner's case.

## Former CS arrested after rejection of bail plea

ROOPA LALL

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** The former Chief Secretary, Mr. Jitendra Narain who is facing gang rape charges has been arrested by the A&N Police after his bail plea was rejected by the Sessions Judge on Thursday. Soon after the verdict by the Court, a Police team reached the private resort where the former CS is staying and took him to the Police line amid heavy security.

According to sources, while rejecting the anticipatory bail plea, the Sessions Judge observed that petitioner is a high ranking bureaucrat who held the charge of Chief Secretary in these Islands for a considerable period and his power and position cannot be equated with a man of common strata. Beside the allegations leveled against him in the complaint are grave and heinous in nature. Incriminating materials have surfaced, indicating the involvement of the present petitioner as well as the other accused persons in the alleged crime and two of the co-

accused persons are on the run since the inception of the case. Hence custodial interrogation of the petitioner cannot be ruled out for the interest of the proper and impartial investigation. The Sessions Judge was of the view that if the petitioner is granted anticipatory bail, there is likelihood of causing prejudice to the investigation of this case and thus rejected the anticipatory bail plea by Mr. Jitendra Narain, former Chief Secretary. The former Chief Secretary will now have a chance to move for bail in the Calcutta High Court which shall be sitting/holding Circuit Court at Port Blair from November 14 to 25, 2022.

It may be recalled the Supreme Court on Monday directed the former Chief Secretary to approach the Sessions Court at Port Blair to apply for bail after the Administration approached the Supreme Court seeking cancellation of his bail protection up to 14th November 2022, granted by the Calcutta High Court.

## LG visits N&M Andaman



**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** Admiral D K Joshi (Retd), Lt. Governor is on two-day visit to North & Middle Andaman for inspection of LOPs and National Highway.

The Lt Governor inspected the National Highway on the way to Middle Strait Jetty by road. During the visit to LOP Luis-in-Let Bay, the Lt. Governor interacted

with Police & AAJVS officials. Thereafter, the Lt. Governor proceeded to Interview Island in the afternoon and interacted with Forest and Police

Officials. The visit of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor has boosted the morale of the staff serving at LOP Luis-in-Let Bay and Interview Island. The Lt. Governor also enquired about their wellbeing and urged them to continue to safeguard the Islands from intruders. The itinerary of the Lt. Governor for tomorrow (Nov. 10) includes a meeting with the PRI members, and Officers of various Departments at APWD Guest House, Mayabunder in the morning. Thereafter, the Lt. Governor will visit Betapur Saw Mill and Souvenir Shop. On completion of the visit, the Lt. Governor will return to Port Blair on the same day.

## Seven arrested for plundering of Padauk timber



**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** On a credible information received at Garacharma Range Office on 9th November 2022 regarding occurrence of a forest offence near Badabalu beach, Chidiyatapu, a team of Forest officials, comprising Mr. Subhashis Ray, Range Officer; Garacharma, Mr. Shehbaz Ali, Forester; Mr. R.M. Yadav, Head Forest Guard, Mr. Kumar Swamy, Forest Guard, Mr. B. Srinivas Rao, Forest Guard, Mr. Ravi Shanker, Forest

Guard, Mr. Wilson Bilung, Forest Guard and few Mazdoors was constituted for detection of the forest offence. In spite of darkness, the team carried out intensive search in the indicated area and throughout the night by conducting long operation apprehended seven accused persons namely S. Mohd. Sareef, S/o. Late E. Sathurdeen, R/o. Buniyadabad, P. Ramamoorthy, S/o. A. Baskar, R/o. Prem Nagar,

B. Harish Haridas, S/o. G. Haridas, R/o. Delanipur, S. Mariya Dass, S/o. G. Solomon

Raj, R/o. Buniyadabad, V. Karthik, S/o. M. Venkatesan, (Contd. on page-6)

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# Multiple CM faces in Himachal our strength, not weakness: Cong chief

SHIMLA, NOV 10 /--/ The presence of several chief ministerial faces in Himachal Pradesh is not the Congress' weakness but its strength, party president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Thursday as the campaign for assembly elections in the hill state drew to a close. The ruling BJP, in contrast, is going into elections banking just on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's face because it is "aware of the failures of the chief minister (Jairam Thakur) and the state government", Kharge, who is overseeing his first elections after assuming charge as Congress president last month, said. "The PM is saying don't look at the candidate, vote for me. This attitude belittles the people of Himachal Pradesh. They know the Prime Minister will not be there in the state after the voting ends," the Congress veteran told news agency PTI in an interview, referring to Modi's campaign speeches. Confident that the Congress will wrest power from the BJP because the people were determined to bring in change, Kharge said his party is going into the elections on November 12 under a collective leadership. The state has not re-elected a government since the 1980s.

"The BJP has nothing to show in the form of governance, that is why it is continuously attacking the Congress on non issues. We have several capable leaders who can be chief ministers. We see it as our strength and not weakness," Congress chief said. Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee president Pratibha Singh, the wife of six-time chief minister Virbhadra Singh, Congress Legislature Party leader Mukesh Agnihotri and former PCC president Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu are among the top contenders to helm the state if the party is voted to power. Six-term MLA Asha Kumari and party stalwart Kaul Singh Thakur are also in the race. The Congress, he said, had "full faith in the people of the hill state". "For a political party every single election is significant. We fight to win....People of Himachal are very intelligent. They have made up their mind. They want change," Kharge said.

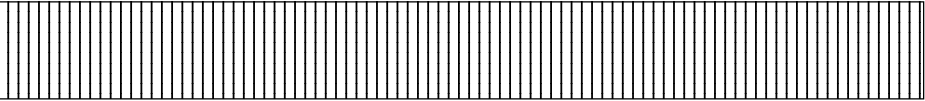
Attacking the ruling BJP for "subverting mandates through coercion and other means", the Congress president said the BJP had engineered defections to form governments in state after state after people had rejected them. "We are urging the people of Himachal Pradesh to give us a thumping majority so their mandate remains intact," the Congress chief told PTI. Terming jobs, high inflation and the old pension scheme (OPS) as the biggest issues in the state, Kharge said the Congress had in the past fulfilled its promises and shown how best to govern the country. The Congress' ambitious manifesto promises, including Rs 1,500 per month to all adult women and restoration of OPS, are evidence of the Congress' history of governance and economic management, he said. "Unlike the BJP, we know how to govern. We have done our homework," Kharge replied when asked to comment on resource mobilisation for its promises. In his message to the voters of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, the Congress chief urged them to vote on the party's past track record of building India. "Our agenda of good governance, coupled with growth and welfare and our vast experience in governance is what we stand for. We believe in fresh ideas. We have implemented so many new people friendly schemes in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and these states are benefitting from it. "Congress has adapted to change and we have taken on the challenges of governance head on. (PTI)


# Difficult to find scam under BJP rule, difficult to count scams under Cong rule: Shah in rally

SULLAH, NOV 10 /--/ Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the BJP, if voted to power in Himachal Pradesh, will soon roll out the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as he made light of "10 guarantees" promised by rival Congress, saying people trust in the guarantees of those with reputation while the Opposition party has none. At a poll rally in Kangra district on the last day of campaigning, Shah infused his speech with planks of development and Hindutva, noting that it was on this day that Maratha king Shivaji had killed Afzal Khan in 1659 and hoisted saffron flag. Targeting the Congress, he said it is difficult to count the number of scams under its rule while it is difficult to find any scam since the BJP came to power at the Centre in 2014. He accused the Congress of involvement in scams worth Rs 12 lakh crore in its 10 years of reign at the Centre from 2004 to 2014 and said people of Himachal Pradesh will not have any trust in the guarantees offered by a party like this. Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre and chief minister Jai Ram Thakur-led government in the state have left no stone unturned to develop Himachal Pradesh, Shah said, citing measures like installing IIT, AIIMS and medical colleges here.

"The double engine government has scripted history in development in every sector," he said. When the Congress ruled for decades in Delhi, it did not act on service personnel's demand for one-rank-one-pension while Modi implemented it in 2015 after coming to power in 2014, Shah said. (PTI)

ESJAY COMMERCE LIMITED									
CIN-L51226WB1982PLC035354									
Room No.15,1st Floor, 8, Camac Street, Kolkata - 700017									
Phone:03322828283 email:esjaycom@yahoo.in									
Statement of Unaudited Results for the Quarter and half-year ended September, 2022									
Sl No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Half Year ended		Year ended		(Rs. in Lacs)	
		30.09.2022	30.06.2022	30.09.2021	30.09.2021	30.09.2021	31.03.2022	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Income from Operations	18	12	13	30	26	51		
	(a) Net sales/income from operations	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	(b) Other operating income	18	12	13	30	26	51		
	Total Income from operations (Net)	18	12	13	30	26	51		
2	Expenses	18	12	13	30	26	51		
	(a) Purchases of Stock-in-trade	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	(b) Changes in inventories of finished	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	(c) Employee benefits expense	4	3	4	7	7	18		
	(d) Depreciation and amortisation expenses	1	1	1	2	2	3		
	(e) Other expenses	7	8	4	15	8	17		
	Rent paid	4	6	3	10	6	804		
	Others	4	6	3	10	6	804		
	Total Expenses	16	18	12	34	23	642		
3	Profit/(Loss) from operations before other income and finance costs (1-2)	2	-6	1	-4	3	-91		
4	Other income	9	10	96	19	107	154		
5	Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before finance costs (3+4)	11	4	97	15	110	-437		
6	Finance costs	3	3	3	6	6	12		
7	Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before tax (5-6)	8	1	94	9	104	-449		
8	Tax expense (Net of MAT Credit)	2	0	9	2	11	22		
9	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (7-8)	6	1	85	7	93	-471		
10	Other Comprehensive Income for the year (Net of Tax)	7	0	0	7	0	18		
11	Total Comprehensive Income for the year	13	1	85	14	93	-453		
12	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each)	35	35	35	35	35	35		
13	Reserve/excluding revaluation Reserves as per Balance Sheet of previous accounting year						1561		
14	Earnings per share (not annualised) -Rs.								
	(a) Basic	2	0	24	2	27	-135		
	(b) Diluted	2	0	24	2	27	-135		
Notes:									
1. The above results have been reviewed by Board of Directors at its meeting held on 10/11/2022.									
2. The Statutory Auditors of the company have carried out the Limited Review of the above Financial Results.									
3. The Company operates in single segment and therefore the segment reporting as per AS-17 is not applicable to it.									
4. Previous period's figures have been re-arranged/re-grouped wherever necessary.									
For Esjay Commerce Limited									
Sd/- S. K. Nahata									
Director									
Place : Kolkata									
Date : 10/11/2022									



**SURAKSHA ASSET RECONSTRUCTION LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as Suraksha Asset Reconstruction Private Limited)  
CIN: U74120MH2015PLC268857

Registered office: ITI House, 36 , D. R.K. Shriodhkar Road, Parel East, Mumbai - 400012, Tel: +91 22 6909 3635  
Fax: +91 22 4027 3700, Email Id: pratibha.upadhyay@surakshaarc.com website: www.surakshaarc.com

**APPENDIX IV-A (UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002)**  
**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
**E-Auction Sale Notice For Sale Of Immovable Property under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ('the said Act') read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ('the said Rules').**  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that below described immovable property mortgaged/charged in favor of Suraksha Asset Reconstruction Limited (Secured Creditor), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor acting in its capacity as trustee of Suraksha ARC 20 Trust, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever is there is Basis" on the date and time specified herein below, for the recovery of the amount due to the Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) and the Co-Borrower(s). The Reserve Price and the earnest money deposit of the immovable property ("Mortgaged Property") is mentioned herein below.

Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower (s) / security provider/s	Description of Property	Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice	Last Date for submission of BID/EMD	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price (Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit (10%) (Rs.)	Amount Due as on 31.08. 2022
1. Sandeep Bagrodia (Borrower), 2. Suresh Kumar Bagrodia 3. Lata Devi Bagrodia 4. SSKB International (Co-borrower/s)	Flat No 3A, 3rd floor, "Gajraj", South East-West and road facing at O/5 Durgapur colony, Block L New Alipur, Kolkata 700053, admeasuring 1468 sq.ft super built area alongwith 1 parking	02.02.2019	19.12.2017	23.11.2022	25.11.2022 Time 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Rs. 50,40,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Forty Thousand only)	Rs. 5,04,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only)	Rs. 2,25,67,884/- (plus, further interest and charges thereon)

**Terms and Conditions :-**

- The Auction sale will be "Online E-Auction/ Bidding through Banks approved service provider M/s E-Procurement Technologies Ltd Auction Tiger Mumbai Contact Persons Mr. Ramprasad (M) +91: 09265562821/ 09265562818/ 09374519754/ +91: 6352490773 (e-mail)/ramprasad@auctiontiger.net,Phone:079-61200559,website: https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net
- Bidders are advised to go through the Bid Forms, Tender Document, detailed terms and conditions of auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the E-Auction sale proceedings.
- Bids shall be submitted through online procedure only in the prescribed formats with relevant details.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be 10% of the Reserve Price Fixed and shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/ FUND TRANSFER to credit of following account before submitting the bids online:-

Details	
Name of Bank & Branch:- ICICI BANK LTD, Lower Parel, Mumbai	Name of Beneficiary:- SURAKSHAARC 020 Trust
Account No 039305012500	IFSC Code:- ICICI0000323

- The bid price to be submitted shall be above the Reserve Price and the bidders shall improve their further offer in multiple of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only). The property will not be sold below the reserve price set by the Authorized Officer. The bid quoted below the reserve price shall be rejected and the EMD deposited shall be forfeited.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the purchase amount (including Earnest Money deposit of 10% paid as above) on the day of declaration of successful bidder or not later than next working day thereof, as the case may be. The Balance 75% of the purchase price shall have to be paid on or before the 15th day of confirmation of the sale by Secured Creditor or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing between the purchaser and Secured Creditor, in any case not exceeding three months.
- The EMD of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned on the closure of the E-auction proceedings within 15 working days from the date of auction.
- The sale is subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. If the Borrower/Guarantor pays the amount due to the Secured Creditor in full before date of execution of sale deed, no sale will be concluded.
- Since the prospective tenderers are advised to do their own due diligence in this regard. The Authorized Officer shall not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect to the aforesaid mortgaged property.
- Inspection of the aforesaid mortgaged property can be done on **18th November,2022 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm** by the interested parties/ tenderer after seeking prior appointment with Authorized Officer. The Authorized Officer has the right to reject any tender/ tenders (for either of the property) without assigning any reasons thereof.
- There are certain minimum society dues are pending.
- On compliance of terms of sale, Authorized Officer shall issue 'Certificate of Sale' in favor of the successful purchaser. All expenses relating to stamp duty, registration charges, conveyance, VAT/GST etc. to be borne by the purchaser. The successful purchaser shall comply with the relevant provisions of Income Tax Act, 1961 pertaining to tax deduction at source with regard to purchase of said immovable property.
- The sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the said Act and the said Rules and the conditions mentioned above.
- For further details contact the Authorized officer on +91 9920218407.**
- For detailed terms and conditions please refer to the Tender Document which may be provided from the authorized officer by email, (the contents whereof shall be treated as part of this notice).

Date : 10.11.2022

Place : Kolkata

(Authorized Officer)

Suraksha Asset Reconstruction Limited

JYOTSANA INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED									
CIN: L67120WB1974PLC029417									
Registered Office : Temple Chamber's 6, Old Post Office Street, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700 001									
Phone : 033 2230-7373/2248-3854, E-mail : jyotsanainvestment@gmail.com, Website : www.jyotsana.co.in									
Extract of Standalone Un-audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year ended 30th September, 2022									
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Half Year ending		Year ending		
		30.09.2022	30.06.2022	30.09.2021	30.09.2022	30.09.2021	30.09.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1	Revenue from Operations	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00		
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(4.16)	(4.69)	(4.20)	(8.84)	(8.33)	(19.25)		
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(4.16)	(4.69)	(4.20)	(8.84)	(8.33)	(19.25)		
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1.83)	(3.47)	(2.03)	(5.30)	(6.16)	(14.25)		
5	Total comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after Tax) and other comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(1.75)	56.79	(1.73)	55.04	91.84	95.05		
6	Equity Share Capital	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00		
7	Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10 each) (Not Annualised)								
	1. Basic :	(0.92)	(1.73)	(1.02)	(2.65)	(3.08)	(7.12)		
	2. Diluted :	(0.92)	(1.73)	(1.02)	(2.65)	(3.08)	(7.12)		
Notes :									
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year ended 30th September,2022 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites, www.cse-india.com and on the Company's website www.jyotsana.co.in									
2. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on 10th November 2022.									
3. Figures have been regrouped or rearranged wherever necessary.									
For Jyotsana Investment Co. Ltd.									
Sd/-									
Arun Das									
Director									
DIN : 01200238									
Place : Kolkata									
Date : 10th November, 2022									

KALLOL INVESTMENTS LIMITED							
CIN : L67120WB1982PLC035533							
Registered Office : Temple Chamber's 6, Old Post Office Street, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700 001, Phone : 033 2230-7373/2248-3854, E-mail : kallolinvestments@gmail.com, Website : www.kallol.net.in							
Extract of Standalone Un-audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year ended 30th September, 2022							
(Rs. in Lakhs)							
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Half Year ending		Year ending
		30.09.2022	30.06.2022	30.09.2021	30.09.2022	30.09.2021	31.03.2022
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Revenue from Operations	2.27	2.24	0.00	4.51	0.00	2.02
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.61	0.26	(2.19)	0.87	(4.25)	(8.98)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.61	0.26	(2.19)	0.87	(4.25)	(8.98)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.45	0.19	(1.62)	0.64	(3.14)	(11.31)
5	Total comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after Tax) and other comprehensive Income (after tax)]	8.23	72.57	1.42	80.80	162.33	154.65
6	Equity Share Capital	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
7	Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10 each) (Not Annualised)						
	1. Basic :	0.19	0.08	(0.67)	0.27	(1.31)	(4.71)
	2. Diluted :	0.19	0.08	(0.67)	0.27	(1.31)	(4.71)
Notes :							
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th September,2022 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites, <a href="http://www.cse-india.com">www.cse-india.com</a> and on the Company's website <a href="http://www.kallol.net.in">www.kallol.net.in</a>							
2. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on 10th November 2022.							
3. Figures have been regrouped or rearranged wherever necessary.							
For Kallol Investments Ltd. Sd/- Gobinda Manna Director Date : 10th November, 2022 DIN : 08764310							
Place : Kolkata							



# LG interacts with PRI members on second day of his N&M Andaman tour



**MAYABUNDER, NOV 10/--/** Admiral D K Joshi (Retd.), Lt. Governor on the second day of his two-day tour to North & Middle Andaman District held a meeting and interacted with public, PRI members & Heads of Department at APWD Guest House, Mayabunder. The Lt. Governor informed the gathering regarding the developmental projects being executed by A&N Administration in Isles. The Adhyaksha, ZPNM Andaman, Smt.

Elizabeth put forth the issues of the people of North & Middle Andaman and the Lt. Governor after giving a patient hearing, assured to look into the grievances for its early redressal. The Deputy Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman, ShriSatyendra Singh Dursawat, PRI members and Heads of Department were present during the meeting. Thereafter, the Lt. Governor visited the Souvenir Shop at Betapur Saw Mill

and interacted with the artisans. He also appreciated the efforts of the Forest Department for setting up Souvenir Shop by making artifacts from waste wood. He also planted a sapling of sapodilla (Cheeku) at the premises of the Saw Mill. To assess the ground condition of NH-4, the Hon'ble Lt. Governor drove all the way from Mayabunder to Baratang. On completion of the visit, the Lt. Governor returned to Port Blair today.

## Walkathon flagged off by CEO

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** As part of publication of Integrated Draft Electoral Roll-2023 and to reach out to



people at large, a walkathon on the theme 'A Step for Participative Elections' was flagged off by the Chief Electoral Officer, A&N Islands, Mr. Binay Bhushan, from National Memorial Cellular Jail this morning in the presence of Jt. Chief Electoral Officer, ANI, mmR. HariKallikkat, Electoral Registration Officer, ANI, ShriAnkitYadav, and Dy. Chief Electoral Officer, ANI, Mr. DilkhushMeena, and a large number of general public, BLOs and election related Officers participated in the event. The rally culminated at Flag Point.

## Vishal raises ladies hostel for JNRM students, NH-4 roads & rural roads with CS

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** Mr. Vishal Jolly, BJP's National Executive Committee member on Thursday met the Chief Secretary and highlighted issues such as ladies hostels for students of JNRM. Mr. Jolly placed that there is a serious requirement of a new ladies hostel for the students of JNRM as the capacity of the present ladies hostel is incapable to accommodate the total requirement of JNRM. The students hailing from inter-islands face serious issues for their accommodation. Although a new building is being constructed, till the construction is over, let alternative arrangements be made for them to stay properly. The Chief Secretary, A & N Administration assured that appropriate steps in this regard would soon be taken. Mr. Jolly also raised the issue of NH-4 as well as rural roads. The issue of bad condition of NH-4 and rural roads & its speedy completion was also placed & discussed, for which the Chief Secretary has assured that all necessary steps are being undertaken to make sure that the construction of NH-4 roads & all rural roads are speedily completed.



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## ANTCC President requests youth to join Indian Youth Congress

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** The membership drive for Indian Youth Congress (IYC) for Andaman & Nicobar Islands was launched on 09th November 2022, at the Congress Party Office, Gandhi Bhavan, Port Blair. Mr. Peer Irshad Ahmed Nasir, Chief Election Authority, Mr. AnkitSinghai, In-charge of A & N Islands Youth Congress and Mr. BurollaNarsimha Reddy, Pradesh Returning Officer (PRO) explained the salient features of the election process. The nomination for the election will start from 11th November 2022 and will end on the 17th November 2022. The membership drive will begin on 26th November 2022, and will end on the 25th December 2022. The membership drive will be in an online process and anybody who is between the ages of 18-35 years will be eligible to become a member. The meeting was also addressed by PCC President MrRangalalHalder and by the Member of Parliament, MrKuldeepRai Sharma. The membership drive will help in mobilizing the youths from all over the A & N Islands and working for the betterment of youths of these Islands and for their better future.

## Circuit Court from 14th to 25th November

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** Justice Subrata Talukdar and Justice Rabindranath Samanta, Judges of Calcutta High Court shall be sitting/holding Circuit Court at Port Blair from Nov. 14 to Nov. 25.

## Firing practice

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** Firing practice will be carried out by Indian Coast Guard at Chinthe Range Brichgunj on Nov. 16 and Nov. 23 from 9.30 am to 5 pm. All concerned have been warned to keep themselves and their livestock away from the firing area.

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# Department Related Parliamentary Committee on Industry tours Swaraj Dweep

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** The Department Related Parliamentary Committee on Industry headed by its Chairman, Mr. Tiruchi Siva (Rajya Sabha) arrived on a two-day visit to A&N Islands on Thursday. The other Members of the Committee include Mr. Birendra Prasad Baishya (Rajya Sabha), Mr. Mati Sulata Deo (Rajya Sabha), Mr. Sandosh Kumar P (Rajya Sabha), Mr. Ravindra Kushwaha (Lok Sabha), Bidyut Baran Mahato (Lok Sabha) and Sunil Dattatray Tatkar (Lok Sabha). On arrival, the Committee members were received by the Officers of the A&N Administration at the Airport.

Soon after arrival, the Committee proceeded to Swaraj Dweep and visited Radhanagar Beach. Tomorrow,

the Committee Members will hold meeting with the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration and M/o MSME



on implementation of PMEGP scheme in A&N Islands at Taj Exotica. Thereafter, the Committee Members will hold meeting with representatives of SBI, Central Bank

of India, UCO Bank, PNB, A&N State Co-operative Bank, M/o MSME, M/o Finance(DFS) and KVVC and review the performance of PMEGP scheme in A&N Islands. The Committee Members are also scheduled to hold meeting with the representatives of Airports Authority of India, National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd., Engineers India Ltd., Indian Rare Earths Ltd., M/o MSME, M/o Civil Aviation, M/o Housing & Urban Affairs, M/o P& NG and Department of Atomic Energy on the implementation of 25% prescribed procurement from MSEs by PSEs under the public Procurement Policy and Review of release of payments to MSEs at the same venue on Nov. 11, 2022.

## Sailings of MV Kalighat postponed, MV Bharat Seema cancelled

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** Due to administrative reasons, the announced schedule of MV Kalighat for Campbell Bay via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal and Nancowry on 11TH November 2022, has been postponed to 14th November 2022. As per revised schedule, the vessel will now sail for Campbell Bay via all ports on 14th November 2022 at 1000 Hrs from Port Blair and will sail back on 17th November 2022 at 1200 Hrs from Campbell Bay via the same route.

Now, MV Kalighat is scheduled to sail for Car Nicobar via Little Andaman on 11th November 2022 at 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail back to Port Blair on 12th November 2022 at 1600 Hrs from Car Nicobar via Little Andaman. Passengers who are holding the tickets for Car Nicobar & Little Andaman are advised to avail the

above sailing with the same ticket on 11th November 2022.

Further those passengers who are bound to travel to Chowra, Teressa, Katchal, Nancowry & Campbell Bay and are holding the tickets of MV Kalighat for 11th Nov., sailing are informed to avail the sailing on 14th November 2022 from Port Blair with the same ticket.

Similarly, the announced schedule of MV Bharat Seema for Car Nicobar via Little Andaman on 12th November 2022 at 0700 Hrs from Port Blair and back on 13th November 2022 at 1600 Hrs from Car Nicobar has been cancelled. Passengers who have purchased their tickets for the above sailing are advised to cancel their tickets and get full refund from STARS Ticketing Counters. Inconvenience caused to the passengers is regretted.

## MP mourns demise

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** MrKuldeepRai Sharma, Member of Parliament has deeply mourned the demise of Smti. Bishnu Priya Sajjal, resident of Guptapara, aged 105 years, who expired on 09.11.2022. He prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul and for enough strength for the members of the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

## Chess selection championship

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** The Andaman Nicobar Chess Association (ANCA) will be organising A & N State Open Chess Selection Championship 2022 on 12th & 13th November 2022 at JNRM Auditorium Port Blair from 9.00 am onwards. The inauguration ceremony will begin at 9.15 am.

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*I know that you believe that you understood what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant*

**Robert McCloskey**

## The apple of discord in Himachal Pradesh

Apple is the mainstay of the economy in Himachal Pradesh, which is known for its apple orchards. The fruit crop plays a major role in the state's economy. India's overall apple production is 2.4 million metric tonnes, of which over 26 per cent comes from the hill state. Apple production generates revenue of around Rs 5,000-5,500 crore, contributing around 5 per cent to the state's GDP. The industry is, however, passing through a tough phase for the last few years. The cost of a pesticide bag which used to be Rs 800 now costs more than double. Cost of carton and other packaging material too is 20 per cent more expensive these days. Ironically, though the cost of production has increased, the income hasn't. There are multiple issues at play but GST on packaging material which went to 18 per cent as compared to 12 per cent pre-GST is being blamed as a big issue. It's no wonder then that with the campaigning for the Assembly elections in its final stages, the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress have gone all out to woo farmers in the apple-heartland. The state Assembly has 68 seats and in 20-odd seats apple cultivators are in sizeable numbers. Polling in Himachal Pradesh will be held on November 12 and counting of votes will be taken up on December 8. Barely two months back, the orchard owners took to the streets to protest against high production costs and low apple prices.

CPI(M) MLA in Himachal Pradesh Rakesh Singha, while referring to the protests by apple cultivators against price rise and GST on packaging materials among other issues, said, "I have been associated with apple farmers since 1987. There have been two big agitations of apple farmers, during the earlier BJP and then Congress regimes." The BJP has said GST would be limited to 12 per cent for apple growers, but why are they not scrapping GST, the Congress' in-charge for Himachal Pradesh Rajiv Shukla asked. Shukla said an agriculture and growers committee will be set up with the representation of apple growers which will decide the price of fruits and crops.

Congress leader Alka Lamba claimed that apple growers in the state are forced to sell their produce at low rates in the absence of a law guaranteeing MSP. Her party is banking on the anti-incumbency factor and urging voters not to re-elect the BJP in the state. BJP national president Jagat Parkash Nadda addressed three back-to-back election meetings in the major apple-growing regions of the state that happen to be Congress bastions. Countering Nadda in the apple belt was Rajasthan Congress leader Sachin Pilot who alleged that the apple economy has suffered adversely due to the ignorant attitude of the government. "Apple's economy is one of the biggest economies of the state. The BJP government abolished subsidies on the pesticides and fungicides in the state," he said. On the other hand, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur said, "We helped apple orchardists in every form and capacity. The agitation is political, engineered by our opponents." Recently, the Sanyukt Kisan Manch (SKM) appealed to apple farmers to cast their votes after considering what a particular party has done to protect their interests and the promises it makes in its manifesto. As of now, the stench of rotting apples pervades the political atmosphere.

# IJU calls upon the Centre to enact national law for journalists

## REFLEX ACTION

L.S. Herdenia

electronic media payment of wages position at lower and mid-level is very pathetic. It is high time that the Union Government appointed a Media Commission to go into the whole scenario of media in the country', the IJU president said. The conference was inaugurated by L. S. Herdenia, one of the founders of the IFWJ and also of the IJU. At the outset he said "freedom is in peril. This does not apply to media alone but to the entire country. According to him, the worst calamity affecting print media relates to the repeal of the Working Journalists Act, along with the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act. These laws were repealed without incorporating corresponding special provisions governing the working conditions, wages and special privileges of working journalists in the Labour Codes Bill, greatly impacting them and their independence, essential for sustaining a vibrant democratic polity in the country. After passage of the Labour Code, no working journalist or editor can approach a court to challenge his or her arbitrary and illegal termination under the Industrial Disputes Act. As the four Labour Codes greatly endanger the freedom of expression and independent journalism, the working journalists and their organisations should unitedly defend their rights and freedom with all their might.

"Democracy is being destabilised. State governments are being overthrown by purchasing legislators. If governments are to be changed by bribery, what is the need for elections? Constitutional posts are being kept vacant. There is no deputy speaker in Lok Sabha. There is no deputy speaker in Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha. Governors are being used to harass elected state governments, Herdenia added.

In his report, secretary general of IJU Balwinder Singh Jammu noted "Journalists who became jobless due to retrenchment got neither any compensation or any immediate job and they had to undergo a difficult time. A few journalists reported to commit suicide due to

depression. "Credibility of major newspaper came under fire with their anti journalist policies during the pandemic. On the other side, medium and small newspapers could not get sufficient government-private advertisement support due to changes in policy. These media houses are still facing the problems. .

"In future, we need to come up as much stronger Union to counter the attacks on the journalists that we have been watching continuously for longer time.

"I would like to say that it's a positive and encouraging sign that the unions that have left us sometimes back have again come back. We have two more new state unions formed in Maharashtra and Haryana which are now in the fold of IJU. Another good news was that journalists in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have also met with the leaders of IJU and adhoc committees have been formed and they have started the process of registration of unions. Their delegations are attending the plenary."

The Plenary also passed a resolution demanding national law for protection of journalists and media establishments. The resolution said "This Plenary regrets that the Union Government has not taken any action so far on IJU's repeated appeals for the enactment of a national law to ensure safety and protection of working journalists and media establishments with payment of adequate compensation to their families in case any tragedy befalls on them. Even the Maharashtra Government which accepted the demand and came out with a special law. The Maharashtra Media Persons and Media Institutions (Prevention of Violence and damage or loss to property) act 2017 which was notified in 2019 for the protection of journalists and media establishments is not covering it adequately. We thank them for bringing the first act to protect journalists in our country and request the present government to improve it."

The Plenary/ Delegate session of IJU, called upon the Central Government and all other State governments not to wait for the occurrence of the next big tragedy but to take urgent steps to enact a law to ensure the safety and protection of working journalists and media establishment with the payment of adequate compensation to the families of working journalists in case of any abuse on their duty and fundamental rights. (IPA)



A bird's eye view of the Kolkata skyline on Thursday--Arijit Ganguly

## India's job market turned perilous in October this year

The month of October this year in which fell the two great Indian festivals – Dussehra and Diwali – failed to bring much expected happiness to the common people of India. Rather, it turned India's job market much more perilous than that only a month ago in September. Unemployment surged from 6.43 per cent in September to 7.77 per cent in October while labour participation rate (LPR) fell from 39.3 per cent to 39 per cent during this period.

The 30 day moving average, as calculated by the Centre of Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), shows that the surge in rural unemployment was even more disturbing compared to the urban unemployment which rose from 5.84 per cent in September to 8.04 per cent in October. However, the festival market in urban areas improved a little and thus there was little improvement in urban unemployment level which fell to 7.21 per cent in October from 7.7 per cent in September. Thus, the disturbing trend in urban unemployment continued at unacceptably high level.

The sharp rise in unemployment coupled with fall in labour participation rate (LPR) presents a dismal picture, especially at a time when the economic recovery is underway. The situation is indicative of the economic grows without proportionate job creation. Rather, the number of available jobs reduced indicating that employers are resorting to job cuts in a bid to cut operation costs to maximize profit. Therefore, any fall in LPR,

even a small decline, is a matter of serious concern. CMIE finds LPR falling 0.3 per cent, unemployment rising 1.34 per cent, and rural unemployment rising 2.20 per cent just in 30 days.

Though the fall in LPR is small in October compared to September, it cannot be ignored since the fall is persistent. It indicates that an increasingly smaller proportion of the working age population is willing to be employed. The disenchantment among the working age people towards searching for jobs in increasingly smaller number is a matter of grave concern for several reasons. One of them is it brings down the unemployment rate while actual unemployment is much higher than it is calculated on the present formula.

CMIE has interpreted this phenomenon of falling LPR combined with an elevated unemployment rate as implying a falling employment rate. It means there is a distortion in the job market in which employment rate stood at only 36 per cent in October with a total number of employed have come down from 404 million in September to 396.4 million in October. It is clear therefore clear that about 78 lakh people lost their jobs in October. With

falling employment and rising unemployment rates, the complexity in the labour market has become more complex. In absolute numbers, the headcount of unemployed persons rose by 56 lakh, while 22 lakh workers had to go out of the labour market in October. It has resulted in India's labour force shrinkage, which shrank from 432 million in September to 429.8 million in October.

The fall in employment is entirely witnessed in rural India in October which was essentially due to deterioration in non-agricultural activities despite the festival season. The reason behind this may be due to unavailability of money in the hands of people because of joblessness. Moreover, the recovery in agriculture sector has been very slow. CMIE data shows that the recovery in employment in agriculture in October 2022 was lowest in October month of the last four years.

It had peaked at 164 million in November 2021 and since then it has fallen rapidly to a low of 134 million in September. In October, it could slowly recover to only 139.6 million. The total job loss in October was nearly 15 million among which predominant loss was of the daily wage earners. Agricultural labourers and non-

agriculturals employments have thus significantly declined. Employment in urban India increased only a little from 126 million in September to 127.4 million in October. It was a net addition of only 1.4 million. Salaried job increased by 2.26 million to cross 51 million. This little gain in urban areas was too little to offset the jobs losses in rural India. The services sectors lost 7.9 million jobs in October 2022. Of these, 4.6 million losses were incurred in rural India and 3.3 million were in urban India. There is a concentration of the job losses in the services sector in rural retail trade. Retail trade is the largest employer among the services industries. It accounts for nearly half of all services sector jobs. Of the 4.6 million rural services jobs lost in October, 4.3 million were in the retail trade industry. In urban India, retail trade recorded a small increase of 0.8 million jobs during the month. The industrial sector saw a loss of 5.3 million jobs in October. Here again there is a concentration of the losses in manufacturing industries in rural India. These saw employment shrinkage by 8.4 million. Urban manufacturing industries added 4.2 million jobs at the same time. Construction, which is the largest employer, shed a little over a million jobs in October. Most of these were in rural India.

The data shows that volatility in the labour market of India continues. People are getting jobs a month and lose them in the next. Finding quality salaried and secured jobs are still a dream for the majority of the unemployed in India. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword						
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27				28		
29				30		

ACROSS				DOWN			
1	Of various colours	1	Gain	1	Gain		
4	Conceal	2	Wicked	2	Wicked		
8	Provoke	3	Discourage	3	Discourage		
9	Prophetic sign	4	Pungent	4	Pungent		
10	Leave out	5	Likeness	5	Likeness		
11	Remain on feet	6	Lair	6	Lair		
12	Fasting period	7	Finish	7	Finish		
14	Fish eggs	11	Precipitous	11	Precipitous		
15	Incite	13	Musical sounds	13	Musical sounds		
17	Faucet	16	Mild	16	Mild		
19	Perfect score	18	Lying flat	18	Lying flat		
21	Poem of heroism	20	African river	20	African river		
23	Exhibits	22	Country	22	Country		
26	Sudden wind blast	23	Mineral spring	23	Mineral spring		
27	Tree	24	Part of the body	24	Part of the body		
28	Insect trap	25	Marry	25	Marry		
29	Copied						
30	Garden tool						

SUDOKU : 3692						
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Yesterday's Solution 3691						
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Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1700						
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T		N		R	A	T
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### DISCLAIMER

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## CEO conducts meeting with political parties on special summary revision of electoral rolls-2023



**PORT BLAIR, NOV 10/--/** The Chief Electoral Officer, A&N Islands Parliamentary Constituency, Mr. Binay Bhushan held a meeting with representatives of recognized Political Parties of A&N Islands regarding the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Roll-2023 in the conference hall of Secretariat on Wednesday. The Joint CEO, Mr. Hari Kallikkat, Electoral Registration Officer, Mr. Ankit Yadav, Dy. CEO, Mr. Dilkhush Meena, Electoral related Officers were also present during the meeting while the AEROs of outer stations joined the meeting through video conference.

Addressing the meeting, the CEO remarked that the role of political party representatives in Special Summary Revision of Electoral Roll-2023 is vital and sought their support and urged them to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLA) who would be associated with Block Level Officers (BLO) during the revision period.

The BLA along with BLO will verify the data and urged family members and other electors of a locality to fill Form-7 for those who have migrated to mainland or expired but their name still exist in the Electoral Roll. Such information is very crucial for purification of

Electoral Roll in order to have the correct electoral roll, the CEO remarked. He said, every BLA can distribute forms to ten persons and the claims and objections received will be shared with the Political Parties.

The CEO also informed that in addition to the qualifying date of 01.01.2023, an eligible Citizen, who is going to attain the age of eighteen years on any of the subsequent qualifying dates in the year 2023, that is to say, the 1st April, 2023, the 1st July, 2023, or the 1st October, 2023, may also file his or her claim for inclusion of his or her name in the Electoral Roll, in Form-6, in advance, and the same shall be considered and decided in the respective quarter of the year with reference to the respective qualifying date. Similarly, data of any eligible PwDs voters in A&N Islands should also be shared with the Electoral Officers for inclusion. Any issues or grievance can be addressed to the Electoral Team, the CEO said.

CEO also urged representatives of political parties to urge voters to check and verify the data provided and if any changes are to be made it can be intimated to the respective BLAs. BLOs have been directed to conduct awareness camps and

nukkadnataks among the general public regarding the special summary revision for its wide publicity. As per the draft roll published, the A&N Islands has 3,04,413 voters, out of which 1,59,923 are male voters, 1,44,479 are female voters and 11 are transgenders. The gender ratio is 903.

The CEO while explaining the schedule of the Special Summary Revision-2023 informed that the publication of Integrated Draft Electoral Roll commenced today and the period for filing claims and objection is from Nov. 9 to Dec. 8, 2022 while the Special Camps will be held on Nov. 26 & 27 and Dec. 3 & 4, 2022. Disposal of claims and objections will be held on Dec. 26, 2022 and final publication of electoral roll will be on Jan. 5, 2023. He said, to have a correct electoral roll, the Special Summary Revision-2023 is important. He said, all applications received on CEO's website on a day to day basis shall be shared with recognized Political Parties in order to bring more transparency in the process of electoral registration.

The CEO also handed over copies of the draft electoral rolls to the representatives of recognized political parties who were present during the meeting.

man of the SIA said. The spokesman said the properties were sealed as part of efforts to choke the availability of funds for secessionist activities and to dismantle the ecosystem of anti-national elements and terror networks hostile to India's sovereignty. "These premises/structures have been sealed and entry and usage have been prohibited. Besides, 'red entry' to this effect has been made in the relevant revenue records," he added. The sealed proper-

ties include nearly half a hectare of land and some school buildings. The properties of Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel) in Shopian are the first to be notified in a series of properties belonging to the banned group in other districts of J&K, the spokesman said. He said Shopin has a lot of significance vis-a-vis Jel. "Saadu-din Tarabali and Gh. Ahmad Ahrar were the first to organize an Ijtima (religious gathering) at Badami Bagh Shopian in 1942 well before the first all India Ijtima of Jamaat-e-Islami at Pathankot in 1945. (PTI)

## ED plea against Raut bail not taken up by HC on Thursday; hearing likely on Friday

**MUMBAI, NOV 10/--/** The Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s plea seeking cancellation of bail granted to Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MP Sanjay Raut by a special court in a money laundering case could not be heard by the Bombay High Court on Thursday due to paucity of time.

A single bench of Justice Bharati Dangre said those matters that could not be taken up for hearing on Thursday shall be heard on Friday. "I will continue the board (scheduled list of matters to be heard) tomorrow (Friday)," Justice Dangre said stated. Soon after the special court set up under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) granted bail to Sanjay Raut and another accused in the case, businessman Pravin Raut, on Wednesday, the ED filed a petition in the HC seeking cancellation of their bail.

The anti-money laundering agency had sought the HC to grant an urgent interim stay on the bail order.

Justice Dangre had on Wednesday, however, refused to stay the special court's order, noting she had to first

hear all parties concerned. Sanjay Raut (60) was granted bail by special PMLA judge M G Deshpande, more than three months after he was arrested in the money laundering case related to redevelopment of Patra Chawl (a chawl is rows of old tenements) in suburban Goregaon.

The Rajya Sabha member walked out of the Arthur Road Jail in central Mumbai on Wednesday evening after completing all bail formalities. The special court, in its order, had termed the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader's arrest as "illegal, without reason and a witch-hunt".

The ED, in its application in the HC, said the special court's bail order was bad in law and deserves to be set aside. The central agency claimed the special court has failed to appreciate the evidence submitted by it in the case against the accused persons. "The Special Court failed to appreciate that offence of money laundering is a grave economic offence which is committed by well-planned conspiracy and is as heinous, if not more than an act of murder or terrorism," said the ED plea. (PTI)

## Restore J-K's statehood before polls: Altaf Bukhari

**SRINAGAR, NOV 10/--/** Jammu and Kashmir's statehood should be restored before the assembly elections are conducted, Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari said here on Thursday.

Bukhari also said under an elected government not only the good work of the officers will be appreciated, but they will be held answerable for any wrongdoings too.

"Elections or no elections, as a political party, we

are always ready for it. Our job is to serve the people and we will continue to do that," he told reporters here.

He said the Apni Party wants the assembly elections to be conducted in J-K so that the problems faced by the people are resolved by an elected government.

"We also want that the statehood be restored immediately. Why are they (Centre) waiting for the elections? This is a promise of the Union Home Minister (Amit

Shah)," he said.

We live a democratic country, and people have the right to elect their own government to represent them and address their grievances, Bukhari said.

"Once an elected government is there, it will analyse what has been done by the (current) bureaucratic set-up and while the good work will be appreciated, they will be answerable for their wrongdoings," the Apni Party president said. He said his party

will continue to fight for the aspirations of the people including the restoration of statehood, fighting for Articles 370 and 35-A in the Supreme Court, and for their land and job rights.

Asked about the decision to not contend election by Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti both former J-K chief ministers as long as J-K remains a UT, Bukhari said "it is their personal decision." "We are not for power, we want to serve

the people. So, it is their own decision, but we will contest in all 90 constituencies, secure a majority and form the government," he said.

Earlier in the day, Congress party's former district president Bandipora, Imtiyaz Parray joined the Apni Party.

Parray is a son of Mohammad Yusuf Parray alias Kuka Parray, the founder of counter-insurgency force Ikhwani in the valley. (PTI)

## Dera Sacha Sauda seeks high-level probe into murder of follower in Faridkot

**CHANDIGARH, NOV 10/--/** Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda has sought a high-level probe into the murder of a follower in Punjab's Faridkot district.

Dera follower Pardeep Singh (37), an accused in the 2015 sacrilege cases, was shot dead on Thursday by six unidentified assailants, police said. While condemning the murder, the Dera also appealed to its followers to maintain peace and harmony. In a statement, spokesperson Jitendra Khurana condemned Singh's murder and said the Dera respects all religions. "We appeal that there should be a high-level independent probe into this matter at the earliest and those who are behind this incident be given exemplary punishment," said Khurana. Singh was shot in his dairy shop around 7 am

in Faridkot's Kotkapura, the police said, adding that his security and another person suffered bullet injuries.

Singh was an accused in a case of theft of a 'bir' (copy) of the Guru Granth Sahib from Burj Jawahar Singh Wala village in June 2015 and also in a case linked to torn pages of the Sikh holy book being found scattered in Bargari in October 2015 in Faridkot. He was out on bail. Incidents of theft of the 'bir' of the Guru Granth Sahib, putting up of handwritten sacrilegious posters and torn pages of the holy book being found in Bargari had triggered protests in Faridkot in 2015. Two persons were killed in Behbal Kalan and some others injured at Kotkapura in Faridkot after the police fired at protesters in October 2015. (PTI)

## Welcome UK court's decision rejecting Nirav Modi's appeal against extradition: MEA

**NEW DELHI, NOV 10/--/** India on Thursday welcomed a British court's ruling rejecting fugitive diamondaire Nirav Modi's appeal against his extradition to India in connection with a bank loan fraud case. "We welcome the UK high court's decision to dismiss the appeal against extradition of Nirav Modi," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. "We will continue with our efforts to get Nirav Modi back, as well as other economic offenders so that they are brought to justice," he said. The spokesperson said India has been vigorously pursuing the extradition of economic fugitives so that they face the legal process in the country. The fugitive diamond merchant on Wednesday lost his appeal against extradition to India at the High Court in London. Modi, 51, has the option of further appeals in the UK and European courts and the process to bring him back to stand trial in India is unlikely to be a speedy one. (PTI)

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Manoj Kumar Nandi, S/o. Ishwar Kumar Nandi, aged about 45 years, R/o. Beodnabad, under Port Blair Tehsil, South Andaman District, do hereby solemnly affirm and declared as follows :

1. That I am a permanent resident of Beodnabad, Port Blair.
2. That my marriage with Smti. Seema Pandey, D/o. Achayber Pandey, R/o. Nayagaon, under Port Blair Tehsil, South Andaman District was solemnized at Shiv Temple, Pharagaon on 20/08/2004 and we are living together as a husband and wife.
3. That as a result of my marriage with Smti. Seema Pandey, I want to adopt the surname of my wife's name and accordingly I would like to change my wife name from Seema Pandey to Seema Nandi.
4. That from the date of execution of this affidavit she shall be known as Seema Nandi.

That the contents of the statement made in paragraph 1 to 5 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Port Blair

Dated: 22/01/2009

DEPONENT



**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Jal Shakti**  
**Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation**  
**Invitation of applications for the post of**  
**Director & Head of Centre, NCDWSQ, Kolkata**




Applications are invited for the post of the Director & Head of Centre, National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality (NCDWSQ), Kolkata, an autonomous body of Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti. Details are as under:

Scale of pay	Mode of recruitment
Level-14 (144200 - 218200) as per 7th CPC, (Pre-revised - PB-4 Rs. 37400 -67000, Grade Pay Rs.10000/-)	Deputation (including short-term contract)

2. General conditions, qualification, criteria, application form and other details are available/ can be downloaded from the website of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation at <https://jalshakti-ddws.Bov.in/> at the link **Recruitment of Director NCDWSQ**.

3. Interested and eligible candidates may send their application by 18th December 2022.

**CBC-353011/1/0006/2223**






**BEWARE OF FAKE WEBSITES FOR LPG DISTRIBUTORSHIP**

It has come to our notice that unauthorized individuals are misrepresenting the PSU Oil Company names, viz., Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (OMCs) to fraudulently offer LPG distributorships.

It involves email, SMS, letter or call misrepresenting that it is made on behalf of OMCs advising about award/grant of LPG distributorship. The fraudster will invariably request an advance fee or deposition of money for registration on a website to confirm the distributorship allotment.

Public is advised to visit ONLY official secured websites of OMCs i.e. <https://www.iocl.com>, <https://www.hindustanpetroleum.com>, <https://www.ebharatgas.com> or <https://www.lpgvitarakchayan.in> for authentic and official information. OMCs have not appointed any person on their behalf for selection/appointment of LPG distributors across the country, nor have authorized any person to solicit any money whatsoever from any candidate at any stage of the selection process. If unsure about authenticity of offer made in the name of any of OMCs, please contact nearby OMC office.

**DISCLAIMER:** OMCs shall not be responsible for content of any information, nor shall they be liable for any conclusion, loss or damage of any nature whatsoever suffered or may be suffered by members of the public arising from or as a result of reliance on or usage of any information from portals, websites or e-mail domains or by dealing with imposters/persons not authorized by OMCs.



**NOTICE**

The General Body of Indian Christian Fellowship has summoned on 5th November 2022 at ICF Worship Centre, Badmash Pahar, The General Body has Elected New Committee Members.

Bishop Varughese Mathew as the President, Brother Ashit Roy as the General Secretary, Miss Minita Barla as Treasurer and Mrs. Malsy, Mrs. Sunita Roy, Mr. Luther Biswas, Mr. Rubas Jones Arulandu as the Executive Committee Members.

**President**  
**Indian Christian Fellowship**

## Domestic help, husband arrested for robbing, killing employer in Lajpat Nagar

**NEW DELHI, NOV 10/--/** A 25-year-old domestic help and her husband were arrested for allegedly robbing and killing her former employer in South Delhi's Amar Colony area, police said on Thursday.

The accused have been identified as Rani, and Yogesh Kumar Arora, 31, both residents of Chattarpur Enclave Part-II, they said.

According to police, the accused were in need of money and hatched the plan to rob the woman.

The matter came to light Tuesday when someone informed police about a woman lying unconscious on the first floor of a flat in Amar Colony. Police rushed to the spot and found Kulwant Kaur, 75, unconscious in her flat. She was taken to hospital where she was declared brought dead, a senior police officer said. From the nature of injuries, police concluded jewellery items were forcefully removed from her body. There were injury marks over the woman's neck and ears, police said.

The entry was friendly as there was no damage to the gates and windows, they said. During investigation, it

was revealed that Rani, who used to work in their house around 15 years ago, had recently visited the house and met the woman. Kaur had also informed her daughters about Rani's visit, police said.

Shamina, the current maid, told police that Rani's number was written on a piece of paper and kept somewhere in the house. Police searched the house and retrieved the piece of paper with her number, the officer said. Later, Rani, and her husband, Arora, were apprehended from Chattarpur Enclave Phase-II, Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Sagar Preet Hooda said. Police recovered two gold bangles, one gold ring, one pistol with two live cartridges, and 83 liquor bottles from the house. Two separate cases of Excise Act and Arms Act have also been registered, Hooda said.

The accused revealed that they were in dire need of money as Arora earned Rs 7,000 from a shop, which was not enough for the lifestyle they wanted, they said.

Rani was working as a maid in west Delhi and is on one month leave, police said.

They also confessed to have planned Kaur's murder after Rani's visit to her house on Sunday. During her visit, Rani observed that the woman was living alone and feeling lonely and out of sorts after the marriage of all three daughters, they said. According to police, the accused entered the house of the victim, allegedly strangled her and escaped with the valuables. Post mortem report is awaited for the exact cause of the death.

Rani came to Delhi a long time ago and had started working as a maid. She had reportedly worked at the victim's house for four years.

The accused further said that she had won Kaur's confidence and she was very happy when she visited her on Sunday and Tuesday, police said. Arora is presently unemployed. He was running a small restaurant, but during the pandemic he closed it and rented his shop, they added. (PTI)

**AFFIDAVIT**

By this deed I, the undersigned N RAVI KUMAR previously called RAVI KUMAR doing private driver and presently residing at Panighat village, Bambooflat Post under Ferrargunj Tehsil, South Andaman District, Andaman & Nicobar Islands -744107 solemnly declare:

1. That for and on behalf of myself, my parents and remitter issue wholly renounce/relinquish and abandon the use of my former name/surname of RAVI KUMAR and in place thereof I do hereby assume from this date the name/surname N RAVI KUMAR and so that I, my parents and remitter issue may hereafter be called, known and distinguished not by me and former name/surname, but assumed name/surname N RAVI KUMAR.
2. That for all purpose of evidencing such my determination declare that I Shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writings and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions, private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever use and sign the name N RAVI KUMAR as my name/ surname in place and in substitution of my former name/surname.
3. That I expressly authorize and request all persons in general and relatives and friends in particular, at all times hereafter to designate and address me, my parent and remitter issue by such assumed/surname of N RAVI KUMAR accordingly.
4. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my former RAVI KUMAR and adopted name/surname N RAVI KUMAR of affix my signature and seal, if any, this 10th day of November 2022.

**DEPONENT**



## G-20 summit: PM to visit Indonesia from Nov 14-16, says MEA

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Indonesian city of Bali from November 14 to 16 to attend the G-20 summit, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Thursday. On the sidelines of the summit, Modi will hold bilateral meetings with some of his counterparts. The summit is likely to be attended by US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, among others. The leaders are expected to deliberate on the Ukraine conflict, its implications on food and energy security and other pressing global issues such as climate change. Modi is attending the summit at the invitation of Indonesian President Joko Widodo. Indonesia is the current chair of G-20. "During the Bali summit, G20 leaders will deliberate extensively upon key issues of global concern under the summit theme of 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'. Three working sessions will be held as part of the G20 summit agenda -- food and energy security, health and digital transformation," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing. (PTI)

## Seven arrested for plundering of Padauk timber

From page-1  
R/o. Buniyadabad, Mahmudali Ghazi, S/o. Rahim Gazi, R/o. Calicut, Achul Ali Molla, S/o. Alauddin Molla, R/o. Calicut and seized 1.87 cbm. of illegally hand sawn Padauk timber from their possession.  
A truck bearing Regn. No. AN-01-D-1911 involved in commissioning of the offence was also seized from the spot and brought to Range Office, Garacharma. Further investigation of the case is under process. The entire operation was led by Mr. A. Soundra Pandian, Assistant Conservator of Forests under the able guidance of Mr. A. K. Paul, Divisional Forest Officer, South Andaman. The Divisional Forest Officer, South Andaman has requested the general public to pass credible information on Forest and Wildlife offences if noticed in their locality in the Phone Nos. 256178, 252334, 255344, 224540, 287336 and 281585. The identity of the informer will not be disclosed.

# Firearms being smuggled to create unrest in north Bengal: Mamata

RANAGHAT, NOV 10 /--/ Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday alleged that arms and ammunition are being smuggled from Bihar and across international borders to create unrest in north Bengal with an intention to divide the state.

Mamata alleged that vehicles belonging to VIPs, with tinted glass, are being used to smuggle firearms and money into West Bengal, while directing the police to increase 'naka-checking' to stop prevent attempts. "Firearms from Bihar and across the international borders are being smuggled into West Bengal to create unrest in the northern parts and divide the state. We have to tackle this. I ask you to increase naka-checking," the chief minister told officials during an administrative review meeting here. "These people hailing from outside West Bengal are taking advantage of coming in VIP vehicles...they are carrying firearms and money. They are conspiring to create disturbances in our state," the Trinamool Congress supremo said.

Incidentally, last week, Greater Cooch Behar movement leader Ananta Rai had claimed that the formation of a Union Territory of Cooch Behar was

only a matter of time. A section of BJP leaders from north Bengal, including Alipurduar MP John Barla, Matigara-Naxalbari MLA Anandamoy Barman and Dabgram-Phulbari legislator Shikha Chatterjee, has been demanding that a Union Territory be carved out of the state. The TMC has asserted that it would never allow the

“  
Keep a strict vigil in communally sensitive areas in the state as some people are planning to incite communal flare-ups from December. You (TMC leaders) have to stop them. It is a challenge for us  
—Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee  
”

division of West Bengal. North Bengal, which comprises eight districts including picturesque Darjeeling, is economically significant for the state as it is home to the revenue-generating tea, timber and tourism industries. However, the region has witnessed several violent statehood movements since the 1980s by ethnic groups such

as Gorkhas, Rajbanshis, Kochs and Kamatapuris. Without making any reference to state BJP leaders' claim that "something big" is likely to happen in the state in December, Mamata directed officials to keep a strict vigil. "Keep a strict vigil in communally sensitive areas in the state as some people are planning to incite communal flare-ups from December. You (TMC leaders) have to stop them. It is a challenge for us," she said. BJP leaders have been claiming that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is likely to be implemented by December.

Meanwhile, BJP workers, including Ranaghat MP Jagannath Sarkar, staged a protest in Ranaghat stating that no people's representative belonging to the saffron party was invited to the administrative meeting chaired by the chief minister. BJP activists took out a rally and wanted to proceed towards the venue where the chief minister was present. However, the police stopped the procession leading to a scuffle between the two sides. The police detained Sarkar and several other leaders, and released them after some time. (PTI)



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee addressing a public meeting at Krishnanagar on Wednesday —Photo : EOI

## India does not believe in world order where few countries are considered superior: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 /--/ India does not believe in a world order where a few countries are considered superior to others, defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday and noted that the possibility of a global framework could be envisaged if security becomes a truly collective enterprise. In an address at the National Defence College, Singh also called for concerted efforts of the international community to counter "grave" emerging security threats such as cyber-attacks and information warfare. According to him, information warfare has the potential to threaten political stability. "There is no account of how much fake news and hate material is likely to be brought in society through social media platforms. The organised use of social media and other online content generation platforms is being used for engineering the opinion or perspective of the masses," the defence minister said. "The deployment of information war was most evident in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Throughout the conflict, social media has served as a battleground for both sides to spread competing narratives about the war and portray the conflict on their own terms," Singh stated. The defence minister described national security as the prime focus of the Modi government, stressing that the full potential of the country can be tapped only when its interests are protected. "Security is sine-qua-non for civilization to flourish and prosper," Singh also sounded a note of caution about cyber warfare and said it has increased the vulnerability of critical infrastructure. "I would like to tell you that the conduct of our strategic policy should be moral. India does not believe in a world order where few are considered superior to others," he added. "India's actions are guided by the very essence of human equality and dignity, which is a part of our ancient ethos and its strong moral foundations, give us our political strength. Even our freedom struggle was based on the bedrock of high moral values," the defence minister said.

Singh's comments came amid increasing concerns over China's aggressive military posturing along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as well as in the Indo-Pacific. The defence minister said a strong and prosperous India would not be built at the cost of others. "Rather, India is here to help other nations realise their full potential," Singh said if security becomes a truly collective enterprise, "we can think of



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrives for the convocation ceremony of National Defence College, in New Delhi

Martin Luther King Jr, he stated that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". "The recent Ukrainian conflict showed how its ripple effects could adversely impact the whole world. Together, Russia and Ukraine export nearly a third of the world's wheat and barley, but this conflict had prevented grain from leaving the 'breadbasket of the world' and led to food crisis in various African and Asian countries," he said. Key infrastructure like power generation and distribution is increasingly becoming more complex and there is a need for dealing with such challenges effectively, Singh said. The energy sector, he added, is one of the main targets of cyber-attacks but it is not the only one; transport, public sector services, telecommunications and critical manufacturing industries are also vulnerable. The defence minister emphasised that national security should not be considered a "zero-sum game" and that there is a need to create a win-win situation for all. (PTI)



Alex Hales and Jos Buttler put together an unbroken 170-run stand to trounce India in the semi-final of ICC T-20 World Cup

## Money in NPS belongs to people, can't go back to state govts as per law: FM

SHIMLA, NOV 10 /--/ Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the money in the National Pension Scheme (NPS) belongs to individual contributors and as per law, state governments cannot get it back. Responding to queries on restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS), Sitharaman clarified at a press conference that Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh governments that are asking the Centre to return the money, cannot get it back as per law. Chief ministers of these two states have asked the Centre to return the people's money under NPS for restarting OPS in their states. Both the Congress-ruled states have notified the reintroduction of OPS for government employees and have said the Centre cannot hold back employees' money. The Congress has also promised to restart OPS for government employees in Himachal Pradesh and this has become a major poll issue in this assembly election as there are 1.75 lakh government employees in the state. Himachal Pradesh goes to the polls on November 12. "As per law, the money in the central kitty of NPS cannot go back to state governments. It can only go back to the contributing workers. Can we change the

law? It is the workers' money in the central kitty. That money has to go to the beneficiary individual workers and not to one authority and not to some other entity. "I am not talking politics here. I am only talking about the law," said Sitharaman addressing the media in Shimla. Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel has been saying that the Centre has refused to return Rs 17,000 crore due to the state government employees enrolled under NPS after the state asked the Centre for it. Baghel has said the Centre cannot hold that money back for long and the state government has sought legal opinion on the matter and may move court. Sitharaman said it was the previous Congress government in Himachal Pradesh led by late chief minister Virbhadr Singh who discontinued OPS in 2003 and started NPS for government employees. "You are asking us questions about OPS when the Congress governments here chose to retain NPS in their tenures," she said. "Our party's national president is working out a solution

on OPS," she said, alleging that it is the Congress which should be on the backfoot on the issue. "Ask those who are benefitting as there are only 300 people who are getting the benefit in Rajasthan instead of 3 lakh employees in the state," she said.



Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur also demanded that the Congress apologise to government employees in the state for discontinuing OPS, and thus it has no right to raise the issue of OPS. "The Congress does not have the moral right to raise the issue of OPS, because it is the Congress government which signed the MoU to scrap OPS and start NPS," he said. Sitharaman also clarified on the import duty on apples, saying as per WTO norms the maximum duty that can be imposed is 50 per cent, which India has done. "India has imposed 50 per cent duty till the bound rate. You cannot impose more than the bound duty rate," she said, adding that to ensure imported apples do not affect the rates in northern part of the

country, such apples are landed in far away places. "The interests of apple growers have always been high on our agenda," she said. Sitharaman urged the people of the state to repeat the BJP government as the state has progressed well in the "double-engine" government of both the state and the Centre. Himachal has received more grants and tax devolution under the double-engine government to provide greater muscle to the state to tackle its finances, she said. Citing figures, she said the state received Rs 80,679 crore from 2014-2019 under NDA rule and the devolution of tax and grants to Himachal is already Rs 70,400 crore between 2019 to 2022 even though 1-and-a-half years of the five-year term remains. Against this, HP received only Rs 40,281 crore during 2009-2014 under the UPA rule, she said. The finance minister also listed a host of central schemes through which the state has benefitted and said the state government has complimented those with their own schemes to cover more and more people in Himachal. The finance minister also enumerated big projects like AIIMS in Bilaspur, bulk drugs park, medical technologies park, Renuka dam project and a host of promises made to people of the state, especially to women. (PTI)



## Russia's Putin won't attend upcoming G-20 summit in Bali

JAKARTA, NOV 10/--/Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the Group of 20 summit in Indonesia next week, an Indonesian government official said on Thursday, avoiding a possible confrontation with the United States



and its allies over his war in Ukraine. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, the chief of support for G-20 events, said Putin's decision not to come was "the best for all of us," US President Joe Biden, Chinese President Xi Jinping and other world leaders are to attend the two-day summit that starts next Tuesday. The summit would have been the first time Biden and Putin were together at a gathering since Russia invaded Ukraine in February. Indonesian President Joko Widodo is hosting the event on the island of Bali.

"It has been officially informed that Russia's President Vladimir Putin will not attend the G-20 summit, and will be represented by a high-level official, and this has been discussed by President Joko Widodo and Putin in previous telephone conversations," Pandjaitan said after meeting security officials in Denpasar, the capital of Bali. "Whatever happens with Russia's decision, it is for our common good and the best for all of us," added Pandjaitan, who is also the coordinating minister of maritime affairs and investment. He said earlier that Russian Foreign Ministe Sergey Lavrov will lead the Russian delegation.

Pandjaitan did not know why Putin decided not to come but said "maybe it's because President Putin is busy at home, and we also have to respect that." Pandjaitan confirmed the same reason may be keeping Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at home as well. Widodo earlier this year travelled to Kyiv and Moscow in an effort to get the two leaders to sit down in Bali and make peace.

Russian Foreign Ministry and Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed later on Thursday that Lavrov will head Russia's delegation at the G-20 summit instead of Putin. He did not give a reason. Putin's decision not to attend the summit comes as Russian forces in Ukraine have suffered significant setbacks. Russia's military said it will withdraw from Kherson, which is the only Ukrainian regional capital it captured and a gateway to the Russian-occupied Crimean Peninsula. Russia's announced retreat from Kherson along with a potential stalemate in fighting over the winter could provide both countries an opportunity to negotiate peace, Army General Mark Milley, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on Wednesday. He said as many as 40,000 Ukrainian civilians and "well over" 100,000 Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded in the war, now in its ninth month. "Same thing probably on the Ukrainian side," Milley added.

The G-20 is the biggest of three summits being held in Southeast Asia this week and next, and it remained unclear if Lavrov will represent Russia at all of them. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit began Thursday in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, followed by the G-20 and then the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Bangkok, Thailand. Biden will attend ASEAN and the G-20 while Vice President Kamala Harris will travel to APEC. Biden is expected to meet with Xi in Bali. Biden had ruled out meeting with Putin if he had attended the summit and said the only conversation he could have possibly had with the Russian leader would be to discuss a deal to free Americans imprisoned in Russia. Biden administration officials said they had been coordinating with global counterparts to isolate Putin if he had decided to participate either in person or virtually. They have discussed boycotts or other displays of condemnation. (AP)

## Russia says retreat from key city begun but Ukraine cautious

KYIV, NOV 10/--/Ukrainian officials acknowledged that Russian troops had no choice but to flee a key southern city but stopped short of declaring victory in Kherson on Thursday even after Moscow said it began a retreat that would represent a humiliating defeat in the grinding war.

It was difficult to know what was happening in the strategic port city, from which tens of thousands have fled in recent weeks. Some Western observers, including the highest-ranking U.S. military officer, said they believed the Kremlin's forces have been forced to pull out though a full withdrawal could take some time.

Ukrainian officials have warned for weeks that any announcement of a Russian retreat should be treated skeptically. They have accused Moscow of plotting to lure Ukrainian troops into an ambush and said Russian soldiers have donned civilian clothes in an effort to melt into the city's population.

But on Thursday, Ukraine's armed forces commander-in-chief, Valeriy Zaluzhny, said that "the enemy had no other choice but to resort to fleeing," since Kyiv's army has "destroyed logistical routes and supply system, disrupted the system of the enemy's military command" in the area. Still, he said that Ukrainian military could not confirm or deny that Russian forces were indeed withdrawing from Kherson as the Russian Defense Ministry reported Thursday. The ministry said there was a "maneuver of units of the Russian

group" to the opposite side of the Dnieper River from where Kherson lies, a day after ordering a withdrawal.

But another senior Ukrainian official offered another reason to be wary of any pullback: Presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak alleged Russian forces had laid mines throughout Kherson, saying they wanted to turn it into a "city of death."

Moscow took Kherson soon after the invasion on Feb. 24 the only provincial capital it has captured and illegally annexed the wider region of the same name in September.

A forced pullout from the city would mark one of Russia's worst setbacks and recapturing Kherson could allow Ukraine to win back lost territory in the south, including Crimea, which Moscow illegally seized in 2014. A Russian retreat is also almost certain to raise domestic pressure on the Kremlin to escalate the conflict. Ukrainian officials have been cautious throughout the war in declaring any victories against a Russian force that at least initially outgunned and outmanned them. But their outright skepticism of Russia's announcement of a withdrawal was unusual. Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said a day earlier that he believed a retreat was underway.

"The initial indicators are they are in fact doing it. They made the public announcement they're doing it. I believe they're doing it in order to preserve their force to reestablish defensive lines south of

# Sri Lanka President Wickremesinghe opposed to outside intervention; invites Tamil parties to resolve minority issues internally

COLOMBO, NOV 10/--/President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Thursday said Sri Lanka does not need outside intervention in its internal affairs, as he invited the country's Tamil minority parties to hold talks next week to resolve some of the outstanding issues they faced.

"I invite all of you to have talks next week and settle all outstanding issues before the 75th anniversary of independence", Wickremesinghe told the Tamil party lawmakers while addressing Parliament.

Sri Lanka will be celebrating its 75th anniversary of independence from Britain on February 4, 2023.

"We don't need others to intervene in our country's matters. We can solve our issues and that's what we are attempting to accomplish," Wickremesinghe

said, without naming any country.

India has been consistently calling upon Sri Lanka to fulfill its commitments to protect the interests of the Tamil community and preserve the island nation's character as a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society.

President Wickremesinghe said the government had already discussed issues that had resulted in the release of some of the Tamil prisoners who had been held due to links with the LTTE acts of terror. "We discussed the issues of the people in the North. Already, we have released some of the prisoners and there are several others to be released",

Wickremesinghe said.

The government released several Tamil prisoners last month who had been held under



the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) without a charge over decades.

The Tamil and international rights groups have backed the demand by the European Union to repeal PTA. Wickremesinghe

also told parliament that a new Counter-Terrorism Act and new anti-corruption legislation would be passed in January or February.

The President said he was keen to develop the North and the East, the former battle zones of the economy to give benefits to people.

"I am getting an assessment done on the renewable energy potential in the North and the possibility of having green hydrogen. Now if you get green hydrogen on a competitive basis, the whole Northern economy goes up", he said. There was no immediate response by the Tamil parties to the president's invitation. Over the years, the Sri Lankan

government has been aggressive against Tamilian groups following its war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The LTTE ran a military campaign for a separate Tamil homeland in the northern and eastern provinces of the island nation for nearly 30 years before its collapse in 2009 after the Sri Lankan Army killed its supreme leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

According to the Lankan government figures, over 20,000 people are missing due to various conflicts including the three-decade brutal war with Lankan Tamils in the north and east which claimed at least 100,000 lives. International rights groups claim at least 40,000 ethnic Tamil civilians were killed in the final stages of the war, but the Sri Lankan government has disputed the figures. (PTI)

## Garage fire: Many gas cylinders stored at foreign workers' cramped quarters



MALE, NOV 10/--/A gas cylinder was next to each bed of around 38 foreign workers in the cramped living quarters above an automobile garage here in the Maldivian capital where a massive fire broke out on Thursday, a ghastly accident which killed at least 10 people, including eight Indians. The fire broke out in the car repair garage in M. Nirufehi, located near the Maaveyo Mosque, around 12:30 am. The garage was located on the ground floor, while the first-floor housed cramped living quarters for migrant workers with only ventilation a single window. The quarters housed migrant workers from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. The building was a three-storey structure erected on wooden decks on each of the floors. The building houses expatriates according to neighbours.

Maldives National Disaster Authority (MNDA) officials said there were gas cylinders placed next to the beds inside the migrant quarters, according to news portal SunOnline International. "The fire had already spread extensively when we arrived at the scene. The first priority of our firefighters was to control the fire and prevent it from spreading any further," said Colonel Ibrahim Rasheed, Commandant, MNDF Fire and Rescue Service. Ibrahim

said firefighters had to work hard to prevent the fire from spreading to neighbouring residences. "There were a lot of gas cylinders here. Different types of gas. The garage was located on the ground floor. We therefore found it very challenging to fight the fire," he said.

The neighbouring house sustained significant damages to its structure, including damages to its windows, during Thursday morning's fire. Ibrahim said the people evacuated from the building initially reported nine people as missing. "We began search and rescue operations as soon as the fire was controlled. We have found 10 bodies so far," he said.

Ibrahim said the dead bodies recovered from the scene were severely burnt, making it difficult to identify them or even determine their sex. Authorities have confirmed 10 people have died in the fire incident. Ibrahim said the garage had been the scene of a previous fire which resulted from negligence while working with gas cutters. "This place stores many cylinders. Some cylinders as tall as me," he said.

Meanwhile, Maldivian Foreign Minister Ambula Shahid has expressed grief over the incident and said that a "full investigation" into the incident has been launched. "Deeply saddened by the news of a tragic fire in Male", that has taken the lives of 10 expatriate workers and affected several families. Our thoughts and prayers are with families of the deceased and affected. A full investigation is underway," he tweeted.

"Ten people were confirmed dead, of which eight were Indian nationals. We are yet to ascertain the nationalities of the two other victims," Ramdhir Singh, Welfare Officer, working in the Indian High Commission here told PTI.

Foreign workers constitute about half of Male's 250,000-strong population, who are mostly from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. (PTI)

incompatible with a campaign to deceive and trap Ukrainian troops." Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday also took Moscow's announcement at face value, welcoming it. But NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg was more guarded, insisting the West needed to wait and see "how the situation on the ground develops in the coming days." "But what is clear is that Russia is under heavy pressure. And if they leave Kherson, it would be another victory for Ukraine," he said at a press briefing in Rome.

Meanwhile, the head of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, Pavlo Kyrylenko, said Thursday that three civilians had been killed in the region and another 12 wounded in the last 24 hours. Writing on Telegram, the official also reported that law enforcement officers had found the bodies of five people killed during the Russian occupation of the town of Yarova, which was retaken by Ukraine on September 19.

Russian forces overnight pounded the city of Nikopol and nearby areas from multiple rocket launchers and heavy artillery, Dnipropetrovsk Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko said. The shelling wounded a 80-year-old woman and damaged 10 residential buildings, a gas station, a gas pipeline and a power line. The neighboring Zaporizhzhia region was also shelled on Thursday morning, according to deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office Kyrylo Tymoshenko. (AP)

## Imran Khan's party resumes stalled long march

LAHORE, NOV 10/--/Tens of thousands of supporters of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday gathered at the site in Wazirabad in Punjab province where an assassination attempt was made on the former prime minister last week as the party resumed its stalled long march to Islamabad in presence of its top leaders. The 'Haqeeqi Azadi' (real freedom) march, demanding fresh general elections, was suspended following the attack on 70-year-old Khan on November 3. Khan suffered bullet injuries in the right leg when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others standing on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area, where he was leading the march. He underwent surgery for bullet injuries at the Shaukat Khanum Hospital owned by his charitable organisation. He is advised to take rest for four to six weeks by doctors.

Addressing his supporters via a video, Khan alleged that the "plan" to assassinate him was made in September. "This incident () no, this planned assassination attempt I want to clear that this plan was made in September," he claimed. "On September 24, I said in a public rally that this plan was formed and that they will blame a religious fanatic [for it]." Khan, who is recovering from injuries, said that the people who wanted him dead had planned to pin his murder on a "religious fanatic". "They planned that if a religious fanatic kills me, the responsibility from them will go away," he claimed. Khan has blamed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Major General Faisal Naseer of hatching a plot to assassinate him. Leading the march in the absence of Khan, former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi earlier said that the party chairman would soon join his supporters in the long march to Islamabad.

"Today I want to give a clear message that the convoy of PTI is on the move. If you want to create a Pakistan of a new ideology, then you have to accompany Imran Khan," Qureshi, flanked by other party leaders including Hammad Azhar, Faisal Javed, Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry among others, told marchers in Wazirabad. Faisal Javed was among those injured in the attack on Khan. Qureshi said that despite an assassination attempt on Khan, his party didn't bow or give up on its struggle for freedom. "Today, we had the option to either stand behind the bullet proof glass or in

front of it... and we have chosen the latter...we have decided to look you in the eye. We have decided to tell you that PTI didn't bow and will never do it...no matter what comes," Qureshi told supporters. Senior party leader Asad Umar said that no one could scare Khan or his followers. "Exactly a week from today, an attempt was made to take Imran Khan's life...but let me tell you today, it was not an attempt to take one man's life, it was an attempt to silence the nation's voice," he said.

The long march resumed with prayers for those killed and injured in the shooting. On Sunday, Khan had announced resumption of the long march on Tuesday but later the party changed the decision and rescheduled it for Thursday. He would join the long march in Rawalpindi when it reaches there in 10 to 14 days. During a meeting presided by Khan at his Lahore residence on Wednesday, it was decided that the "Haqeeqi Azadi" march would move towards Rawalpindi from the spot following a public gathering. The federal government has not yet granted permission to PTI to hold its rally in Islamabad. In a statement, the PTI said leaders from Faisalabad and other parts of the country would move towards Rawalpindi in groups, while more convoys will reach the city in the third week of November; Geo TV reported.

Meanwhile, a three-member probe panel would be formed on Thursday, which will provide details of the investigation done by local police to the joint investigation team, it added. One person was killed and 11 others, including Khan, were injured in the attack during the long march. Khan has alleged that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Major General Naseer were part of a plot to assassinate him in the same way former Punjab governor Salman Taseer was killed in 2011 by a religious extremist.

The cricketer-turned-politician, who was ousted as prime minister in april this year after a no-confidence motion was passed in the National Assembly, is seeking fresh general elections in Pakistan. However, the federal government led by Prime Minister Sharif is opposed to holding elections now. The term of the current National Assembly will end in August 2023. The political turmoil in Pakistan comes as it reels from the economic crisis and the effects of devastating floods. (PTI)

## Michelle Obama shares personal stories of coping in new book

WASHINGTON, NOV 10/--/Michelle Obama said she struggled with a "crushing sense of hopelessness" after the 2020 presidential election that was brought on by the death and isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic, a summer of political and racial unrest and the insurrection at the US Capitol. "I was in a low place," she said. Then she got an idea. "Everyone was searching for some answers of how to cope. And for some reason they were asking me, What do you do? I had to start thinking about that," the former first lady told People magazine in an interview pegged to Tuesday's release of her second book, "The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times." She is set to open a six-city book tour in Washington on that day.

In the book, former President Barack Obama's wife, who is one of the world's most famous women, tells how she steadies herself during these anxious times and how she works at overcoming her lifelong fear of change and doubts about herself. "Over the 58 years that I've lived, I can look back and I can say, This is how I deal with fear: These are the things I say to myself when I need to pick myself up. This is how I stay visible in a world that doesn't necessarily see a tall Black woman," she said. "This is how I stay armored up when I'm attacked. The book is that offering." "I think people learn not through edict, but through stories," she said. People posted a report on the interview on its website on Thursday, and it will appear in the magazine's Nov. 21 issue, available

nationwide on Friday. Mrs. Obama, the mother of Sasha and Malia Obama, opens up in the book about everything from how awkward it is to make new friends to her experiences with racism, marriage, parenting and even menopause.

She also writes about leaning on a "kitchen table" of close girlfriends, led by her 85-year-old mother, Marian Robinson. The group includes Kathleen Buhle, a hiking and yoga pal who is the ex-wife of President Joe Biden's son Hunter and the mother of Maisey Biden, Sasha Obama's best friend. In 2018, Mrs. Obama released her best-selling memoir, "Becoming," and embarked on a U.S. and international book tour to promote it. The book has sold more than 17 million copies worldwide, surpassing the sales of any memoir by a previous first lady or modern president, including her husband. In her new book, the former first lady describes looking in the mirror and only seeing her flaws, and how she practices being kind to herself.

She said she also copes by indulging in what her husband calls "lowbrow TV." "You name it, I watch it," she said, naming HGTV, anything on the Food Channel and dating shows like "Married at First Sight" among her viewing choices. The former first lady described herself as an informed citizen who reads the newspaper, gets briefs, sits with her husband every night and knows what's happening in the world. But she said that "when I'm by myself, I need to be able to turn my head off and think about wallpaper." (AP)



