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NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

The Congress on Tuesday

night issued show cause

notices to three . Ashok

Rajasthan ministers Shanti Dhariwal and Mahesh Joshi, and Dharmender Rathore - for

their "grave indiscipline"

and asked them to explain

within 10 days why action should not be initiated against them.

The action came two days

after 2 MLAs participated in a parallel meeting at

Dhariwal's residence in

Jaipur laying down conditions to the party and did

not attend the official legis-

lature party meeting con-

vened for passing a resolu-

loyalists

'E-commerce firms sell goods worth ₹24,500 cr in 1st 4 days of festive'

BUSINESS

 \gg Page: 7 \ll

Cong issues show cause

notice to 3 Gehlot loyalists

This comes after party observers seek action against those raging rebellion

after Congress observers

Mallkarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken submitted

their written report to party chief Sonia Gandhi

charging the three state

leaders with "gross indisci-

The panel's member sec-

NAMMA CITY WELCOMES THE PRESIDENT



The party's disciplinary committee sent the notices

Mallkarjun Kharge and

Aiav Maken submitted

after Congress observers

their written report to party

chief Sonia Gandhi charg-

ing the three state leaders

with "gross indiscipline".

retary Tariq Anwar in the

notice to Dhariwal, Joshi

and Rathore, referred to

"Prima fâcie, the above

charges are an act of grave indiscipline. Therefore,

this show cause notice is

being issued seeking your

Maken's report.

SPORTS

Ind vs SA: India aims for final tune-up ahead of T20 WC

≫ Page: 8 «

reply within 10 days as to why disciplinary action not be taken against you as per the provisions of the

constitution of the Indian

National Congress," the

notice to all three leaders

said. Anwar in his notice

to Dhariwal said that the

observers' report has sub-

mitted that as parliamen-

tary affairs minister he

sits on the dais and is a prominent speaker at all CLP meetings in

Apart from issuing state-

ments, he has committed

grave indiscipline by hosting a parallel MLAs' meet-

ing at his residence "pres-

suring them not to attend

the official meeting", the

Rajasthan.

notice said said.



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No entry without

ID cards in MP's

Garba pandals

Garba organisers in Madhya Pradesh have been asked

to check the identity cards

of people before allowing

them entry into the dance

Minister Narottam Mishra said on Tuesday. Traditional

Garba dance events are organised during the nine-

day Navratri festival which

Navratri, the festival of worship of Maa Durga, is

the centre of our faith. In a

bid to maintain peace and

harmony on such a holy

occasion, the organisers have been instructed to

provide an entry in the Garba events only after checking the ID cards,'

Mishra told reporters. There

should be no unpleasant situation on such an occasion, hence the identity cards of people should be

checked. Everyone can come to offer prayers to

the Goddess, he said. Earlier this month, MP Culture Minister Usha

Thakur had suggested that entry into Garba dance

venues in the state during

checking ID cards to pre-

Kishan duped of

Rs 3.25 crore

GORAKHPUR, 27 SEPT

Politician-cum-actor Ravi

Kishan has allegedly been duped of Rs 3.25 crore by a Mumbai-based business-

man, his public relations officer said on Tuesday. Ravi Kishan had given the

money to accused Jain Jitendra Ramesh in 2012.

When nudged to return it,

Ramesh allegedly handed

him 12 cheques of Rs 34

lakh each. The actor, also

here, deposited one of the

cheques at an SBI branch

here on December 7 last

vear but it got bounced.

He continued talks with

Ramesh for the money but

did not get a satisfactory

answer. Following this, a police complaint was

lodged, his PRO Pawan

Dubey said on Tuesday.

Rai the complaint was

been registered.

lodged a few days ago,

Cantonment police station

in-charge Shashi Bhushan

based on which a case has

the Lok Sabha MP from

be allowed only after

vent "Love Jihad".

Actor Ravi

the Navratri festival should

pandals, state Home

started on Monday.

BHOPAL, 27 SEPT



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28 SEPTEMBER 2022 | WEDNESDAY | BENGALURU | 30-SAFAR-1443

PFI RAIDS

Over 90 workers held in raids across 6 states



NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

More than 90 people allegedly linked with the Popular Front of India (PFI) were detained or arrested in raids across six states on Tuesday, the crackdown coming five days after similar pan India searches against the group often accused of being linked to radical Islam. Conducted mostly by state

police teams, the raids were spread across Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi, Maharashtra, Assam and Madhya Pradesh. On 22 September, multi-agency teams spearheaded

Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested 106 leaders and activists of the PFI in 15 states for allegedly support-ing terror activities in the country. The NIA is investigating 19 cases involving the PFI. As police teams fanned out across their respective states on Tuesday, seemingly synchronisea the action was swift. While 25 people were arrested in Assam, four were arrested in Maharashtra and 30 were detained in Delhi, officials said. The count of those detained in Madhya Pradesh was 21, followed by 10 in Gujarat. Besides, several people were also arrested in Karnataka. According to officials in

Assam, of the 25 PFI

activists arrested in the fresh crackdown, 10 were held in Goalpara. Besides, five were nabbed in Kamrup (Rural) and three in Dhubri, followed by arrests in Barpeta, Baksa, Darrang,

terror activities.

ing Nizamuddin and Shaheen Bagh. Paramilitary forces were deployed in several places in the city where the raids were conducted. No case has been registered as the investigation is

continued till early morning, police said Madnya Pradesr

Mishra said. These people

Udalguri Karimganj.Himanta Biswa

Sarma, Chief Minister, had earlier said his government has been urging the Centre to ban the outfit for allegedly creating an eco-system for

underway, police said. The

Police detained 21 people from eight districts for their links with the PFI, state Home Minister Narottam

detained based on interroga-

In the national capital, Delhi Police's Special Cell carried out the searches in multiple locations, includ-

operation started on Tuesday after 12.30 am and

tion of the PFI activists arrested last week. Mishra. who is also the Madhya government's Pradesh spokesperson, said.

tion authorising the Congress chief to appoint

a successor to Ashok

Gehlot, Chief Minister,

who was to contest the

Congress presidential elec-

The party's disciplinary

committee sent the notices

SC LIVE STREAMS PROCEEDING FOR 1ST TIME, GETS 8 LAKH VIEWS

Karnataka Chief Minister n Bengaluru on Tuesday.

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

On the first day, a large audience watched the Supreme Court's three Constitution Bench proceedings that were being streamed live. As of 7:45 PM, the three videos had received more than 8 lakh views, according to YouTube data. Social media users expressed their joy and delight at firsthand observation of Supreme Court events.

Constitution Bench proceedings were broadcast live online: The EWS case was heard by the first bench, presided over by UU Lalit, Chief Justice of

India; the Uddhav Thackeray vs Eknath Shinde case was heard by second presided over by Justice DY Chandrachud; and the case involving the validity of the All India Bar Examination (AIBE) was heard by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul. The idea of live-streaming matters of public importance was endorsed in principle by the Supreme Court in the Swapnil Tripathi case on 26 September 2018.

live-streaming modalities, however, were still being worked out, thus the ruling was not put into effect

-Salar News

Punjab CM moves confidence motion in state Assembly

CHANDIGARH, 27 SEPT

Students welcome the President of India Draupadi Murmu infront of Vidhana sSoudha during feliciatation programme by Basavaraj Bommai,

Bhagwant Mann, Punjab Chief Minister, on Tuesday moved a confidence motion in the state assembly.

Purohit, Banwarilal Punjab Governor, on Sunday gave his nod to convene the House on 27 September after days of squabble between the Raj Bhavan and AAP government over holding a session of the Assembly.

Two BJP MLAs -- Ashwani Sharma and Jangi Lal Mahajan -- had earlier walked out of the House after Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan announced that

Mann would move the confidence motion.

After moving the Motion Confidence, Mann accused the Congress of supporting BJP's "Operation Lotus" alleging that its MLAs ran away from discussion in the

The Congress is in such a situation that nobody wants to take over as its president. he said, taking a jibe at the party over the political crisis in Rajasthan where MLAs loyal to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot did not meet central observers of the party. He also attacked the BJP,

saying the saffron party feels only they should be in power everywhere.

– Mohammed Asad

"Three crore people of Punjab have faith in us. I have full faith in my 91 sol-diers (AAP MLAs)," Mann said. The AAP had recently claimed that at least 10 of its MLAs were approached by the BJP with an offer of Rs 25 crore to each of them in a bid to topple the sixgovernment month-old Lotus".

the 117-member Assembly, the AAP has 92. Congress 18, SAD 3, BJP 2, 1 while 1 Independent.

PATNAIK MEETS INDUSTRY CAPTAINS IN **B'LURU AHEAD OF INVESTORS' MEET**

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister, on Tuesday had one-to-one interaction with industrialists including Azim Premji, former Wipro chairman, during his visit to Bengaluru ahead of the 28 September Odisha September Odisha Investors' Meet in India's

Silicon Valley.
Patnaik earlier had led a delegation to Bengaluru to participate in an Investors'

Over 500 industrialists, business persons and investors across sectors are expected to attend the Odisha Investors' Meet, said state Industry minis-

ter PK Deb, adding that the chief minister will address the investors and apprise them about the state's flagship investment summit, the Make in Odisha Conclave' 22 and invite them to the event. The Industry minister said that the idea behind

organizing this event is to showcase the diverse business-friendly ecosystem of Odisha to the potential investors and help them to form an informed decision to invest in the state to meet the ever-growing demands in Eastern and North-Eastern India as well as the ASEAN mar-

ANGER OVER LACK OF FUNDING

Shelter owners release thousands of cows in Guj govt buildings



AHMEDABAD, 27 SEPT

Charitable trusts, that run cattle shelters in the west-ern Indian state of Gujarat, have set free thousands of cows in protest against the lack of promised govern-

ment aid. Videos of cows walking government through buildings have Protesters threatened to boycott the upcoming state election if the government fails to

Gujarat is among several Indian states reeling from a skin disease outleading to cattle

losses. The state has reported than 5,800 cattle deaths, while nearly 170,000 are estimated to have been affected by the disease.

Cows are sacred animals India's majority Hindu community, and slaughtering them is illegal 18 states, including In 2017, Gujarat tightened through government buildings have gone viral. Protesters have threatened to boycott the upcoming state election if the government fails to release funds.Gujarat is among several Indian states reeling from a lumpy skin disease outbreak,

its cow protection laws by notifying that those slaugh-

leading to cattle losses.

ished with a life sentence. An unintended consequence has been a large number of cattle roaming the streets, causing traffic snarls, or landing up at shel-

In its budget for this year, the Gujarat government had allocated 5bn had rupees (\$61m; £57m) to maintain shelters for cows and other old animals in the

Shelter managers, however, said they had not

the scheme and felt "cheated" by the government. They added that despite

several representations to the government, they had not been offered any solu-

It is reported that nearly 1,750 cowsheds run by charitable trusts, which house more than 450,000 had joined the protest.

BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and

support. Even Congressruled Rajasthan is offering 50 rupees for one cow. So why has Gujarat failed to support cows?" Vipul Mali, general secretary of the Gujarat Gau Seva Sangh which runs cow shelters for sick cattle - was quoted by the newspaper as saying. Reports say in the past few days, cattle have taken over roads, local courts and government buildings in several parts of Gujarat.

Illegal taxis: Kuwait to deport 60 **Indian expats**

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

Sixty expats including Indian nationals from Mangaluru and Kerala are to be deported from Kuwait as they were caught operating illegal taxi services using their

They were caught transporting passengers from and to Kuwait Airport. They were observed by traffic patrols for giving illegal taxi services for arrivals and departures from airport entrances and exits. These instructions came directly from Major General Yousef Al-Khadda. the Kuwait Director General of the General Traffic Department. According to diplomatic sources at the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, most of the Indians among those 60 are from Mangaluru and Kerala. Most of the arrested violators were Indian, Bangladeshi and Egyptian

expats. They were referred to the deportation centre and are ready to be deported back to their respective countries. Many complaints were received from travellers about cheating and extortion from these vehicle drivers who do not have a license

Managing self is core: Professor

MYSURU, 27 SEPT

Managing the mind, time, expectations, emotions, communication, and values is the true essence of human values and success in life, said Prof JM Subramanya, former Director, SDMIMD, during the SDMIMD Foundation Day Lecture held on Monday in Mysuru. Prof Subramanya speaking on the corporate culture and work-life, said, "Duty with a good thought, good mind, the good heart, will always yield good results. The duty and responsibilities have to be performed with passion." Further, he said, "God has blessed us with relationships in our lives and has left us the choice to choose friends, which we must exercise with due diligence. Wealth is a must in life, but how we earn, how it is spent and what portion we give back to society matters a

several anecdotes and his learnings with the concept of Vishaya (the Content), Vinaya (the humility), Vismaya (the pleasant surprise), and Vaikari (the art of presenting). The speaker gave the young managers food for thought and presented the cycle of learning - observe, experience, listen and read - from the famous Shri

current scenario, he shared

lot". Speaking on the teaching-learning in the

-Salar News **CWE launches** business incubation

Someshwara Shathaka.

programme MYSURU, 27 SEPT

The Catalyst for Women Entrepreneurship (CWE) launched the first cohort

for Elevate WomEN, business incubation programme for women entrepreneurs from Mysuru region on Tuesday. The programme is supported by the Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science and Technology, Govt of Karnataka. This is an exclusive business incubation programme for women entrepreneurs based in Mysuru, Mandya, Kodagu, Hassan and Chamaraianagar. CWE will nurture and grow women entrepreneurs to scale up their enterprises successfully and build a powerful network for promoting business, peer learning and visibility In this 4-month intensive hybrid programme, the CWE will equip 20 selected women entrepreneurs with business skills, mentoring, pitch deck preparation, and connection to investors and publicity. This will also be an opportunity for women entrepreneurs to connect and build a business network. Delivering the keynote address, MD, Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science and Technology

Meena Nagarai said "We are

looking at all angles and

is doing. —Salar News

helping handhold startups

across other cities also and

come up with what Bengaluru

Murmu inaugurates rocket engine manufacturing facility

roupadi Murmu, the President of India, inaugurated the Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF), set up by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to cater to the entire rocket engine production under one roof for the Indian Space Research Organisation

(ISRO), on Tuesday.
The 4500 square meter ICMF is a state-of-the-art facility housing over 70 hitech equipment and testing facilities. In 2013, an MOU was signed with ISRO for the construction of a cryogenic engine facility at HAL's Aerospace Division. In 2016, the MOU was amended to establish ICMF with an investment of Rs 208 crore.

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Governor, Rarnataka Governor, Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister, S Somanath, ISRO Chairman, HAL Chairman, and C B Ananthakrishnan, Managing Director, among others were present at the

The Bengaluru-based company said that all criti-



President of India Droupadi Murmu, receives a memento from HAL Chairman Ananthakrishnan during the inauguration of Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF) in Bengaluru on

-Pic: Mohammed Asad

cal equipment needed for manufacturing and assembly has been commissioned, and that pre-production activities, such as drawing up the process and quality plans, have

HAL will start realising the modules by March 2023, it said. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV MK-II), GSLV Mk-III, and stage integration for GSLV

MK-II are all manufactured by HAL Aerospace Division.

worldwideusing cryogenic engines, the statement said. As a result of the complexity of cryogenic

ICMF is a state-of-the-art facility housing over 70 hitech equipment and testing facilities. In 2013, an MOU was signed with ISRO for the construction of a cryogenic engine facility at HAL's Aerospace Division. In 2016, the MOU was amended to establish ICMF with an investment of Rs 208 crore.

engines, only a few countries, like the USA, France, Japan, China, and Russia, have mastered this tech-

A cryogenic engine was successfully flown by India on 5 January 2014, making it the sixth country in the world to develop cryogenic engines (made by ISRO through private industries).

Future space exploration will rely heavily on cryo-Additionally, the President laid the foundation stone for the South Zone Zonal Institute of Virology.

K Sudhakar, Karnataka Minister, and Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health, attended the event.

Raids on PFI continue in State, 45 more detained

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

The crackdown against the Popular Front of India (PFI) continued across the State with police detaining 45 members of the political outfit on Tuesday.

Police said the raids began at 4 am in various locations

in Belagavi, Gadag, and Bijapur in North Karnataka, neighbouring district of Bengaluru Kolar and Bengaluru Rural, a coastal district

The PFI leaders have reportedly collected funds from foreign countries to foment violence in society and attack RSS leaders and offices in retaliation to recent NIA raids, top police sources revealed.

On 23 September, the searches were conducted in Bengaluru, Bidar, Raichur, Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, Bengaluru Rural and Kolar districts. In Bengaluru alone, 15 PFI workers were taken into custody.

Alok Kumar, ADGP (Law and Order), is personally monitoring the raids across the state. Belagavi police have taken five PFI members into custody who blocked the National Highway and protested against the arrest of their leaders earlier. In Kolar, six PFI leaders have been arrested and are being interrogated.

In the coastal district of Udupi, the police teams have conducted simultaneous raids on four locations and

taken more than four leaders into custody.
Police detained Popular Front of India (PFI) leaders in Mangaluru and Udupi on Tuesday and detained PFI leaders from Ullal, Mangaluru, Talapady and district limits. Preventive Detention cases were filed under 107, 151 Crpc against the detained leaders. Ismail Engineer Bajpe, Sharif Pandeshwar, Iqbal Kettikal and Naushad Surathkal are among the detained.

Somashekar to inaugurate Yuva Dasara today

MYSURU, 27 SEPT

s part of Mysuru A Dasara 2022, the Yuva Dasarawill be held at Maharaja College Grounds here from 28 September to3October.

Programmes will be organised from 6 pm to 10

Somashekar,District In-chargeMinister, released the programme poster here Tuesday. Senior sandalwood actor ShivarajKumar and late Puneeth Rajkumar's wife Ashwini have been invited.L Nagendra, Chamaraja constituency MLA, will helm the proceedings. Ashwini Puneet Rajkumar, film producer, will inaugurate Appu Namanaprogramme in the evening as a tribute to

Musicians Gurukiran, Vijay Prakash and Kunal Ganjawala willsing Puneeth movies' hit songs.On 29September, the winners of Yuva Sambhrama will present a danceprogramme followed by dance programme by local artistes, nrithyaroopaka by Pavan Kannika Kapoor.On 30September, there will be a dance programme followed by another programme, a laseract and Signature nrithya roopaka and Sandalwood night.On 1October. Sonu Nigam will present a musical 2October, actors

Poonacha, Vijaya Raghavendra willpresent Kannada star nite, rasamanjari by Mangli and Amit Trivedi.On 3October, there will be a show by Supriya Ram and team, followedby a fashion show. Sunidhi Chauhan will present a musical nite later. Prathap Simha, Mysuru-Kodagu Member of Parliament; Shivakumar, Mysuru Mayor; R C h e t a n , M y s u r u Superintendent of Police; Venkataraju NC,Kiran Gowda, M Badarish, Santosh Kumar, M Mahendra, Aushad RehmanSharif, Dr Ningaraju and others were present.

—Salar News



President of India Droupadi Murmu, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr Bharati Pawar and others during the Foundation Stone Laving of Zonal Institute of Virology (South Zone) of NIV, in Bengaluru on

K'taka Cong chief asks RaGa to return as party president

CHITRADURGA, 27 SEPT

Shivakumar, Karnataka Congress president has appealed to Rahul Gandhi to take over as the party's national president in this "hour of crisis" and "save" it. "I appeal to Rahulji, in this hour of crisis, you please accept the Congressmen of this country, you take over. Please don't refuse the Congress' presidentship, to save this party and the country," Shivakumar said, on Tuesday. He said, "Only the

Gandhi family can keep this country and the party united. Please accept (president post of Congress), you are working hard, you have to protect this country, you have to take the responsibili-ty of the Congress Presidentship."

During Shivakumar's appeal, the Congress was grappling with the situation in Rajasthan where Ashok Gehlot's loyalists submitted resignation letters Assembly Speaker C P Joshi, apparently to force the party leadership to select someone from the Gehlot camp as CM

ed president. Sachin Pilot, who led a rebellion against Gehlot in 2020, is opposed to the appointment of loyalist MLAs. Currently, Congress is electing its next president to succeed Sonia Gandhi. Her son, Rahul Gandhi, who has previously held the position, is said to have declined it despite the pressure. If polling is required for the post, it will be held on 17 October. Voting will take place on 19 October, and the results will be announced on the same day.

Youth have a role in India's devp: Prez BY DEEPTHI.R KOLAR **BENGALURU, 27 SEPT**

"India is aiming at joining the league of Developed Nations in the next two decades and the presentday youth has a great role to play in this regard," said Droupadi Murmu, President.

Lamenting the role of Science and Technology in the development of the country, the President called upon the youth to see that the larger goal of development of lower strata of people in the achieved. Calling upon the institutions to fine-tune them-

selves with the changing times, the President underlined the importance of making our students 'future-ready students', for this the institutions should look for innovative and out of box ideas and see that students of our country get opportunities globally.

Thawar Chand Gehlot,

Governor of Karnataka,

in his speech said Bengaluru is the house of many reputed institu-tions. Education plays a crucial role in building one's personality development, the Government pointed out and expressed happiness that St. joseph's



College has been attaching utmost importance to the personality development of the youth which in turn will pave for the progress of the society. He underlined the imporinculcating moral values among the vouth.

Basavaraja Bommai, Chief Minister, in his speech underlined the importance of providing culture-filled education to vouth as the country needs our culture to strive for long. Terming St. Joseph's University as a True Temple of knowl-Bommai called upon the authorities of the University to strive in the direction of making Bengaluru and Karnataka

—Salar News

CRIME BEAT

3 missing City students found after 21 days

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

went missing have been reunited with their families after 21 days after they were reported missing. Two of them wanted to marry each other as they thought nobody liked them because of their looks and because they were poor. Police said the two girls from 9th standard and one 10th standard belonged to a private school located on Promenade Road Frazer Town had run

Three school girls who

away on 6 September. Pulakeshinagar police led by Kiran PB, Inspector, traced them to Chennai on 23 September after one of the girls called up her Police started searching

for the girls after the mother of the ninth grader filed a missing complaint. Her father was strict and pulled her up for not focusing on her studies and told her to stop meeting up with her friends in their residen-

tial locality. The other two girls stayed in the school's hostel. One of them had lost her



had remarried. The stepmother didn't like her and allegedly asked her husband to kill her. A priest at the church said her life was in danger, prompting her to plan the escape. The third girl had lost both her parents.

The three girls often talked to each other in school about their prob-They eventually decided to run away and lead independent lives. Referring to their studies and poverty, the girls bor-rowed Rs 30,000 from friends and relatives and

escaped to Chennai. An auto-rickshaw driver in Chennai found them on the street. They told him they were orphans and were tor-

tured in the hostel. He put them up in a hostel run by a church in Chennai. He also helped them get jobs at a grinder spare parts packing unit.

After getting to work, one of the girls bought a phone and gave her father a missed call. He called back but she did not speak to him. When he tried again, she

didn't return the calls. Suspecting that it was his daughter, he went to the police, who succeeded in tracking her down. The other two girls were found

Police were shocked to learn that two of the girls wanted to marry each other, living as husband and wife. —Salar News

COPS BUST RACKET; SEIZE DRUGS WORTH 7.8 CR, 5 HELD

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

With the arrest of a foreign drug peddler and four women, Karnataka Tuesday claimed to have busted inter-state drug racket operating from the deep forests of Andhra Pradesh.

According to a press release by the Central Crime Branch (CCB)

Anti-Narcotics wing has seized 8 kg hashish oil, 10 kg ganja and 1.4 kg MDMA crystals worth Rs 7.8 crore in total, from the accused

According to police, the operation was carried out based on a tip-off by the gang which was arrested a month ago within the limits of Viveknagar police station in the city. The State police team took four women into custody near the Puttaparthi Railway station in Andhra Pradesh.

The women had come to supply drugs to Bengaluru drug peddlers near an auto stand close to the Puttaparthi Railway Station. Based on their tip-off, the sleuths raided the residence of a foreigner who was peddling drugs after obtaining them from the accused women. The police seized 1.4 grams of MDMA crystals from his house. Police say that the kingpin of the drug racket is operat-

ing from Arakku and Sitampalli forest areas. The kingpin manufactures hashish oil and other drug substances deep inside jungles and sells them to Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi and Mumbai cities. The police have formed special teams to nab the kingpin operating the

8 held in attack on cop in ganja field

The police have arrested eight people over the attack Srimanth Illal, the Circle Police Inspector, in Maharashtra during a raid on ganja fields, Araga Jnanendra, State Home Minister said here on Tuesday.

'We have also recovered the service revolver which the miscreant gang had snatched during the

attack," he said. Jnanendra further stated that the inspector was yet to regain consciousness and treatment was continuing. The arrested persons have been grilled to dig out

the complete nexus.

The police airlifted the Inspector Circle Monday to the Bengaluru Hospital. Manipal Inspector Srimanth was attacked by a gang of 40 ganja (marijuana) growers in Maharashtra. The special arrangement of the air ambulance was made following the Inspector's fail-

ing health condition. The incident had taken place on 23 September in the Taruri village of



taluka Umarga Manthala police station limits of Maharashtra. The police had arrested Naveen Kalaburagi and Santosh from Bhosaga in Basavakalyan taluk on charges of selling ganja.

Based on their informa-

tion, Srimanth, Kamalapur Police Inspector, and a 10member police team had raided an agriculture field in Maharashtra close to the Karnataka border, 80 km away from Kalaburagi. A gang of 40 people, suddenly attacked them with wooden logs and stones and attacked the police team.

Though Srimanth tried to open fire, the attackers overpowered him. He sustained injuries on his face, chest and stomach. His condition is said to be criti--Salar News

MAJOR LOSS

Yamuna floods

Taunted over dark complexion, woman kills husband

DURG, 27 SEPT

A 30-vear-old woman allegedly hacked her husband to death with an axe in Chhattisgarh's Durg district as she was upset about his frequent taunts about her dark complexion. police said on Tuesday. The police on Monday arrested Sangeeta Sonwani for allegedly killing her husband Anant Sonwani (40) in Amleshwar village on Sunday night, said Devansh Rathore, sub-divisional officer of police (Patan area). As per preliminary investigation, the victim used to call his wife ugly and frequently taunt her about her dark skin. The couple had quarrelled on the issue several times in the past, he said. The couple entered into an argument on Sunday night and in a fit of rage, Sangeeta allegedly attacked her husband with the axe kept in the house and killed him on the spot, the official said. The woman also allegedly chopped off the victim's genitals, he said. The accused tried to mislead the villagers the next morning by saying that someone had

Murder case: HC defers hearing Ajay Mishra's appeal

killed her husband, but later

admitted to have committed

said. The victim had married

the accused after the death of his first wife, he said. —PTI

the offence during police

interrogation, the official

LUCKNOW, 27 SEPT

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday deferred the hearing of an appeal filed, till October 17, by the Uttar Pradesh government in 2004, against the acquittal of Ajay Mishra, Union minister of State for Home, in a murder case of Prabhat Gupta (over 20 years of age) in Lakhimpur Kheri in 2000. At the hearing on Tuesday, Jyotindra Mishra, Ajay Mishra's lawyer, informed the bench that the minister had requested transfer of the case to the principal bench of the Allahabad High Court, but the chief justice refused. In response, Mishra moved the Supreme Court, where his petition is likely to be heard within the next few days, therefore, the appeal hearing should be postponed. As the victim's lawyer pointed out, the current appeal against Ajay Mishra's acquittal was filed in 2004. The same reason

JeM ultra-killed in encounter in J&K's **Kulgam: Police**

SRINAGAR, 27 SEPT

adjournment. -PTI

On Tuesday, police said a member of proscribed terror outfit Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) was killed in an encounter in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir. In response to information about terrorist presence in Kulgam's Ahwatoo area, the security forces launched a cordonand-search operation. After the ultras opened fire on the security forces, who retaliated, the search operation turned into an encounter, he said. Vijay Kumar, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Kashmir, said two JeM ultras were trapped in the cordoned area. In the course of the operation, one of the two ultras was shot dead. "Two local #terrorists of proscribed #terror outfit JeM trapped in the ongoing #encounter,' Kumar said in a tweet.

No pics of halfsubmerged Durga idols: Mumbai cops

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

On Tuesday, Mumbai police issued an order prohibiting people from taking photographs and shooting videos of floating or half-submerged idols of Goddess Durga after immersions, as this can hurt religious sentiments and may disturb public peace and tranquility, from 5 to 7 October. This order prohibits the taking, publication, or circulation of such pictures and videos during Durga Puja festival, from 5 to 7 October. In this regard, the police have invoked section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and those who violate it will be punished.

Will the 'real Shiv Sena' please stand up?

SALAR | WEDNESDAY | 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

SC allows EC to go ahead with hearing Shinde group's claim of being 'real' Sena

referring to the disqualifi-cation notice issued

against Shinde and some

other Shiv Sena MLAs who

had rebelled against then Chief Minister Uddhav

Thackeray in June this

Senior advocate Arvind

Datar, appearing for the poll panel, said the Election commission is free to decide who consti-

tutes the aspect of majori-

Tushar Mehta, appearing

भाई.ह्टा.ची.टी.

S. B. 7.

issued

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

The Supreme Court Tuesday allowed the Election Commission to go ahead with the hearing of Eknath Maharashtra Minister, group's plea seek ing recognition as the real Shiv Sena and allocation of

the party's bow-and-arrow poll symbol to it. Justice DY Chandrachud, heading a constitution bench, rejected the plea of the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction seeking to restrain the EC from deciding the

the EC from deciding the state's ruling Shinde camp's claim over the "original" Shiv Sena.

We direct that there would be no stay of the proceedings before the Election Commission," the bench olso commission," bench also comprising Justices MR Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

The Intelligence Fusion

(IFSO) unit of the Delhi

Police on Tuesday said it has blocked 23 accounts on Twitter for showing

child pornographic con-

Police said they received information regarding the links show-

ing child pornography on September 20. "After receiving the informa-

tion, we immediately registered an FIR on September 20 and seized the evidences. We wrote to Twitter to block the

accounts and sought

details of the accounts

from the microblogging

site," a senior police offi-

cer said. In this process, Twitter takes its own

time in giving those

details, the officer added.

Police said the investigation is underway. "We immediately formed four

teams- two technical and

two working on ground.

underway and we are also

waiting for the reply from

Twitter regarding the accounts," Prashant

Commissioner of Police

The IFSO is planning to

On 20 September, the

Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) issued

summons to the Delhi

regarding the presence of years.

and

conduct another opera-tion in a few days, offi-

Gautam,

(IFSO), said.

investigation is

Deputy

Twitter

Delhi Police blocks

23 Twitter accounts

over child porn



Thackeray faction, challenged Shinde's locus to approach the poll panel seeking claim over the party and its election sym-

Sibal submitted the Election Symbol Order can be invoked only when the claimant belongs to the same political party but claims to be of a rival group.
"I am saying Shinde is no longer in the party and

membership has been given up. How does the EC

• Police said the investiga-

tion is underway. "We

immediately formed four

teams- two technical and

investigation is underway

the reply from Twitter

regarding the accounts,"

Commissioner of Police

operation in a few days,

officials said.

graphic content.

(IFSO), said. The IFSO is

planning to conduct another

several tweets on the microblogging site that displayed child porno-

These tweets openly depicted videos and photographs of sexual acts

involving children. In its

summons, the commis-

sion had asked Twitter to

submit the details of

steps being taken by

them to prevent such filthy and outrightly

criminal acts from being

propagated through their

medium as well as the

systems in place in the

company to immediately

report the same to law enforcement agencies.

The commission had

also asked the social

media giant to provide an

explanation as to why the

tweets were neither delet-

ed nor reported by them.

Further, it also sought the

number of tweets depict-

ing child pornography

and rape identified, delet-

ed, and reported by Twitter in the past four

Prashant Gautam, Deputy

and we are also waiting for

two working on ground. The

and senior advocate N K Kaul submitted an election symbol is not the property of an MLA and to which faction it belongs has to be decided by the Election Commission, asserting the poll panel cannot be prevented from taking any decision on the

• Shinde group's counsel

for Maharashtra Governor BS Koshiyari, contended the Election Commission is only deciding which faction is the "real" party and so it should be allowed to proceed with Shinde's

Shinde group's counsel and senior advocate N K Kaul submitted an election symbol is not the property of an MLA and to which faction it belongs has to be decided by the Election Commission, asserting the poll panel cannot be pre-

BUMPER TO BUMBER

vented from taking any decision on the issue.

The bench was hearing pending cases related to the political crisis in Maharashtra that began with Shinde group's revolt against Uddhav Thackeray's leadership which led to the fall of the three-party Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the state.

bruising political battle had resulted in a slew of petitions getting filed in the Supreme Court by the rival factions, and the apex court referred those to a five-judge bench on August 23, saying the conflict had raised several constitutional questions related to defection, merger and disqualification.

It had asked the EC not to pass any orders on the Shinde faction's plea that it be considered the "real" Shiv Sena and granted the party's poll symbol, the bar which was lifted Tuesday.

low-lying areas in Delhi



People residing in the floodplains of Yamuna river shift their belongings and livestock after a rise in the water level of the river, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

NEW DELHI. 27 SEPT

A swollen Yamuna flooded low-lying areas along the riverbanks in Delhi on Tuesday, prompting authorities to evacuate hundreds of people and suspend rail traffic movement on the

Old Yamuna Bridge.
The water level in the river shot up to 206.38 metres by 7 pm, much above the danger mark of 205.22 metres and the high 205.33 metres and the highest since August 2019. The low-lying areas near the river in Delhi are consid-ered vulnerable to flooding and are home to around 37,000 people. "Most of the people have been shifted to community centres, schools and temporary tents. Nobody is at risk," a senior government official

The river breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres in Delhi on Monday night and the evacuation mark of 206 metres early Tuesday morning following heavy rain in the upper catchment areas over the last few days. Anil Banka, East Delhi District Magistrate, said an evacuation alert was issued Tuesday morning. "Around 12,000 people living in low-lying areas near the riverbanks have shifted to higher grounds. Arrangements have been made for their stay at government schools and night shelters in nearareas." he said. Announcements are being made to caution people

 The river breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres in Delhi on Monday night and the evacuation mark of 206 metres early Tuesday morning following heavy rain in the upper catchment areas over the last few days. Anil Banka, East Delhi District Magistrate, said an evacuation alert was issued Tuesday morning.

about a further increase in the water level, Banka said. "Rail traffic over Old Yamuna Bridge/Delhi has been temporarily suspended since 16:17 hrs today as the water level in Yamuna river has crossed the danger mark. Trains shall be diverted to run via New Delhi," a spokesperson of the Northern Railway said. This is the second time within two months that the authorities are evacuating the people living in the river floodplains due to flooding.

The Yamuna had breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres on August 12, following which around 7,000 people were evacuated from the low-lying areas near the riverbanks. The water level had shot up to 205.99 metres on August 13 before the river started

The authorities reported a discharge rate of around 96,000 cusecs at 7 am from the Hathnikund barrage in

Oman, UAE to be guest countries in India at next year's G20 summit

Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam on the Ring Road, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been invited to attend the G-20 summit in New Delhi next year, according to Harsh Vardhan Shringla, India's chief G20 coordinator. A year will be allocated to India to lead this influential group between December 1, 2022, and November 30, 2023.

In the lead-up to the annual summit, the two countries, members of the Gulf Cooperation (GCC), will also participate in 200 meetings. GCC member Saudi Arabia is already member of the G20. Shringla said the Gulf countries will have a voice at the G20.

Under our G20 presidency, three GCC countries will be represented for the first time. Saudi Arabia, which is already a member of the G20, as well as the UAE and Oman have been invited, said the former foreign secretary. As part of the Arabian Sea Dialogue, he spoke at a panel discussion on 'India, GCC, and G20:



New Opportunities, New Possibilities'. It is expected that India will host over 200 G20 meetings through its Presidency, which begins in December 2022. New Delhi will host the G20 leaders' summit on 9 and 10

September, 2023.
The G20, or Group of 20, is intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. Globally, the G20 accounts for 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of global population.

After taking office in 2014,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited the Gulf region nine times, which is quite a record. He suggested elevating the institutional dialogue between India and the GCC from the level of foreign ministers to the level of heads of state/government.

Indian-ASEAN relations, African Union relations, and Pacific Island countries have similar arrangements (institutional dialogue at the level of heads state/government), according to Shringla.

This is a huge opportuni-

83% INDIAN STUDENTS BELIEVE FOREIGN DEGREES PROVIDE BETTER JOBS

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Nearly 83 per cent of Indian students believe an overseas degree will enhance their prospects of securing better jobs and provide an edge over competition, according to a

The Leap-Ipsos Strategy Study Abroad Outlook unveiled Tuesday said 57 per cent of Indian middle class households- income between Rs 3and Rs 10 lakh -- are inclined towards spending on overseas education. The report gives a critical insight of how foreign education is becoming popular with this segment, the largest of the Indian popu-

Leap co-founder Vaibhav Singh said, Fuelled by the student community's growing aspirations, the Indian overseas education market is expected to grow multifold and will see over two million Indian students fly out by 2025, spending over \$100 billion on their international education.

ty and the sector will see a

meteoric rise in demand for innovative products and services. According to the report, 83 per cent of students believe an overseas degree will enhance their prospects of landing better

Thanks to global connectivity, 42 per cent of Indian students are open to destinations beyond anglophone countries that don't have English as their first language, the statement said.

"This reflects that Indian students are widening their choices and becoming more flexible in their preferences of an overseas education destination. Factors they are considering for making this choice include university ranking, scholarship, cost of living, etc," it said. Aspirants are showing more trust towards taking education loans. Over 62 per cent of Indians prefer education loans, while 53 per cent try scholar-

ships, the report showed. The significant increase in preference for education loan is expected to boost the study abroad loan market in the coming years, it

CONTROVERSY OVER 'SEMKHOR'

Dimasas object to 'wrongful depiction' in Award-winning film

GUWAHATI/ HAFLONG, 27 SEPT

'Semkhor', a National Award-

winning film from Assam, has run into a controversy, with members of the Dimasa community alleging that their culture has been wrongfully depicted, "aimed causing emotional

injury" A leader of the tribe has lodged a complaint at Haflong Police Station against filmmaker Aimee Baruah, while several local organisations have issued statements condemning the

Baruah, who also plays the

lead role, maintained that she had categorically stated that it was a work of fiction. 'Semkhor', set in the locales of a village that also goes by the same name, is the first Dimasa-language movie.

The 2021 film, which chronicles the life and times of a woman from the tribe, was awarded Rajat Kamal at the 68th National Film Awards, besides Baruah bagging a Special Jury Mention.

After garnering praises and accolades at various national and international film festivals, the film was commercially released last Mahendra Kemprai, for-

mer president of All Dimasa Students' Union, in the complaint filed recently, said while the community welcomes its representation on

the big screen, the "wrongful depiction" was a concern. Kemprai alleged that the director did not study indepth about the community

The former student leader demanded that "objectionable scenes be removed" from the movie, after consultation with community experts. The Dimasa Mothers' Association, too, condemned the "wrong projection of female infanticide", claiming that it was 'factually incorrect" and "unjust" to show the community practising such evil.

and used the little information she gathered for commercial gain.

He claimed that female

infanticide as portrayed in the movie was not practised by the community and that Dimasas were shown in a "poor light".

The former student leader demanded that "objectionable scenes be removed" from the movie, after consultation with community experts. The Dimasa Mothers' Association, too, condemned the "wrong projection of female infanticide", claiming that it was 'factually incorrect" and 'unjust" to show the commu-

nity practising such evil. claimed that there was no gender discrimination within the community

All Dimasa Students' Union, in a separate state-ment, termed the purported Dimasa Students wrong portrayal as "an attack on our identity, aimed to cause emotional injury to

our community". Baruah said, "The dis-claimer at the start of the movie mentions it as a work of fiction set in the landscape of Dima Hasao. We intended to promote the region for its development."

"I am ready to face any criticism, but it should be based on facts. Most of those seeking to create this controversy have not even visited Semkhor," she maintained.

Daily Covid cases in India lowest in 118 days

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

West Bengal has reported three and Maharashtra has reported two fatalities in the last 24 hours due to Covid-19. A total of 4,45,75,473 Coronavirus infections were reported by the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday, the fewest in 118 days. At 8 am, 42,358 cases were active, while 5,28,562 deaths had been reconciled by Kerala, including 32 fatalities. The active cases comprise 0.10 per cent of the total infections, the ministry said, adding the national Covid recovery rate increased to 98.72 per cent. The active Covid-19 caseload has declined by 1,057 cases in the past 24 hours. Daily positivity rates were 1.18 percent and weekly positivity rates were 1.58 percent at the ministry. In the country, 217.82 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered so far. The covid-19 tally for India crossed two crores on 4 May and three crores on 23 June On 25 January , it surpassed four crores.-PTI

HC junks PIL against **Bharat Jodo Yatra**

KOCHI, 27 SEPT

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking directions from the state government and police to avoid traffic jams caused by the Congress party's ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' was dismissed by the Kerala High Court (HC), After investigating, a bench consisting of S Manikumar, Chief Justice, and Shaji P Chaly, Justice rejected the PIL after the Kerala government declared the walk peaceful and that the illegal activities were being investigated.In view of the state's submissions, the court said, the petitioner, an advocate, was unable to prove his allegation that the march was causing traffic jams. Police also instructed the yatra's organizers to ensure its peaceful conduct, the state told the bench. According to Vijayan K's plea, Rahul Gandhi's yatra takes up only half of the road and leaves the rest free for vehicle traffic.-PTI

Asha Parekh to get Dada Saheb Phalke award

Veteran actor Asha Parekh will be honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke award for 2020, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said on Tuesday.Parekh, 79, will be presented with the award during the 68th National Film Awards ceremony, to be held on Friday.The five-member Dada Saheb Phalke Award committee -- comprising Asha Bhosle, Hema Malini, Poonam Dhillon, Udit Narayan, and TS Nagabharana -- decided on Parekh's name for the honour, Thakur told reporters in his constituency Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh.—PTI

Dalit student dies after thrashing by teacher in UP

AURAIYA, 27 SEPT

A 15-year-old Dalit boy who was thrashed by his schoolteacher has succumbed to his injuries, following which a search operation has been launched to nab the accused, police said on Tuesday.Nikhil Kumar, a class 10 student at a local inter-college on Phaphond Road in Achalda police station area, was allegedly thrashed by his social sciences teacher Ashwini Singh on 7 September for making mistakes in a test.He was admitted to a hospital where he died on Monday, the police said.Mahendra Pratap Singh, Bidhuna Circle officer, said action had been initiated against the accused teacher under Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code and related sections, including SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act.District Inspector of Schools Chandrashekhar Malviya said the school manager had been ordered to suspend the accused teacher.-PTI

Jaipur rebellion puts doubt on Gehlot running for Cong prez poll

SALAR | WEDNESDAY | 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

Sonia Gandhi has sought a report on Rajasthan revolt from party observers

NEW DELHI/ JAIPUR, 27 SEPT

he open rebellion by MLAs close to Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan Chief Minister, has put a question mark on whether he would still run for the Congress president's post or if someone else will replace him as a candidate supported by the current leadership.
Sonia Gandhi, Congress

President, had on Monday sought a written report on the revolt in Rajasthan from party observers Mallikarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken as the chances Gehlot becoming the party chief receded and other names cropped up for the post.

Kharge and Maken, who were sent as observers to Jaipur for a Congress



Legislature Party (CLP) meeting, briefed Gandhi after their return to Delhi and termed the parallel meet held by Gehlot loyalists as "indiscipline"

They are expected to recommend disciplinary against those behind the move, includ-Minister Dhariwal and Mahesh

Joshi, Rajasthan Congress chief whip. Gehlot loyalists had submitted resignation letters to CP Joshi, Assembly Speaker, on Sunday evening, in an apparent bid to put pres-sure on the central lead-

ership to pick someone

from the Gehlot camp as

 Names of senior party leaders Kharge, Kamal Nath, Digvijaya Singh, Sushilkumar Shinde, Mukul Wasnik and Kumari Selja are now also doing the rounds for the post. Congress leader Kamal Nath, who met Sonia Gandhi Monday, ruled himself out as a candidate. Kharge and Maken are likely to submit their report to Gandhi about the crisis in the party's state unit by Wednesday.

is elected the party president. The loyalist MLAs indicated that they were against the appointment of Sachin Pilot, who led a rebellion against Gehlot

in 2020, to the post. On Monday, Gehlot loy-alist Dhariwal accused Maken, AICC in-charge for Rajasthan, of being involved in a conspiracy to remove Gehlot as chief minister and alleged he was canvassing for Pilot.

Names of senior party leaders Kharge, Kamal

Nath, Digvijaya Singh, Sushilkumar Shinde, Mukul Wasnik and Kumari Selja are now also doing the rounds for the post. Congress leader Kamal

Nath, who met Sonia Gandhi Monday, ruled himself out as a candi-

Kharge and Maken are likely to submit their report to Gandhi about the crisis in the party's state unit by Wednesday.

—PTI

UP's Authority paid for land unavailable on record: CAG officer (CEO).The YEIDA executed (December 2012 to

रक्सप्रेसवे पर आपका स्वागत है। WelcomeTo Yamuna Expressway

NOIDA, 27 SEPT

Uttar Pradesh government's Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) had purchased a land parcel in Gautam Buddh Nagar in 2015 but not verifying land records led to a loss of Rs 2.71 crore, a CAG report has revealed.

Further, the YEIDA also incurred an expenditure of Rs 0.10 crore as stamp duty on purchase of the land against an area not available in records, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)'s compliance audit report for the year ended March 2020 revealed The report tabled revealed. The report, tabled recently in the UP assembly and accessed by PTI, states that the UP Power Transmission Corporation Limited had requested (June 2012) YEIDA to allot 75 acre (30.3514 hectare) land in village land in village Jahangirpur in Gautam Buddh Nagar near the Yamuna Expressway for the construction of 765 KV sub-station. A proposal for acquisition of land for substation was initiated

(September 2012) by YEIDA

officials which was approved the same month

by its then chief executive

December 2015) 159 sale deeds for the purchase of 54.365 hectare land spread

over 150 khasras, it noted. "The Audit noticed (March 2019) that out of 150 khasras of revenue records, the actual area in revenue 17 khasras was 6.3990 hectares. The YEIDA, however, overlooked the area actually available in land records or verification reports submitted by the District Authority, and purchased an area measuring 7.98935 hectares through executing sale deeds relating to aforesaid 17 khasras," the CAG report noted.

"Further, the ŸEIDA also incurred an expenditure of Rs 0.10 crore as stamp duty on the purchase of land against an area not available in records," stated.The CAG report mentioned that in its reply the YEIDA accepted (July 2021) that there was a difference of 1.5935 hectare between area mentioned in the 17 sale deeds and rev-

enue records.
Further, it stated that the purchase of land was done on the basis of land records made available by the District Authority, according to the report.



HAFLONG, 27 SEPT

'Semkhor', a National Award-winning film from Assam, has run into a controversy, with members of the Dimasa community alleging that their culture has been wrongfully depicted, "aimed at causing emo-

tional injury". A leader of the tribe has lodged a complaint at Haflong Police Station filmmaker Aimee Baruah, while several local organisa-tions have issued statements condemning the movie. Baruah, who also plays the lead role, maintained that she had categorically stated that it was a work of fiction.

'Semkhor', set in the locales of a village that also goes by the same name, is the first Dimasa-language movie.

The 2021 film, which chronicles the life and times of a woman from the tribe, was awarded Rajat Kamal at the 68th National Film Awards. besides Baruah bagging a Special Jury Mention.

After garnering praises and accolades at various national and international film festivals. the film was commercially released last week. MahendraKemprai,

former president of All Dimasa Students' Union, in the complaint filed recently, said while the community welcomes its representation on the big screen, the "wrongful depiction" was a con-cern. Kemprai alleged tained.

that the director did not study in-depth about the community and used the little information she gathered for commercial

He claimed that female infanticide as portrayed in the movie was not practised by the community and that Dimasas were shown in a "poor

The former student leader demanded that "objectionable scenes be removed" movie, after consultation with community The Dimasa experts. Mothers' Association, too, condemned the "wrong projection of infanticide", claiming that it was 'factually incorrect" and "unjust" to show the community practising such evil. It claimed that there was no gender discrimination within the community. All Dimasa Students' Union, in a separate statement, termed the purported wrong portrayal as "an attack on our identity, aimed to cause emotional injury to our community

'The dis Baruah said. claimer at the start of the movie mentions it as a work of fiction set in the landscape of Dima Hasao. We intended to promote the region for its development.

"I am ready to face any criticism, but it should be based on facts. Most of those seeking to create this controversy have even Semkhor," she main-

Section 144 imposed in Okhla; Jamia orders no group movement

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Jamia Millia Islamia university has asked its students and teachers not to assemble in and around the campus in groups as the notice issued, on Monday, by the chief proctor of the university said the SHO of the Jamia Nagar police station has informed that the restrictions have from September, under section 144 of the CrPC (prohibiting the assembly of four or

the entire Okhla area, as information was received that some people or groups may indulge in activities prejudicial to the maintenance of peace. Violation of the order is punishable under section 188 of the IPC. In addition, the SHO stated that the restrictions would last until November 17, unless withdrawn earlier. Police have denied the order is linked to the ongoing action against the Popular Front of India

teachers had announced a peaceful protest march the day before. In the Jamia Nagar area of New Friends Colony, section 144 of the CrPC was imposed on September 19 by the assistant commissioner of police. A police order prohibits the carrying of 'mashal' or torches and live flames in processions, rallies, and functions throughout the subdivision of New Friends Colony.



A student takes part in a painting competition organised on World Tourism Day, in Srinagar on Tuesday,

(PTI Photo/S. Irfan)

YouTuber arrested for meme on Mamata, search on for 7 more

A 29-year-old YouTuber was arrested from West Bengal's Nadia district on Tuesday for allegedly creating memes on Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister , that were derogatory, police said. Tuhin Mondal, the con-

tent creator, was arrested from his house in Bapujinagar in Taherpur police station area by officers of the Kolkata Intelligence Branch, they said. He was arrested on the

by a 21-year-old man at Taratala police station in south Kolkata a week back, they said."Mondal, has no steady income, is believed to have made provocative, derogatory and abusive memes by editing parts of the chief minister's speeches to defame her. The complainant claimed that such acts can incite violence and disrupt an officer of peace."

Kolkata Police said. complaint also names at least seven Banerjee. other content creators,

KOLKATA/KALYANI, basis of a complaint filed and police said that a 27 SEPT by a 21-year-old man at search is on to arrest search is on to arrest them.

A case has been filed under relevant sections of the IPC, they said.In Kolkata Police arrested YouTuber Roddur Roy for abusing the chief minister in a Facebook live session.

The Kolkata Police had in April 2012 arrested Jadavpur University professor Ambikesh Mahapatra for allegedly forwarding an email containing a cartoon of **NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT**

Saxena,Delhi Lieutenant Governor, tweeted 'Satyameva Jayate" (truth alone triumphs), soon after the High Court on Tuesday restrained the AAP and several of its leaders from levelling "false" allegations against him.

The Delhi High Court also directed the Aam Aadmi Party leaders to remove their alleged libelous posts, videos and tweets against Saxena on social media. The AAP leaders had alleged that Saxena had received



HC restrains AAP from levelling

'false' charges against Delhi LG

and channelised demonetised currency in November 2016 while acting as chairman of the Village and Industries Commission (KVIC). The party had

alleged that Saxena was involved in a Rs 1,400 crore scam.

Saxena had sent legal notices to AAP leaders

Durgesh Pathak and Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah.He also sought damages and compensation of Rs 2.5 crore along with interest from the political party and its five leaders.

Saxena came under fierce attack by the AAP over his frequenť run-ins with the Arvind Kejriwal government over a host of issues, including his decision to recommend a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the implementation of Excise Policy 2021-22.

Garba events 'a means of love jihad', MP to check ID cards

BHOPAL, 27 SEPT

he Madhya Pradesh government asked Garba organisers to check the identity cards of people before allowing them entry into the dance pandals, days after a state minister claimed such events had become a means of "Love

Jihad". 'Navratri, the festival of worship of Maa Durga, is the centre of our faith.

In a bid to maintain peace

and harmony on such a holy occasion, the organisers have been instructed to provide entry in the Garba events only after checking the ID cards," Narottam Minister, Mishra, state

reporters on Tuesday. Traditional Garba dance events are organised during the nine-day Navratri festival which started from

Mishra, who is the state



government's spokesper- no unpleasant situation hence the identity cards of son, said there should be on such an occasion, people should be checked.

NO ID, NO ENTRY AT EVENTS

 On 8 September , Usha Thakur, Culture Minister , had suggested that the entry into Garba dance venues in the state during the Navratri festival should be allowed only after checking of ID cards to prevent 'Love Jihad'.

Everyone can Cometo offer prayers t Goddess, he added.

On 8 September , Usha Thakur, Culture Minister , had suggested that the entry into Garba dance venues in the state during the Navratri festival should be allowed only after checking of ID cards

to prevent 'Love Jihad'.

"The Garba organisers are now watchful. Those who come to Garba events should bring

identity cards.

No one (should be allowed) without identity This is advice for all.
Garbas had become a
means of Love Jihad," she

had said. Hindu right-wing lead-

ers have claimed in the past that a 'Love Jihad' conspiracy was afoot in the country where Hindu girls were lured by men from the minority community and forced to convert upon marriage



JAPAN BIDS

FAREWELL TO ABE

Mourners offer flowers at the altar outside Nippon Budokan Hall which will host a state funeral for former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo,

Iranian women are furious' over headscarf death

he tears come quickly to Masih Alinejad when she talks about the messages she's received in recent days from women in Iran protesting against their government after a young woman died in police custody over a violation of the country's strict religious dress

They talk about the risks, possibly fatal ones, in facing off against government forces that have a long history of cracking down on dissent. They share stories of saying goodbye to their parents, possibly for the last time. They send videos of con-frontations with police, of women removing their statemandated head coverings and cutting their hair. According to a tally by The Associated Press, at least 11 people have been killed since protests began earlier this month after the funeral of 22year-old Mahsa Amini, who died in custody after being detained by Iran's morality police. State media has said the toll could be as high as 35. "I feel the anger of people right now through their text messages," Alinejad told The Associated Press in New York City, where the 46-year-old opposition activist and writer in exile has lived since fleeing Iran following the 2009 election. "They have been ignored for years and years," she said. "That is why they are angry. Iranian women are furious now."

Amini's death spurred this latest explosion of outrage. She had been detained on 13 September for allegedly wearing her hijab too loosely in violation of strictures demanding women in public wear the Islamic headscarves. alea three days later in police custody; authorities said she had a heart attack but hadn't been harmed. Her family has disputed that, leading to a public outcry.Protests started after her 17 September funeral, and have taken place in more than a dozen cities. The Iranian government has pushed back, clashing with



demonstrators and clamping down on internet access

Alinejad shares the outrage of the protesters; for more than a decade, she has been an outspoken critic of the theocracy that rules the country and its control over women through the required wearing of the hijab and other measures.
In 2014, she started My

Stealthy Freedom, an online effort encouraging Iranian women to show images of themselves without hijabs. "Let me make it clear that Iranian women who are facing guns and bullets right now in the streets, they're not protesting against compulsory hijab like just a small piece of cloth. Not at all," she said. "They are protesting against one of the most visible symbols of oppression. They are protesting against the whole regime." Alinejad, who grew up following the rules on religious coverings in the small Iranian town where she was born, began pushing back against being forced to don certain garments when she was a teenager.

But even she, who now displays her full head of curly hair as a matter of course, didn't find it easy to overcome a lifetime of conditioning. "It was not easy to put it away, like overnight," she said. "It took three years for me, even outside Iran, to take off my hijab." She said the first time she went out without a religious covering, in Lebanon, she saw a police officer and had a panic attack. "I thought the police are going to arrest me." Her activism has made her no fans among Iranian officials and supporters of the government.

Last year, an Iranian intelligence officer and three alleged members of an Iranian intelligence network were charged in federal court in Manhattan with a piot to kianap back to Iran. Officials in Iran have denied it. In August, an armed man was arrested after being seen hanging around Alinejad's Brooklyn home and trying to open the front door.

She's committed to her cause, though, and supporting those in Iran, women and men, who are

engaged in the protests. S"We deserve the same freedom," she said. "We are fighting for our dignity. We are fighting for the same slogan - My body, my choice. She worries about what will happen to the demonstrators in Iran as the government takes action to remain in control and shut down dissent if there is no outside pressure "I fear that if the world, the democratic countries don't take action, the Iranian regime will kill more people," she said.

She called the women in the protests warriors and "true feminists." "These are the women of suffragists risking their lives, facing guns and bullets," she said. But even if, as has happened in the past, the governquiet the protests down, it won't make the dissent go away, she said. The "Iranian people made their decision," she said. "Whether the regime cracks down on the protests, whether they shut down the internet, people of Iran won't give up. The anger is there.

SALAR



Kashmir's Bakarwal tribe faces existential crisis

In Kashmir, a nomadic tribe is struggling to maintain its traditional lifestyle in the face of changing forest landscapes and work to a political tribute. weather conditions.

"People try to paint a rosy picture of our life but ours is, in fact, a saga of endurance and miseries," says Liaqat Khan, a shep-herd from the Bakarwal tribe. The Bakarwals are part of a 3.4 million-strong nomadic community of the Jammu and Kashmir region, whose primary occupation is rearing cattle. At around 55km (34.17 miles) from Srinagar - the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir they camp in Dardwodur forests. Nazira, 30, is a skin-ny mother cradling her newborn here. Her tribe arrived three days ago and camped in the alpine heights. "It's time for us to start winter migration," Nazira says, as she sticks her head out from her makeshift tent. For years, the Bakarwal tribe has been shuttling between Jammu and Kashmir. They spend six months in Kashmir during the summers, arriving in the valley in April. By October, they return to the plains of Jammu for the winters. "We belong to nowhere," says Zulfi, a young Rakarwal girl Zulfi, a young Bakarwal girl in Kashmir. "This is just our summer home.'

The Bakarwals were officially declared as a "scheduled tribe" - tribal communities recognised by India's Constitution as socially and economically disadvantaged by the federal government in 2001.Today, the tribe fears for the endurance of its tra-



ditional lifestyle due to increased wild animal attacks on their cattle - their main source of income.

The sale of their livestock

has also dwindled. "Earlier, a day of hard work would fetch a good amount of money for a sheep or a goat but not anymore," Mohammed Zubair, 50, a disabled nomad camped on the outskirts of Srinagar. The community also struggles with increased instances of inclement weather. "It's extremely difficult to travel to the high altitude postures." to the high-altitude pastures of the Himalayas," says Liaqat Khan, a shepherd. In June, unseasonal snowfall and severe cold weather conditions in Chenab valley of Jammu and Kashmir left hundreds of tribal families stuck on roadsides, with little food or fodder. Another major concern for the tribe is their access to forest lands.Last vear, hundreds of families from the community were served eviction

notices for "illegally" occupying forests in which they have lived for decades. Authorities also demolished several houses - the community lives in temporary tents and mud huts in these areas. A few months later, however, Lieutenant Governor Manoi Sinha said authorities would work to safeguard the rights of tribal communities in the region and provide them with rights certificates. The harsh realities of their current existence are pushing the tribe's younger generation to focus on getting a good education and living an easier life. The administra-tion has also set up community schools to educate children of such tribes in forest areas.Despite various kinds of pressures on the community, many say they are determined to stick to their traditional lifestyle. "We aren't giving up on anything," says Zulfi. "Although we are uncertain about our lives, we are firmly holding on to our traditions."

—BBC



LETTERS

Write to us at salar@salar.news

US and Russia engage in a digital battle for 'hearts and minds'

he battle over Ukraine extends across the world: Information warfare is quickly evolving as key nations seek to influence public opinion and gain political

support. During the Cold War, Russia and the United States are the two main combatants. Some efforts are clandestine, but plenty of material is broadcast to the public as each country attempts to, in the words of political linguists, constrain the power and influence of the other and win hearts and minds around the world.

Key government-sponsored media outlets in the current battle are Russia Today, often known as RT, and two US government-backed operations, Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

But it can be hard for many people tAMCHo tell the difference between these outlets and independent news. As a propaganda scholar, I believe citizens of all nations deserve to know how their media have been filtered and when governments are seeking to influence their views.

My colleague Weston Sager and I developed a test for determining whether a particular media outlet is, or is not a government mouthpiece.

We examine key factors such as government control, funding, attribution and its resemblance to the news.

At their best, these types of outlets provide official government information at worst,

blatant propaganda. Here's how the main players in the US and Russia measure Russia Today: Propaganda with some facts sprinkled in RT is a multilanguage international media broadcaster

that claims to be an autonomous, non-profit organisation". But in reality, it has officially declared to the US State Department that it is an arm of

the Russian government. In lockstep with the Kremlin, RT has supported the 2008 Russian invasion of Georgia, the 2014 Russian invasion of the Crimean peninsula of Ukraine and the 2022 Russian

invasion of mainland Ukraine. The outlet has a history of publishing sensationalised and biased articles promoting Russian policies and accentuating the perceived failings of the United States and its allies.

For example, in 2015, RT devoted extensive coverage to the Occupy Wall Street movement. Not only did this story-line allow RT to selectively showcase people protesting in the United States, it helped further Russia's narrative that its economic system is superior to

US capitalism.

More recently, RT has, without credible evidence, accused the United States of developing bioweapons in Ukraine and testing them on people

But this doesn't mean that RT can dispense with facts together, as propaganda often leverages truthful bits of information, nor that it is strictly anti-

In 2010, for instance, RT published an interview containing accusations



Republicans were exploiting racial fears ahead of midterm elections. Then RT publicly defended the Obama administration against Fox News host Glenn Beck s accusations that Obama was turning the United

States into a socialist country. Propaganda works by supporting themes that are in popular discourse at the time. It does not necessarily follow a linear path and may be count-

er-intuitive at times. In the wake of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, RT was blocked in many nations around the world to limit the spread of Russian propaganda.

Nevertheless, RT continues to publish its content, especially in less developed countries where the Russian government is working to increase its international reputation and influence.

Major US outlets present mostly facts that support American values

Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty are the US government's primary international media outlets, though there are other channels as well.

In 1942, during World War II, the US government established VOA to broadcast pro-Allied messages and to combat Nazi propaganda abroad. In the the CIA founded RFE/RL to counter Soviet propaganda in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Both outlets are now overseen by the US Agency for Global Media, a part of the executive branch of the federal government. The agency receives over USD 800 million in annual funding from Congress.

Similar to RT, VOA and RFE/RL claim that they are independent media outlets. In support of that claim, they offen point to a vaguely defined firewall that is sup-posed to shield their editorial integrity from US government

But the firewall is often strained under the weight of political pressure. In 2020, President Donald Trump's newly appointed CEO of the US Agency for Global Media rescinded the firewall regulation, which compromised VOA's independence in advance of the 2020 US presidential election.

In 2021, the firewall was legislatively strengthened, but questions remain about its effectiveness in preventing government influence.

Governmental influence over the editorial direction of US state media can also come through legislation. In 2021, Congress introduced a bill that would instruct the agency to facilitate the unhindered dissemination of information to Islamic majority countries on issues regarding the human rights and religious freedom of Uvghurs.

Additional editorial pressure comes from federal law. VOA material must be consistent with US foreign policy objectives, represent America, present the policies of the US clearly and effectively and include editorials that reflect the views of the US government.

Under the same law, RFE/RL is required to support the US government abroad.

Additionally, federal law also

more pointedly provides a new pathway for folding this into a expressly required to counter state-sponsored propaganda which undermines the national security or foreign policy interests of the US and its

VOA and RFE/RL have a history of providing slanted and incomplete portrayals of major events and issues. Scholarship has highlighted how, during the Cold War, RFE spread rumours as fact and displayed a consistent pattern of downplaying or ignoring evidence that contradicted RFE's vision of Eastern Europe as a totalitarian dystopia early in the Cold War.

US government editorial pressure has also come indirectly through funding cuts, which VOA experienced after senators baulked at spending tax money to produce unpleasnews surrounding

Watergate. The Reagan administration was known to object to critical VOA coverage and also steered its editorial voice to align with the administration's political agenda. Today, VOA often publishes stories about the US that promote American values, such as recent articles titled Refugees Shape America and US International Festival Celebrates Traditional Food. Dance.

On the other hand, RFE/RL is more focused on countering propaganda. It includes coverage that is often critical of US adversaries, such as "We Have To Pay For Our Indifference": A Russian Deserter Speaks

Out After Ukraine War Memoir Hits A "Nerve and Putin Hints At Changing Routes' For Ukrainian Grain Exports, Warns Of Food Catastrophe'. Even though VOA and RFE/RL sometimes publish

pieces that show unflattering aspects of the United States, such as The Global Legacy of 6 January, this is by design, as the outlets would lose credibility if they ignored important topics covered in independent

Concealed influence Because VOA and RFE/RL rely on facts, the US State Department has argued that US government media are less threatening than Russian disinformation.

But the US approach is still risky: VOA and RFE/RL content more closely resembles independent news, so it is more difficult for readers to identify it as government-run media.

This is especially problematic in cases in which the outlets are targeting US citizens, who may not be able to tell that they're interacting with their government.

Despite what VOA and RFE/RL claim, they are not independent. Both are funded by the US government and are used to deliver US policy abroad.

Even though VOA and RFE/RL may look like news, they aren't; like RT, their underlying purpose is to bolster their government's influence around the world.

—The Conversation

rises as Iran

PARIS, 27 SEPT

activists say.

had been arrested by the

country's notorious morali-

ty police, according to the

Washington-based

Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

Numerous activists and

lawyers have also been

held, including the prominent freedom of speech campaigner Hossein Ronaghi who was arrested

The arrests come on top

of severe internet restric-

tions and blocking of sites

including Instagram and WhatsApp, which activists

say is aimed at preventing

details of the protests from

reaching the outside world.

amid a great deal of vio-lence after restricting

access to WhatsApp and

Instagram, the Iranian

authorities are sending a

"By targeting journalists

over the weekend.

Arrest of jurnos



Hurricane lan strikes Cuba, Florida braces for Cat 4 damage

Havana, 27 Sept

Hurricane Ian tore into western Cuba on Tuesday as a major hurricane, with nothing to stop it from intensifying into a catastrophic Category 4 hurricane before it hits Florida on Wednesday. Ian made landfall at 4:30 a.m. EDT Tuesday in Cuba's Pinar del Rio province, where officials set up 55 shelters, evacuated 50,000 people, rushed in emergency personnel and took steps to protect crops in Cuba's main tobacco-growing region. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said "significant wind and storm surge impacts" were occur-ring Tuesday morning in western Cuba. Ian sustained top winds of 125 mph (205 kmh) as it moved over the city of Pinar del Rio. As much as 14 feet (4.3 meters) of storm surge was predicted along Cuba's coast. After passing over

before making landfall again. —AP Shakira to face trial for tax fraud in Spain

Cuba, Ian was forecast to

warm Gulf of Mexico

strengthen even more over

waters, reaching top winds of 140 mph (225 kmh)

Barcelona, 27 Sept

A Spanish judge on Tuesday approved a trial for Colombian pop singer Shakira on charges of tax fraud. Spanish prosecutors accused the entertainer in 2018 of failing to pay 14.5 million euros (13.9) in taxes on income earned between 2012 and 2014. Prosecutors are seeking an eight-year prison sentence and a hefty fine if she is found guilty of tax evasion. Shakira, 45, has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and rejected a deal with authorities to avoid going to trial. Her public relations firm has said that she has already paid all that she owed and an additional 3 million euros (2.8 million) in interest. The date for the trial has yet to be set. Prosecutors in Barcelona have alleged the Grammy winner spent more than half of that period in Spain and should have paid taxes in the country, even though her official residence

Cops on Brazil's campaign trail call for backup

Florianopolis, 27 Sept

The day after a Workers Party (PT) official was shot dead by a supporter of far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in July, the Federal Police guarding his leftist campaign rival sent a classified memo to senior colleagues across Brazil. They were calling for backup. In the document seen by Reuters, the officers warned that former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's safety was threatened by radicalized opponents, increasingly armed with deadly weapons due to Bolsonaro's loosening of gun controls. They asked the top Federal Police officers in each state to reinforce Lula campaign events with bulletproof cars, tactical teams, drones and intelligence reports. -Reuters

UN report flags presence of terrorists in Afghanistan

Kabul, 27 Sept

The United Nations on Tuesday raised growing security concerns in Afghanistan while highlighting worrisome trends witnessed in recent months, particularly the continuing presence of foreign terrorist groups in the country. The concerns were raised in the latest quarterly Afghanistan report of the UN Secretary-

General Antonio Guterres to the Security Council. "The security situation reveals a worrisome trend in recent months, particularly the series of attacks by ISIL-K, recurring armed opposition clashes with Taliban de facto security forces and the continuing presence of foreign terrorist groups in Afghanistan," the report said. -ANI

Mystery leaks hit Russia undersea gas lines

Pipelines running under the Baltic Sea near Sweden affected

European countries on Tuesday raced to investigate unexplained leaks in two Russian gas pipelines running under the Baltic Sea near Sweden and Denmark, infrastructure at the heart of an energy crisis since Russia's inva-

sion of Ukraine. Experts and also Russia, which built the network, said the possibility of sabotage could not be ruled out. Sweden's Maritime Authority issued a warn-ing about two leaks in the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, shortly after a leak on the nearby Nord Stream 2 pipeline was discovered that had prompted Denmark to restrict shipping in a five nautical mile

radius.

Both pipelines have been flashpoints in an escalating energy war between European capitals and Moscow that has pummelled major Western economies, sent gas prices soaring and sparked a hunt for alternative energy supplies. "There are some indications that it is deliberate damage," said a European security source,



Stream system is unprece-

estimate the timing of the

restoration of the gas

Although neither were in

operation, both pipelines still contained gas under

transport infrastructure."

sions. "You have to ask: Who would profit?"

Russia also said the leak in the Russian network was cause for concern and sabotage was one possible cause. "No option can be ruled out right now," spokesman Peskov Dmitry

reporters. Neither pipeline was pumping gas to Europe at the time the leaks were found amid the dispute over the war in Ukraine, while adding it was still but the incidents will scup-too early to draw concluper any remaining expectations that Europe could pressure. Denmark's enerreceive gas via Nord minister Jorgensen said in a writ-Stream 1 before winter. ten comment leaking gas had been detected in Nord destruction that occurred on the same day simultaneously on three Stream 2 on Monday strings of the offshore gas between Russia and pipelines of the Nord Denmark.

SALAR | WEDNESDAY | 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

plies to Europe via Nord Stream 1 before suspend-ing flows altogether in August, blaming Western dented," said network operator Nord Stream AG. "It is not yet possible to sanctions for causing tech-

difficulties. European politicians say that was a pretext to stop supplying gas. —Reuters

Russia slashed gas sup-

SHARIF CALLS NSC MEET TO DISCUSS **AUDIO LEAKS** FROM PMO

ISLAMABAD, 27 SEP

Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan Prime Minister, has called a meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) on Wednesday to deliberate on the audio leaks from the Prime Minister's Office that has trigged a controversy with the Opposition demanding his recignation

his resignation.
A slew of audio recordings featuring confidential conversations of the prime minister with highgovernment officials surfaced on social media last week, raising questions about the security of the highest office of the country. More audio clips were leaked on Monday where top PML-N leaders were purportedly heard making strategies about the by-elections that were recently postponed due to the devastating floods.

A joint investigation team (JIT) with a representative from Army-run intelligence agencies was ordered to probe the issue.

The Intelligence Bureau (IB) is also investigating the leaks. Officials said an initial report by the top intelligence agencies has been prepared which will be placed before the NSCthe highest civil-military body on security affairs.
—PTI

clear message that there must be no coverage of the protests," Reporters Without Borders said in a Ronaghi, bitterly critical of Iran's Islamic leadership, said in a video posted

protest intensifies Iran is stepping up arrests of activists and journalists in a crackdown against civil society as anti-regime protests rage nationwide, Twenty journalists have been imprisoned since the protests erupted earlier this month over the death of Mahsa Amini, 22, who

escaping his flat when agents came for him. But he was then detained on Saturday when he went to

Tehran's Evin prison to meet prosecutors and was also beaten by security agents, his brother Hassan wrote on Twitter. His mother told Manoto TV in an interview that Hossein Ronaghi's leg was broken.

Reports said that his lawyers, who accompanied him to Evin, had them-selves been detained. Two other lawyers have also been arrested; lawyer Saeid Dehghan wrote on Twitter.

"This means defending protesters is prohibited!" he said. Security forces on Monday raided the home of activist and writer Golrokh Iraee and arrested her, according to a message on her Twitter account.

Iraee, well known for campaigning against stoning sentences in Iran, has spent much of the past decade behind bars.

New estimates place Pak's flood losses at USD 28 billion

ISLAMABAD, 27 SEPT

The catastrophic floods that hit Pakistan has caused the country a whopping USD 28 billion in damages and it might take 2 to 10 years for the long-term construction of the areas affected by the unprecedented calamity, the media reported on Tuesday, quoting revised estimate. According to

Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) in the wake of the floods that have killed more than 1,600 dead and left thousands injured since mid-June, Pakistan has seen a 5 per cent upsurge in poverty, indicating that about 9 to 12 million people might fall below the poverty line.

About 1.8 to 2 million jobs have been lost due to ciimate-change induced calamity and average inflation in the cash-strapped country might touch the 23-25 per cent mark in the current fiscal year, the Dawn newspaper cited the gov-

ernment data as saying. Planning Commission conceded that the agriculture growth might plunge into negative by -0.7 per cent to -2.1 per cent compared to the envisaged target of



positive 3.9 per cent for the current fiscal while exports losses might face a burnt of USD 3 billion. Sindh province has suf-fered the most damages due to the floods, standing at USD 5.9 billion.

Balochistan province suffered the second most damages, with USD 3.04 billion in losses. The PDNA said it might take 2 to 10 years for the longterm construction of the areas affected by the massive natural disaster.

The losses in Punjab province stood at USD 0.55 billion, in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa USD 0.54 billion, in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) USD 0.02 billion, and Gilgit Baltistan suffered an estimated loss of USD 0.03 billion, according to the Planning Commission's

chief economist. During a consultative

meeting with renowned economists as well as the representatives of international donors the Planning Monday, Commission said the total accumulated losses stood at USD 28 billion instead of the earlier estimated USD 10.09 billion. According to the PDNA

federal ministries and divisions face a total loss of USD 2.9 billion out of the USD 28 billion, with Pakistan Railways suffering the most- USD 2.4 billion damage, the Ministry of Housing and Works suffering a loss of USD 0.02 billion, National Highway Authority and Pakistan Post Office USD 0.2 billion, and Ministry of Water Resource USD 0.29 billion. —PTI billion.

Death toll rises to 64 in Bangladesh boat capsize

DHAKA, 27 SEPT

The death toll from the boat accident in northern Bangladesh has climbed to 64 on Tuesday, with at least 20 passengers still missing two days after the disaster struck when the overcrowded vessel carrying Hindu devotees to a centuries-old temple capsized.
The devotees, including

women and children, were heading towards the Bodeshwari Temple on the occasion of Mahalaya, the auspicious start of the Durga Puja festival, when the boat capsized in the Korotoa River in the northwestern Panchagarh dis-

trict on Sunday.
Fourteen bodies were recovered from Debiganj and Boda upazilas on Tuesday morning, after local authorities ramped up rescue efforts for the third day, according to the Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

Rescuers resumed search operation on Tuesday after recovering 50 bodies in the two previous days, news portal bdnews 24.com Panchagarh's Ådditional Deputy Commissioner Dipankar Roy as saying. Eyewitnesses claimed that there were more than 150 passengers on the boat, with some managing to swim back to the riverbank.

The preliminary investi-

gation shows that the boat

was overcrowded," Roy was

quoted as saying by the

Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

However, he also noted that

there may be other reasons

but that will be revealed after

behind why the boat sank,

investigation, it said.

"The preliminary investigation shows that the boat was overcrowded," Roy was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune newspaper. However, he also noted that there may be other reasons bening why the boat sank but that will be revealed after the committee finishes its investigation, it said.

At least 20 people are still missing, the report said. Families are lining the banks of the river in the area, desperately waiting for the bodies of their loved ones to be retrieved from the water.

The Durga Puja is the biggest Hindu festival in Bangladesh and in eastern India.

Sri Lanka power cuts blamed on poor oil

COLOMBO, 27 SEPT

A senior Sri Lankan official has blamed poor quali-ty crude oil imports for the shutdown of a power plant, leading to extended black-

outs.
Utilities regulator chief
Janaka Ratnayake said the
oil burnt in the furnaces had too much sulphur in it. minister has disputed the allegation. Last week, Sri Lanka increased its daily power outage from 80 minutes to 140 minutes because of a drop in power generat-

'Sulphur content is too high in the furnace oil [fuel oil] which is not suitable tne current power plants and it's also not conforming with environmenstandards," Ratnayake, the head of the Utilities

Commission, told the BBC. "If you buy good quality crude oil for refineries, then this problem will not happen." Mr Ratnayake said about 10% of the country's electricity came from diesel and fuel oil power plants. The rest of the electricity is generated from

hydro, renewable and coal-powered plants. Kanchana But

Wijesekara, Power and Energy Minister, defended the crude oil import policy. In a tweet, he said Sri Lanka's state-run fuel retailer, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, would respond legally to Mr Ratnayake's allegation.

According to Mr Wijesekara, the power cut was extended because of a breakdown at one of the hydro-power stations and insufficient funds for diesel and fuel oil. The South Asian nation has been facing its worst financial crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948. It is struggling to find enough dollars to import fuel and

The shortages led to months of anti-government protests and long queues outside petrol stations. In July, the unrest came to a head when President Gotabava Rajapaksa was forced to flee the country and then resign after thousands of protesters stormed his official residence.

—BBC News

CHINA'S ECONOMIC CLOUT FORCES AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO TURN BLIND EYE TO XINJIANG

JOHANNESBURG,

While the recent report of United Nations Human Rights on China's treatment of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region has brought global condemnation, most of the African countries were silent on it due to Beijing's heavy economic clout in the secondbiggest continent.

Cobus van Staden, a China-Africa expert at the South African Institute of International Affairs, said that because of China's economic clout, most African countries simply don't want to "pick a fight" over Xinjiang, which, to many, seems far away, reported allAfrica. "We've seen most African coun-

tries side with China, and this includes a lot of majority Muslim coun-tries. ... In terms of how the African partners will vote on the human rights council (if there is a vote), I tend to fear that they will probably vote with China," he said.

There are reasons for this, he said. China is Africa's biggest trade partner, far outstripping the West, and a lot of African countries "tend to be quite suspicious of separatist movements and quite suspicious of hardliners or political Islam." Nigeria, for example, has been plagued by hardliner Islamist groups, reported



her last day in office in August, said China's actions against Uyghurs and others in the Xinjiang region "may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity," citing abuses such as arbitrary detention in camps, torture and sexual violence. However, China's ambas-

sador to the UN in Geneva, The report, published by then-UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet on the first statement on September 13, during the 51st session

the Human Rights Council, saying the Xinjiang assessment was based on disinformation and draws erroneous conclusions."

The statement was signed by 28 other countries, with close to half of supporters African countries such as Burundi, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Zimbabwe, reported allAfrica.

Last year, out of 43 countries, only two in Africa, Eswatini and Liberia, signed a UN communique condemning China's policies in Xinjiang. In June, they signed again, but they are rare outliers.

TYPHOON NORU



Residents wait on the roof of their homes for the flooding to subside after Super

NASA flies spacecraft into asteroid in direct hit

WASHINGTON, 27 SEPT

American agency's Dart probe has smashed into an asteroid, destroying itself in the

process. The collision was intentional and designed to test whether space rocks that might threaten Earth could be nudged safely out of the way. Dart's camera returned an image per second, right up to the moment of impact with the target - a 160m-wide object called Dimorphos. What had been a steady image

stream cut out as the probe was obliterated.

Controllers, based at the Johns Hopkins University (JHU-ĂPL), Laboratory erupted with joy as Dimorphos filled the field of view on Dart's camera just before then going blank.

Initial calculations suggest the impact was a mere 17m off the exact centre of Dimorphos. It will be some weeks before scientists on the Nasa-led mission know for sure whether their experiment has worked.



but Dr Lori Glaze, the ence at the space agency, director of planetary sci- was convinced something

remarkable had been achieved.

'We're embarking on a new era of humankind, an era in which we potentially have the capability to protect ourselves from something like a dangerous hazardous asteroid impact. What an amazing thing; we've never had that capability before," she told reporters.

Ând Dr Elena Adams, a JHU-APL mission systems engineer, said "earthlings should sleep better" knowing they had a planetary defence solution.

mine success, or otherwise, by studying the changes to the orbit of Dimorphos around anothasteroid known as Didymos.

Researchers will deter-

Telescopes on Earth will make precise measurements of the two-rock, or binary, system. Before the collision, Dimorphos took roughly 11 hours and 55 minutes to circle its 780mwide partner.

This ought to reduce by a few minutes following the crash. Certainly, on the evidence of the pictures com-

ing back from 11 million km from Earth, everything appeared to go exactly to

The Dart probe, moving at the relative velocity of 22,000km/h, had to first distinguish the smaller rock from the larger one. Onboard navigation software then adjusted the

closing trajectory with thruster firings to ensure a head-on Scientists were fascinated to see - albeit briefly - the different shapes of the two

-BBC News

LIC buys over 2 per cent stake

New Delhi, 27 Sept

LIC has acquired over a 2 per cent stake in stateowned refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) for nearly Rs 1,598 crore since December last year. The state-owned life insurance behemoth in a regulatory filing on Tuesday said its shareholding in BPCL has increased from 15,25,08,269 to 19,61,15,164 equity shares, increasing its shareholding from 7.03 per cent to 9.04 per cent of the paid-up

capital of the company. As per Sebi's regulatory norm, listed companies have to disclose shareholding in excess of 2 per cent. BPCL has a market capitalisation of Rs 67,301 crore, which is in the refining of crude oil and marketing of petroleum products. "There is an increase of more than 2 per cent in the holding during the period from

December 28, 2021, to September 26, 2022," LIC said. The shares were purchased in the ordinary course of the transaction through the open market at an average cost of Rs 336.43 per share. Shares of LIC closed 0.28 per cent down at Rs 629.05 apiece on BSE and BPCL scrip ended at Rs 310.65 apiece, up by 1.85 per cent. -PTI

Motovolt plans to invest ₹200 cr for expansion

New Delhi, 27 Sept

Electric two-wheeler maker Motovolt Mobility on Tuesday said it plans to invest Rs 200 crore next year on new products and to expand its manufacturing footprint and sales network. The company, which on Tuesday launched its electric bike URBN in two variants priced at Rs 49,999 and Rs 54,999, is looking to set up satellite manufacturing units to be closer to the market. "We have a plant at Kolkata now. We are looking to set up satellite manufacturing units in North

and South India so that we can be closer to the market," Motovolt Mobility Founder and CEO Tushar Choudhary told PTI here. The Kolkata plant has an annual capacity of 50,000 units. "In the next phase, we are looking at capacity of one lakh annually for which we are considering a new unit, preferably in

North India as Delhi is an attractive market for us considering the incentive we are getting for the URBN e-bike," he added.



Sensex, Nifty end lower on selloff in metal, banking stocks

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

Key benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower for the fifth straight session on Tuesday in a volatile trade tracking losses in metal, banking and financial

stocks.Investors also remained concerned over persistent foreign fund outflows, traders said.

After jumping nearly 560 points during the session, the 30-share BSE index ended 37.70 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 57,107.52. Similarly, the NSE Nifty shed 8.90 points or 0.05 per cent to close at 17,007.40.

Tata Steel was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.25 per cent, followed by Titan, SBI, Kotak Bank, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank and HDFC twins.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, IndusInd Bank, Dr Reddy's, HCL Tech and Nestle India were among the gainers.

"In search of a safer dollar and elevated bond yields, foreign investors are withdrawing from Indian equities, resulting in the decline of the domestic market. In contrast to the recent trend of sector performance, banks and autos are exhibiting negative bias, while IT and

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

Domestic rating agency

India Ratings on Tuesday

upgraded its outlook on

the non-bank lenders to "neutral" from "improv-ing" on better collection

efficiencies and asset

growth in the sector.It,

however, said that liabili-

ty management is key for

managing margins and

loan growth for non-bank

The agency said that with the onset of normal-

cy in lending, the on-bal-

ance sheet liquidity would also normalise,

negating the impact of

the rising cost of funds,

thereby protecting mar-

In the mid-year outlook

on the sector, it said that a

lower credit cost for 2HFY23 would aid prof-

itability during the fiscal. Higher inflationary

pressure on borrowers

and interest rates may

deter demand normalisa-

tion in the near term but

the festive season demand

could support the base-

gins to a certain extent.

finance

finance

(HFCs).

(NBFCs)

companies

companies

and housing



pharma are showcasing

"Crude prices are closing down, despite expectations that OPEC+ will take more action to cut production in the coming meeting, due to weakening global economy," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geoj: Financial Services, said. Geojit

Of the Sensex constituents, 18 stocks closed lower, while 12 were in the

The BSE Midcap index declined by 0.01 per cent,

non-bank lenders' outlook

front, a major source of

balance sheet manage-

ment for lenders, the

agency said it has wit-

nessed a strong asset per-formance in the first half

of FY23, which leads it to

give a "stable" rating out-

transactions in the sec-

It expects securitisation

volumes to reach pre-

COVID levels, subject to

stabilised market senti-

The non-bank regulatory framework has become increasingly aligned with

that of banks with the introduction of the prompt corrective action

framework and the revi-

sion of non-performing

asset (NPA) recognition

adding that this will fur-

ther aid transparency in

disclosure standards and reporting alignment with

The agency said it expects NBFCs (including

HFCs) to report around 14

per cent growth in AUM

(assets under manage-

"GNPA could rise mod-

erately to 5 per cent in

ment) in FY23.

ond half of the fiscal.

ments.

for outstanding

On the securitisation FY23 from 4.6 per cent in

Ind-Ra upgrades

while the BSE Smallcap index fell 0.49 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, Metal, Capital Goods and Banking indices fell the most, while Oil & Gas, Energy, IT and Healthcare were the top gainers.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul closed in the positive territory.

exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in mid-session

Q1FY23 for NBFCs and to

3 per cent from 2.7 per

cent for HFCs, largely due

to the new NPA recogni-

tion norms setting in from October 1, 2022; how-

ever, credit cost would remain stable due to the

adequate provisions built-

in," Jinay Gala, its associ-

ate director, said.
In terms of asset class-

es, commercial vehicles

should see a gradual

recovery with the collec-

tion efficiency on an improving trend but the

inflationary pressure on

borrowers' income pro-

files could pose debt serv-

icing challenges, leading

to pressure on softer

On an overall basis, the

normanse

agency said non-banks

H2FY23, with the focus

being on margin stability

in the rising interest rate

environment and gather-

ing adequate liquidity for

There could be a rise in

short-term borrowings to

maintain the cost of

funds: however, it needs to

be calibrated with manag-

ing asset-liability risk, it

managing growth.

delinquencies, it said.

International oil bench-

mark Brent crude climbed 1.78 per cent to USD 85.56

per barrel.

"The benchmark indices witnessed volatile trading session, the nifty ended 9 points lower, while the Senset was down by 37 points. Among Sectors points. Among Sectors, profit booking continued in Metal and Financial stocks, both indices registered profit booking at higher levels. Whereas, some buying was seen in selective Pharma and IT

RUPEE RISES 9 PS

index witnessed range-bound activity," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said. The benchmark Nifty remained range-bound ahead of the RBI policy meet. The index briefly

"Technically, after a sharp fall, the index opened in the green but

corrected sharply. After

early morning selloff the

slipped below 16,950 as it failed to sustain at the lower level leading to a close above 17000. On the lower end, bulls have managed to protect the 200 DMA on a closing basis, Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst at LKP Securities, said. The RBI Governor-head-

ed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to start its three-day deliberations on Wednesday. The decision of the rate-setting panel would be announced on Friday (September 30).

Meanwhile, the rupee appreciated 9 paise to 81.58 (provisional) against the

US dollar on Tuesday. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital maroffloading shares worth Rs 2,823.96 crore on Tuesday, according to stock exchange data.—*PTI*

Adani to invest \$100 bn across new energy, data centres NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Adani Group will invest USD 100 billion over the next decade, primarily in new energy and digital space that includes data centres, Chairman Gaut-am Adani said on Tuesday, as the group bets big on India growth story.

As much as 70 per cent of this investment will be in the energy transition space, Adani, the world's second-richest person, said as he continued to reveal bit by bit the group's new energy plans.

The ports-to-energy conglomerate will add 45 gigawatts of hybrid renewable power generation capacity and build 3 Giga factories to manufacture solar panels, wind turbines and hydrogen electrolyser.

"As a Group, we will invest over USD 100 billion of capital in the next decade. We have ear-marked 70 per cent of this investment for the energy transition space," Adani, founder and chairman of Adani Group, said at the Forbes Global CEO confer-

ence in Singapore. Starting off with a modest commodities business in 1988, the 60-year-old tycoon surpassed Jeff Bezos of Amazon, French business magnate Bernard Arnault and American businessman Bill Gates to become the world's second-

wealthiest person with a fortune of USD 143 billion. With interests spanning sea ports, airports, green energy, cement and data centres, the combined market capitalisation of the group's listed companies is USD 260 billion.

The group is already the world's largest solar player. "In addition to our existing 20 GW renewables portfolio, the new business will be augmented by another 45 GW of hybrid renewable power generation spread over 100,000 hectares of land - an area 1.4 times that

of Singapore. This will lead to commercialization of three million metric tonne of green hydrogen," he said. It will also build 3 Giga factories one for a 10 GW siliconbased photovoltaic valuechain that will be backward-integrated from raw silicon to solar panels, a 10 GW integrated wind-turbine manufacturing facili-ty, and a 5 GW hydrogen electrolyser factory.

roday, we can confidently state that we have a line of sight to first - become

one of the least expensive producers of the green electron - and thereafter the least expensive producer of green hydrogen," he

Digital space, he said, seeks to benefit from the energy transition adjacency. "The Indian data centre market is witnessing explosive growth. This sector consumes more energy than any other industry in the world and therefore our move to build green data centres is a game-changing differentiator," he said.

The group plans to inter-connect data centres through a series of terrestrial and globally linked undersea cables drawn at its ports and build con-sumer-based super-apps that will bring hundreds of millions of Adani's B2C consumers on one common

digital platform.
"We also just finished building the world's largest sustainability cloud that already has a hundred of our solar and wind sites running on it - all off a single giant command and control centre that will soon be augmented by a global A-I lab," he said.

These new businesses will add to the burgeoning Adani empire which already is the largest airports and sea ports opera-

It is the nation's highest valued FMCG company, the second-largest cement manufacturer and the largest integrated energy player. "The point I would like to make is that - India is full of incredible opportunities.
The real India growth

story is just starting. "This is the best window for companies to embrace India's economic resurgence and the incredible multi-decade tailwind the world's largest and most youthful democracy offers. India's next three decades will be the most defining years for the impact it will have on the world," he added. Commenting on China, Adani said once the champion of globalization, that country is facing chal-

"I anticipate that China that was seen as the foremost champion of globalization - will feel increasingly isolated. Increasing nationalism, supply chain risk mitigation, and technology restriction have an impact," Adani said.

lenges.



81.58 AGAINST

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

TO CLOSE AT

US DOLLAR

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled 9 paise higher at 81.58 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as the American currency retreated from its elevated levels.At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 81.45 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 81.30 and a low of 81.64 during the session. It finally ended at 81.58,

up 9 paise from its previous close. This is the first gain after four consequent sessions of losses for the rupee, during which it

lost 193 paise against the

American dollar. On Monday, the rupee plunged 58 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the dollar.

"Rupee consolidated in a narrow range after falling to fresh lows in Monday's session. There are some reports suggesting that India's inclusion into the key government bond index could get pushed back to next year,"
Gaurang Somaiya, Forex
& Bullion Analyst,
Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said. On the domestic front, the focus will be on the RBI policy statement due on Friday.

"Expectation is that the central bank could raise rates by 50 bps and maintain a hawkish stance. The pound plunged further after the Finance Minister sent the currency and its government bonds into freefall," Somaiya said.

The focus will be on the durable goods and consumer confidence numbers that will be released from the US. We expect the USD/INR(Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 81.20 and 81.80, Somaiya added.

The dollar index, which measures the green-back's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.25 per cent to 113.81. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.36 per cent to USD 85.20 per barrel.



GOLD, SILVER PRICES FALL BY ₹195

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Gold price fell by Rs 195 to Rs 49,580 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday amid appreciation in the rupee, according to HDFC Securities.In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 49,775 per 10 gram.

Silver also declined by Rs 195 to Rs 56,155 per kg from Rs 56,350 per kg in the previous trade

The rupee settled 9 paise higher at 81.58 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as the American currency retreated from its elevated levels. In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,637 per ounce, while silver was flat at USD 18.69 per ounce. "In the physical market,

gold demand has been seen from jewellers on expectation of better seasonal demand. However, the higher bond yields and a stronger dollar have been weighing on precious metals," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.



RBI's panel to meet, another rate hike likely

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel will start its 3-day deliberations on Wednesday amid expectations of yet another rate hike of 50 basis points to check high inflation, in line with similar actions taken by other major central banks, including the US Fed.

Based on the recommendations of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the RBI had effected 50 basis points increase in repo rate after raising the short-term lending rate by 40 basis points in an off-cycle deci-

sion in May.

The MPC, headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, is scheduled to meet during September 28-30. The decision will be announced on Friday (September 30). The RBI, which has since

May raised the repo rate by 140 basis points (bps), may yet again go for a 50-bps increase, which will take the key rate to a three-year high of 5.9 per cent, say experts. The present rate is 5.4 per

cent. The consumer price index (CPI) based on retail inflation, which had started showing signs of moderation in May, has again firmed up to 7 per cent in August.

The RBI takes into account retail inflation while framing its bi-monthly monetary policy. The US Fed delivered the third consecutive rate hike after it raised the rates by 75 bps to take the target range to 3-3.25 per cent.

The central banks of the UK and the EU have also gone for rate hikes to tame inflation. In a report, Bank of Baroda said the mone-tary policy this time will be more closely watched, given the forex market following the Fed raising rates last

The RBI's view on all issues will provide guidance to the market on repo rate, stance, growth and inflation projections, rupee, liquidity and global view.

"In the upcoming credit policy of RBI, which is scheduled on 30 September 2022, we expect MPC to raise the repo rate by another 50 bps. We expect rates to increase up till 6-6.25 per cent," the report said.

government has tasked the RBI to ensure the retail inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. Since May, the central bank has cumulatively raised the interest rate by 140 bps in its effort to contain infla-

Despite this sharp hike,

the recent developments in the RBI expects inflation to remain above its comfort zone and has retained the CPI inflation forecast at 6.7 per cent for the current fis-V Swaminathan, execu-

tive chairman, Andromeda Loans, opined that given the increase in rates in other economies, the RBI has no choice but to increase rates. "However, inflation in India is not as much of a

problem and the quantum of increase should be moderated in this light. Home loan borrowers would be well advised to explore fixed-rate loans in this kind of environment," he said. consultant Property Anarock Group chairman Anuj Puri said that with the inflationary pressures evident across the world, many countries have seen back-toback interest rate hikes in

Net direct tax mop up rises 23% to ₹7.04L cr so far this fiscal last fiscal continues in this

fiscal with net direct tax

collection of Rs 7.04 lakh

crore so far, which is a

growth of 23 per cent over

the same period last fiscal,"

Gupta said.

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT The net direct tax collec-

tion has increased 23 per cent to Rs 7.04 lakh crore so far this fiscal, the income tax department said on Tuesday.Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Nitin Gupta said the income and corporate tax collections were at a record high of Rs 14.09 lakh crore in 2021-22.

At the Finance Minister's Award ceremony for CBDT officers, Gupta said the I-T e-filing portal has stabilised and it has facilitated 5.83 crore tax return filing as of July 31. A record 72 The momentum of the lakh returns were filed on

the portal on a single day. July 31 was the last date for filing ITRs for salaried individuals for income

earned in the 2021-22 fiscal. Gupta said I-T refunds worth Rs 1.41 lakh crore have been issued so far this fiscal, which is an increase of 83 per cent over the same period last year.
The CBDT chief said the

department is using technology to increase tax col-

'E-commerce firms sell goods worth ₹24,500 cr in 1st 4 days of festive'

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

E-commerce firms have sold goods worth Rs 24,500 crore (USD 3.5-billion) in the first four days of the festive season sales, a report said on Tuesday. According to the report by strategy consultancy firm Redseer, during this period each minute as many as mobile phones amounting to around Rs forms, driven by the premi-

um phones. Besides, fashion saw a 4.5x jump in terms of Daily Average GMV (gross merchandise value) compared to business-as-usual (BAU) days to reach Rs 5, 500 crore in the first four days, it

added. "For the first 4 days (Sep 22-25) of the on-going festive Sale event 1, e-com-11,000 crore were sold on merce platforms have

e-commerce plat- clocked in a sale of Rs 24.5k crore or USD 3.5-billion. contributing to 60 per cent of the projected GMV for

festive sale 1," Redseer said. The first four days of the previous year contributed to 59 per cent, signalling a better-than-anticipated kickoff to the festive sea-

son this year, it noted. Festive Event 1 is the first wave of festive sales, which includes Flipkart's 'Big Billion Day Sale', Amazon's 'Great Indian Festival', Meesho's Blockbuster Sale', and sales on platforms like Myntra, Ajio, Nykaa, among others, as per the report.

the report said. 'Redseer had earlier projected a GMV of USD 5.9 -

"First four days of festive Sanjay Kothari, Associate sale this year is around 1.3x the first four days of the previous year festive sale," Partner at Rec Strategy Consultants.

According to the report, e-commerce marketplaces usually hold up to three sales leading to Diwali. billion (around Rs 41,000 The first of these sales is crore) for festive sale 1 and usually the largest and usu

ally accounts for more than as expected, we are on 50 per cent of the sales durtrack to achieve this figure. As much as 60 per cent of our forecast is already ing the festive period, it added. achieved in the first four In terms of units, 60-70 days of the sale," said

lakh mobiles were sold in the first four days. "We are expecting a total sale of around 90 lakhs - 1 crore Redseer units of mobiles for festive week 1. We are also seeing premium phones driving mobile growth this year,' Kothari said. -PTI



Prannoy one spot to enter the top 15, and Lakshya remains at 9th

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 SEPT

Ace Indian shuttler H.S Prannoy jumped one spot to enter the enter top-15 in the latest BWF World Rankings, released on Tuesday.Prannoy, who recently produced some good performances -reaching back-to-back quarterfinals at the World

Championships and Japan Open Super 750 -has returned to the top 15 almost after 4 years. Last time, he was World No 15, in October 2018.On the other hand, Lakshya Sen continued to be the topranked Indian at the ninth position in the men's rankings, while Kidambi Srikanth rose one position to 11th.Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, who had skipped the World Championships and Japan Open due to an injury, remained static at the sixth spot while London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal moved one place ahead

pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who won their maiden gold at the Commonwealth Games, remained static at the eighth spot.—PTI

to 31st on the women's

list.The men's doubles



Women's ODI **Rankings: Kaur** moves up to 5th Place

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Riding on her stupendous show against England, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Tuesday jumped four spots to reach the fifth spot in the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings. She leads a bunch of Indian players who have made rapid gains in the rankings after the team's 3-0 sweep over England. Kaur smashed a match-winning 143 not out off 111 deliveries in the second match in Canterbury, Opener Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma have also moved up in the latest update that considers performances in the last two matches of that series as well as the IWC series between the West Indies and New Zealand. Mandhana, a formerly topranked batter who scored 40 and 50 in the two matches, has moved up one place to take the sixth position while Sharma's unbeaten 68 not out in the third match at Lord's has lifted her eight places to 24th position.—PTI



Szalai eyes coaching career after Hungary's retirement

BUDAPEST, 27 SEPT

Hungary's outgoing captain Adam Szalai already has his mind on a coaching role as he ended his international career on Monday. Szalai, who is signed to Swiss side Basel until June 2023, announced on Wednesday that Hungary's final group game against Italy in the Nations League would be his last international. Hungary, which stunned host Germany with a 1-0 win courtesy of Szalai's sensational backheel flick on Friday, lost its hopes of making the competition's final four with a 2-0 home defeat by European champion Italy on Monday. "I still can't get over the fact that this was my last national team game because I tried to concentrate on the 90 minutes," 34-year-old Szalai said."We missed a big opportunity, even though we knew we had chances. "If we look at where we

have come from, then we

coach) Marco Rossi.-AP

have to thank (Italian

Ind vs SA: India aims for final tune-up ahead of T20 WC



T'PURAM, 27 SEPT

India will be looking to round off their T20 World Cup preparation with a marked improvement in bowling besides providing crucial game time to its untested players in the three-match against South Africa, beginning here on Wednesday.
India skipper Rohit

Sharma, expectedly, singled out death bowling as an that requires improve-

ment following the series win over Australia. The hosts will be without two of their key bowlers, Hardik Pandya and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who has been rested ahead of the ICC event next month.

against the Proteas after being unavailable for the rubber against Australia. Harshal Patel did not have the best of times in comeback series

is one of the World Cup

reserves, is yet to recover from COVID-19 and will be

missing the three games

against Australia but he will be expected to get back to his best in the final three games before the World Cup. His career economy rate

Head To Head

Ind vs SA 1 T20I 2022 Matches Played India Won South Arica Won No Result

> The Match starts @ 7.00 PM, Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

stands at 9.05 but he conceded more than 12 runs per over against the Aussies.

Deepak Chahar, who is also on standby for the Word Cup, did not get a game in the previous series and he could get a chance if the team decides to rotate its pacers over the three games.

Weather Update At this time it is raining in

many states of India. It is also raining continuously in Kerala. There is a possibility of rain here from 6 am to 8 am on Wednesday. At the same time, will be cloudy throughout the day. However, the good news is that there is no chance of

Kohli's power game is coming back at right time: Manirekar

T'PURAM, 27 SEPT

Tirat Kohli has got back his "power game" and things have started falling in place for him ahead of the T20 World Cup, feels former India Test cricketer Sanjay

all-rounder

Manjrekar. Kohli had endured a lean patch for nearly three years before he decided to take a month-long mental health break while reinventing himself during

Sanju's Team India do a clean sweep of NZ, and Thakur-Bawa get heavy

CHENNAI, 27 SEPT

alf-centuries from captain Samson, Tilak Varma, and a late flourish from Shardul Thakur, combined with a four-wicket haul from allrounder Raj Bawa helped a dominant India A beat New Zealand A by 106 runs in Chennai. The hosts completed the win with 11.3 overs to spare and clinch the series 3-0. For New Zealand A, Dane Cleaver fought a lone battle by scoring an 89-ball 83 before they were all out for 178. Opting to bat, Samson's men posted 285 on a twoat MA Stadium. Varma pitch Chidambaram Samson and Varma stitched together a crucial 99-run partnership off 106 balls for the third wicket to lift the team towards the 200-mark, but Thakur's entertaining fifty meant India A finished the innings with a competitive

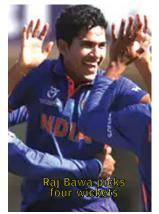
total on board. India A started on a brisk note, with Abhimanyu Easwaran, who was strong on his offside, notching up eight fours in his quickfire 39 before falling to pacer Matthew Fisher in the ninth over. He also shared a 55-run stand with Rahul England offers to be the neutral venue for the Indo-Pak Test series, but BCCI is

Tripathi, who was trapped lbw by Joe Walker for a 25-ball 18. Samson and Varma, the right-left combination, then kept the scorecard ticking. Varma made 50 - he hit four and three sixes in his 62-ball knock. Samson, who played a risk-free inning, scored half of his runs by taking singles and twos. A 68-ball 54 knock from the captain also saw a four and two clean sixes to mid-wicket. Rishi Dhawan, at No.6,

chipped in with 34 off 46, but it was Thakur who stole the limelight in the last ten overs. The allrounder's strong wrists were on display as he punched and pulled to a 33-ball 51, his third List A half-century. Thakur, whose highest score in List A is 92, hit four fours and three sixes en route to his fifty as India A moved from 206 for 5 to 284 all out in the last ten

New Zealand A bowled a

flurry of short balls, but the hosts played cautiously to negate it.



Brief Score

India A 285 (Samson 54, Varma 50, Easwaran 39, Rippon 2-43) beat New Zealand A178 (Cleaver 83, Bawa 4-11, Chahar 2-39, Kuldeep 2-29) by 106 runs

Mohammad Shami, who I-League Committee

sticks to a 3+1 rule

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

The League Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Sunday allowed I-League clubs to register six foreigners, including one Asian, on the match-day squad but permitted only four of them (under the prevailing 3+1 rule) in the playing eleven for this season beginning on October 29.

Last season, the I-League clubs were League allowed to register six foreign players but only four, including one Asian, were allowed on the match-day squad. India head coach Igor

Stimac is not a fan of increasing the number of foreigners in the domestic leagues on the ground that less number of Indian players will get

League Committee mended (to the executive committee) to increase the number of

foreigners to 5+1 (5 foreigners from anywhere in the world, and one from Asia) in the squad on the match day," the AIFF said in a release after the League after the Economittee meeting.

—PTI • The meeting between

the Indian officials and their counterparts at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland, went off well on Tuesday amendment of the IOA constitution in order to hold its elections before December could be achieved, according to

Ravindra Jadeja takes baby steps on road to recovery

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Tndia all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja on LTuesday shared video of his rehab from t h e National Cricket Academy. Bengaluru. The southhad undergone

knee.

knee surgery and is currently in the process of recovery. In the video shared by him, Jadeja could be seen walking with a crepe bandage on his right

The player takes small steps with extreme care during the walk to make sure he doesn't put too much pressure on his injured leg. —PTI

Failed to defend targets because of dew: Batting coach Rathour

not interested

T'PURAM, 27 SEPT

efending targets in T20 Internationals has been a grey area for the Indian team but batting coach Vikram Rathour being a factor which was not the case when the team played in the recently concluded Asia Cup. Since the Super 4s of the

Asia Cup, India has played six T20Is and won three of them while losing three. However, all three defeats

against Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Australia have come while defending targets.

Contrary to Rathour's claims, none of the Indian team members, who spoke to the media after the defeats against Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Dubai. blamed it on the dew factor making defending difficult.



"We are working on that area of getting better at defending targets. But to be fair to our bowlers, toss plays a vital role and every time we have not been able to defend are the places where there has been dew, so it gets easier to chase, Rathour said on the eve of the first T20I against South Africa here on Wednesday.

While Rathour might have referred to the match against Australia at Mohali where India couldn't pro-

tect a 200-plus target, he was sympathetic to the bowlers despite the kind of criticism they have faced of "I won't be harsh on

bowlers as they have been able to push the match till last over, every time when we are looking to defend. It's one ball here and there but of course, we are doing pretty well but hopefully, we will get better," the former India Test opener said.

The batting coach also didn't agree that India isn't putting big enough targets when asked to bat first. Asked if the batters in the

middle decide on a possible target, the coach replied, 'Definitely, it depends on the surface that we are playing on but when you say we haven't been able to put up good scores, I don't agree with that.

Lionel Messi is to leave

PSG on a free transfer

Nishioka eliminates **Britain's Evans in** Korea Open

TOKYO, 27 SEPT

ifth seed Dan Evans was knocked out of Open round on Tuesday losing to Yoshihito

Nishioka in straight sets. The world number 25 quickly conceded the first set 6-2, before put-ting up a fight in the sec-ond set to push the match to a 6-6 tiebreaker that world number 56 Nishioka eventually won. The match lasted one hour and 49 min-

Denmark's Holger Rune beat Tim van Rijthoven 7-6(2), 7-6(6) in a hard-hitting first-round clash of the Sofia Open, here on

Carlsen accuses Hans Niemann of recent cheating

NEW DELHI, 25 SEPT

superstar Magnus Carlsen for the first time openly accused American Hans Niemann of cheating Monday, saying the rising star had done so more recently and more often than he previously admitted. The chess world has been shaken for three weeks by the Carlsen-Niemann controversy since the 31-year-old five-time world withdrew from the Sinquefield Cup in the US after losing to Niemann, 19. Last week, the Norwegian's abrupt withdrawal from a match against Niemann in the Julius Baer Generation Cup online tournament reignited good faith.

Dear Chess World," Carlsen

believe that Niemann has cheated more and more recently than he has publicly admitted. "His overthe-board progress has been unusual." He did not specify the exact form of the alleged cheating, but added there was "more that I would like to say". Niemann has acknowledged cheating online twice, when he was 12 and 16, but says he has never played fraudulently in a face-to-face match and is even willing to play nude to prove his

Kanoh suspended from bowling in international cricket

DUBAI, 27 SEPT

hailand's Rosenan Kanoh has been suspended from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect after the ICC's Expert Panel confirmed that the off-spinner uses an illegal bowling action, the world cricket governing body said on Tuesday.
The 23-year-old was

reported by the match officials following her side's match against Bangladesh on September 23.

The ICC Expert Panel called Kanoh's bowling action illegal after reviewing match footage.
"The Expert Panel reviewed match footage of

Kanoh's bowling action and concluded that she

employs an illegal bowling



accordance with Article 6.5 of the regulations, she is suspended from bowling in international cricket," the ICC said in a statement.

Kanoh's suspension shall remain in force until such time she submits to a reassessment of her bowling action and the assessment concludes that her bowling action is legal.

The spinner has played eight WT20I for Thailand so far, picking two wickets.

Shubman Gill hits maiden county century for Glamorgan

LONDON, 27 SEPT

batter Gill on ndian Shubman Tuesday scored his maiden county century while playing for English

club Glamorgan in the county championship. Playing against Sussex, the 23-year-old got to the three-figure mark in 123 balls as Glamorgan went past 250 for the loss of four wickets in the first innings.

His innings included 16 fours and two sixes. Gill eventually got out for 119 as he mishit a lofted shot over mid-wicket that landed straight into the hands of Jack Carson off Hunt's delivery.Glamorgan is currently 280 for the loss of five wickets.

LONDON, 27 SEPT

Blazquez, he plans to refuse any new contract offers with the Ligue 1 champions. And that would mean Messi would become a free agent at the end of the season.Messi, 35, endured a tough first sea-son at the Parc des Princes.He scored just six league goals in his lowest tally since becoming a Barcelona regular in 2005-

ccording to Beteve in Spain via Miquel

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner has already managed four in eight appearances this term. After scoring a sublime chip on international duty last weekend, Messi revealed he was finally enjoying his football again after his struggles. The ex-



Barcelona captain said: "I feel good, I feel different from last year. I knew it going to be like this. "I'm more comfortable with the club, the dressing room, my teammates, the game."I feel very good again, so I'm starting to enjoy it again."Messi was even linked with a move back to Barcelona last sea-son but SunSport understands he has always wanted to honor his two-year deal with PSG so would stay until at least 2023.

England rally in 6-goal Germany thriller to ease pressure on Gareth



LONDON, 27 SEPT

areth Southgate hopes England will feel the benefit of being put under intense pressure in recent days at the World Cup after fighting back from 2-0 down to salvage a 3-3 draw against

Germany on Monday. The Three Lions had already been relegated from the top tier of the Nations League and will head to Qatar on a six-game win-less run. The knives were sharpened for Southgate after his faith in Harry Maguire backfired

for two German goals early in the second half. Centre-back Maguire has been publicly backed by the England boss despite being dropped at club level by Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag.

Kai Havertz then curled brilliantly into the top corner after Maguire was disposed of in the German

Nations League: Italy beat Hungary for consolation of final four Italy, who will miss a second consecutive World Cup, again found consolation in Europe as they won 2-0 in Budapest on Monday to edge Hungary for first place in their Nations



League group. Giacomo Raspadori, who scored the winner against England on Friday, poked the ball after Wilfried Gnonto had pounced on a poor Hungarian back pass to give Italy the lead in the 27th minute. "We needed these matches to restore enthusiasm, even if the World Cup remains an open wound and we can

said Italy Gianluigi not go back," goalkeeper Donnarumma. "We have to start again, we have to do it for all of Italy." Hungary, who started the final round

of games top of Group A3, fought hard but Donnarumma made two miraculous saves in quick succession in the 50th minute from Loic Nego and Adam Szalai. —AP and Adam Szalai.

Chennaiyin FC rope in Kerala winger Prasanth

CHENNAI, 27 SEPT

hennaiyin FC on Tuesday announced the signing of Kerala hennaiyin winger Prasanth K. on a one-year deal for the 2022-23 Indian Super League (ISL) season. The 25-year-old Kozhikode-born player



will be joining the Marina Machans after spending five years at Kerala Blasters FC. Talking about the club's new signing, Chennaiyin FC co-owner Vita Dani said, "Prasanth is a great solution to boost our depth in attack ahead of the upcoming season. Having played in Chennai earlier, he should fit in perfectly." Prasanth has made 76 appearances so far in his professional career and has tĥree goals and as many assists to his name. In 2017, he made his professional debut with Chennai City in the Ileague when sent on loan by Kerala Blasters.