

## Bishnu Sethi no more

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Deputy Leader of Opposition in Odisha Legislative Assem-



bly, Bishnu Charan Sethi passed away this morning at the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar following a massive cardiac arrest. He was 61.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Medical Superintendent Sachidananda Mohanty said Shri Sethi was admitted in the ICU of the hospital a month back as he was suffering from multiple diseases including in-

fection in the lungs. The BJP MLA had also kidney ailment and was undergoing

and again from Dhamnagar Assembly seat in 2019. He was serving as the Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Odisha Legislative Assembly. He has left behind a wife, son and daughter. Odisha Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal, Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Odisha Assembly Speaker Bikram Keshari Aarukh, Odisha Pradesh Congress President Sharat Pattanayak and leaders from all political parties have con-

dolled the demise of shri Sethi. Taking to his official Twitter handle Naveen Patnaik said, "Saddened to know about the demise of Dhamnagar MLA Bishnu Charan Sethi. His welfare work for the people as a public representative will always be remembered. My condolences to the bereaved family mem-

bers and may his soul rest in peace." Leader of Opposition, Jaynarayan Mishra said shri Sethi's death was a huge loss to the party. "There are very few leaders who could speak with a lot of conviction about issues and Shri Sethi was one of them," said Shri Mishra.

Senior Congress leader Narasingha Mishra said Shri Sethi was a senior legislator who will be known for his remarkable discussion in the House. "Though we were opposing each other in the political sphere, we used to share a bonding. The state has lost a senior leader, social worker, journalist and speaker and the House, a top-class legislator," said the Congress Lawmaker. Congress Veteran and Senior Lawmaker Suresh Kumar Routray lauded Shri Sethi as a noble soul and one of the finest Lawmaker.

## Changing tack: BJP on the offensive; Congress goes local

Offence is the best form of defence. That appears to be the BJP's strategy to counter Congress' all-out efforts to set a narrative for the 2023 Assembly polls with corruption under the BJP's watch as its major poll plank. There seems to be new-found aggression in the BJP camp in the last few weeks, coinciding with former chief minister BS Yediyurappa's elevation to the party's top decision-making body, the parliamentary board. Facing a flurry of allegations, including the 40 per cent commission charge by the contractors' association and backlash from its



workers, the BJP and the government looked to be on the defensive.

They mostly spoke of going to the polls with a report card on the government's performance and harped on differences among the top Congress leaders, while the opposition went hammer and tongs targeting the government over corruption. A perceptible change in the BJP's strategy seems to have been prompted by the apprehension that the government's counter was weak and anti-incumbency could slowly gain ground.

The change in tack was evident at the "Janaspandana" rally to celebrate the completion of three years of the BJP government, including one year under Basavaraj Bommai's leadership. The party blew the poll bugle by announcing that it will expose alleged irregularities during the Congress rule in the state,

from 2013 to 2018. After the rally, the first of the five such big events planned in the next few months, the ruling dispensation appears to be digging out skeletons and talking about alleged irregularities during the Congress government.

Unlike a few months ago, now more ministers and leaders are coming out roaring in defence of the CM. And in the ongoing legislative session, the BJP ensured that the Congress' motion to discuss irregularities in the police sub-inspector recruitment scam is converted into a discussion on all scams, including those during the previous Congress government's.

The Assembly is likely to witness a heated exchange during the debate slated this week. The party's aggressive approach was also visible when it got the contentious Anti-Conversion Bill passed in the Legislative Council amid intense opposition from the Congress. The bill was passed after a debate that witnessed heated exchanges between the opposition and treasury benches.

By taking an aggressive approach to the alleged corruption during the Congress rule, the BJP may blunt the Opposition attack to some extent. But the big question is... will it work with the voters? Is it too late for the party that was in power for three years to just talk about the corruption in the previous government, instead of ordering a probe soon after coming to power?

No doubt, action has to be taken against any wrongdoing even if it comes to light after many years, but when it comes to fighting corruption by strengthening the Lokayukta, there is hardly any difference between the two big parties. The credit CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Timeline set for SCB project

Cuttack(KCN):With Healthcare for people foremost in mind, V K Pandian, Secretary to CM has advised officials to ensure utmost quality and timely completion of the Redevelopment Project of SCB Medical College & Hospital.

Mr.Pandian visited the Complex, where the First Phase of redevelopment of SCB MCH is in progress.

Vishal Dev, Principal Secretary Finance & Works accompanied Secretary to CM.

J K Das, Managing Director OBCC briefed the progress of the massive project.

Secretary to CM instructed to increase the machineries and manpower deployment to speed up pile casting process and to deploy more number of structural fabrication agencies to meet the deadlines.

So far Residential Package is concerned, the cost is Rs.888.50 Crore in which Kathajodi, Birupa, Mahanadi Residencies are coming up and DAV SCB Public School is being set up under the massive project, officials say.

Out of 13 Blocks, work of foundation and basement are under progress, however looking at the



Redevelopment of SCB MCH comprises two packages: Clinical and Residential.

Estimated Project cost of Clinical Package is Rs.2636.20 Crore, which is coming up in a big way. Four Clinical Blocks, Utility Block, Town Center and Allied Infrastructures are coming up and date line has been set, officials say.

Mr.Pandian asked to complete Clinical Blocks by end of December and the rest by end of June, 2024.

progress, Secretary to CM directed to meet the deadline.

He also asked to put adequate manpower and machineries for meeting the timeline.

Mr.Pandian has all along stressed on quality and adhering to timeline of the project, so that there will be no cost escalation and project to be completed in a time bound manner, which is the Hallmark of 5T Charter.

## Maharashtra Congress, Mumbai unit pass resolutions to appoint Rahul Gandhi as party chief

MUMBAI(KCN): With the notification of the Congress president polls just days away, the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) on Monday passed a unanimous

resolution for appointing Rahul Gandhi as the national president of the party.

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ditional leader who is vigorously taking on Narendra Modi government's "anti-people" policies. The resolution was passed in a meeting of 553 delegates of the MPCC held at the YB Chavan centre in South Mumbai.

The Congress units in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the only two states where the party is in government on its own, have passed resolutions that Rahul Gandhi be made the party's

president.

Chorus grows louder in Congress for Rahul as president

Also, the Gujarat Congress on Sunday demanded that Rahul Gandhi be made the party chief. CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Queen's coffin lowered into royal vault at St George's Chapel

WINDSOR(KCN): Queen Elizabeth II's coffin has been lowered into the royal vault at St. George's Chapel, in Windsor Castle, at the conclusion of her committal service.

The Lord Chamberlain, the most senior official in the British royal household, broke a rod known as the "wand of office" as the royal family and hundreds of mourners bid a final farewell to the late monarch.

Andrew Parker, who is the former head of Britain's domestic secret service MI5, broke the white rod and placed it on the queen's coffin. The ritual symbolizes the end of his service to the monarch. Queen's final journey: World leaders like Biden and Trudeau pay tribute at state funeral

Earlier David Conner, the Dean of Windsor, paid tribute to the queen, telling 800 mourners gathered at the chapel about the queen as

"someone whose uncomplicated yet profound Christian faith bore so much fruit." He said: "In the midst of our rapidly changing and frequently troubled world, her calm and dignified presence has given us the confidence to face the future, as she did, with courage and with hope."



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary Higher Education has advised that the National Service Scheme (NSS) should explore possibilities for educational intervention in online

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education in remote areas in addition to its regular activities.

The Principal Secretary Higher Education has said that the NSS Program Coordinators and District Program Officers should also train the volunteers in road safety keeping in view the rising number of accidents and play a role in helping the state in disaster preparedness.

Mr. Sethi said while speaking at the state level review meeting of NSS functionaries held at SOA on Saturday.

As Odisha was known to be a state prone to frequent natural disasters like flood and cyclones, NSS should help in disaster preparedness for protection of life and property, he said.

Pankaj Kumar Singh, Director, NSS, said the organization's motto 'Not Me, But You' inspired people in the society to be good human beings.

## NSS intervention in Online Edu

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## Policy boosts Hydrocarban Explore

Bhubaneswar(KCN): While Hydrocarbon exploration activities are continuing in Odisha, major private players like Vedanta is also participating in these activities, thanks to Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) of the Union Government.

Hydrocarbon Exploration Projects in Delta Districts of Odisha is continuing, while Hydrocarbon Production activities are yet to be carried out in the State, officials say.

Hydrocarbon Exploration activities are being carried out in the districts of River Deltas in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, admit officials. OIL India is the major player in such exploration activities in Odisha, which is covering five blocks awarded under different regimes in the districts of River Deltas.

While Vedanta is engaged in Hydrocarbon Exploration activities in five blocks in Andhra Pradesh, it has one block in Odisha in River Mahanadi Basin. Vedanta is also taking up exploration job in Tamilandu and Puducherry, officials sources say.

In fact Mahanadi Basin in Odisha has the potential to emerge as a Hub for Hydrocarbon exploration and production activities in entire East Coast, officials say. Union Government is also implementing several programs and initiatives, which will lead to exploration and production of Hydrocarbon and once potential of Odisha is established through these initiatives, it would attract significant investment to the sector, officials say.

One of such program is National Seismic Program

sphere of undesired emphasis on career,” Mr. Singh said adding NSS connects to a larger and broader community. Sarita Patel, Regional Director, Odisha unit of NSS, welcomed the guests while the State NSS Officer and Deputy Secretary, Higher Education Ramesh Chandra Behera spoke about the various NSS activities being undertaken in Odisha. Prof. (Dr.) Amit Banerjee, Pro-Chancellor of SOA, who presided over the meeting, narrated his experience as a NSS volunteer during the foundational years of the organization between 1969 and 1973.

Prof. Nachieketa K. Sharma, SOA's Program Coordinator, NSS Bureau and Director, University Outreach Program, proposed the vote of thanks. Two NSS volunteers and a Program Officer, chosen for the national level NSS Award including Pratik Dash of SOA, were felicitated on the occasion. They will receive the award from the President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi on September 24 observed as NSS Day.

NSS District Program Officers from all districts and Program Coordinators from different universities and higher education institutions attended the meeting. The dignitaries also visited the blood donation program conducted in the university to mark the birth day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

(NSP), which was implemented with an aim to undertake fresh appraisal in all sedimentary basins across the country including in Mahanadi Basin. NSP was carried out as scanty data was available and to have better understanding of the Hydrocarbon potential of the country such program is being implemented.

Outcome from the NSP contributed to better understanding of the Sub Surface with the petroleum systems across wider geological ages to explore the Hydrocarbon Reserves in Odisha.

Total investment for seismic acquisition in Onland Mahanadi Basin was around Rs.80 Crore, officials say.

Seismic data acquired under NSP in the state of Odisha led to offer of five blocks by Director General Hydrocarbon (DGH) and OIL India won all the five blocks for hydrocarbon exploration under OALP-II and III rounds.

OIL India plans to acquire, process and interpret 1502 LKM of 2D seismic data and 1670 Sq Km of 3D seismic data in the five blocks, officials say. The total envisaged expenditure on the entire exploration campaign in the five blocks in Mahanadi Basin (Onshore) is Rs. 1250 Crores of which Rs. 220 Crores is for Seismic survey.

The blocks are spread in eleven districts of Odisha namely Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsingpur, Kendrapara, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Baleshore, Maurbhanj and Keonjhar.

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## Start-Ups on Urban clean

New Delhi(KCN): Hardeep Puri, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas, today reiterated the commitment of the Government to provide all support and facilitation to the start-ups involved in finding solutions towards promoting Swachhata.

He said this while interacting with the startups shortlisted under Swachhata Start-up challenge. Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBMU) Mission Director Roopa Mishra graced the occasion. Drawing attention towards some of the major cleanliness challenges, the Minister stated that plastic waste management, mechanized solutions to sewer and septic tank cleaning, scientific processing of solid and liquid waste etc. provide huge opportunities to the Startups for innovation and enterprise development.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBMU), MoHUA in collaboration with AFD (Agence Française de Développement) and Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), have launched the Swachhata Startup Challenge on 27th Jan'22 to promote an enabling environment for development startups and en-

trepreneurs in the waste management sector.

The Swachhata Startup Challenge sought innovative solutions from Startups in waste management domain under four thematic areas, viz, (i) Social Inclusion, (ii) Zero Dump (Solid Waste Management), (iii) Plastic Waste Management and (iv) Transparency (Digital Enablement).

The challenge aimed to award 10 winning

nology partner Amazon Web Services.

As part of the challenge, applications were invited from 27th Jan, 2022 to 15th April, 2022, against which a total of 244 solutions were received. Thereafter, screening of applications was done and 30 solutions were shortlisted for next round of evaluation by a Jury constituting of academicians, industry representa-

activities are planned, including reverse pitch by Municipal Corporations to Startups, discussion on policy initiatives for promoting Startups for Garbage Free Cities, sharing of success stories by entrepreneurs & founders of Unicorns, and the award ceremony in the concluding session to felicitate the winning startups.

The conclave will be attended by all



solutions from Startups with a financial support of ? 25 Lakh per selected project and 1-year incubation support. Apart from this, eligible startups will also get additional incentives which includes upto ?50 Lakh of follow-on investment from Villgro (implementation partner of the challenge) and upto 100,000 USD worth credits & technology support from tech-

tives, officials etc. The top 10 applications among these will be awarded as winners of the Challenge.

The award ceremony to felicitate winners of the challenge is scheduled to be held tomorrow on 20th Sept. 2022, at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The award event 'Swachhata Startup Conclave' will be a day long event and various ac-

Startups of Swachhata Startup Challenge, established Startups, Investors, Sector Partners, Industry experts, Municipal Commissioners of million plus cities, representatives from DPIIT, Govt. of India, FCCII, CII and other associations. Around 600 participants will physically attend the event while all cities will virtually join the closing ceremony.

## Coastal care interventions soon

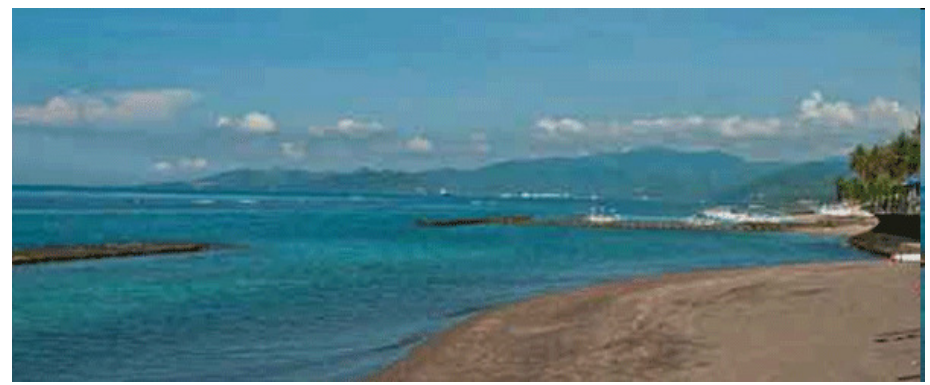
Bhubaneswar(KCN): In order to treat Coastal landscape various interventions will be rolled out during current year, said Susanta Nanda, Project Director ICZMS.

Mr.Nanda briefed the Steering Committee of Integrated Coastal Management Society (ICZMS) Meet held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra. Mr.Nanda appraised that the interventions

and disasters on the vulnerable coastal communities through popularization of the climate adaptive livelihood activities.

The community based organizations, NGOs, eco-clubs, women self help groups and local village communities would be involved in the planning, execution and carrying forward of the intervention.

Additional Chief Secretary Forest Environment and Climate Change Satyabrata Sahu graced the meet. Considering different contours of the plan, Chief Secretary Mr. Mahapatra directed to focus on regeneration of coastal eco-system, and promotion of climate resilient livelihood in the coastal communities.



would be rolled out from current year and would be completed by 2026-27. An amount of Rs.261.50 cr would be invested.

The main coastal landscapes to be treated under the project would include the areas like Talsari in Balasore district, Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara district, Bahuda and Chilika in Ganjam district, and Devi Mouth, Chilika in Puri district.

Around 3,75,321 hectares of coastal area spreading over 339 Gram Panchayats and five forest divisions would be included in it.

The project would contribute towards the ongoing efforts of the State Government in addressing the impacts of the climatic hazards

He directed to prepare the annual action plan in consultation with the respective communities. Mr.Mahapatra also directed to prioritize the villages that generally face climate induced calamities over the years. It was also decided to density mangrove forest and sea grass for enriching costal eco-system and reducing the impact of tidal surge and storm. Mr.Mahapatra asked to explore all possible places for development of eco-tourism with boating and wild life watching facilities. It was decided to prepare the livelihood plan as per need of the people and potential the concerned areas.

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# Rowel Star- The new shining Star of the Rajasthan Music Industry

Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): The Rajasthan music industry is going leaps and bounds, celebrating the new singing star Afjor Khan aka Rowel Star. This new generation of Rajasthan singers is making headlines for his outstanding singing style and making the world shake legs with his unique Rajasthan songs.

Afjor Khan, popularly known as Rowel Star on Social Media, has created a sensation in the Rajasthan music world with his mesmerizing voice and affective tone. "I am an ardent fan of Guru Randhawa and take his inspiration for my songs. I want to create some unique mix of folk songs with blending hip-hop and wanted to give something new to the music world, says Rowel Star." He recently gave his voice to two new songs, "Tera Shoot" & "Nahiyo Jeena", making the Rajasthan cultures a step ahead in this ever-evolving music world. The shoot of these songs has recently been completed in Dubai and will be out very soon to rock the floors! About his upcoming projects, Rowel Star will be seen sharing the floors with re-

nowned Rajasthan Singer Sumsa Supari.



They together have shot the song recently in Dubai in various amazing locations. The song will be out soon and published on the YouTube channel Sumsa Supari Films.

Rowel Star's songs, Maro Sajaniyo, Bannasa ke Mijaj, and Jai Jasol Maa album are the most popular and trending, creating a sensation on his YouTube channel and blessing him with millions of views and subscribers.

Born and raised in a small village in the Panawara district of Barmer, Rajasthan, Afjor has been fascinated by the music culture since he was five. He was sent to his maternal house at Sindhari for schooling. During his school days, he sang songs and attracted many ears listening to his soulful voice. His teacher once gave him a chance to sing a song on Republic Day, which grabbed praise from the entire school.

It was the year 2007 when Afjor Khan won the hearts of millions for singing the famous Rajasthan song of those days, "Maharana Pratap", which rolled out tears from listeners' eyes. His soulful voice created a huge impact on people's minds. Afjor won the gift price of Rs.1500/- for his singing. After the impressive response to his performance, there was no looking back for Afjor Khan, and his journey of becoming Rowel Star has kick-started!

# Neeraj Bharadwaj is shooting for web series 'Saazish' in Bhopal



Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): Film and TV veteran and famous actor Neeraj Bharadwaj is

About which Neeraj Bharadwaj says, "I am playing the role of city's famous lawyer Abhay Pratap

hatched and then what happens is still a secret. My role in this is different, I hope people will like it,



shooting for the web series 'Saazish' in Kalua Khurd, Bhopal, which will soon be airing on Disney Hotstar. It is produced by Col. S S Pattnaik and the director is Hiralal Khatri.

Singh, who gets the brother of villain Shahbaz Khan punished. After that Shahbaz Khan commits a lot of oppression on my family and me. I am not able to do anything. After that conspiracy is

and just like before, I will definitely be able to make a place in the heart of the audience with my performance." By the way, Neeraj Bharadwaj will soon have a webseries named

Madgaon ...A Murder Case. Its shooting has been completed.

The main cast of the web series 'Saazish' are Mugdha Godse, Shahbaz Khan, Raza Murad, Mustakh Khan and

Dev Manaria with Neeraj Bharadwaj. Its screenplay and dialogues are by Vinod Vats, Vikas Vashisht and Ajay. Its cameramen are Manish Vyas and Amar Vyas, music is by Manish Bhanushali. It is

produced by Col.S S Pattnaik, co-producer Dev Manaria and executive producer is Anu Madrasi. It will be coming soon on Disney Hotstar. Its shooting is going on in Bhopal followed by Vadodara.

## Referring Questions of Law to Larger Benches is in Ignorance of the Doctrine of Stare Decisis

It is said that even Homer nods at times, meaning that sometimes even very eminent and scholarly men err, for, to err is human. Lord Halsbury, known for his monumental work titled "Halsbury's Laws of England", in London Street Tramways Co.



v. London County Council [1898] AC 375 (HL), had held that House of Lords is bound by its own decisions. That was a great deviation from the view hitherto then in force that no precedent is absolutely binding, but is only a guidance. Justinian, known for his great work called "Corpus Juris Civilis", so too Chief Justice Edward Coke and Blackstone known for their works "Institutes of the Laws of England" and "Commentaries on the Laws of England", respectively, only contemplated that not the judgment, but the principle evolved in a judgment, the ratio decidendi, will be applicable to future cases as a precedent, the principle being stare decisis et non quita movere: "to stand by decisions and not disturb the undisturbed." In a legal context, this is understood to mean that courts should generally abide by precedents and not disturb settled matters.

2. When Halsbury delivered the judgment in the case of London Street Tramways Co., no judgment was treated as a legislation or in substitution of a legislation. What was the precedent is the principle, if any, which a Court has evolved for the first time for resolution of the controversy before it for which no principle was available. Halsbury was such a tall figure that his decision that the House of Lords shall be bound by its own decisions was not questioned by anyone; there was no occasion for it as his view did not create any difficulty because what was a precedent was the reason for the decision and nothing else.

3. In the Government of India Act of 1935, it was expressly provided that the ratio decidendi of the judgment of the Federal Court and Privy Council shall be binding on all Courts and Tribunals within the territory of British India. The Constituent Assembly incorporated Section 212 of the Government of India Act in the Constitution of India, though it was worded differently. Article 141 of the Constitution reads thus:

"141. Law declared by Supreme Court to be binding on all courts- The law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India."

But for Article 141, the law would have been simple, offering no difficulty even for a common man to comprehend. Chief Justice Edward Coke said that law is reason. The concept of precedent also is nothing but reason, namely, the 'reason' for a decision which a superior Court has adopted to be binding on coordinate Courts and subordinate Courts. However, we understood

and interpreted Article 141 differently from what it ought to be in jurisprudence. In actual practice, we forgot the concept that what is a precedent is the 'reason' for the decision, namely, the principle, if any, which the superior Court has evolved for resolution of a dispute before it, and the 'reason' for the decision when repeatedly applied by superior Courts become settled principles. Our Judges misunderstood Article 141 as the power to legislate, and each sentence and word of a judgment became the law of the land. The concept of the 'reason' for the decision being repeatedly applied and thus assuming great authenticity was forgotten and our lawyers and Judges treated the latest decision on a subject as the binding one.

4. When Judges started legislating, completely misunderstanding the scope of Articles 141 and 142, a new era of large number of judgments, which cannot stand together, conflicting with each other, became the order of the day. The new practice of referring cases to larger Benches, because two judgments are in conflict, both involving no particular legal principle, became very common.

5. What is stated above could be said as the preface to the scenario leading to the constitution of a Five-Judge Bench to authoritatively decide which of the interpretation given by two different Three-Judge Benches of the Supreme Court about Section 24(2) of the Land Acquisition Act is the correct one. In Pune Municipal Corporation case, 2014, a Three-Judge Bench headed by Justice R M Lodha took the view that merely because the Government has deposited with the court the compensation amount to be paid to the land holders whose property was acquired, their right is not lost if the property is not utilized for the purpose for which it is acquired, but only if they have accepted the compensation. In 2018, another Three-Judge Bench headed by Shri Justice Arun Mishra in Indore Development Authority took a contrary view holding that the judgment rendered by the earlier Three-Judge Bench is per incuriam. A Bench headed by Justice Lokur wrongly faulted Shri Justice Arun Mishra for taking the said view observing that he was bound by the earlier decision in the Pune case. Justice Arun Mishra was unfairly accused of judicial impropriety. On the very next day, Justice Mishra, taking note of the observation of Justice Lokur, requested the Chief Justice of India to refer the issue for consideration of a larger Bench. The Hon'ble CJI accordingly constituted a Five-Judge Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra. When the said Bench assembled to hear the question, which was referred to it, some associations of farmers sought recusal by Shri Justice Mishra

**Ritwik Mukherjee**

on the premise that His Lordship has already taken a view on the subject and, therefore, it is inappropriate for him to head the Bench, a proposition which has no foundation in jurisprudence.

6. I am afraid to say that the entire controversy has its root in the failure to be kept abreast of the first principles of jurisprudence. We forget very simple things; we are not often thorough enough about the concepts like res judicata, stare decisis, res inter alios, nullity, etc. The practice of referring a case to a larger Bench for decision on important questions of law is in ignorance of the first principles. As I said at the outset, law is reason, not numbers, at least when it comes to stare decisis. The number has relevance only when a Bench of three or more Judges decides a case and the judgment constitutes to be res judicata. If a Bench of three Judges is to decide a case between A and B, what matters is not the validity of the reason offered by the Judges, but who are in majority. The majority decision as res judicata will prevail, no matter right or wrong. This principle which is only applicable to res judicata, we have been applying erroneously to the doctrine of stare decisis. We did not accept the minority view in A K Gopalan's case as stare decisis because we got confused with the distinct concepts of res judicata and stare decisis. To repeat, so far as res judicata is concerned, all that matters is the majority view. On the contrary, so far as the doctrine of stare decisis is concerned, it is not the majority view which ought to matter, but the 'reason' for the decision. If reason for the decision is understood as the meaning of Article 141 and is followed in actual practice, we will be freed from the slavery and absurdity of needing to search for the law applicable from the thousands and thousands of judgments, reported and unreported and groping in darkness, not knowing what the law is. The majority view if rendered per incuriam will bind none, not even its authors and the minority if not per incuriam is binding as a precedent. The doctrine of res judicata often would mean injustice because unless we accept an erroneous decision of a court, acting within its jurisdiction, in conformity with the principles of natural justice and not involving any violation of the express statutory provisions as final, authoritative and binding, there can be no end to litigation – interest reipublicae ut sit finis litium (it is to the interest of the state that there be a limit to litigation). The doctrine of res judicata is a necessary evil. If we misunderstand stare decisis for res judicata, which is what we are doing when we advocate that judgments of a larger bench on a reference, like the instant case, be followed would mean that persons who were not parties to a case too ought to suffer the irrational judgements

of larger benches. We have suffered enough, for instance the Judges-2 case by which the Collegium system was established, because of Kesavananda Bharathi, PILs are filed claiming no fundamental right being violated but violation of the basic structure. The government could not establish a National Tax Tribunal because some lawyers could get it quashed alleging violation of basic structure. The worst instance in my mind is the quashing of the NJAC because certain "eminent" lawyers pleaded that it is in conflict with the Judges-2 case, which was nothing but the re-writing of the Constitution without the authority of the Parliament. The earlier we realize that, saying law is not reason but brutal majority would be insanity, the better.

7. A strict adherence to the concept of ratio decidendi would mean the principle employed in arriving at a decision and nothing else. Lawyers practising in subordinate Courts understand this principle better than those practising in the Supreme Court, for, when judgments of the Supreme Court, which are contrary to each other, are placed before a Munsiff, he has no option to refer the issue to a larger Bench but to decide it relying upon the various judgments placed before him, which carry the appropriate principle to be applied.

8. Those who agree with me will concede that the concept of stare decisis, which is embodied in Article 141, would mean that the principle which the superior Court has evolved and applied in resolving an issue before it is what is applicable to the coordinate Bench or subordinate Courts as a precedent and that the strength of the Bench does not matter at all, only the principle employed. I am sure that vast majority of my brothers and sisters would agree with me that legal principles are not discovered every day and every moment like new planets and moons orbiting the other galaxies forming part of the Milky Way. I am unable to think of even a single principle which the Supreme Court has evolved for the first time during its existence for the last 70 years which never ever existed for resolution of an issue before it which could act as a precedent, except the much hallowed doctrine of basic structure, which is founded on sand, being in conflict with the first principle of jurisprudence, ubi jus, ibi remedium – where there is a right there is a remedy-right, remedy and forum. Constituting Constitutional Benches of five or seven Judges is extremely counter-productive, for, it will cement the erroneous concept that precedent means numbers and not the reason for the decision or the principle employed. The earlier we repeal Article 141, the better for our legal system.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

## Startups, Investors lap up unique fundraising event-YiFi Next 2022, curated by FreeFlow

-More than 538 unique applications from



early stage start-ups-cutting across verticals and from different parts of the country, cumulatively Rs 230 crore of ask, possible sign-offs with more than 13 national corporates, engagements of more than 6 startup ecosystems, research, development and principal advisory support from more than 80 nationally accredited mentors, a facilitation ecosystem of \$100k+ worth of IT credits/ HR/ Marketing / compliance for all finalists--however long haul it may sound to be, YiFi Next, the physical flagship fundraising event at YiFi 2022, seems to have made it look so easy, courtesy Freeflow & Velocity1.

A large number of early stage start-ups from across the country gathered in Kolkata recently to pitch before a battery of seasoned

VCs, Family Offices, Angel Networks, HNIs to raise capital in the range of \$30K-\$5 million. The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways – Nitin Gadkari, who was supposed to address the startup owners, could not make it on health grounds (he addressed them virtually). But that failed

**Mathews J. Nedumpara**

former investment banker, spoke on the occasion. There was also a Fireside chat with the Unicorn Founder of Spinny, Mr Niraj Singh. Freeflow & Velocity1 successfully organised this fund-raising event



to dampen the spirit of the entrepreneurs wannabes. Harshvardhan Neotia, Chairman-Ambuja Neotia Group- Nilesh Shah, Managing Director- Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company, Chetan Bhagat, Famed Author and

only Venture builders in the country that have been successfully funding start-ups. It's a government-affiliated body, a nationally accredited partner of Invest India, and were the primary partners and facilitators at the Startup India Yatra in 21 states and spanning more than 60000 ideas and startups during this government initiative in



in Kolkata on September 16 to enable early-stage startups raise capital in the bracket of \$30K to \$5 million. CII-Yi in association with ICAI (Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) – Eastern India Regional Council, supported by WBIDC (West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation) presented this year's YiFi 2022 – a unique Financial Conclave which promises to benefit the existing industries in Bengal and also to provide a launchpad for Start-ups and Venture Capitalists. FreeFlow is an Incubator and Accelerator for Startups and amongst the

2019. Significantly, this time round, unique startup applications were received from sectors like Fintech, AI & ML, IoT, Edtech, Medtech, IIoT, Blockchain, Web 3.0, Gaming, Mediatech, B2B, SAAS, D2C, Virtual Reality, E-commerce & many others. Interestingly, there were offerings for individuals from all walks of life – Industry, Business Owners, Professionals, Young Adults and home makers. The presence of 6 VCs, 2 family offices, 6 Angel networks, 3 deal platforms and 8 HNIs & uHNIs took this event to new heights. The top 30 Startups got a chance to the exclusive closed room pitching session, investor speed networking with VCs, Micro VCs, Angel Networks, HNIs & Family Office Funds.

(The author is the President of the National Lawyers Campaign For Judicial Transparency And Reforms)

# Britain and the world say farewell to Queen Elizabeth II

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II will be laid to rest on Monday, after a state funeral attended by leaders from around the world and a historic last ceremonial journey through the packed streets of London.

Huge crowds gathered in near silence to watch as the queen's flag-draped coffin, topped with the Imperial State Crown, her orb and sceptre, was carried slowly to a gun carriage from parliament's Westminster Hall where it had lain in state since Wednesday.

To the tune of pipes and drums, the gun carriage -- used at every state funeral since Queen Victoria's in 1901 -- was then drawn by 142 junior enlisted sailors in the Royal Navy to Westminster Abbey. The thousand-year-old church's tenor bell tolled 96 times at one-minute intervals -- one for every year of her life -- stopping a minute before the service began at 11:00 am (1000 GMT).

The longest-serving monarch in British history died at Balmoral, her Scottish Highland retreat, on September 8 after a year of declining health.

Her eldest son and successor, King Charles III, dressed in ceremonial military uniform, followed the solemn procession, alongside his three siblings.

Charles's eldest son Prince William accompanied them alongside William's estranged brother, Prince Harry, and other senior royals.

William's two eldest children, George and Charlotte, who are next in line to the throne, also walked behind the coffin inside the abbey.

Late Sunday, Charles, 73, and his wife, Queen Consort Camilla, said they had been "deeply touched" by the public's flood of messages. 'She was my boss'

"As we all prepare to say our last farewell, I wanted simply to take this opportunity to say thank you," he said.

Britain last held a state funeral in 1965 for the country's wartime prime minister Winston Churchill.

Then, the cranes that once unloaded the spoils of Britain's vast empire that Elizabeth inherited were lowered in respect as his coffin was

service and procession on big screens.

Auto engineer Jamie Page, a 41-year-old former soldier, stood on Whitehall to observe the funeral procession, wearing his military medals from service in the Iraq war. Biden's tribute

"Sixteen years old, I swore an oath of allegiance to the queen. She's been my boss. She means everything, she was like a gift from

packed Westminster Abbey, whose 1,000-year history has been tied to royal coronations, marriages and funerals.

"You were fortunate to have had her for 70 years; we all were," Biden said on Sunday after signing a book of condolence. "The world is better for her."

In the abbey pews was Liz Truss, whom the queen appointed as the 15th British prime minister of her reign just two days before her death, in her last major ceremonial duty.

All of Truss's living predecessors were there plus her counterparts and representatives from the 14 Commonwealth countries outside Britain where Charles is also head of state.

Whether they remain constitutional monarchies or become republics is likely to be the defining feature of Charles's reign.

The queen's death has prompted deep reflection about the Britain she reigned over, the legacy of its past, its present state and what the future might hold, as well as the values of lifelong service and duty she came to represent during her 70-year reign.

Select members of the public won invitations to the abbey for the funeral after outstanding service to the community.

Hundreds of thousands of people are estimated to have queued, sometimes for up to 25 hours and overnight, to file past the queen's coffin as it lay in state.

Chrissy Heerey, a serving member of the Royal Air Force who joined the marathon queue twice, was the last person through the doors and described the experience as "amazing".

"When they came to me and said, 'right, you're the last person', I said, really?!" she told AFP, before heading off to join the crowds for the coffin's procession through London.

Big Ben tolls

Throughout the procession, Big Ben, the giant bell atop the Elizabeth Tower at one end of the Houses of Parliament, will toll and guns will fire at one-minute intervals.

At Windsor, the Sebastopol Bell -- captured in Crimea in 1856 -- and the Curfew Tower Bell will also sound.

A vast television audience is expected to watch the funeral worldwide and live online, in a sign of the enduring fascination with the woman once described as "the last global monarch".

Those lining the streets of London -- already jammed at sunrise on Monday -- said they had to bear witness.

"I will talk about this moment to my children," said Jack Davies, 14, camped out for the procession with his parents at Hyde Park Corner, where the coffin will be transferred from the gun carriage for the drive to Windsor.

"I'll say: 'I was there!'"

At Windsor, the queen's crown, orb and sceptre will be removed and placed on the altar.

The most senior officer of the royal household, the lord chamberlain, breaks his "wand of office" and places it on the coffin, symbolising the end of her reign.

The lead-lined oak casket, draped with the queen's colours, will be lowered into the Royal Vault as a lone bagpiper plays a lament. A private interment ceremony will take place at the adjoining King George VI Memorial Chapel at 1830 GMT.



borne up the River Thames by barge.

In the six decades since, Britain's global reach has been much diminished and its place in the modern world has become less certain.

But the country has dug deep into its centuries of tradition to honour the only monarch that most Britons have ever known.

Many people young and old and from Britain and beyond have camped out for days to witness the elaborate spectacle of pageantry, pay their final respects and share a moment of history.

"It's once in a lifetime," said student Naomi Thompson, 22, in the crowds at London's Hyde Park.

"It's a moment of history... She's everyone's granny," added engineer Alice Garret, 28.

Others unable to be in London gathered in cinemas and churches around England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to watch the

God," he said.

But on Charles, the oldest person yet to ascend the British throne, Page added: "Who knows, time will tell."

The queen's coffin was borne into the abbey, where she was married in 1947 and crowned in 1953, to "The Sentences", which have been sung by choirs at every state funeral since the early 18th century.

The funeral was due to last just under an hour, brought to an end by a bugler playing The Last Post, before two minutes of silence and the reworded national anthem, "God Save the King".

After an hour-long procession that passes Buckingham Palace, the coffin will be taken west by road to Windsor Castle, where thousands had lined the route since early morning.

Some 6,000 military personnel have been drafted in to take part in proceedings in what Britain's highest-ranking military officer has called "our last duty for Her Majesty the Queen".

The queen will be buried alongside her father king George VI, her mother queen Elizabeth and sister princess Margaret, reuniting in death the family who once called themselves "us four".

The coffin of her husband, Prince Philip, who died last year aged 99, will also be transferred to lie alongside her.

Elizabeth's funeral could not be more different from Philip's at St George's Chapel, Windsor, in April 2021.

Coronavirus restrictions limited mourners to just 30, led by the queen, a solitary figure in mourning black and a matching facemask.

'Out of place'

But now more than 2,000 people, including heads of state from US President Joe Biden to Japan's reclusive Emperor Naruhito,

## Indian mission condemns violence, temple attack in UK

LONDON: India on Monday strongly condemned violence against the Indian community and vandalism of Hindu premises in the eastern England city of Leicester as it sought immediate action against those involved in these attacks.

In a statement, the High Commission of India here said it had "strongly" taken up the issue and called for protection for those affected from the UK authorities following reports of clashes over the weekend in the city, described as "serious disorder" by the local police. There have been reports of clashes between Hindu and Muslim groups in the city since fans clashed following an India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match at the end of last month.

"We strongly condemn the violence perpetrated against the Indian community in Leicester and vandalism of premises and symbols of Hindu religion," the High Commission statement read.

"We have strongly taken up this matter with the

UK authorities and have sought immediate action against those involved in these attacks. We call on the authorities to provide protection to the affected people," the statement said. Leicestershire Police said its operation in the east Leicester area affected by the disorder continues to prevent any further disorder, with 15 people arrested.

"The impact this disorder is having on our local communities is not acceptable," the police said in a statement.

"We will not tolerate violence, disorder or intimidation in Leicester, and we continue to call for calm and dialogue. Our police operations and investigations continue with rigour and at scale," it said.

The force said a number of neighbouring police forces, including the mounted police unit, had been deployed to bring matters under control. Dispersal and stop and search powers were also used to restore calm.

## No political involvement in Chinese ship docking decision: Sri Lankan envoy

Sri Lanka High Commissioner Milinda Moragoda on Monday said his country was working on a framework for cooperation with India to avoid issues such as the docking of the Chinese research ship at the island's southern port at Hambantota last month.

Interacting with the media at the Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC) here, Moragoda said the decision to allow the dock-

need to have very close cooperation and coordination with India and we also need to have a framework of cooperation and we are discussing that," Moragoda said.

He said India was the anchor for security in the region.

The Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship was berthed at the Chinese-run Hambantota port from August 16 till August 22.

On August 13, the Sri Lankan government granted port access to the vessel from August 16 to 22 on the condition that it will keep the Automatic Identification System (AIS) switched on within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the country and no scientific research would be conducted in its waters.

India flagged the ship's technical capability and expressed worries about the purpose of its visit.

New Delhi was concerned about the possibility of the ship's tracking systems attempting to snoop on Indian installations.

Moragoda thanked India for standing by Sri Lanka in times of crisis and hoped that it will play a crucial role in the economic revival of the island nation.



ing of the Chinese ship Yuan Wang 5' was taken at the level of officials in the chaotic time when former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa was leaving the country.

"Approval for this docking was granted when we were in a state of chaos on the ground, the High Commissioner said and asserted that there was no political involvement in the decision."

"I think the lesson we have learnt is that we

# Making sense of GDP growth and poverty

India's aggregate GDP has become the fifth-largest in the world, overtaking the UK's. Any country's GDP is in its own domestic currency. In India's case, it is in rupees.

To make cross-country comparisons, that has to be converted into a common yardstick or numeraire, typically the US dollar. This can be done using official exchange rates, for instance, roughly 80 rupees to 1 dollar. However, 80 rupees can purchase more in India than 1 dollar can in the USA. If everything could be freely traded, all prices would equalize across borders. Such free trade doesn't

happen because some items cannot be traded. Economists refer to them as non-tradables. Services are an example. A haircut will be cheaper in India than in the USA. Hence, a notion of purchasing power parity (PPP) has evolved.

The fifth-largest aggregate GDP is based on official exchange rates. If PPP exchange rates are used for conversion, Indian GDP is already the third-largest, right behind China and the USA. A slightly flippant example of PPP is the Big Mac Index, based on how much a Big Mac burger costs in different countries. To compute PPP, we need data on prices

in different countries through surveys.

There is an International Comparison Programme (ICP) to gather prices on a common basket of goods and services across countries and it is subject to criticism. There are also time-lags. Present PPP data, collected through Asian Development Bank, are actually from 2017. But to state the obvious, any PPP conversion will relatively increase aggregate GDP, compared to official exchange rates, for a country like India, and relatively decrease it for a country like the USA. There is no inconsistency in this. They measure different things. Aggregate GDP is one thing, per capita is another ('capita' means head—as in decapitate, or capital punishment). Per capita GDP is aggregate GDP divided by population. It is the average income earned by every Indian. One could also say it is the average productivity of every working citizen. Source and year are important when citing any such figure, since they depend on exchange rates, vis-à-vis the US dollar.

Having said that, India's per capita GDP using official exchange rates (referred to as nominal exchange rates) is just short of \$2,500, while the PPP figure will be a bit more than \$7,500. As a thumb rule, if one multiplies nominal per capita GDP by three to get India's PPP per capita GDP, one will not be too far off. Whether official or PPP, this makes India a relatively poor country.

In the World Bank's present classification of countries, India is a lower-middle income country (the present threshold, using official exchange rates, is \$4,255 per capita). A rather pointless debate, especially on social media, has erupted regarding aggregate GDP rank versus per capita rank. They measure different things.

It isn't quite like 'the blind men and the elephant' debate. To stretch the analogy a bit—one measures the elephant's surface area, while the other measures some other part of the elephant's anatomy. Both tell us something.

In passing, everyone is aware of the work done by Angus Maddison and those who followed him, stretching back the historical GDP series for various countries. India's present geographical area isn't the same as it is in the Maddison-type calculations, for say, 1 CE. More importantly, there too, there is a difference between aggregate GDP and per capita. What is commonly quoted is the aggregate, not the per capita.

Similarly, there has been some unnecessary con-

trovery about UNDP's recent Human Development Report (HDR) 2022 and India's HDI (Human Development Index) rank. Before that, there is a notion of a poverty line and poverty ratio (also known as head count ratio). A poverty line is defined as a minimum basket of consumption required to subsist. Using prices, this is converted into a minimum monthly per capita consumption expenditure figure. It is a minimum and nothing more than that. When originally formulated in the 1950s, it was based on food (calories required), clothing and little else. This was based on private consumption expenditure. Health and education didn't figure, because it was presumed these would be publicly provided by the State. At that time, in 1951-52, when the first National Sample Survey (NSS) was conducted for consumption expenditure, the poverty ratio was around 45%.

Poverty lines aren't constant. As economies advance, more and more items are added to what is regarded as "minimum". For instance, currently, the US poverty line for a single-person household is around \$13,600 US dollars, compared to India's average of \$2,500. India's last official poverty line is one that was devised by the Suresh Tendulkar Committee.

The last such NSS survey, which provided data to compute poverty ratios once a poverty line was fixed, was for 2011-12. At that time, the poverty ratio was 25.7% for rural India, 13.7% for urban India and 21.9% overall (numbers vary from state to state and differ between rural and urban). Since then, we haven't had a NSS consumption expenditure survey (there is one which has just been started. The one in 2017-18 had methodological problems).

When talking about poverty, one shouldn't get bogged down by the transient effect of Covid-19. Such an exogenous shock pushes people who are above the poverty line down to below the poverty line. But this reverses itself once growth and employment recover. My guess is—in the absence of data it is no more than that, India's poverty ratio will be around 20% for rural India, around 13% for urban India, and an overall ratio of around 18%. Poverty has declined, though one can legitimately argue that the decline should have been greater. Over time, declines aren't linear. But we should aspire for at least a 10% decline in poverty ratios every decade. I shall delve into more on this and HDI in the next column.

## Queen Elizabeth's funeral service to take place at Westminster Abbey today

London: The longest-serving monarch of the UK - Queen Elizabeth II - who died on September 8 at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, will be laid to rest at Westminster Abbey in London today.

state funeral in the UK since Winston Churchill's in 1965.

A state funeral means that the UK government has officially declared the day of the funeral as a bank holiday.



President Droupadi Murmu arrived in London to attend Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral on September 17 and offered condolences on behalf of the government of India.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden Sunday also expressed his condolences to the royal family. While mourn-

ing the passing of Queen Elizabeth, Biden remembered Queen's warm candour and said, "The way she touched when she leaned over. The way -- she had that look like, "Are you okay? Anything I can do for you? What do you need?" And then also, "Make sure you do what you're supposed to do," Biden said adding that she reminded him of his mother. Moreover, senior citizens and children are among those camping along the funeral routes, for over 48 hours in some cases, to bid a final goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II on Monday.

Notably, the funeral service will be conducted by the Dean of Westminster, and readings will be given by Patricia Scotland, the secretary general of the Commonwealth, and Prime Minister Liz Truss. The sermon will be delivered by Canterbury's archbishop, the Most Reverend Justin Welby.

Two minutes of silence will be observed across Britain towards the end of the ceremony. The service is expected to end around 12 pm (UK time). The Queen was born on April 21, 1926, at 17 Bruton Street in Mayfair, London. She was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York - who later became King George VI - and Queen Elizabeth.

According to a statement by the UK royal family, the state funeral of the Queen will take place on Monday at 1100 hrs BST.

Queen Elizabeth's coffin draped in the Royal Standard is currently lying in state in London's Westminster Hall for members of the public to pay their respects to the Queen.

The Lying-in-State will end right before the funeral and the coffin will be taken in procession from the Palace of Westminster to Westminster Abbey, where the State Funeral Service will take place.

Following the state funeral, the coffin will travel in procession from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch, after which the coffin will travel to Windsor and once there, the State Hearse will travel in procession to St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle via the Long Walk.

A Committal Service will then take place in St George's Chapel after which Queen Elizabeth II will be buried in the castle's King George VI Memorial Chapel.

Numerous guests ranging from political heads of countries to distinct royal family members and dignitaries from across the globe will fly to the UK for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen's funeral is the first

## UP Congress authorises Sonia Gandhi to name party's next national chief

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee, on Monday, authorised party president Sonia Gandhi to select all office bearers, in-

resolution was passed unanimously at the party's convention held here calling upon party president Sonia Gandhi to name all office bear-

Gandhi to choose all the office bearers, including the state president and national president, came from party's Rajya Sabha member

Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat units of the Congress passed resolutions that Gandhi should be made party chief, the party's Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Bihar units on Monday passed resolutions seeking Rahul Gandhi's elevation to the top post.

Significantly, party's UP unit has been headless for the last six months after the then UPCC chief Ajay Kumar 'Lallu' had resigned from the post of Uttar Pradesh Congress president after the party's poor performance in the last assembly elections when it managed to win just two seats.

Pramod Tiwari, who is also Congress MLA's father. "The proposal was supported by everyone," added Aradhana Mishra.

On the other, after



cluding the state unit president and the organisation's next national president. State Congress Legislature Party leader Aradhana Mishra confirmed that a

ers for party's state unit. The members also agreed to accept all decisions taken by Sonia, Mishra said. She said the proposal to authorise Sonia




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## Britain and the world say farewell to Queen Elizabeth II

LONDON(KCN): Queen Elizabeth II is laid to rest on Monday, after a grand state funeral attended by leaders from around the world, and a historic last ceremonial journey through the packed streets of London.

The longest-serving monarch in British history died aged 96 at Balmoral, her Scottish Highland retreat, on September 8 after a year of declining health.

The last state funeral to be held in Britain was in 1965 for the country's wartime prime minister Winston Churchill.

Then, the cranes that once unloaded the spoils of Britain's vast empire that Elizabeth inherited were lowered in respect as his coffin was borne up the River Thames by barge.

In the six decades since, Britain's global reach has been much diminished and its place in the modern world has become less certain.

But the country will still dig deep into its centuries of tradition to honour the only monarch that most Britons have ever known.

Many ordinary people have camped out for days to witness the elaborate spec-

be the defining feature of Charles's reign. 'Last duty'

The queen's death has prompted deep reflection about the Britain she reigned over, the legacy of its past, its present state and what the future might hold, as well as the values of lifelong service and duty she came to represent during her 70-year reign.

"She was the glue that kept the country together," Andy Sanderson, 46, a supermarket manager who was among the last members of the public to pay his respects as her coffin lay in state, told AFP.

Some 6,000 military personnel have been drafted in to take part in the solemn procession to and from the abbey, on the route to Windsor and the committal service at St George's Chapel.

Britain's highest-ranking military officer, Chief of Defence Staff Admiral Tony Radakin, called it "our last duty for Her Majesty the Queen", their late commander-in-chief, and the first for Charles.

The abbey service itself, taking place under London's biggest-ever police security operation, starts at 11:00 am (1000 GMT).

After just under an hour, a bugler will play The Last Post, before two minutes of silence and the reworded national anthem, "God Save the King".

Former Archbishop of York John Sentamu said the queen, who headed the Protestant

Church of England founded by king Henry VIII in the 16th century, did not want a "boring" send-off.

"You're going to be lifted to glory as you hear the service," he told BBC television on Sunday.

Final adieu: Beckham, PM Truss, public queue up to pay respects to Queen Elizabeth II

Big Ben tolls  
Hundreds of thousands of people are estimated to have queued, sometimes for up to 25 hours and overnight, to file past the queen's coffin since it was taken to lie in state last Wednesday.

The doors of the cavernous Westminster Hall at the UK parliament will close at 6:30 am before the coffin is transferred to the state gun carriage and pulled by members of the Royal Navy to the abbey. After the service, Charles and other senior royals will again follow in procession past hushed crowds to a waiting hearse and the final journey to Windsor. Throughout, Big Ben, the giant bell atop the Elizabeth Tower at one end of the Houses of Parliament, will toll and guns will fire at one-minute intervals.

A vast television audience is expected to watch the funeral worldwide and live online, in a sign of the enduring fascination with the woman once described as "the last global monarch".

But E.J. Kelly, 46, who travelled with two colleagues from Northern Ireland to stake out a spot on the procession route on Saturday, said there was no substitute for being there.

"Watching it on television is wonderful but being here is something else," the primary school teacher told AFP.

"I will probably feel very emotional when it comes to it but I wanted to be here to pay my respects."

At Windsor, her crown, orb and sceptre will be removed and placed on the altar. The most senior officer of the royal household, the lord chamberlain, symbolically breaks his "wand of office" and places it on the coffin. The heavy lead-lined oak casket, draped with the queen's colours, is then lowered into the Royal Vault as a lone bagpiper plays a lament. A private interment ceremony will take place at the adjoining King George VI Memorial Chapel at 1830 GMT.



tacle of pageantry and to pay their final respects.

After the funeral, the flag-draped coffin of the queen, topped with the majestic Imperial State Crown, will be taken west to Windsor Castle.

She will be buried alongside her father king George VI, her mother queen Elizabeth the queen mother, and sister Princess Margaret, reuniting in death the family who once called themselves "us four". The coffin of her husband, Prince Philip, who died last year aged 99, will also be transferred to lie alongside her.

Dignitaries

Elizabeth's funeral could not be more different from Philip's at St George's Chapel, Windsor, in April last year.

Coronavirus restrictions limited mourners to just 30, led by the queen, a solitary figure in mourning black and a matching facemask.

On Monday, more than 2,000 people, including heads of state from US President Joe Biden to Japan's reclusive Emperor Naruhito, will pack Westminster Abbey, the imposing location for royal coronations, marriages and funerals for more than 1,000 years.

The queen's eldest son and successor, King Charles III, 73, will lead mourners, alongside his three siblings and his heir, Prince William.

Late Sunday, Charles said he and his wife, Queen Consort Camilla, had been "deeply touched" by the messages of condolence and support.

"As we all prepare to say our last farewell, I wanted simply to take this opportunity to say thank you," he added.

The queen's death has brought two of its most controversial members -- the queen's second son Prince Andrew and Charles's younger son Prince Harry -- temporarily back into the royal fold.

In the abbey, pews will also be Liz Truss, whom the queen appointed as the 15th British prime minister of her reign just two days before her death.

All of Truss's living predecessors will be there too, plus her counterparts and representatives from the 14 Commonwealth countries outside Britain where Charles is also head of state.

Whether they remain constitutional monarchies or become republics is likely to

## Why set multiple goals for your money

Financial planning is like minding a herd. Just like sheep or cattle, your money tends to meander. When you receive your paycheck, you want to ensure that you provide adequately for your future. You need to manage today's expenses after setting aside a small portion of your income for tomorrow. When you start with financial planning, your ability to save money comes first. When you master that and create a surplus every month, you need to think about the direction your savings need to take.

Goal setting is a vital step towards financial security. It may be possible to just think about retirement, a child's education or owning a home as your financial goal. When you list down your dreams and turn them into goals, you need to set a priority for those goals. Every financial advisor will tell you that you must figure out how to pay yourself first. That means saving for your retirement.

When you start saving for retirement in your 20s and 30s, you give your money the time it deserves. A period of 15-20 years can do wonders to your retirement savings due to the magic of compounding.

If you continue to invest more each year, that will help you create a corpus that will take care of your needs when you hang up your boots. Your choice of investments will make a difference to your investment.

In this column, we have argued that your investment consistently has to beat inflation in the long term. For that, investment should only mean equity assets when considering long-term goals. You can directly own strong companies if you have adequate business knowledge. The other option is to invest through mutual funds or index funds like exchange-traded funds. Under all circumstances, empirical evidence proves that equity assets outperform all other asset classes when invested for 20 years or more.

However, your life takes all kinds of turns—some for the better but some for, the worse.

### Changing tack: BJP on the offensive; Congress goes local

Continued from page-1

for weakening the Lokayukta headed by a retired judge by forming the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) helmed by a police officer goes to the Congress government.

The BJP did nothing to fulfil its election promise of disbanding the ACB. It was abolished recently after the High Court order.

Recent floods in Bengaluru added to the woes of the BJP. No matter who allowed encroachments and who turned a blind eye all these years, the ire will be directed more against those in power. Bengaluru with 28 Assembly segments is very important for the BJP as well as the Congress. The ruling party had not done particularly well in the 2018 polls when it won 11 seats, three less than Congress. Equations changed post political defections that helped BJP come to power in 2019. But now with corruption being one of the major poll issues, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will be looking to draw a section of urban voters disillusioned with the BJP. That may not help the AAP win seats, but can damage the BJP in closely contested elections.

Meanwhile, the Congress is also changing its approach. The party that finds itself in a blind alley in national politics is adopting a strategy to target the BJP's local leadership and not focus too much on criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi as that can prove to be counter-productive. As part of that strategy, the Congress is going full throttle firing corruption salvos against the ruling dispensation and has even launched a helpline and website for people to register complaints if they face any demand for bribes.

Now, with former AICC chief Rahul Gandhi's "Bharat Jodo" yatra set to enter the state on September 30 and cover over 500 km in 21 days, the Congress will sharpen its attack on the Bommai government. And the same intensity is expected to be seen in the BJP's rallies to be held around the same time. Corruption continues to be a major talking point in the run-up to the elections, but people also expect those in power to talk about what they have done and those in opposition to explain what they have to offer.

You need to make an adequate allocation for life insurance and health insurance. That is not an investment. It is a protection for your savings and your family. A sudden medical emergency could set back your ability to invest regularly. You have to figure out the optimal level of insurance needed. Many insurance agents and advisors would make you pay insurance premiums more than you need. You must regularly read about risks associated with your work and arrive at a desirable life and health insurance premium.

Once you get that out, all your money should be allocated based on your goals. You need more goals to meet your diverse needs in the future. Defining goals directs your savings and lets you make appropriate asset allocations. Your short-term goals, such as owning a car or a dream home, require you to save money to make the down payment. The assets you pick need to balance equity and fixed income. Your long-term goals, like a child's education or retirement, are likely to be 10 to 20 years. Here, you are allocating a small quantity but for a considerable time. That helps you beat inflation comfortably if you allocate more money to equity assets than fixed income.

Financial Advisor

If you are confident about managing your investments, your financial advisor would be your knowledge. The more you read, the more you would protect yourself against potential risks associated with investing. The trick is to spend a few minutes knowing about finance every day. That way, if you are not associated with financial markets or not interested in finance, you can incrementally improve your understanding.

However, if you are not confident about doing it on your own, you must get a professional financial advisor. They are certified to help you at every step. You can extract more from your relationship with your advisor if you know the right questions to ask. Spending a few minutes every day reading about finance could help. There is no shortage of information available to you online. The onus is on you to make the most of it.

### Maharashtra Congress, Mumbai unit pass resolutions to appoint Rahul Gandhi as party chief

Continued from page-1

The resolution was moved by former Maharashtra chief minister Ashok Chavan and seconded by senior leaders including Naseem Khan and Chandrakant Handore, which was unanimously passed, a Congress statement said.

Notably, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole moved a resolution authorising the Congress president to appoint a state unit chief, office-bearers and AICC delegates.

This resolution was seconded by Congress Legislature Party leader Balasaheb Thorat and was unanimously passed.

The meeting took place in the presence of the state returning officer for the organizational polls Pallam Raju, state in-charge HK Patil, former CMs Ashok Chavan, Prithviraj Chavan, and Patole.

The nomination process for the Congress president's election will begin on September 24.

The election will be held on October 17, if necessary.

In a separate meeting, the Mumbai unit also resolved to authorise the All India Congress Committee (AICC) president to take all decisions related to the organisation.

'Made my decision, will answer if I don't stand for polls': Rahul on being Congress chief again

A meeting of 296 delegates from Mumbai washed in the presence of returning officer Kiran Chaudhary and state in-charge HK Patil. The resolution to appoint Rahul Gandhi as the Congress president was moved by Mumbai Congress working president Charanjit Singh Sapra and seconded by former city president Milind Deora.

The city unit president Bhai Jagtap moved a resolution that the AICC president be authorized to take all decisions regarding the organisation.

The resolution was seconded by former Mumbai Congress president Sanjay Nirupam.

## Bells toll 96 times, hymns mark start of state funeral for Queen Elizabeth II



LONDON: The chimes of the Big Ben fell silent and hymns rang out as the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II was carried into Westminster Abbey for the state funeral of Britain's longest-serving monarch on Monday.

Her son and heir King Charles III followed the coffin in

solemn procession, accompanied by his sons Princes William and Harry and siblings Princess Anne and Princes Andrew and Edward. William's children, nine-year-old Prince George and seven-year-old Princess Charlotte were among the youngest members of the royal family who

walked between their parents, the Prince and Princess of Wales.

In the congregation of around 2,000 guests made up of world leaders, royalty from the UK and overseas and community leaders, India was represented by President Droupadi Murmu.

The funeral service

is being led by the Dean of Westminster and will include many personal touches of the late monarch, who was also the head of the Church of England.

Queen Elizabeth II, 96, died peacefully at her Scottish residence of Balmoral Castle on September 8.

## Czechmate: Fruhvirtova bags maiden WTA title

A plethora of Grand Slam champions either before or after they won their maiden Major — have graced the blue hardcourts of Chennai. Rafael Nadal, Stan Wawrinka, Marin Cilic, Daniil Medvedev, Patrick Rafter... this list is not exhaustive.

Keeping in mind the one main caveat to the overall development of a tennis player's injuries it may be okay to assume that, over the last week, it may have well hosted another potential champion. There's of course a long

in the most dramatic of circumstances. She won the last five games, hitting winners, forcing errors from Linette and holding serves with relative ease. It also made her the youngest winner on tour since Coco Gauff's victory in Parma last year.

The more experienced Pole (Fruhvirtova was four when Linette turned professional) was the slight favourite to begin with — big-match nous, title-winning experience and in form — but the Czech wasn't at all fazed by the situation.

She opened the match by holding serve before saving three break points in the third game. It was also a sign of things to come. There weren't many service winners. The exchanges at the net were few and far in between as both players typically engaged their opponent from the comfort of their

baseline. After losing out on the longer rallies as well as not landing enough balls in play in the first set, she recalibrated. It caused problems for the Pole who was slowly being asked to run from coast to coast. That the Czech also has a lovely touch play a drop shot added to the Pole's complications. The tide started to change as she won the second set.

In the third, it once again shifted to World No 67 from Poland. She appeared the fresher of the two with Fruhvirtova, the World No 130, frequently using the towel. At 1-4, it was going to be the final throw of the dice. Luckily for her, it worked. At the on-court prize distribution ceremony, she was overcome with emotion, shedding tears of joy. "Pretty much in shock, didn't expect this," she said. On where the match turned decisively, she pointed out to holding serve in the sixth game of the final set. "It was a matter of one break. She had a chance to go 5-1 and that would have been pretty bad for my chances. When I won that, I started believing again. I got my confidence again and just fought for every point."

In Sunday's first final, top seeds, Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski and Brazilian Luisa Stefani showcased their full range to coast past Anna Blinkova and her Georgian partner Natela Dzalamide. That the prize distribution lasted almost as long as the match — 58 minutes — was a fair reflection of the superiority on display.

Results (all final): Singles: Linda Fruhvirtova bt Magda Linette 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.



way to go yet — this was a 250 event and the field wasn't the greatest — so it's important to retain perspective. But it's also easy to see why there's lots of excitement about what the future could hold for 17-year-old, Linda Fruhvirtova. For starters, tennis coach Patrick Mouratoglou likes her. He anointed her a possible future No 1 a few years ago.

During the course of the tournament, WTA Tour Supervisor, Kerrilyn Cramer, had told this daily to watch for the girl from the Czech Republic. She was replying to a question on whether the tournament if it continues in the future, could hope to attract players who have a high development ceiling.

On Sunday, the Czech Republic teen showed why a lot of people are excited for her. She exhibited all the traits — a never-say-die attitude, winning the biggest points, holding serve in the biggest moments and closing when presented with an opportunity — that makes the best tennis players.

In a final that lasted 2 hours and 40 minutes, the Czech engineered multiple Houdini Acts. None of it more significant when Magda Linette was eight points away from picking up her third tour-level title. At 1-4 in the final set, it looked like curtains for her. But her opponent, Magda Linette, had a visit from the trainer for a leg issue. A little over 20 minutes later, Fruhvirtova was lying on the ground, soaking in the adulation after Linette had sent a return long. Courtside, her coach was punching the air in jubilation. A maiden WTA tour-level title (4-6, 6-3, 6-4) had come

## FIFA chief Infantino might call on PM Modi next month to discuss Indian football

KOLKATA: World football governing body president Gianni Infantino might visit India next month and call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the way forward for Indian football.

This was revealed during the executive committee meeting of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) here on Monday.

Infantino's visit, if it takes place, will coincide with

FIFA president and also the possibility of him meeting our Prime Minister which would be updated once it's scheduled," said AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran.

"That would be an important day once the FIFA president meets our honourable Prime Minister. They would be making some announcements which would be path-breaking," he added.



the final leg of the FIFA Women's U-17 world Cup, which is to be held in the country from October 11 to 30.

"At the start of the meeting, the members were informed that the FIFA President Mr Gianni Infantino may travel to India in the last week of October, to call upon Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to discuss the way forward for Indian football," the AIFF said in a statement issued after the executive committee meeting.

"(AIFF) President briefed the executive committee on the deliberations that took place with the

This was the second executive committee meeting of the new dispensation headed by president Kalyan Chaubey and secretary general Prabhakaran.

Former Mohun Bagan and East Bengal goalkeeper Chaubey became the new AIFF president after drubbing former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia 33-1 in the polls decided by 34 members of the electoral college made up of state association representatives. Chaubey, a Bharatiya Janta Party leader from West Bengal, thus became the first former India player to be elected as the head of the country's governing body.

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