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OPINION 6
HOW PRAGMATIC IS THE CUET MOVE?

WORLD 9
UKRAINE ACCUSES RUSSIA OF MASSACRE

MONEY 10
INDIA'S TRADE DEFICIT UP BY 88% IN FY22: GOVT DATA

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY APRIL 5, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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BARCELONA BEAT SEVILLA IN LA LIGA
11 SPORT

# Imran names ex-CJ as caretaker PM

## Pakistan apex court adjourns hearing by a day on rejection of no-confidence vote

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former chief justice Gulzar Ahmed was on Monday nominated for the office of the caretaker Prime Minister by incumbent Imran Khan, amid ongoing political crisis in the country. Former information minister and senior leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party Fawad Chaudhry said that the premier made the decision after approval from the party's core committee.

The announcement comes after President Arif Alvi sent letters to Prime Minister Khan and Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif on Monday seeking suggestions for the appointment of a caretaker Prime Minister. "In response to the President's letter, after consultation and approval by the PTI Core Committee, Prime Minister Imran Khan has nominated Pakistan's former chief justice Gulzar Ahmed for the post of caretaker Prime Minister," Chaudhry said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday adjourned the hearing by a day but promised to give a "reasonable order" in the high-profile case about the rejection of a no-confidence motion by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and the subsequent dissolution of Parliament.

In his letter, President Alvi told them in case they do not agree on the appointment within three days of the dissolution of Parliament, they shall forward two nominees each to a committee to be constituted by the Speaker, comprising eight members of the outgoing Assembly, or the Senate, or both, having equal representation from the Treasury and the Opposition.

The Constitution has empowered the President to appoint a caretaker Prime Minister in consultation with the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition in the outgoing National Assembly, the President's Secretariat said in a statement.

Under Article 224-A(1) of the Constitution of Pakistan, a caretaker government is set up to organise elections in the country. Khan will continue as the PM till the appointment of a caretaker PM. So far Shehbaz Sharif has refused to take part in the process, terming it illegal.

*Continued on Page 2*

Sri Lankans protest demanding President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign in Colombo on Monday PTI

# Lankan Opp rejects Prez invite to join Govt

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Opposition parties on Monday rejected President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's invitation to join the proposed unity government as a "sham" after he fired his brother and Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa from his post, as protests were held nationwide over the ruling Rajapaksa family's poor handling of the country's worst economic crisis.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Monday fired Basil Rajapaksa from his post and invited the Opposition parties to join a unity Cabinet to tackle the raging public anger against the hardships caused by the economic crisis.

On Sunday, all 26 Cabinet Ministers submitted letters of resignation after thousands of people defied a countrywide state of emergency and curfew and joined street protests denouncing the government.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Shah allays Opp fear over Criminal Procedure Bill

## Law will ensure police remain 2 steps ahead of law-breakers: Home Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill will ensure that police and investigators remain two steps ahead of criminals, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday, urging the Opposition not to have any apprehension over the draft law.

Replying to a discussion on the Bill in the Lok Sabha, he said the Opposition members raising human rights concerns must also show concerns over the human rights of those targeted by criminals.

The Bill will act as a defender of human rights of crores of law-abiding citizens, he said, adding that this Bill intend to implement new technologies in the identification of convicts and undertrials in heinous crimes, terrorism, narcotics and atrocities against women.

Lok Sabha passed Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill by voice vote, rejecting the amendments proposed by Opposition MPs. Referring to concerns of some Opposition members over the misuse of data collected under the proposed law, Shah said the world is using database and "we too will have to use it", moving ahead with time.

The database has been in use for two-and-a-half years to solve crimes, including automobile thefts, he said. The Union Home Minister said data will be stored in a protected hardware and those "who send samples (for matching) will be sent results and data will not be shared".

He said the Bill has been brought in to ensure that police and investigators remain two steps ahead of criminals. There should be no apprehensions, he added. Next-generation crimes cannot be tackled with old techniques, he said.

"We have to try to take criminal justice system to the next era," Shah added. Asserting that the BJP does not indulge in vote-bank politics, he said the Prevention of Terrorism Act was a law in national interest and was repealed for the sake of "appeasement".

*Continued on Page 2*

Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the second part of Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday SANSAD TV/PTI

## CAPSULE

### VINAY MOHAN KWATRA NEXT FOREIGN SECY

**New Delhi**: India's envoy to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra was on Monday appointed the new Foreign Secretary, succeeding Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who will retire at the end of this month, a personnel ministry order said. Announcing the appointment of Kwatra, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, the Ministry said he will take charge as the Foreign Secretary on April 30.

### CLOSE MEAT SHOPS DURING NAVRATRI: SDMC

**New Delhi**: South Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor Mukesh Suryan on Monday wrote a letter to the commissioner of the civic body asking him to take necessary action for closure of meat shops under its jurisdiction during the nine-day festival of Navratri. This is the first time when the civic body has asked for closure of meat shops during Navratri which is being observed from April 2-11. An official order in this connection is yet to be issued.

### PARKS TO BE NAMED AFTER UNSUNG HEROES

**New Delhi**: Parks in Delhi will soon be named after unsung freedom fighters from Delhi as a mark of respect and recognition to their sacrifices.

### SURPRISED TO SEE RS ENTRY RUMOUR: NITISH

**Patna:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday dismissed reports that that he is eyeing a stint in Rajya Sabha and said these are "baseless" and "mere speculation".

# Fuel price hike rocks Parl, Opp walks out

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament proceedings were disrupted on Monday on the issue of the price rise with the Rajya Sabha unable to function for the day due to protests by the Opposition demanding a discussion on fuel price rise as in the Lok Sabha Opposition members, including those from the Congress, the TMC and the Shiv Sena, staging a walkout of the House.

The agitated members in the two Houses rushed into the Well and shouted slogans when their demand for a discussion was turned down by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Speaker Om Birla, respectively.

Petrol prices were hiked for the 12th time in the last 14 days as global crude oil prices rose. In all, petrol prices have gone up by ₹8.40 per litre in the past two weeks.

The din began in the Upper House soon after it met for the day when Naidu said he was not allowing discussion on the notices given by some members under rule 267 to take up the issue of fuel price hike. He said the members got an opportunity to raise it during the debate on Finance Bill.

However, his appeal to let the proceedings go on was not adhered to by the Opposition and Naidu adjourned the House shortly after 11.00 am till 12.00 pm.

Similar scenes were witnessed when the Rajya Sabha reassembled for the Question Hour with several members trooping into the well. They included members from the Congress, the TMC, the AAP and the DMK.

The House was finally adjourned for the day shortly after 2 pm as the Opposition members did not relent. Earlier, six newly-elected Rajya Sabha members, including two from the BJP and one from the Congress, took oath in the House.

*Continued on Page 2*

Ruckus created in the Rajya Sabha by the Opposition over hike in prices of fuel, during the second part of Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday SANSAD TV/PTI

# BJP likely to pick Shivpal as UP Dy Speaker

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The BJP is likely to repeat history by anointing Samajwadi Party rebel leader Shivpal Singh Yadav as the Deputy Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. Shivpal heads the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia).

As per Parliamentary tradition, Deputy Speaker post in the Assembly and Lok Sabha always goes to an Opposition party member. Nitin Agarwal, elected as SP MLA in 2017, had switched loyalty to the BJP, and later he was elected as Deputy Speaker in December last year as a "Samajwadi Party" MLA. Agarwal is now Minister of State (independent charge) for Excise. Shivpal on Monday, much to the chagrin of the SP, tweeted a "chaupai" (couplet) from Ramcharitmanas, creating a buzz in political corridors.

Through his tweet, Shivpal described Lord Ram as the best teacher for family and nation-building, giving wind to speculation of his switching over to the BJP.

*Continued on page 2*

# ATS to probe attack on Gorakhnath temple security by IIT grad

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government on Monday roped in the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and National Investigation Agency (NIA) to probe an incident in which an IIT graduate attacked two policemen with a sharp-edged weapon at a gate of the famed Gorakhnath temple and tried to barge into premises before being overpowered.

The attack which occurred on Sunday evening at the temple which is under high security as it is frequently visited by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who is the head seer has been termed a "terror incident" by officials.

The accused, identified as Murtaza Abbasi, 29, was arrested and has been sent to judicial remand for two weeks, police said and alleged he tried to forcibly enter the temple, which was teeming with devotees during the Navratri festival, after raising the religious slogan of "Allahu Akbar".

Speaking to a TV channel, Murtaza's father Munir Abbasi claimed Murtaza — who passed out from IIT-Mumbai as chemical engineer in 2015 — is mentally unstable and it should be taken into account.

*Continued on Page 2*

# HDFC twins' merger fires up stock market

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stock market surged and rupee strengthened in a big way to greet the biggest merger in India's corporate history — that of the country's largest housing finance company HDFC Ltd with the largest private lender HDFC Bank to create a banking behemoth.

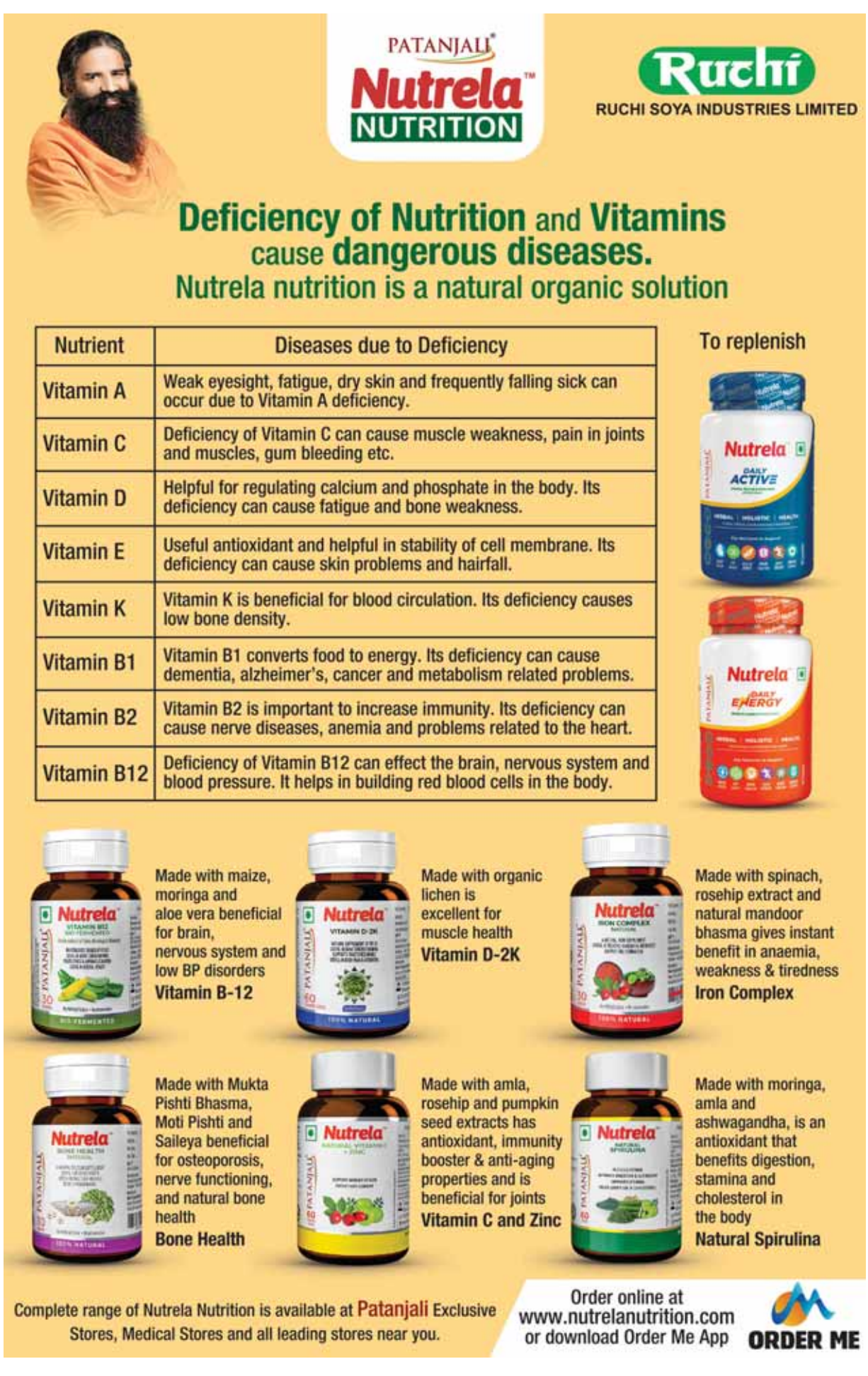
After the deal, HDFC Bank will be 100 per cent owned by public shareholders, and existing shareholders of HDFC will own 41 per cent of the bank, according to stock exchange filings by the firms.

The Sensex jumped by 1,335 points while the Nifty shot past the 18,000-mark on Monday, fuelled by the HDFC twins, which also pushed up banking and financial stocks, FMCG, IT, and metal stocks. HDFC twins soared by 10 per cent. The transaction is expected to be completed by the second or third quarter of FY24.

The 30-share BSE Sensex darted up 1,335.05 points or 2.25 per cent to close at an over two-month high of 60,611.74. Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 382.95 points, or 2.17 per cent to 18,053.40.

The rupee spurted 21 paise to close at a one-month-high of 75.53 against the US dollar on Monday, supported by a firm trend in domestic equities and foreign fund inflows. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 75.77 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 75.42 and a low of 75.79.

*Continued on Page 2*



# DSEU to help strengthen health system in city

## Centre for Healthcare, Allied Medical and Paramedical Sciences inaugurated

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to strengthen health systems in Delhi and across the country, the AAP Government inaugurated the 'Centre for Healthcare', 'Allied Medical and Paramedical Sciences' (AMPS) at the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) on Monday.

The centre was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. The centre will provide industry-relevant world-class education in healthcare and its many segments including the paramedical domain. Speaking at the occasion, Sisodia said, "If someone would study the history of DSEU, they will come to know that DSEU is the fastest-growing university of India. It has redefined skill-education in India today. There is a mindset deeply ingrained in our society that skill education is always a last resort.""Of 2.5 lakh students passing out from Class 12, only 1 lakh are able to make it to good colleges and others suffer to get admission in a good course. In such a situation DSEU is changing the mindset of people towards skill-education very responsibly and has made it a matter of pride," he said.

"Today DSEU has launched two new and unique courses in the field of healthcare. Students can take admission for three years in a course but they can finish it whenever they want. They can take diploma certificates in a year also and they will have a number of job opportunities available for them after pursuing these courses. These courses at DSEU have been designed according to the aspirations of students," he said.

Chairperson of Delhi Vidhan Sabha's Education Committee and AAP MLA, Atishi said, "In just two years, DSEU has established itself as one of the most prominent State universities and is providing world-class skill education to people of Delhi."

"The need for these programs was felt when Delhi as well as the whole country was struggling during the second wave of the Covid pandemic, with the shortage of skilled healthcare professionals. If we look at the figures, today in India there are only 44 healthcare professionals available for every 10,000 people, which is 25 per cent of what WHO recommends.

"I am sure that students coming out of this institution will raise the healthcare standards not only in Delhi but across the country," she said.

# National capital reports 11 new dengue cases

**In years prior to 2021, total dengue cases reported were 4,431 (2016), 4,726 (2017), 2,798 (2018), 2,036 (2019) and 1,072 (2020), as per the report**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national capital has reported 11 new cases of dengue, taking the total number of people infected with the vector borne diseases in Delhi to 83 this year.

According to reports released by all three municipal corporations, 14 cases of malaria were also reported in the city till April 2, this year. However, four cases reported in Delhi were from other states and one case address is not provided by the hospital.

In the years prior to 2021, the total dengue cases reported were 4431 (2016), 4726 (2017), 2798 (2018), 2036 (2019) and 1072 (2020), as per the report.

In 2015, the number of dengue cases reported has crossed 10,600 in October itself, making it the worst outbreak of the vector-borne disease in the national capital since 1996.

The number of dengue fatalities logged in 2021 was the highest in the national capital since 2016, when the officially reported death count was 10. Delhi had recorded two deaths due to dengue in 2019, four in 2018, and 10 each in 2017 and 2016.

In view of rising cases, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has prepared an action plan in compliance with the directions of High Court of Delhi for prevention of vector borne diseases, said a senior official.

"The civic body has prepared a short-term plan for 2022-2023 which includes a detailed action plan for the period from January to December 2022. The roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders including those departments, apart from health-related ones, have been delineated for specific actions in source reduction of breeding, taking care of unavoidable water and rainwater collection in their jurisdictional areas," said a senior official.

"EDMC has also prepared a long term plan, composed of activities specific for each month, where timely execution of control and preventive measures has been specified. Advanced initiatives like active community participation through Public Private Partnership with RWAs of group housing societies, labour intensive anti-larval spray is being transformed into mechanization through procuring six jet machines mounted on vehicles will be purchased," informed a senior official.

"The plan also includes details of supervisory staff in municipal wards of both Shahdara South and North zone and officials of the public health department. Based on the vector borne diseases situation during the year, high risk municipal wards have been earmarked," a senior official concluded.

# BJP slams Govt over mohalla clinics claims

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi (Bhartiya Janta Party) BJP on Monday slammed the AAP-led Delhi Government over its claim that 93 per cent of people are satisfied with the performance of its mohalla clinics, terming the claim as just an illusion to mislead the people'. BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that the AAP leaders are busy in spreading false propaganda and motivated campaign to divert people's attention from the core issues.

"The Government on Sunday issued a statement claiming that 93 percent people are satisfied with the performance of its mohalla clinics but it did not tell when the survey was done and who conducted it," he said.

Highlighting the unhygienic conditions prevailed all around these clinics, he said "These establishments are functioning without appropriate medical staff and the shortage of essential medicines has made it worse. The most intriguing part is that only one doctor deployed to attend around 120 patients in a shift."

# 62-yr-old man shot dead in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 62-year-old man was shot dead by three bike-borne assailants in northwest Delhi's Kanjhawala area. The deceased has been identified as Rameshwar, a resident of Ghevra village, who used to run a grocery store.

According to a senior police official, a police control room (PCR) was received at around 9.04 PM on Sunday at Kanjhawala police station wherein the caller stated that a person has been shot at by three bike-borne assailants at Ghevra village in the Kanjhawala area.

"A police team reached the spot and found that person had died, the police said, and identified deceased as Rameshwar, A case has been registered and investigation taken up," said the senior police official adding that efforts are on to arrest accused persons.

# HC orders 2 CBI probes in Bengal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

In a major embarrassment for the Bengal Government it suffered two adverse orders in the Calcutta High Court — both involving petitions seeking CBI investigations — on Monday.

In the first case the Court handed over the investigation of Tapan Kandu murder case to CBI. Tapan Kandu a Congress councillor from Jhalda municipality in Purulia district was murdered last month. A Special Investigation Team formed by the State Government was probing the case and had concluded that the murder was the result of a family dispute.

However the wife of the victim claimed that the murder had political angle because the deceased was under pressure to join the TMC to help form the municipal Board at a time when the Congress and TMC had got equal number of seats in the House.

Purnima Kandu the victim's wife claimed that the local police Inspector-in-Charge had a hand in the murder as he had repeatedly threatened Kandu to join the TMC.

In the second case a single Bench of the High Court directed the CBI to question four members of the School Service Commission in a case related to irregularities in appointment of Group D employees. A subsequent appeal by the Members in Division Bench went unheard as none of the Division Benches admitted the matter leaving the petitioners at the mercy of the single Bench order.

# Yogi launches 'School Chalo' campaign from Shravasti

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As part of his mission to educate children of Uttar Pradesh and ensure 100 per cent enrolment in primary and upper primary schools, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, launched the month-long School Chalo campaign at Shravasti, the district with the lowest literacy rate in the state.

Under the School Chalo campaign, priority will be given to districts with low literacy rates that include Shravasti, Bahraich, Balrampur, Budaun and Rampur. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath exhorted legislators, councilors, panchayat and municipal representatives as well as intellectuals to come forward to join this noble mission as it would pave the way for the development and empowerment of Uttar Pradesh in the real sense.

# CA Parivar hails volunteers for services

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Non Government Organisation (NGO) 'CA Parivaar' recognised its volunteers for service to society during the COVID-19 pandemic in the national Capital.

In an event held at the Delhi's Punjabi Bagh Club, Dr Debashis Mitra, the president, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), said that the work done by charted accountant (CA) Parivaar is highly appreciable and the entire council is always with CA Parivaar for any help required.

Further, he also mentioned that CA Sanjeev Singhal, founder of CA parivaar, is doing a great job in the council for the profession and for society as well.

Singhal said, "CA Parivaar managing committee, core group members of CA Parivaar, CA Parivaar volunteers, my mentor Amarjit Chopra and Dr Girish Ahuja my family and friends are the pillars of strength and help me carry out social welfare activities."

Subhash Gupta, the president of CA Parivaar said that CA Parivaar is able to work together which has brought brotherhood among all of the members and CAs.

"CA Parivaar members have come together for rendering services to the nation under one family umbrella. They have joined hands to start various social welfare activities," Gupta added.

The occasion was graced by the Governing Council of ICAI, including president, ICAI; Debashis Mitra, vice-president, ICAI; Aniket Sunil Talati CA Parivaar managing committee Founder, Sanjeev Kumar Singhal, president, Subhash Chander Gupta, vice-president, Arun Jain, General Secretary, Sunil Dutt Garg, joint secretary, Naresh Aggarwal, treasurer, Anil Gupta, executive member, KK Jain, Atul Kansal, Hemchand Jain, Ashwani Singhal, Shiv Charan Singhal and other Central council members across India. More than 1,500 members were present on the occasion.

# Shah allays Opp fear over.....

From page 1

Earlier piloting the Bill, Shah said Government's intention to bring the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill is to strengthen the law and order and internal security of the country. The Bill seeks to provide legal sanction to the police to take physical and biological samples of convicts as well as persons accused of crimes, he said.

"A lot of the concerns will be addressed with the sending of that prison manual. It has various provisions relating to subjects such as rehabilitation of prisoners, making them part of the mainstream again, limiting the rights of jail officials, maintaining discipline, security of jails, separate jails for women and open jails," Shah said. He urged the members to not see the Bill in isolation but in consonance with the model prison manual that will be introduced later.

Noting that the Bill would replace the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920, Shah said that the current law has become irrelevant from various perspectives such as the prevailing situation, science, proving crime in courts and strengthening law enforcement agencies. The Bill will not only help in overcoming the problems being faced under the present law but also give strength to evidence gathering, he added.

Till the powers to prove crime in courts are not enhanced, in a way it will be impossible to maintain and strengthen the law and order situation and internal security of the country, the Home Minister said, adding that the change in the law is already much delayed. He said that in 1980, the then Law Commission had also recommended revisiting the present law. "After we came to power, we discussed with States and views have been sought on it," Shah said.

Noting that members expressed a lot of Opposition at the time the Bill was being introduced, Shah said concerns were expressed from the point of view of human and personal rights by them. Their concerns are legitimate but these are already accounted for in this Bill, he said. "If we do not bring about the required changes in the law, we will lag behind in providing courts with the evidence to prove a crime, conviction rate will not increase and in a way help would not be provided in investigations," Shah said.

The intention of the Government is to strengthen the law, to prove crime, isolate criminals and give them a chance to reform, he said."Our intention is to strengthen the internal security and law and order of the country," Shah said. The Government had last Monday introduced the bill in Lok Sabha.

# BJP likely to pick Shivpal....

From page 1

As per PSPL sources, Shivpal may visit Hanuman Garhi and Ram Lalla temple in Ayodhya soon.

On the occasion of Chaitra Navratri, Shivpal tweeted: "Chaitra Navratri is a moment of faith as well as a moment to connect with the ideals of Lord Ram."

Earlier, Shivpal had followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Twitter.

In the UP Assembly, the deputy speaker is usually elected from the Opposition party and sits next to the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly. If this happens, Shivpal might sit next to his nephew and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. Shivpal contested the recent election on the SP symbol from Jaswantnagar constituency in Etawah district. Last week, Shivpal had met Yogi for about 20 minutes at the latter's official residence in Lucknow, fuelling speculations of his coming closer to the BJP.

If Shivpal switches over to the BJP or even if his party joins the National Democratic Alliance, the SP may receive a dent in its traditional bastion Etawah and its surrounding districts.

# Imran names ex-CJ as.....

From page 1

Born in 1957, Justice Ahmed served as chief justice from December, 2019 until his retirement in February 2022. He was part of a five-judge bench that disqualified former premier Nawaz Sharif in the Panama Papers case. He made headlines multiple times due to his strong verdicts and comments against governments and bureaucrats.

E-mail ID.cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in
cebuildings@rediffmail.com
Tel. -(0674)- 2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDH, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
B-12
INVITATIONS FOR BIDE (IFB)
File No.B.II-GA-(SP)-1/2019 Lr.No. 13737 Dt. 2nd Apr. 2022
Invitation for bIDS
Bid Identification No. OSD C.E. (b)- 01/2022-23

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| 1. | The OSD- Chief Engineer (Buildings) Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the work "Construction of a new building in premises of office building of OPSC in the District of Cuttack" amounting to Rs.12,50,73,408/-(Approximate) as detailed below. | | |
| 2. | Nature of work | : | Building work. |
| 3. | No. of work | : | 01 No. |
| 4. | Bid Cost. | : | ₹10,000/- |
| 5. | Class of Contractor | : | Special / Super Class |
| 6. | Availability of Bid Documents in the website | : | From dt.11.04.2022 to 17.00 Hours of dt.26.04.2022 |
| 7. | Date of Opening of Bid | : | Dt.27.04.2022 at 11:30 AM. |
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OIPR-34117/11/0001/2223
OSD Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, डबरा जिला-ग्वालियर ( म.प्र. )
क्रमांक/1023/वि.शा./ई-टेण्डर/5/2022/6/2 डबरा, दिनांक - 01.04.2022
// निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //

एदत् द्वारा नगर पालिका डबरा के विभिन्न वार्डो में लगी स्ट्रीट लाईट में प्रयुक्त नवीन विद्युत सामग्री व नवीन स्ट्रीट लाईट सेट क्रय किये जाने हेतु योग्य इच्छुक केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली के अंतर्गत लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों/निर्माता कंपनी/अधिकृत विक्रेताओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि ई-टेण्डरिंग वेबसाईट https://mptenders.gov.in पर नीचे दर्शित तालिका अनुसार कार्य ऑन लाईन निविदा **दिनांक 06.05.2022 समय 5.30 तक** आमंत्रित की जाती है। (जिनकी दरें आईटम रेट पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है)

**ऑनलाईन टेण्डर क्रमांक 2022_UAD_195134_1**

| क्रं | कार्य का विवरण | प्राक्कलन राशि | बयाना राशि | निविदा प्रपत्र राशि | कार्य की अवधि | निविदा हेतु टेण्डर की श्रेणी |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | शहर के विभिन्न वार्डो में लगी स्ट्रीट लाईट में प्रयुक्त नवीन विद्युत सामग्री व नवीन स्ट्रीट लाईट सेट क्रय करने हेतु | 1,19,00,000/- एक करोड उन्नीस लाख रूपये मात्र | 59,500/- उनसठ हजार पांच सौ रूपये मात्र | 12,500/- बारह हजार पांच सौ मात्र | वित्तीय वर्ष 2022-23 | सक्षम श्रेणी या उच्च श्रेणी |

**नोट :-** नियम शर्ते कार्यालय के विद्युत शाखा एवं ऑनलाईन रूप से देखी जा सकती है। निविदा में किया गया कोई भी संशोधन उक्त वेबसाईट पर किया जावेगा पृथक से कोई भी प्रकाशन नही किया जावेगा।

( प्रदीप कुमार शर्मा )
प्रशासक
एवं अनुविभागीय अधिकारी राजस्व
डबरा जिला-ग्वालियर

( महेश पुरोहित )
मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद, डबरा

सूचना सर्वसाधारण हेतु

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरी अवासीय भूमि खाता खतौनी सं. 250 (फसली वर्ष 1416 से 1421), खसरा सं. 898 मिन., रकबा 1440 वर्गफिट अर्थात 133.82 वर्गमीटर, स्थित मौजा पौंधा, परगना पछवादून, तहसील विकासनगर, जिला देहरादून से सम्बन्धित विक्रय पत्र दिनांक 15.12.2017 जो कि कार्यालय उपनिबन्धक-प्रथम, विकासनगर में बही.सं. 1 जिल्द 4461 के पृष्ठ 25 से 46 में क्रमांक सं. 4705 पर दिनांक 15.12.2017 को पंजीकृत है, की मूल प्रति कहीं खो गयी है। जिस किसी व्यक्ति को भी उक्त दस्तावेज की मूल प्रति प्राप्त हो, वह तुरन्त सूचित करे। उक्त दस्तावेज का प्रयोग किसी भी अन्य व्यक्ति के द्वारा अवैध एवं शून्य होगा।

श्री राजकुमार सिंह तोमर पुत्र स्व. श्री चरण सिंह निवासी ग्राम महावतपुर, बावली, पट्टी खोब्बा, तहसील बडौत, जिला बागपत। मोबाइल नं. 7217383765।

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

In the army records of my husband Late Hariraj Singh-Havaldar (Regiment AEC Trg college and centre), my name and date of birth are wrongly mentioned as Omvati Nain, 01 jun 1949. While my correct name is Om Nain and D.O.B. is 18-08-1947, the same is recorded in my Aadhar card and birth certificate. I am the only wife of Late Hariram. Omvati Nain and Om Nain are the same woman. Om nain w/o late hariram Resident B-210 sector-048 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

# Lankan Opp rejects.....

From page 1

The largest Opposition political party, the United People's Force, or Samagi Jana Balavegaya, immediately rejected the president's proposal of a unity government and termed this spate of resignations a "sham".

Party leader Sajith Premadasa said he wished to see a political model that works. "We want resignations and then we want a political model that works. A new Sri Lanka will begin with stronger institutions and not just a change in leadership. An interim government is nothing but internal party politics," he tweeted.

Mano Ganesan, a Tamil leader from the Opposition said his party Tamil People's Alliance and the main Muslim party Sri Lanka Muslim Congress also on the opposition will also not join the unity government.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa named just four Cabinet members after the entire Cabinet other than president Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned last night.

# HDFC twins merger fires....

From page 1

After the merger, every HDFC shareholder will get 42 shares of HDFC Bank for 25 shares held. The proposed entity will have a combined asset base of around Rs 18 lakh crore. The merger is expected to be completed by the second or third quarter of FY24, subject to regulatory approvals.

Making the announcement, HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh said it is a "merger of equals", which will also benefit the economy as a larger balance sheet and capital base will allow a greater flow of credit into various sectors. The transaction involves the amalgamation of HDFC and its two wholly-owned subsidiaries HDFC Holdings and HDFC Investments with HDFC Bank. HDFC, as the promoter of HDFC Bank, holds 21 per cent in the lender along with the two subsidiaries, which on the merger will be more than double the size of private sector peer ICICI Bank.

"The merger is a coming together of equals. Our customers will be the biggest beneficiaries," Parekh told reporters.

# ATS to probe attack on.....

From page 1

Meanwhile, the ATS teamled by Superintendent of Police Abhisekh Singh also reached Gorakhpur and took over the investigation from the local police, said Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi.

Awasthi also hailed the bravery shown by the jawans of the Provincial Armed Constabulary who overpowered the accused and foiled the suspected terror attempt.

He claimed that on the directive of Yogi, a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh would be given to the team which foiled the "terror" plan.

Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar, who was jointly addressing the Press conference along with Awasthi here on Monday, said, "A man forcibly tried to enter the temple premises and attacked the on-duty police personnel with a sharp weapon."

Murtaza was married some months back but the marriage didn't last long as his wife left him. He worked in Mumbai and after losing his job he returned to Gorakhpur last year and settled there.

"The case has been transferred to ATS as we cannot rule out the terror angle in the incident and a detailed investigation has been initiated," he said.

Gorakhpur's Senior Superintendent of Police Vipin Tada also said, "The accused tried to forcibly enter the Gorakhnath temple while raising religious slogans but he was stopped by the police."

# Fuel price hike.....

From page 1

The new members were Pabitra Margherita (BJP, Assam), Rwngwra Narzary (UPPL, Assam), Jebi Mather Hisham (Congress, Kerala), Santosh Kumar (CPI, Kerala), A A Rahim (CPI-M, Kerala) and S Phangnon Konyak (BJP, Nagaland).

In the Lok Sabah as soon as the Zero Hour began, the DMK members trooped into the Well shouting slogans. Later during the day, members from other Opposition parties too stormed the Well raising the issue of fuel price rise. As Rajendra Agrawal, who was chairing the House proceedings, continued to run the Zero Hour, Congress, DMK, TMC, Left parties, Shiv Sena and NCP staged a walk out.

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# Centre nominates 6 as Directors on Gymkhana committee

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has nominated six people as Directors on the general committee of the Delhi Gymkhana Club to manage its affairs. The Directors nominated to the committee are Ajay Kumar Sawhney, Nalin Kohli, Kuljeet Singh Chahal, Kumar Rajesh Chandra, Malay Kumar Sinha and Ashish Verma.

The newly-appointed Directors have been asked to take corrective measures with respect to the activities of the club. Under the previous management, the club was found to be violating various norms. Among them, Nalin Kohli is an advocate at the Supreme Court of India and the national spokesperson of the BJP while Kuljeet Singh Chahal is general secretary of the Delhi BJP. An IPS officer, Kumar Rajesh Chandra, is currently the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal and Malay Kumar Sinha is a former IPS officer.

"The Directors appointed... shall take over the charge of the Delhi Gymkhana Club Ltd from the administrator and from any person who may be in-charge of the company immediately in terms of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) order," the Corporate Affairs Ministry said in an order issued on Sunday. The Ministry has also asked the new Directors to file a report before the Principal Bench of the NCLT in terms of the order passed by it last week.

"The Directors are directed to take all actions for restructuring the company in terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and take over corrective measures which are in violation of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and of the Companies Act, 2013," the order said. The tribunal on Friday ruled that there was sufficient evidence of mismanagement of club affairs. In a scathing judgment, it said that there were "irregularities of a grave nature of the conduct and affairs" of the club, contrary to the Memorandum of Association.

The NCLT on Friday allowed the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to take over the control of the Delhi Gymkhana Club by nominating 15 people to be appointed as the Directors who will manage the affairs of the Company.

In a 149-page order passed by a two-member Bench of the NCLT, headed by president Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar and Member Narender Kumar Bhola said there was "sufficient material" for holding that it is a case of mismanagement for the affairs of the club on a petition moved by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs under Sections 241 and 242 of the Companies Act, 2013 alleging that the affairs of Delhi Gymkhana Club were being conducted in a manner prejudicial to public interest.

The tribunal had allowed the Ministry to nominate 15 people as Directors on the club's general committee as well as manage the affairs of the club. In April 2020, the Government through Ministry of Corporate Affairs had moved NCLT seeking to supersede club's general committee.

TACKLING POLLUTION IN CITY

# 14-point 'Summer Action Plan' on cards: Min Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to tackle pollution in the national Capital on the lines of the 'Winter Action Plan', the Delhi Government will prepare a 14-point 'Summer Action Plan' to deal with the problem, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Monday.

Rai held a joint meeting with the environment department, the DPCC, the DDA, the MCDs, the fire departments, DUSIB, revenue and all departments concerned on Monday.

The Minister said that both long-term and immediate solutions would be implemented from April to September under the 'Summer Action Plan.' The next meeting has been scheduled for April 11 and all departments have been instructed to present their action plans within a week.

Rai said, "Pollution has always posed a major challenge to Delhi's environmental conservation. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government in Delhi under the leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, has taken a great deal of measures to reduce the effect of pollution in the State."

As a result of all effective measures taken by the AAP Government to mitigate the problem, a sizable decrease has been recorded in Delhi's pollution levels, he said.

"The level of pollution in Delhi have been studied and surveyed by several agencies like the CSE, TERI, and others, and it has been reported that the sources of the pollution include 31 per cent internal State activities, which is Delhi's own pollution, and 69 per cent is attributed to the surrounding sources of pollution around Delhi-NCR, which has a significant impact on the people living in the State," he added.

Rai further said, "During winters, the pollution levels rise across Delhi. A graph depicting the status of pollution levels through the year shows a decrease from January to March, and then an increase from September onwards through December.

We discussed the situation with various experts and departments concerned and came to a conclusion that for our 'Winter Action Plan' to be effective, a constructive 'Summer Action Plan' is also required."

Elaborating on the details of the formulation of the 'Summer Action Plan', he stated, "In today's meeting, the 14 points which have been noted, on the basis of which the various departments have been directed to formulate their action plan, include – open burning, road dust pollution, industrial pollution, urban farming, increasing Delhi's roadside green cover, development of green parks, tree plantation, development of Delhi's lakes, development of city forest, eco club activities, real time apportionment study, development of eco parks out of e-waste, monitoring of tree transplantation, and replacement of single use plastic."

# 'People's Commissioner' Bhaskar Rao joins AAP

**Kejriwal model of governance should not remain confined to Delhi, Punjab only, says former Bengaluru top cop**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Bengaluru Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao joined the AAP in the presence of party national convener Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and other AAP leaders on Monday.

The 1990-batch Karnataka cadre Indian Police Service officer was officially inducted into the AAP. On the occasion, Chief Minister Kejriwal stated that the AAP is not a political party, but a movement. "Only when people join our movement and work together for the progress of our society will we be able to take our nation ahead. I am confident that Bhaskar Rao will prove to be an asset to the AAP and will strengthen its foothold in not just Karnataka, but the entire country," he said. Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia said that the work done by AAP Governments in Delhi and now Punjab is being praised all over the country and it is sending a new wave of energy and hope across the nation.

Deputy CM Manish Sisodia felicitates former IPS officer Bhaskar Rao during a press conference after the latter joined the Aam Aadmi Party, at the party office in New Delhi on Monday,

"Popular as 'People's Commissioner', Bhaskar Rao supported the people of Karnataka during the Covid crisis, and he will help the AAP strengthen its roots in Karnataka now. Those who feel that the current Governments have dismissed education, employment, public welfare, and development, and want to work for the public, should join the AAP to take this work forward," he said.

"When State Government and political parties failed to protect their people, he came forward to take up the responsibility of social welfare on an individual level to ensure availability of a proper healthcare system during pandemic," he told press conference. Sisodia called all those people to join the AAP who feel connected to the people and are dedicated to serving the nation for its development. AAP's Karnataka unit convenor Prithvi Reddy, election in-charge for the State and Timarpur MLA Dilip Pandey, organisation secretary Damodaran and other leaders shared the dais with Rao.

On his part Rao said he joined the AAP as he was "influenced" by Kejriwal's "life trajectory and his leadership" as well as his Delhi model of governance, which is now being replicated in Punjab.

"My thoughts align with the AAP's mission to provide an honest governance model to the common people," he said.

Rao, a native of Bengaluru, claimed that people in Karnataka have lost faith in their Government and they also want change in the State as all they have seen during the regimes of the "traditional parties" is "rise in corruption and misgovernance."

"Common people want quality education, healthcare facilities, safety and security, good roads...But in Karnataka, only people change, the system remains the same," he said. The former IPS officer said Kejriwal model of governance should not remain confined to Delhi and Punjab only.

# Five shooters of Jhatedi, Bishnoi gang arrested

Special Cell nabbed the men involved in firing at Dwarka businessman after raids at Sri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has apprehended five shooters of the notorious Kala Jhatedi and Lawrance Bishnoi gang after raids at Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh. Police said that these shooters were recently involved in an extortion and firing incident at a businessman in Delhi's Dwarka area.

The shooters have been identified as Sunil Kumar Meghwal (23), Chanderbhan Nayak (22), both residents of Hanumangarh, Deepak Kashyap (25), a resident of Gurugram in Haryana, Deepak (26) and Krishan Gopal Kashyap (22) both residents of Jharoda Kala in Delhi.

According to Pramod Singh Kushwah, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, on March 30, at about 7:10 PM, three armed shooters barged into the office of a real estate company in Mohan Garden area.

"The owner was given three slips on which 'Kala Jhatedi-One Crore' was written and the shooters also fired at him causing bullet injury in both his legs before fleeing. A case under relevant Sections of the law was registered at Mohan Garden police station," said the DCP.

"The Special Cell independently started the investigation and visited the spot where the police team studied the modus operandi of this gang with the help of CCTV footage and found that there were five shooters who had come on two bikes to execute the crime," said the DCP.

"On April 2, specific inputs were received that jailed gangsters Kala Jathedi-Lawrence Bishnoi had hired shooters from Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan to execute this crime of firing on a real estate businessman for extortion of Rs 1 crore," said the DCP.

"Based on the specific inputs, a police team conducted raids in Sri Ganganagar and apprehended one accused identified as Sunil Kumar Meghwal.

At his instance, raids were conducted in Hanumangarh and four more shooters of this gang were arrested," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, all the accused revealed that they had executed the shootout incident for extortion on March 30 in Mohan Garden at the instance of jailed gangsters Kala Jathedi and Lawrence Bishnoi," said the DCP.

"Interrogation also revealed that Deepak Kashyap, Sunil Kumar Meghwal and Deepak, armed with sophisticated weapons had entered the office while Krishan and Chanderbhan waited outside on their bikes," said the DCP.

"As per their plan and in order to terrorise the businessman, the accused fired at the victim's legs. On the directions of Kala Jathedi and Lawrence Bishnoi, the accused had also kept illicit arms and ammunition in Baba Haridas Colony to commit more such crimes and create terror among the businessmen in Delhi and other States in order to facilitate the extortion activities of the gang," said the DCP.

"The police team also recovered one 9 mm pistol, two pistols of 7.65 mm and 30 live cartridges of 9 mm, 7.65 mm and 8 mm calibres from the house of Deepak at Baba Haridas Colony," the DCP added.

# FIR against 2 Twitter handles, newsportal for communal hatred

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An First Information Report (FIR) has been registered by the Delhi Police against two Twitter handles of a journalist and a newsportal for allegedly inciting hatred between communities after they claimed manhandling of scribes during the controversial 'Hindu Mahapanchayat' event.

"An FIR under Section 505 (2) (Statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered in Mukherjee Nagar police station against some Twitter handles for tweets in circulation having content which could incite enmity, hatred and ill-will between two communal groups and investigation is taken up," said Usha Rangnani, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northwest district.

The Twitter handles belongs to journalist Meer Faisal @meerfaisal01, who works for a news portal, and another news portal "Article 14" (@Article14live), said police. In a tweet posted on Sunday, the journalist had alleged that he along with a fellow journalist were beaten up because of their "Muslim identity by Hindu mob".

The official Twitter handle of news portal "Article 14" had also posted a tweet the same day alleging that "five journalists, four of them Muslim, one on assignment for said news portal, were taken to Mukherji Nagar police station after a mob at the event discovered their religion, attacked them and deleted videos". Police, however, had denied any detention. This is fourth FIR registered in connection with the event and no arrest has been made so far, the officials said.

# 1.3 L CCTVs set up in 70 Assembly segments; max in Patparganj

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The highest number of CCTV cameras were installed in Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's constituency Patparganj during the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 as the Public Works Department (PWD) spent around Rs 306 crore on setting up 1,31,792 cameras across Delhi's 70 Assembly segments, Government data showed.

The PWD, which is at the helm of the project, told the Delhi Assembly during the Budget Session last week that the maximum, a whopping 2,829 CCTV cameras, were set up in Patparganj constituency at 1,218 locations. This was followed by Bawana with 2,796 CCTV cameras at 1,204 sites and Rithala Assembly constituency which has got third highest 2,668 CCTV cameras at 1,315 sites. However, the Gandhi Nagar constituency has none. The information was provided by PWD Minister Manish Sisodia in the House in a reply to Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri's written question during the Budget Session last week.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's constituency New Delhi and Health Minister Satyendar Jain's Assembly segment Shakur Basti were on fourth and fifth spots respectively in terms of installation of maximum number of CCTV cameras."As many as 2,552 CCTVs were installed at 1,060 sites in New Delhi Assembly segment while 2,516 such cameras were set up at 1,218 locations in Shakur Basti constituency," the PWD Minister informed the House.

# IFSO arrests 3 more in Chinese loan app case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of Special Cell has arrested three more people in connection with the syndicate involved duping several people in crores through a Chinese loan Application fraud. Earlier, police had arrested eight gang members.

According to K P S Malhotra, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), IFSO, a police team has arrested three more persons acting on a complaint which was received by the police in which a woman alleged that she was being abused and threatened by some unknown persons.

Earlier, police has arrested eight people in different raids across Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi. The accused were allegedly extorting and abusing innocent people in the name of providing and repaying loans.

"During the interrogation of accused Deepak Kumar and Sumit, arrested earlier by the police team, it was revealed that that Harpreet Singh and Pankaj were the key persons for maintaining the recovery group. Harpreet Singh and Pankaj were acting as the managers of the loan recovery group," said the DCP.

"Through technical surveillance, the hide outs of Harpreet Singh and Pankaj were identified in Haridwar and following the raids, Harpreet Singh and Pankaj, both residents of Delhi's Uttam Nagar area were arrested," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, they disclosed that they were acting as managers for the loan recovery group and they were directly receiving instructions two Chinese national namely Akira and Amy. Call details and chat history and call details are also found between them and Chinese nationals," said DCP.

# 3,697 DTC buses equipped with panic buttons, CCTV cameras

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has equipped 3,697 of its buses with panic buttons and CCTV cameras, even as 43 vehicles in fleet lack these features, Government data showed.The Transport Department provided information in Delhi Assembly last week during its Budget Session.

In reply to another question by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member Om Prakash Sharma, the department said DTC managed monthly savings of ₹2.32 crore in financial year 2020-21 while corporation's income in same fiscal was ₹454.42 crore. In reply to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Pawan Kumar Sharma's question, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "CCTV cameras and panic buttons are installed in 3,697 DTC buses plying on city roads. However, 43 DTC buses do not have this facility as yet. The matter of installation of CCTVs and panic buttons in these 43 DTC buses is under consideration with Government."

The Minister also said that till March 21 there were 9,181 marshals deployed in DTC buses. He added that per kilometre running cost incurred on DTC buses was ₹106 in financial year 2020-21.

In reply to a question by BJP MLA Sharma, Transport Minister Gahlot said the Government had spent ₹ 13.06 crore per month in financial year 2020-21 for deploying marshals in DTC buses. "The DTC's income in 2020-21 stood at ₹454.42crore while Corporation managed monthly savings of ₹2.32 crore in same fiscal.

# Passing-Out Parade of DANIPS held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three officers were inducted into services at the Passing-Out Parade followed by oath taking ceremony of 21st batch of Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Police Service (DANIPS) at Police Headquarters in the national Capital. Delhi Police Commissioner, Rakesh Asthana, who was the chief guest on the occasion, congratulated the three officers for successfully completing their basic training emphasizing the importance of physical fitness and drill practice for all police personnel irrespective of ranks, for effective and efficient police working."The zeal and enthusiasm of all these officers, who got through UPSC for induction in DANIPS while working in different services is commendable," said the CP.

The CP called upon them to learn basic fundamentals of police working assiduously during this practical training so that they would become effective supervisory officers.

"The non-conventional and specialized crimes like cyber crime, terrorism, drugs and extremism are a challenge and police personnel are required to tackle them by working hard on analyzing crime trends and patterns by adapting to new technologies with optimal use in investigation, evidence gathering and follow-up in the court of law," the CP underlined. The CP exhorted them to involve the general public to participate in policing as it would not only make them our eyes and ears, but they also become force multipliers.

"A policeman is expected to empathize with vulnerable, weaker and marginalized sections of society, while working within the ambit of law. However, at the same time habitual and dreaded criminals must have fear of law," the CP added.

Officers Sandeep, P Abhinandan and Firoj Alam were inducted after completing their basic training from Delhi Police Academy. Sandeep belongs to Gujarat while P Abhinandan hails from Tamil Nadu and Firoj Alam is from Uttar Pradesh and he's been a Constable (2010 batch) in Delhi Police.

# DDA working along with DMRC to bring Metro connectivity

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is working along with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to bring metro connectivity to the far-flung areas of North-West Delhi such as Narela, said a senior official.

"The phase-IV of the metro route for Rithala-Bawana-Narela has already been proposed by DMRC. A series of meetings were held by DDA with DMRC and other stakeholders to finalise the metro route alignment for Rithala-Bawana-Narela to serve the already constructed housing pockets in Narela project and also to serve the land pooling areas," said a senior official. "DDA housing schemes of Narela were less preferred in comparison to other areas of capital, due to the absence of a public Mass Rapid Transportation System.

The proposed metro route would improve the accessibility and connectivity for the people of city. DDA has sanctioned Rs 130 crores to DMRC for timely implementation of the proposed metro route of Narela.

DDA is also coordinating with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and DMRC for integrated construction of metro and urban extension roads for cost efficient public means of transport," said a senior official.

# Concerns raised over States' unsustainable populist plans

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the severe economic crisis in Sri Lanka, senior bureaucrats have in a meeting here with Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised concern over the economically unsustainable populist schemes announced by several States and cautioned they could take them down the same path as the neighbouring island nation.

The caution and concern was flagged during the four-hour-long meeting the PM had with secretaries of all departments at his camp office at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, on Saturday.

The meeting was also attended by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister PK Mishra and Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba along with other top bureaucrats of the Union government.

During the meeting, sources said, Modi asked the bureaucrats to come out of the mentality of managing shortages and rather focus on the new challenge of managing surplus. He told them to give up the old story of citing "poverty" as an excuse for not taking up major development projects and asked them to adopt a bigger perspective, the sources said.

Citing and appreciating the teamwork shown by the secretaries during the COVID-19 pandemic, the PM said they should act as secretaries of the government of India and not merely as secretaries of their respective departments and should work as one team.

He directed the secretaries to give him feedback and suggest loopholes in policies of the government, including those which are not related to their respective ministries.

More than two dozen secretaries expressed their views and shared their feedback with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who heard them with an open mind, the sources said.

This was the ninth such meeting of the prime minister with secretaries since 2014.

Sources said two secretaries while citing a populist scheme announced in the recent assembly polls in a state, which is in a financially bad shape, and similar schemes in other states, said they are economically unsustainable and could take the states down the same path as Sri Lanka, the sources said.

Sri Lanka is currently experiencing its worst economic crisis in history. With long lines for fuel, cooking gas and essentials in short supply and long hours of power cuts the public has been suffering for weeks.

# Mention of 'dowry merits' in textbook creates massive outrage on social media

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Furniture, appliances like refrigerators, vehicles and a share of parental property for girls listed as "merits of dowry" reportedly in a book titled "Textbook of Sociology of Nurses" led to a massive outrage across the country on social media and Parliamentarians writing to Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to take action immediately.

Not just that, a statement of the book read that the dowry system could help marry off ugly looking girls.

Image of the excerpts of the page from the said textbook with remarks under the subtitle of 'Merits of Dowry' went viral on social media during the day. Twitter users called out the book, saying that it's appalling that such books are part of the curriculum for college-level students.

Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi urged Pradhan to remove such books from circulation. "I request you to remove such books from circulation. That a textbook elaborating the merits of dowry can actually exist in our curriculum is a shame for the nation and its constitution," she said in her letter to Pradhan urging him to immediately stop the circulation of the published text book titled 'Textbook of Sociology of Nurses'.

The book, authored by TK Indrani, has claimed to elaborate on the merits of dowry and also take it off the curriculum. "It is appalling how such derogatory and problematic text remains in circulation and that a textbook elaborates the merits of dowry. It actually exists in our curriculum and is a shame for the nation and constitution. I have appealed to the minister to have the textbook off the curriculum as well as circulation and review all existing textbooks by a panel of experts," she said on Twitter.

Chaturvedi said it has been found that a book called "Textbook of Sociology for Nurses" by author TK Indrani lays down "merits and advantages" of the dowry system. This book is part of the curriculum for the second year B SC students. The text book reading for the nursing students also claimed it has been prepared as per the Indian Nursing Council syllabus.

"One of the so-called advantages, as stated, is that because of the burden of dowry, many parents have started educating their girls, When the girls are educated or even employed, the demand for dowry will be less. Thus, it is an indirect advantage," said Chaturvedi quoting the author.

"Another point says ugly looking girls can be married off with attractive dowry with well or ugly looking boys," stated the Shiv Sena MP quoting the author.

"It is extremely unfortunate that we have such outdated ideas prevailing despite dowry being a criminal act. It is even more concerning that students are being exposed to such regressive content and no action has been taken so far. Such reinforcement of the dowry system is offensive and should be actioned upon immediately," said Chaturvedi.

## INSHORT

### MODI SPEAKS WITH COVID-HIT BENNET

**New Delhi**: Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with his Israel counterpart Naftali Bennett. "He is recovering well (from COVID). We discussed recent global events, and also reviewed India-Israel cooperation in various areas. I look forward to welcoming him in India very soon to continue our discussions," Modi tweeted.

### ARIF TO INAUGURATE LOK SANSAD-2022

**New Delhi**: Kerala Governor Mohd Arif Khan will on April 8 inaugurate "Lok Sansad-2022', which is being organised by Mata Lalita Devi Sevashram in the national capital. The sessions will be addressed by Swami Chidanand, Rajendra Singh, Dr Imam Umer Ahmad Iliyasi, former Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey among others. According to former BJP leader KN Govindacharya, the main objective of this "Lok Sansad-2022', is to discuss the problems being faced by the country. Ravi Shankar, convenor of the Lok Sansad, said that there would be three sessions.

### RAHUL ATTACKS CENTRE OVER FUEL PRICE RISE

**New Delhi**: The Congress on Monday attacked the Centre over rising fuel prices, with former party chief Rahul Gandhi calling it the "Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Loot Yojana". Taking to Twitter, Rahul shared a graphic comparing the current cost of full tank of fuel for bike, car, tractor and truck to that in 2014. "Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan LOOT Yojana," he tweeted along with the graphic. Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said that every morning under the Modi government brings the sadness of inflation rather than enthusiasm.

# Stand-off at Ladakh to figure prominently at Commanders' meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Persisting stand-offs at some friction points at the border in Ladakh between the Indian and Chinese armies will figure prominently during the upcoming commanders' conferences of the IAF and the Army respectively.

The top brass may also take a look at the possible fall out at the Line of Control(LoC)in Kashmir in the backdrop of the ongoing political turmoil in Pakistan, sources said here on Monday. While the IAF meet will take place on Wednesday, the Army commanders will brainstorm in their conclave on April 18. The commanders' conference is held twice a year.

The forthcoming meet of the IAF and Army is important as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India last week and held detailed discussions with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar on the situation at the Line of Actual Control(LAC)in Eastern Ladakh.

It was the first visit by a Chinese minister to India since trouble erupted at the LAC in Ladakh nearly two years ago. At present, more than 50,000 troops each from both sides are facing each other at some friction points in the Depgang valley, Demchok and the Gogra valley.

The Corps Commanders of the two armies have met 15 times in the last two years to find ways to speed up disengagement and de-escalation at the friction points. There was limited success as the troops disengaged from the north and south banks of the Pangong Tso(lake) in Ladakh and the Hot Springs.

Given this situation, the IAF commanders will review their operational readiness in terms of air operations during the conference, sources said.

Frontline fighter jets with back-up were deployed at all the air bases close to the nearly 4,000 km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

Similarly, the Army brass will take stock of its posture all along the LAC with special focus on Ladakh sector, sources said. Not willing to take any chances, the Indian army remained deployed at the front even during the winter months there for the last two years. Earlier, the troops used to retreat to bases some distance away.

India has all along maintained that status quo ante as prevailing in April 2020 has to be restored. Also, complete disengagement is a prerequisite for restoring bilateral ties with China. In fact, Jaishankar said after meeting Wang Yi that relations are not normal since the transgressions took place.

# SC questions bail to Ashish, reserves order

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the bail given to Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, in Lakhimpur Kheri violence. The special bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli also reserved its verdict on the plea seeking cancellation of bail granted to Ashish Mishra.

"How can the judge go into postmortem report etc? We are hearing a bail matter, we do not want to prolong. This way of going into merits and going into wounds etc is unnecessary for the question of bail," the bench observed.

Senior advocate Dushayant Dave and lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the farmers, sought cancellation of the bail alleging that the high court overlooked the probe report and went by the FIR while granting the relief to the accused.

Uttar Pradesh Government termed the offence grave and said that all the witnesses have been granted protection. On March 16, the top court had sought responses of the Uttar Pradesh Government and Ashish Mishra, on a plea challenging the grant of bail to him. The court had also directed the State Government to ensure protection of witnesses after the counsel, appearing for farmers, referred to the attack on a key witness on March 10.

# SC agrees to examine CBI pleas challenging Lalu's bail

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine pleas filed by the CBI challenging two orders of the Jharkhand High Court granting bail to RJD president Lalu Prasad in the multi-crore rupees fodder scam. A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai issued notices to Prasad on the pleas filed by the CBI challenging April 17, 2021, and October 9, 2020 orders of the high court.

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju appeared for the CBI. The High Court on April 17, 2021, had granted bail to Prasad in the Dumka treasury case of the multi-crore rupees fodder scam on completion of half the sentence period, paving way for his release from jail.

While on October 9, 2020, the High Court had granted bail to Prasad in a fodder scam case involving the illegal withdrawal of funds from the Chaibasa treasury.

While sentencing Prasad in the Dumka case on March 24, 2018, to 14 years in jail, a special CBI court of Ranchi had also imposed a fine of Rs 60 lakh, Rs 30 lakh each under IPC sections and Prevention of Corruption Act. The case is related to the fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 3.13 crore from the Dumka treasury in the early 1990s.

Prasad had acquired bail in three other cases of the fodder scam-Deogarh, Chaibasa, and Ranchi's Doranda treasury cases- and was waiting for judgement in the Dumka case.

The Rs 950 crore fodder scam took place in the Animal Husbandry department in undivided Bihar when Prasad was the Chief Minister. Prasad is in Ranchi jail after his sentence in Rs 89 lakh Deogarh treasury case on December 23, 2017.

# Chargesheet against Bardhan, Das, Kanodia for Remdesivir black marketing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a prosecution complaint (chargesheet) against Rahul Bardhan, Biswajit Das, and Nishita Kanodia, under money laundering charges for illegal sale and black marketing of Remdesivir (made in Bangladesh) Injection vials during Covid-19 pandemic in 2021. The Special PMLA court in Kolkata took cognisance of the chargesheet and further legal action will follow suit.

The ED commenced investigation in the said case on the basis of an FIR dated April 26, 2021 lodged under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, by Kolkata Police. "Rahul Bardhan ran an illegal network of black marketing of Bangladeshi made Remdesivir and sold the same through the other two accused at exorbitant prices" the ED said in a statement.

Earlier, in February this year, the ED had provisionally attached 'proceeds of crime obtained' through illegal sale of such drugs belonging to Bardhan and Kanodia under PMLA, it added.

# '24 cases of suicide in Central varsities in 5 yrs, maximum seen in UP'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday informed the Lok Sabha that according to UGC statistics 24 cases of suicide by students were reported in Central universities in the last five years, with maximum of them from Uttar Pradesh. His reply came in response to a member raising the issue of leak of Class 12 English exam paper in UP.

"University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that Central Universities under its purview have reported 24 suicide cases of students from the year 2017 to 2022. The reasons of suicide by students are not maintained," Pradhan said.

The maximum number of cases were reported in 2017 (7) followed by 6 each in 2018 and 2019.

The number of student suicide cases reported in Central universities in 2020, 2021 and 2022 so far is one, three and one respectively.

Central Universities in Uttar Pradesh witnessed the maximum number of cases of student suicides during the period with eight cases followed by Delhi and Telangana with four cases each.

Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu reported one case each while Puducherry reported two cases during the period.

"The government and UGC have taken several initiatives to check the incidents of harassment and discrimination of students. University Grants Commission (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2019, have been formulated to safeguard the interests of the students. UGC has also notified UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009, and issued circulars for strict compliance of the regulations," Pradhan said.

BSP member Danish Ali raised the issue of leak of the class 12 English exam paper in Uttar Pradesh and demanded a probe into it.

# Electoral Trusts biggest donors to national parties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electoral trusts and companies in the manufacturing , power, oil, mining, construction, exports/imports and real estate sectors are among those which made donations to the tune of Rs 921.95 crore constituting 91 per cent of the total contribution to political parties from known sources in India in 2019-20. Of them, the ruling BJP got the major chunk of the donations worth Rs 720.407 crore from 2025 corporate donors. The Congress lagged far behind with Rs 133.04 crore from 154 donors while the NCP stood at third place with Rs 57.086 crore from 36 donors.

As per data compiled by the Association of for Democratic Reforms (ADR), Electoral Trusts were the biggest donors to the national parties, contributing a total amount of Rs 397.82 crore (a share of 43.15%). The manufacturing sector was the second highest overall contributor, contributing a total amount of Rs 146.388 crore. With Rs 96.88 crore, the manufacturing sector was the second highest overall contributor in 2018-29.

BG Shirke Construction Technology Pvt. Ltd. , was the top donor to NCP in 2019-20. Besides, ITC Limited, Panchshil Corporate Park Pvt Ltd, Muthoot Finance Ltd, Kalyan Jewellers, Modern Road Makers Pvt Ltd were also among the top donors list.

The data showed that these national parties have received the maximum corporate donations of Rs 921.95 crore in 2019-20 (during which the 17th Lok Sabha elections were held); followed by Rs 881.26 crore in 2018-19 and Rs 573.18 crore in 2014-15 (during which the 16th Lok Sabha elections were held).

Corporate donations received in 2019-20 constituted 24.62 per cent of the total corporate donations received between 2012-13 and 2019-20. However, between 2012-13 and 2019-20, donations by corporates to national parties increased by 1,024 per cent, with a drop in the percentage of corporate donations in 2015-16.

A total of 309 donations through which national parties received Rs 10.555 cr do not have address details in the contribution form; Rs 13.91 crore was received from 144 donations, which do not have PAN details included in the contribution form while Rs 16.19 crore of the Rs 16.215 crore or 99.85 per cent of such donations were without PAN and address details belonged to the BJP.

Among the top corporate donors was Prudent Electoral Trust. It donated to two national parties, the BJP and INC, 38 times each, a total of Rs 247.75 crore, of which Rs 216.75 crore went to the BJP in 2019-20.

During 2019-20, the BJP, INC, AITC and NCP received the maximum contributions from electoral trusts; the BJP received the highest, Rs 323.32 crore, followed by INC with Rs 71.00 crore, AITC with Rs 2.00 crore and NCP with Rs 1.50 crore.

# After Bharat Biotech, SII slows down its Covid vax production

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After Bharat Biotech announced that it is slowing down Covid-19 vaccines production, its Pune-based vaccine competitor Serum Institute of India (SII) too followed suit. The SII said that it had sufficient stocks to take care of both domestic and export demand and hence the current production is almost at a slow pace.

Both the vaccine manufacturers combined have accounted for over 98 per cent of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country. So far, 1.51 billion Covishield doses and 300 million Covaxin doses have been administered in India, which makes it 98.36 per cent of the 1.84 billion doses administered in the country.

However, as most of the States have withdrawn restriction on movement of people and not making the vaccination mandatory for venturing out in the public places, both companies have halted production of jabs at their facilities. Sources said that there were no fresh orders from the Government, and their supply commitments have ended as of March 31. SII has accumulated about 250 million doses of Covishield stocks at its Pune facility, while Bharat Biotech said it had completed all its supply commitments.

SII had indicated in December that it was halving the production of Covishield as it had a 500 million doses inventory at its facility. Half of these were finished doses, while the remaining was bulk doses that were not converted to formulation.

Bharat Biotech, had on Saturday said that it will temporarily slow down its Covid vaccine Covaxin's production across its manufacturing facilities.

# Report: Women in developing countries faced more anxiety, food insecurity during lockdown

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Women in developing countries like India faced increased rates of depression and anxiety as well as food insecurity during the Covid-19 induced lockdown, according to researchers including those of Indian origin.

For surveyed women, moving from zero to average levels of lockdowns is associated with a 38 percent increase in depression, a 44 percent increase in anxiety and a 73 percent increase in exhaustion, according to the study from the University of California San Diego's School of Global Policy and Strategy.

"Women whose social position may make them more vulnerable – those with daughters and those living in female-headed households – experienced even larger declines in mental health as a result of lockdowns," said the paper, to be published in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Economic Development.

At least, 1,545 households were surveyed over the phone in various rural regions throughout Northern India. The surveys took place in fall 2019, before the pandemic and in August 2020, near the height of the first Covid-19 wave in India.

### Ultras indulge in bloodshed in holy month of Ramzan

# Kashmir sees surge in targeted attacks

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

The holy month of Ramzan is witnessing a fresh surge in targeted attacks on security personnel and non-local labourers, Kashmiri Pandits working in the Kashmir Valley to earn their livelihood.

In the last 24 hours four back-to-back terror attacks have been reported in which four non-local labourers received bullet injuries in the South Kashmir district of Pulwama, a Kashmiri Pandit running a medical shop in Shopian was fired upon while a CRPF personnel attained martyrdom after he was targeted by the Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in the old city area of Maisuma on Monday.

According to ground reports, two motor bike borne youth appeared in the Maisuma chowk and the pillion rider opened indiscriminate firing on the CRPF personnel.

Meanwhile, a Kashmiri pandit running a medical shop in Shopian was targeted by the terrorists in Chotigam area late Monday evening. Identified as Bal Krishan, the kashmiri pandit has been rushed to the Srinagar based hospital for advanced medical treatment.

The martyred CRPF personnel has been identified as Head constable Vishal Kumar. Ground reports suggested the security personnel exercised maximum restraint in view of the heavy rush in the market to avoid any collateral damage.

In Jammu region, Indian army foiled an infiltration bid by successfully eliminating a Pakistani terrorist in the Naushera sector of Rajouri district. According to police,"unidentified terrorists opened fire on CRPF personnel in the Maisuma area of Srinagar in which one of the jawans attained martydom while another was undergoing treatment in the hospital". In the second attack, two non local labourers,hailing from Bihar, were targeted by the terrorists in the South Kashmir district of Pulwama. The labourers injured in the attack have been identified as Patleshwar Kumar and Jakku Chaudhary. The attack was reported less than 24 hours after a driver and conductor of a poultry van from Pathankot in Punjab were targeted by the terrorists in the Litter area of Pulwama late Sunday evening.

According to a Defence spokesman Lt-Col Devender Anand in Jammu," Indian Army successfully eliminated an infiltration bid attempted by Pakistani terrorists along the Line of Control in Naushera sector of Rajouri (J&K) during the intervening night of April 3/4. "Body of one terrorist along with arms & ammunition have been recovered", defence spokesman added.

Senior CRPF officers examine the site of an attack by millitants at Maisuma area of Srinagar on Monday. A CRPF personnel was killed and another injured in the incident according to the police PTI

# Gorakhnath security was tightened after regular threats

**PNS** ■ LUCKNOW

The Gorakhnath temple that was attacked on Sunday has always remained under threat.

Apart from being a major religious place, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's residence is also on the temple campus. In such a situation, this incident is also being seen as a big conspiracy from the point of view of security. Recently, the Government strengthened the security of the temple.

Threats have been received many times to blow up the Gorakhnath temple with a bomb. In 2010, there was an explosion near Bhim Sarohar Tal located in the Gorakhnath temple complex. However, investigation revealed that it was a Diwali firecracker bomb.

A few days ago, a Twitter handle user named 'Lady Don' had threatened a bomb blast in Meerut, the Vidhan Bhawan in Lucknow, and the Gorakhnath temple. In the first tweet made on the twitter, it was written that "bomb has been planted in UP Vidhab Bhawan in Lucknow, railway station and bus station". It was also written that "Yogi Adityanath would also be killed. An hour later, Bhim Sena president Seema Singh will kill Yogi Adityanath as a human bomb," said the tweet, adding that "Rashid has planted the bomb."

Only after this the police swung into action. Then it was tweeted again that "Suleman Bhai has planted a bomb at eight places in Gorakhnath Math…" In Meerut, the talk of bomb blasts was written at ten places. When these tweets were coming, Yogi Adityanath was then present in Gorakhpur, so his security was further increased. Now the two PAC personnel posted at the main gate of Gorakhnath temple were attacked by a person with sharp weapons and the government suspects it to be a part of `terror module'.

Earlier, in wake of regular threats, security was strengthened in the Gorakhnath temple on the lines of temples of Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura so that no one could break the security cordon there too.

Recently an ASP and a DSP rank officers were deployed to directly supervise the security of Gorakhnath temple. Besides, 875 policemen are handling the security arrangements. Not only this, PAC jawans have also been deployed.

The security cordon of Gorakhnath temple has been strengthened considerably. Bomb disposal squad is permanently deployed in the temple premises and all visitors are allowed entry only after proper frisking. A platoon of PAC has also been installed to strengthen the security circle here. A police post has been set up in the temple premises.

# Sena MP for withdrawal of offensive sociology book

**T N RAGHUNATHA** ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi on Monday demanded immediate withdrawal of the book titled "Textbook of Sociology for Nurses" containing "derogatory and problematic" content on the "merits and advantages" dowry system, which is part of curriculum for Second year B.Sc students.

In a letter written to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Priyanka said: "one of the so-called advantages as stated in the book, says `Because of the burden of dowry, many parents have started educating their girls. When the girls are educated or even employed, the demand of dowry will be less. Thus, it is an indirect advantage".

"Ugly looking girls can be married off with attractive dowry with less or ugly looking boys," Priyanka quoted a sentence from the textbook.

In her letter to Pradhan, Priyanka stated: "It is appalling how such derogatory and problematic text remains in circulation and that a textbook elaborating the merits of dowry can exist in our curriculum is a shame for the nation and its Constitution".

"It is extremely unfortunate that we have such outdated ideas prevailing despite the dowry system being a criminal act.

"It is even more concerning that students are being exposed to such regressive content and no action has been taken so far. Such reinforcement of the dowry system is offensive and should be actioned upon immediately," the Sena MP wrote.

While urging the Union Education Minister "to stop the circulation of such regressive textbooks and take them offr circulation", Priyanka called for "strict measures" to ensure that "in future such anti-women content is neither taught or promoted, especially by the academic institutions and, that the textbooks are reviewed and approved by a panel of experts".

# Gorakhnath attack: Father says son 'mentally sick'

**PNS** ■ LUCKNOW

While the Government called the attack on Gorakhnath temple as part of some terror plot and asked the Anti-Terrorist Squad to probe it, the father of the accused Ahmad Murtaza Abbasi claimed his son was `mentally sick' and denied any "conspiracy" behind the incident.

Manir Ahmed Abbasi, father of Murtaza, who was also taken in police custody for interrogation, told the police that his son's mental condition was not good and he had been looking for him since Sunday evening a few hours before the incident.

He also claimed that a day before the incident, two people had come to his house on Saturday and they were probably ATS officers. He said the same person also visited his elder son's nursing home.

The visitors inquired about his son and were talking of some loan of Rs 36 lakh. After this, they left without saying anything, riding a motorcycle. Now the police are also looking for these two people as well as investigation is being done in this direction. Both the people are clearly visible in the CCTV installed at the nursing home. Both came on a motorcycle and then quietly left from there without saying anything. Manir suspects both the persons to be ATS officials.

Sources said that during the interrogation, Murtaza, a resident of Civil Lines area of Gorakhpur, claimed that he had studied chemical engineering from IIT Bombay and lived in Mumbai with his family till October 2020. He also revealed that his wife had left him and that he had also lost his job following which he went into depression, and had not slept for many days. He wanted someone to kill him with bullets, and it was for this reason he attacked the policemen, the accused disclosed as the reason for the incident.

However, the police do not agree with his statement, particularly the contradictory versions. The accused did not tell why he wanted to die at the hands of the police? The police station nearby is also right in front, so why did he not go there and try it? He was also asked that when the policemen stopped him, why did he keep on attacking them to go inside the temple?

Apart from this, there are many questions like why he carried a laptop, PAN card etc, for which he had no satisfactory answer.

# Naseeruddin Shah supports niece against 'turncoat' Babul

### Veteran actor campaigns in Bengal by-polls

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

After Mumbai cinestar Mithun Chakrabarty it is the turn of veteran Bollywood actor Naseeruddin Shah to campaign in Bengal by-elections. The 'Masoom', 'Ardha Satya' star has come out in support of his niece Saira Shah Halim, the CPI(M) candidate for the high profile Ballygunge Assembly by-elections.

Halim is the wife of CPI(M) leader Dr Fuad Halim and daughter-in-law of late Marxist leader Hasim Abdul Halim the longest serving Speaker of any elected House in the world — till 2011 when the Left Front went out of power.

Saira is pitted against former Union Minister and Trinamool Congress candidate Babul Supriyo and BJP's State spokesperson Keya Ghosh.

"The choice before voters is a clear one. Would you like your representative to be a caring, compassionate, and committed person who will work for you, or would you prefer a turncoat opportunist who is also a serial hate-monger?" Shah told in a video message asking the electorate to back Halim. Ballygunge has a sizeable percentage of minority population that turns out to play a decisive in role in the Assembly elections. The by-elections to this constituency was necessitated following the demise of veteran Bengal minister and TMC MLA Subroto Mukherjee.

Earlier, super star Mithun Chakrabarty too video-campaigned in favour of BJP candidate and fashion designer Agnimitra Paul who is contesting against Trinamool Congress' Shatrughna Sinha and CPI(M)'s Partha Mukherjee in the Asansol parliamentary by-elections. Babul Supriyo is the curious link between Ballygunge and Asansol — as he was a two-time BJP MP from the Bengal's second largest city andindustrial hub. He left BJP and resigned his Lok Sabha post after being dropped as a Union Minister last year. Subsequently he joined the TMC.

Extending his support for Paul Chakrabarty in a video message last week said that being a local candidate the people would find her by their side every time. "She is not an outsider," Chakrabarty had said in her video message adding "she will be by your side every time … so please vote my sister Agnimitra Paul."


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BSES Rajdhani Power Limited
Regd. Off.: BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
www.bsesdelhi.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE
### REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE
### PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF TRUE-UP OF FY 2020-21 AND AGGREGATE REVENUE REQUIREMENT (ARR) FOR FY 2022-23

1. Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, Delhi Electricity Reform Act, 2000 to the extent applicable, Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Business Plan) Regulations, 2017 & 2019 and the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations, 2017 issued by Commission vide Order dated January 31, 2017, the DERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Wheeling Tariff and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2011 issued by the Commission vide Order dated December 2, 2011, DERC Order dated October 22, 2014 for extension of Multi Year Tariff (MYT) Regulations 2011 by one year for FY 2015-16 and DERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Wheeling Tariff and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2007 dated May 30, 2007 applicable to erstwhile MYT Period for FY 2007-08 to FY 2011-12, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (hereinafter referred to as 'BRPL') has filed a Petition before the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC or the Commission) for approval of True-Up of FY 2020-21 and ARR for FY 2022-23. The salient features of the Petition filed by BRPL and admitted by the Hon'ble Commission vide Order dated 17/03/2022 are tabulated below.

2. **Salient features:**

| S. No. | Particulars | UoM | FY 21 (PY) | FY 23 (EY) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | Energy Input | MU | 11933 | 14737 |
| B | Energy Billed | MU | 11077 | 13572 |
| C | Distribution Loss for the year | % | 7.17% | 7.90% |
| D | Average Power Purchase Rate | ₹/kWh | 5.81 | 6.19 |
| E | Average Billing Rate (Excl. E. Tax and Surcharge) | ₹/kWh | 7.30 | 6.70 |
| F | Power Purchase Cost (includes transmission charges) | ₹ Crore | 6933 | 9126 |
| G | O&M Expense | ₹ Crore | 1152 | 1341 |
| H | Depreciation | ₹ Crore | 329 | 386 |
| I | ROCE (Return + Interest) | ₹ Crore | 800 | 950 |
| J | Other Expenses | ₹ Crore | | 199 |
| K | Other Expenses (Additional O & M Expenses) | ₹ Crore | 149 | 298 |
| L | Less: Non-Tariff Income | ₹ Crore | 104 | 104 |
| M | Less: Open Access | ₹ Crore | 71 | - |
| **N** | **Aggregate Revenue Requirement (Sum of F to K – L-M)** | ₹ Crore | **9187** | **12196** |
| O | Revenue available at existing tariff | ₹ Crore | 7780 | 9043 |
| P | Revenue Gap at existing Tariff (N-M) | ₹ Crore | (1407) | (3154) |
| Q | 8% surcharge for the year | ₹ Crore | 612 | |
| R | Amortization of Carrying Cost | ₹ Crore | 258 | |
| S | Carrying Cost during the Year | ₹ Crore | (625) | |
| T | Total Revenue (Gap)/Surplus during the year including carrying cost (P+Q+R+S) | ₹ Crore | (1161) | |
| U | Opening Level of Gap for the year | ₹ Crore | (4189) | |
| V | Add: Impact of issues under consideration but yet to be implemented by DERC | ₹ Crore | (1562) | |
| W | Impact of APTEL Judgements pending | ₹ Crore | (847) | |
| X | Impact of issues taken up in review petition filed before DERC | ₹ Crore | (81) | |
| **Y** | **Closing of Balance (Gap)/ Surplus during the year (T to X)*** | ₹ Crore | **(7840)** | |

** Excluding SC Judgement dated 01.12.2021 Impact*

3. **Capex Proposal**

| Particulars | UoM | FY 2022-23 |
|---|---|---|
| Capitalization (excluding Deposit Work) | ₹ Crore | 790 |

4. **Revenue Gap proposed to be recovered through Tariff Hike during FY 2022-23**

| Particulars | UoM | FY 2022-23 |
|---|---|---|
| Annual Revenue Requirement | ₹ Crore | 12196 |
| Revenue at existing tariff | ₹ Crore | 9043 |
| Revenue (Gap)/ Surplus | ₹ Crore | (3154) |
| Tariff increase/(reduction) | Through a suitable Surcharge | |

5. **Tariff Rationalisation measures proposed**

The Hon'ble Commission is requested to allow suitable tariff hike to make cost reflective during FY 2022-23, apart from a suitable surcharge towards recovery of both principal and interest component, on the past accumulated deficit on account of Regulatory Asset.

Carrying cost ought to be allowed as a separate surcharge on revenue instead of allowing in tariff as per requirements of Financial Institutions.

6. **Performance of BRPL during FY 2020-21**

| S. No. | Performance Standard | Total Cases | Within Time | Beyond Time | % Achieved |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Power Supply Failure** | | | | |
| (I) | Continuous power failure affecting individual consumer and group of consumer upto 100 connected at Low voltage supply, excluding the failure where distribution transformer requires replacement. | 417301 | 417300 | 1 | 100.00% |
| (ii) | Continuous power failure affecting more than 100 consumers connected at Low voltage supply excluding the failure where distribution transformer requires replacement. | 68538 | 68478 | 60 | 99.91% |
| (iii) | Continuous power supply failure requiring replacement of distribution transformer. | 6 | 6 | 0 | 100.00% |
| (iv) | Continuous power failure affecting consumers connected through High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) and not covered under (i) & (ii) above | 159606 | 159606 | 0 | 100.00% |
| (v) | Continuous scheduled power outages | 7291 | 7291 | 0 | 100.00% |
| 2. | **Period of Scheduled Outage** | | | | |
| 2 | Maximum duration in a single stretch | | | | |
| 3 | Restoration of supply by 6:00 PM | | | | |
| 4 | Faults in street light maintained by the licensee | 34190 | 34164 | 26 | 99.92% |

7. **Peak Demand** of 2815 MW was met by BRPL during FY 2020-21.

8. **Reliability Indices**

| | Apr-20 | May-20 | Jun-20 | Jul-20 | Aug-20 | Sep-20 | Oct-20 | Nov-20 | Dec-20 | Jan-21 | Feb-21 | Mar-21 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SAIFI** | 0.46 | 0.44 | 0.55 | 0.47 | 0.49 | 0.39 | 0.34 | 0.26 | 0.47 | 0.32 | 0.28 | 0.35 |
| **SAIDI** | 0.16 | 0.23 | 0.32 | 0.17 | 0.22 | 0.19 | 0.20 | 0.16 | 0.21 | 0.18 | 0.16 | 0.22 |
| **CAIDI** | 0.35 | 0.52 | 0.58 | 0.36 | 0.45 | 0.49 | 0.59 | 0.62 | 0.45 | 0.56 | 0.57 | 0.63 |

9. In accordance with the provisions of the DERC Comprehensive (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2001 notified by the Commission, the consumers and stakeholders are requested to submit the response on the above Petition. The response may be sent to the Secretary of the Commission at the following address by 25/04/2022 or the date of Public Hearing, whichever is later . The response may be submitted personally or by post to the Commission at the address given below. The response can also be e-mailed to the Secretary of the Commission at the e-mail address mentioned below.

**THE SECRETARY**
**DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik,
Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110 017.
Email id: **secyderc@nic.in** Telefax: **011-26673608**

10. The Commission may hold a Public Hearing (virtually/in person) with the stakeholders; and the date of hearing may be notified separately.

11. The complete Petitions filed by the BRPL can be downloaded free of cost from the website of the Commission (http://www.derc.gov.in) and BRPL http://www.bsesdelhi.com. A soft copy of the Petition can be obtained in CD on payment of Rs 25/- per CD or a copy of the Petition may be purchased from the head-office of BRPL located at BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 on any working day till 25/04/2022 or date of Public Hearing, whichever is later, between 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on payment of Rs 100/- either by cash or by Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of "BSES Rajdhani Power Limited" payable at New Delhi.

**For BSES Rajdhani Power Limited**
Rajul Agarwal
Head (Regulatory Affairs)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 I Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. : 19123 (Toll-free) I Fax No. : +91 11 39999890 I Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

NEW DELHI | TUESDAY | APRIL 5, 2022

the pioneer

Opinion 06

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PAPER WITH PASSION

# The pivot?

## Pawar has given the Congress a leg up by underlining its importance in Oppn space

Has Sharad Pawar emerged as the pivot of a national anti-BJP front for the 2024 general elections? He did not hint at it but his assertion that a national alternative to the BJP is impossible without the Congress certainly raises his political stature. By affirming the continued relevance of the Congress to the Opposition space, he has made the 'grand old party' beholden to the 'grand old man' of politics. It is as if he gave Congress the reprieve from fellow anti-BJP parties that it was desperately seeking. The ageing politician cleared the air on certain critical political issues that may influence the future course of action of the anti-BJP constituents. For one, he evinced no interest in becoming the chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), a post held by Sonia Gandhi since the UPA's formation in 2004. He is ready to "cooperate, support and strengthen" any attempt to provide an alternative bloc to the BJP but he would not lead it. Doors and options are rarely closed in politics, but that is not the issue here. What is, is Pawar's next statement. It was an admonition for the regional political forces which have been rallying support for an anti-BJP front, excluding the Congress. Citing the case of Mamata Banerjee, who has been spearheading this movement, Pawar reminded them that while they are strong in their respective regions, the Congress is the only party that "has a pan-India presence". It has a "wide base" and "taking it along would be a practical decision".

If the regional satraps consider his advice "then something could happen", he said, referring to a united front. Facts bear Pawar out. In the 2019 elections, the Congress was either winner or runners-up on 262 seats (268 in 2014) and third or fourth in 141 others. In both elections, nearly 190 seats saw a bipolar contest between the Congress and the BJP. The Maratha strongman's statement comes a week after Union Minister Nitin Gadkari hoped the Congress emerges as a stronger Opposition because that would help democracy. Gadkari had also pointed out that regional parties trying to take the place of a weakened Congress was not good for democracy. Reams will be written about the hidden meanings in the complementing statements of the two leaders. The Congress rout in the latest Assembly elections frustrated the regional forces. With both sides sticking to their stands, somebody had to come up with a face-saving argument for the regional forces while throwing a lifeline to Congress. Was Pawar that somebody? He did give a fillip to the Congress and it is up to Sonia Gandhi to return the favour one day. The presidential elections in July will tell us if Pawar's remarks have had any impact. The Congress may certainly use the reprieve to strike a chord with the internal dissidents and ready itself for its biggest decision: Who would be the next elected party president?

## PICTALK

Devotees take part in a prayer session under the sacred Bodhi tree, at Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya PTI

# Trouble next door

## India seems to be an oasis as one or the other crisis envelops all our neighbours

This is not to demean any of our neighbouring countries, which are all sovereign States with supposedly responsible Governments to take care of their domestic issues or strife. It is just meant to highlight the dichotomy between the state of affairs in our own country and that of the ones surrounding us on all sides, especially in the light of angry voices that claim that the quality of life and governance in India has been steadily declining with time. Now, there are problems that a ruling dispensation should/can foresee and strategise for, and then there are some which are unpredictable, swift and calamitous. The Coronavirus pandemic would be an appropriate example of the latter, which left the entire world reeling under its impact with scant regard to the advancement of health infrastructure, economy or geographical placement. On the other hand, the chaos that we are witnessing in the countries adjoining India is the result of their own respective policy misjudgements or poor usage of governance tools: Take the example of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Afghanistan or even bigger, stable superpowers such as China and Russia.

There's an ongoing political and constitutional crisis in Imran Khan's country; almost similar is the case with Sri Lanka which has had to resort to clamping the state of emergency and curfew. In Myanmar, the rule of the military, known locally as Tatmadaw Kyi, started in 1962, lasting up to 2011, and then resumed in 2021. Almost similar is the case of Afghanistan, which suffered under the Taliban rule from 1996 until October 2001 (soon after the Sunni Islamist nationalist movement's birth in the early 1990s), and which has taken back power in 2021 from a democratically elected Government after regrouping in Pakistan. Speaking of 'democratically elected' Governments, there's just one party's rule in China and one man's rule in Russia. The Russian head of State unilaterally decided on February 24, 2022, to launch a "special military operation" to invade Ukraine, where he now seems caught in a cleft stick. In striking contrast is the situation in India, where eligible citizens have been getting free ration for nearly two years now, and the rule of democracy is healthy and flourishing. Therefore, it would be best for the cynics and naysayers to stop criticising their own country and take pride in what we have here, and what we symbolise to the world.

# How pragmatic is the CUET move?

CHAHAK **MITTAL**

## A common test for admission into Central Universities might just now seem appealing, but it could heavily impact learning in the long run

The recent introduction of a Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admissions into 45 University Grants Commission-funded Central Universities (CUs) has raised serious concerns. The move has come about as part of the National Education Policy, which proposes that the CUET, conducted in 13 languages, be made mandatory in 45 CUs to allow admissions using a single national-level test score. The UGC has also clarified that the test shall not disturb the existing scheme of reservations in individual universities.

While the policy would spare admission seekers the trouble of appearing for multiple entrance exams for UG admissions and, also, study for the otherwise attention-demanding Board examinations, the limitations of this standardised test are several. First, it eliminates the value of scores gained in Class XII, limiting the scores to be only a qualification benchmark or an eligibility criterion for taking the test rather than being the sole or even a co-determinant of merit. In simple words, the test, in a single stroke, leaves the Board examinations of Class XII, and even X, of no relevance at all. One of the biggest consequences, perhaps, will be on the learning values of students, which might be significantly hampered.

The 'long form' learning that textbooks and school education aim to provide will be highly neglected and rather be substituted by the urgent need to focus on the objective-type questions fielded in the CUET. It will restrict school education from involving students into any form of creativity and even the extra-curriculars. The limited amount of reading or writing skills that are imparted to students in schools will now come down to sticking to only an MCQ-based learning format, heavily impacting subjective disciplines like the arts, social sciences and literature. Where is the room for exploration, creativity, interpretative and illustrative understanding, dealing with ambiguities or learning the skill of argumentation? Well, it's ironic that the National Education Policy (NEP), which was recently imposed, ostensibly aimed to promote more thinking and analytical skills as part of the school experience.

Furthermore, the test will push the coaching industry to introduce new, cost-heavy hybrid courses from Class VI onwards to train students for objective learning at an early stage. The centres for JEE and NEET exams are huge examples of how entrance tests spawn the coaching industry as the hour's need. This, in turn, will replace natural intelligence with 'artificial' intelligence, literally speaking, given that the learning will be based on the recognition of pattern of exam papers and creation of several question banks, which would be available on the internet or practice books in abundance.

Knowledge will therefore be replaced by bits of surface-level information, leaving no room for cognitive and constructive learning. To top it all, the policy, introduced amid an atmosphere where education has already faced enough lag due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cannot be termed a "landmark", and might rather turn out to be challenging for students seeking admissions in 2022. These batches might, in fact, face worsening struggles in the longer run when, in a workplace environment, extensive work formats, detailing, structuring and interpretative and analytical skills are deemed mandatory for a job role.

> IS A HASSLE-FREE ADMISSION PATTERN CAUSING HINDRANCE TO THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION? WILL IT IN ANY WAY NOURISH A CHILD'S INNER GROWTH AND PROSPERING? IS IT PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE REAL WORLD AND WORKPLACE CHALLENGES?

Well, it may be argued that making the Board examination results non-decisive in this matter might be beneficial given the state of regional or state Boards, which involve trust deficit about academic quality and lack of consistent marking patterns. The disparity in the evaluation certainly makes it hard for those scores to be used as an equal parameter in all CUs. However, it is imperative to note here — isn't the strengthening of the State and regional Boards more important than getting rid of their already degraded existence and value? Why not incorporate a change which ensures that Board exams do not lose their value? What if by this move schools altogether lose their relevance as students and parents start relying more on coaching centres? Well, it's important to focus on students actually learning the course matter instead of them becoming fodder for the coaching industry.

Interestingly, the policy has been looked at by the critics through the prism of the Narendra Modi Government's 'one nation, one standard' motto. However, the Madhuri R Shah Committee in 1984 had recommended the introduction of a national merit examination or a common eligibility test.

Well, taking all these factors into consideration, the questions remain — In a country like India, which has a long way to go in making a mark in entry-level higher education and bridging economic and gender gap, is prescribing a single entrance test as a sole determinant of merit for the higher education system of India pragmatic? Is a hassle-free admission pattern causing hindrance to the quality of education? Will it in any way nourish a child's inner growth and prospering? Is it preparing the students for the real world and workplace challenges?

*(The author is an independent journalist specialising in features and human interest stories. She is currently a postgraduate student of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode. The views expressed are personal.)*

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SALARY FOR IRREGULAR APPOINTMENT

Sir — The Supreme Court has delivered a good judgment holding the State responsible for paying salary to employees in respect of irregular appointments also. A case in point is that a teacher worked for 24 years when his services were cancelled over irregular appointment. The Government viewed the appointment irregular since the employee was a relative of a member of the selection committee and hence his appointment was contrary to rules. The cancellation of the appointment may not be wrong. But ordering for the recovery of the amount paid as salary for the services obtained from him in 24 years goes against the spirit of justice.

Aggrieved by the development, the teacher moved the High Court and then the Supreme Court. The apex court has asserted that "the State cannot take any work from any employee without payment of salary". It also ordered to treat the date of cancellation of appointment as the date of retirement, with direction to pay consequential benefits upon retirement. It is unfair to treat the relationship with the selection committee member as disqualification for an appointed candidate as it amounts to denial of opportunity for a candidate for "the fault of being a relative" of the selection committee member.

**KV Seetharamaiah** | *Bengaluru*

### THE CHANDIGARH CONUNDRUM

Sir — A political fight has brought together the Government and the Opposition in two States. With the Punjab Assembly moving a resolution seeking to bring Chandigarh under its ambit, it has sparked off united opposition from neighboring Haryana which has also been staking claim over the Union Territory. When the Punjab Vidhan Sabha passed the resolution at its special one-day session, it was supported by all Opposition parties, including the Akali Dal and the Congress. The interesting thing is that it wasn't the first such resolution. It was moved the first time on May 18, 1967, by Acharya Prithvi Singh Azad. On January 19, 1970, another non-official resolution was moved by Chaudhary Balbir Singh for the transfer of Chandigarh, Bhakra and other Punjabi-speaking areas. On September 7, 1978, a resolution seeking merger of Chandigarh and other Punjabi-speaking areas with Punjab was moved by Sukhdev Singh Dhillon. Another resolution seeking the transfer of Hindi-speaking areas to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh was moved by Baldev Singh Mann on October 31, 1985. On March 6, 1986, a resolution for implementation of the Rajiv Gandhi-Harchand Singh Longowal accord was moved by Om Prakash Gupta. Similarly, on December 23, 2014, another resolution was moved by Iqbal Singh Jhundan, and carried.

**Bhagwan Thadani** | *Mumbai*

### PENALISING THE DO-GOODERS

Sir —It is not that Uttar Pradesh is the only State where those who expose a crime are declared criminals. This has happened in many other States, too. This practice occurs even in countries abroad. Even if there is no democracy in those countries and these are facing dictatorship and military rule, but investigative journalists have always been harassed. Sometimes they are even murdered. At least it did not happen in our largest province, Uttar Pradesh. Journalist Digvijay Singh and his two other associates have been arrested by the police in the Class XII paper leak case.

The common man is likely to find all this strange because it is interesting to note as to who had exposed this big racket. The FIR has been filed against those who brought out the corruption and mismanagement spread in the internal system with evidence. This is not a surprising development for the UP Government. Earlier, we saw in a Gorakhpur hospital which had shortage of oxygen, Dr Kafeel Khan, who served the dying children wholeheartedly, also had to face a jail term for many months. That is why this is the 'new normal' for Uttar Pradesh and the country.

**Jang Bahadur Singh** | *Jamshedpur*

Send your feedback to:
**letterstopioneer@gmail.com**

## India's mediation offer

It refers to the editorial, *Friend in need*. There is no doubt that Russian President Vladimir Putin has grossly underestimated Ukraine and now would surely be edgy from within as his actions have turned into misadventure. Now it has become a war of ego for him and, if he seeks a respectable exit, India can definitely help in the cause by mediating for peace between Russia and Ukraine. And it is heartening that both Russia and Ukraine will not mind it. It should not be forgotten that from the first day when our Prime Minister spoke with the Ukrainian President, he had offered to mediate for peace.

India's growing stature on the world map was for everyone to see when we were able to safely evacuate thousands of stranded Indians from Ukraine, while other so-called powerful countries like the US and UK appeared clueless. It is also heartening and welcome that the Quad members like Australia and Japan have stood behind India and did not say a single thing about India's abstention from voting at the UN on the invasion issue. As far as buying oil from Russia is concerned, it is our prerogative to buy it from wherever we find it cheaper. Our interests should be paramount and if India does go on to help mediate for peace between the nations, our ties with Russia will only get stronger.

**Bal Govind** | *Noida*

## SOUNDBITE

It is a matter of happiness that Nepal is exporting its surplus power to India.

**Prime Minister**
— Narendra Modi

By reason of a public emergency in Sri Lanka, it is expedient to do so (impose curfew).

**Sri Lanka President**
— Gotabaya Rajapaksa

It was an honour to work with Rishi Kapoor sir. I learnt something new every day.

**Actor**
— Taaruk Raina

This means a lot; getting to a Master's final was a goal of mine.

**Norway tennis player**
— Casper Ruud

The trade pacts signed with Australia will provide new opportunities to domestic chefs and yoga instructors.

**Commerce Minister**
— Piyush Goyal

FIRST COLUMN

# INDIAN RETURNEES FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

The return of Indian students back to the war-torn nation is highly unlikely

HARISH **BARTHWAL**

Many factors contribute to Indian students landing in Ukraine for higher studies particularly in medicine, engineering and other professional streams: lower fees and cheaper living expenses, world-recognised courses, ease of admission, relative proximity to India, English as medium of instruction, peaceful nature of the country, opportunities to move elsewhere from this gateway to Europe. All these factors make our students finalise Ukraine as their choice of destination. At last count, Ukraine admitted more than 63,000 students from 130 countries of the world. There are numerous consultancies and admission businesses that help students from different countries secure admission in the universities of Ukraine. According to Ukrainian government records, compared to any other country, India sends the largest number of international students to Ukraine. Indian Parliament was informed in June last year that

18,000 Indian students were enrolled in educational institutions in Ukraine, more than in Russia and France (16,500 and 10,000, respectively). Indian students stuck in Ukraine when the war commenced were naturally in a quandary as their career prospects were at stake. Thanks to the efforts of the Indian government, they have returned safe. The few still staying there are hopeful that the present crisis shall pass and normalcy will be restored soon. As big relief to the evacuee students, after earlier admission offers from Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia, Belarus and Poland, universities in Russia and Crimea have come to the fore to accept such students especially from medical streams at no additional cost and without entrance tests. In fact, 140 Indian students have already been directly enrolled in the Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine & Pharmacy (SUMP), Moldova. At home, some chief ministers have shown willingness to accept the students from Ukraine. The apex medical regulatory body Indian Medical Association has agreed that the medical students from Ukraine can be adjusted in Indian medical schools as a one-time solution. If the proposal is accepted by the National Medical Commission, multiple functional difficulties are sure to crop up. The actual number of these students may be above 23,000. Even if authorities approved incremental seats beyond its already stretched capacity, teacher-student ratio shall be adversely affected and lab and other necessary facilities in place may be in disarray. The students are also at different levels and not grounded in Indian curricula. That means, if somehow admitted, they shall face difficulty adjusting and quality of education may be compromised besides impinging on the prospects of domestic students who have qualified NEET. Further, certain universities of Ukraine are not in the approved list in India, and vice versa. Online study in medicine, as suggested by Ukraine, is counter-productive because practical classes are mandatory. Return of the students back to Ukraine is uncertain. The same is the case with China — the thousands of students who returned to India due to COVID-19 are still unable to go back and complete their courses due to denial of permission to international students and lack of visas. For the Ukraine-returned students, much depends on the stance India takes on the Russia-Ukraine tussle. Let us believe, best shall come out. In this context, it is worth noting how inter-country invasions not only devastate the target country to varying degrees but also enervate innocent people of other nationalities residing there. More than just a typically hegemonic move, the current Russian attack on Ukraine can be construed as a reprimand for some perceived or actual faultof significant magnitude by its one-time 'brother'. Given the secretive ethos of mighty Russian President Vladimir Putin and his known history of taking rash, independent decisions, it is difficult to foresee what comes next.

*(The writer is a blogger and senior journalist. The view expressed are personal.)*

# Tax buoyancy is a good omen

UTTAM **GUPTA**

Efforts to boost tax revenue will come to naught if expenses, particularly on 'welfare schemes', are allowed to grow in an unsustainable manner

For years, the tax receipts of the Union Government have consistently fallen short of the target set in the respective year which together with the expenditure exceeding the target has led to fiscal slippage - a glamorous term for the fiscal deficit (FD). Against this dismal record in the past, 2021-22 will have the unique distinction of the tax collections - both direct and indirect - exceeding the target.

The total direct tax collection net of refund as on March 16, 2022 stood at around ₹1363,000 crore which is higher the budget estimate (BE) of ₹1100,000 crore by ₹263,000 crore. It was even higher than the revised estimate (RE) of ₹1250,000 crore - as given by the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman in the budget for 2022-23 - by ₹113,000 crore.

The gross tax revenue (GTR) net of refunds stood at ₹2050,000 crore till February 2. For the whole of current financial year ending March 31, 2022, this could be about ₹2650,000 crore which is higher the BE of ₹2220,000 crore by ₹430,000 crore. The collection is even higher than the RE of ₹2520,000 crore by ₹130,000 crore.

Of the ₹430,000 crore excess of likely actual GTR over BE, while ₹263,000 crore is the excess in direct taxes over its BE, the remaining ₹167,000 crore is primarily in GST collection. During 2021-22, while, gross GST collections have been in excess of ₹100,000 crore every month, in six months, it has even crossed ₹130,000 crore. The year is expected to end with collection of ₹1500,000 crore.

As per the Finance Commission (FC) formula, 41 percent of tax receipts of the Union government - excluding cess collections which are not part of the divisible pool - are shared with the States. After these mandatory transfers to the states, the amount remaining with the Centre could be around ₹1850,000 crore, compared with the corresponding BE of ₹1550,000 crore and RE of ₹1765,000crore.

The excess of ₹300,000 crore in actual net tax receipts by the Centre over the BE (1850,000-1550,000) has helped in making up for the slippage in other areas of revenue as well as expenditure. For instance, proceeds from disinvestment of Government's shareholding in public sector undertakings (PSUs) during 2021-22 is expected to be only ₹13,500 crore against BE ₹175,000 crore leading to a shortfall of ₹161,500 crore.

On the expenditure front, the actual outgo on fertilizer subsidy will be ₹140,000 crore against BE of ₹80,000 crore leading shortfall of ₹60,000 crore. Likewise, the actual payment on food subsidy is ₹286,000 crore against budget provision ₹243,000 crore implying a shortfall of ₹43,000 crore.

Even after providing cover for the slippages under the above three heads which add up to ₹264,500 crore, the excess net tax collection of ₹300,000 crore would ensure that the FD for 2021-22 remains close to the target of 6.4 percent of GDP. But, the RE of FD mentioned by FM on February 1, 2022 is 6.9 percent. This is because the entire excess of net tax collection is not reflected in the RE. Once the un-reflected amount of ₹85,000 crore (1850,000-1765,000) is captured, actual FD will be close to budgeted FD.

> SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS ARE POSSIBLE BY RESTRICTING COVERAGE, CUTTING COSTS, IMPROVING EFFICIENCY ETC. FOR INSTANCE, THE DECISION TO CONTINUE DELIVERY OF FREE FOOD UNDER THE PMGKY FOR ANOTHER 6 MONTHS — WHEN THE PANDEMIC HAS SUBSIDED AND THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS GATHERING MOMENTUM — WAS TOTALLY UNCALLED FOR

*(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)*

Unlike in the previous years when shortfall in revenue from tax collections used to be made up by taking recourse to non-tax receipts such as dividend from PSUs and public sector banks (PSBs), proceeds from selling government shares in one PSU to another, appropriation of surplus generated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), proceeds from sale of spectrum for telecom services, etc., this time around buoyancy in tax collection is helping in balancing the budget.

This is the way forward as excessive reliance on non-tax receipts not only lands the budgetary exercise in an uncertain trajectory (for instance, dividend from a PSU depends on a host of factors specific to the undertakings and there is no certainty that it will deliver a target amount) but also, lead to undue interference in the working of an entity from where the Government is expecting the revenue. For instance, during 2017-18, ONGC, an upstream oil PSU was asked to buy 51.11 percent of its shares Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) forcing the former to borrow over ₹30,000 crore.

Looking at the reasons behind the exceptional buoyancy in tax revenue, it turns out that it is not just the recovery in economic activity (thanks to a muted third wave of Corona pandemic) but no less important is the 'increase in compliance'.

On the direct tax front, the IT department has successfully used technology to reach out to the assesses in non-intrusive ways; for instance, sending e-mail reminding them to file return if not already or generating an 'auto-populated' form - a form in which income of the assesses from various sources is pre-filled. In particular, intensive and extensive use of 'data analytics' and 'artificial intelligence' has prompted assesses to report their income accurately (when he is confronted with a particular figure 'so much capital gains made', there is no way, he can hide or under-state it) and pay tax.

As for indirect taxes, the strengthening of GST infrastructure with emphasis on driving all businesses to be a part of the network, truthfully report all transactions (generation of e-way bills, e-invoices are mechanisms to make it happen) and prevent fraudulent input tax credit or ITC (an acronym for refund of tax paid by a supplier on purchase of inputs - the most crucial provision under GST to prevent cascading effect of tax on tax) claims.

While, these efforts should be continued, there is also dire need to rationalize and simplify the GST system by reducing the number of slabs, doing away with certain exemptions and including petroleum products such as crude oil, natural gas, petrol, diesel etc.The GST Council should promptly take steps in this regard.

In the direct tax area, there is an urgent need to address the anomalies in PIT, CIT and the capital gains tax (CGT). In particular, the existing CGT is a highly differentiated tax structure with varying rates depending on the asset class, holding period, whether the asset is listed or otherwise and so on. It is prone to misuse and evasion. If, the structure is simplified to treat all capital gains irrespective of the source as an addition to assesses' annual income and taxed at the rate applicable to the relevant slab,the Government can rake in huge revenue.

No less important is the need to rein in expenditure. Efforts to boost tax revenue will come to a naught if the expenses particularly on 'welfare schemes' are allowed to grow in an unsustainable manner. Here, substantial savings are possible by restricting coverage, cutting costs, improving efficiencyetc. For instance, the decision to continue delivery of free food under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) for another 6 months- when the pandemic has subsided and the economic activity is gathering momentum - was totally uncalled for.

## POINT COUNTER POINT

I CONGRATULATE OUR COUNTRY. THE DEPUTY SPEAKER HAS REJECTED THE ATTEMPT OF CHANGING THE REGIME.
— PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER
**IMRAN KHAN**

WE ARE GOING TO CHALLENGE THE RULING BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER…AND THE PM'S ADVICE TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT IN SUPREME COURT.
— LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
**SHEHBAZ SHARIF**

# Luxurious follies, high debt, infra devastate Sri Lanka

The crisis was in the making for a decade largely due to the country's excessive dependence on imports and borrowings

SHIVAJI **SARKAR**

The Sri Lankan economic crisis is a grave warning that reckless consumption promoted by global MNCs, IMF and World Bank at the cost of localised economies and ignoring decentralized agriculture, rural or small entrepreneurship is not a sustainable model.

The Sri Lanka crisis and the disquiet among the working class in India as reflected by the March 28-29 all-India strike by labour unions are both pointers to an impending danger. It is due to the faulty global designs of curbs on wages, cash transactions, over-dependence on banks, extreme stress on high-cost infra and other facilities.

India has to recall the strength of its mixed economy. That was the people's economy and overcame the Soviet Union collapse or the 2008 meltdown. But since 1948 Sri Lanka had never been in such a deep economic crisis. It has 10-hour power cuts, extreme fuel crisis and rice is selling at ₹500 a kg. Exams are put off for shortage of paper and two newspapers cease publication. It rushes to sign six pacts with India with a $2.4 billion credit line and assured petroleum supply.

A small neighbour in deep trouble with forex reserves falling to $2.3 billion, not enough for immediate imports, and external debt pegged at $45 billion, $8 billion to China alone, and outstanding sovereign bonds of $12.55 billion shakes India in more than one way. The 119 per cent Lankan debt to GDP now has started a distress refugee influx into

*(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)*

Tamil Nadu. Lanka, hit by globalisation, reckless imports, multiplexes, malls and artificial glitter, has lessons for all.

The crisis was in the making for almost a decade, largely due to the country's excessive dependence on imports and borrowings for a raft of massive infrastructure project. It highlights how unbridled borrowing for big-ticket infra projects such as those under China's Belt and Road Initiative, can lead to complications. The government's tax cuts and switch to organic agriculture further squeezed revenues.

The trade union strike in India underlined the problem of growing unemployment, increasing privatisation, giving employers greater leeway in setting wages and extending working hours. Sale of PSUs throws more out of jobs. The Government is repeatedly telling them it is trying to create jobs, continuing with free food grains and edible oil dole at least till September for 80 crore people belonging to the families of farmers and labourers. It is a heavy burden on the exchequer. The Government, committed to welfare, is spending almost Rs 4.5 lakh crore since 2020 through a regime of high inflation and not-so-high production as purchasing power capacity has reduced.

In Sri Lanka, the workers' stir and the global economic crisis testify that the 1991 privatisation prescription of the IMF-World Bank was not the solution. The G-20 prescription of monopolization and centralization of the economy at the cost of the labour have caused more problems for real growth while multiplying profits of the MNCs and large companies.

The world did not learn from the follies of 2007-08 Lehman Brothers collapse The US public sector AIG took the worst hit. It also shows that a globalised war by the US in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and the Middle East has helped none but the arms lobby. It weakens the economies of the super power and its NATO allies. Shaky European economies are afraid of going to a war with Russia or even check its aggression in Ukraine. The people in the US are against Joe Biden administration rushing into another war. They do not want more body bags. The US today has almost $27 trillion of global debt, largely from five countries, including China.

Lanka is learning the hard way that high consumption is not sustainable without higher production, income and self-reliance. India has been trying to be self-reliant - the reincarnation of Gandhian swadeshi - - but at the same time opting for FTA with Australia and West Asian countries. It also has 87.8 per cent debt to GDP ratio. The model of expensive toll roads, high-priced transportation-communication, high income tax and other taxes are leading to soaring costs and inflation.

It is India's turn to give a viable alternative of sustainable consumption and a mix of people-centric independent low-cost mixed economy free from the control of big banks and large corporations. Lanka exposes the dangers; the world has to tread cautiously.

# Ukraine accuses Russia of massacre, bodies strewn in city

AP ■ BUCHA

Bodies with bound hands, close-range gunshot wounds and signs of torture lay scattered in a city on the outskirts of Kyiv after Russian soldiers withdrew from the area. Ukrainian authorities accused the departing forces on Sunday of committing war crimes and leaving behind a "scene from a horror movie."

As images of the bodies emerged from Bucha, European leaders condemned the atrocities and called for tougher sanctions against Moscow. In a sign of how the horrific reports shook many leaders, Germany's defense minister even suggested that the European Union consider banning Russian gas imports.

Ukrainian officials said the bodies of 410 civilians were found in Kyiv-area towns that were recently retaken from Russian forces.

Associated Press journalists saw the bodies of at least 21 people in various spots around Bucha, northwest of the capital. One group of nine, all in civilian clothes, were scattered around a site that residents said Russian troops used as a base.

They appeared to have been killed at close range. At least two had their hands tied behind their backs, one was shot in the head, and another's legs were bound.

Ukrainian officials laid the blame for the killings squarely at the feet of Russian troops, with the president calling them evidence of genocide. But Russia's Defense Ministry rejected the accusations as "provocation."

The discoveries followed the Russian retreat from the area after Moscow said it was focusing its offensive on the country's east. Russian troops had rolled into Bucha in the early days of the invasion and stayed up until March 30.

One resident, who refused to give his name out of fear for his safety, said that Russian troops went building to building and took people out of the basements where they were hiding, checking their phones for any evidence of anti-Russian activity before taking them away or shooting them.

Hanna Herega, another resident, said Russian troops started shooting at a neighbor who had gone out to gather wood for heating.

"They hit him a bit above the heel, crushing the bone, and he fell down," Herega said.

"Then they shot off his left leg completely, with the boot. Then they shot him all over."

The AP also saw two bodies, that of a man and a woman, wrapped in plastic that residents said they had covered and placed in a shaft until a proper funeral could be arranged.

"He put his hands up, and they shot him," said the resident who refused to be identified.

Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, described bodies lying in suburban streets as a "scene from a horror movie." He claimed some of the women had been raped before being killed and the Russians then burned the bodies. In a video address, Zelenskyy said Russian soldiers who killed and tortured civilians were responsible for "concentrated evil."

# Drug shortage persists in Russia after start of war

AP ■ MOSCOW

First came the warnings, in messages among friends and families and on social media, to stock up on vital drugs in Russia before supplies were affected by crippling Western sanctions over the invasion of Ukraine.

Then, some drugs indeed became harder to find at pharmacies in Moscow and other cities.

"Not a single pharmacy in the city has it now," a resident of Kazan told The Associated Press in late March about a blood thinner her father needs.

Experts and health authorities in Russia say the drug shortages are temporary - due to panic- buying and logistical difficulties for suppliers from the sanctions - but some remain worried that high-quality medicines will keep disappearing in the Russian market.

"Most likely there will be shortages. How catastrophic it will be, I don't know," said Dr. Alexey Erlikh, head of the cardiac intensive care unit in Moscow Hospital No. 29, and a professor at the Moscow-based Pirogov Medical University.

Reports that Russians could not find certain medications in pharmacies started surfacing in early March, shortly after Moscow unleashed a war on Ukraine, and sweeping sanctions left Russia increasingly isolated from the rest of the world.

Patient's Monitor, a patients' rights group in the Russian region of Dagestan on the Caspian Sea, began getting complaints in the second week of March.

Ziyautdin Uvaysov, head of the group, told AP he personally checked with several state-run pharmacies in the region on the availability of 10 most-wanted medications and "they didn't have a large number of these."

Uvaysov added that when he asked about when supplies would be restocked, the pharmacies replied that "there aren't any and it's unclear when there will be." Despite assurances from authorities that hoarding of supplies was to blame for the quickly emptying shelves, reports about shortages persisted throughout March.

Vrachi.Rf, one of Russia's biggest online communities for medical workers, surveyed more than 3,000 doctors in mid-March, and they said they had run into shortages of more than 80 medications: anti-inflammatory, gastrointestinal, antiepileptic and anticonvulsant drugs, as well as antidepressants and antipsychotics.

# UK: Russia refocusing on Donbas region

AP ■ LONDON

Britain's Defence Ministry says Russia is continuing to build up both its soldiers and mercenaries in eastern Ukraine. "Russian forces are continuing to consolidate and reorganise as they refocus their offensive into the Donbas region in the east of Ukraine," the ministry said in an intelligence update posted on social media Monday.

It says Russian troops are being moved into the area, along with mercenaries from the Wagner private military group. Overnight, the UK said Russia was still trying to take the southern port city of Mariupol, which has seen weeks of intense fighting.

It said, "The city continues to be subject to intense, indiscriminate strikes, but Ukrainian Forces maintain a staunch resistance, retaining control in central areas."

The update added about Mariupol also.

# Ukraine peace deals: Rounds of parlyes fail to reach a resolution

AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Another round of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine in Turkey has brought little progress towards a ceasefire, let alone a peace agreement. Based on statements by both Moscow and Kyiv, it appears that there is some consensus on the issues that need to be negotiated, but little on what the sides might consider acceptable solutions.

The current Ukrainian position is centred around two main issues: neutrality and territorial integrity. The former will require an amendment to the Ukrainian constitution that changes the current commitment to "the irreversibility of the … Euro-Atlantic course of Ukraine" and instead provides for the country's permanent neutral status.

While the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky, has already committed to a referendum on any agreement with Russia, this will not remove the need for a two-thirds majority in the Ukrainian parliament - the Verkhovna Rada - and a favourable opinion of the constitutional court on whether the amendments are "are oriented toward the liquidation of the independence or violation of the territorial indivisibility of Ukraine". Both of these are required for constitutional amendments. Moreover, no constitutional amendments are allowed "in conditions of martial law or a state of emergency".

On the one hand, the referendum and the super-majority in the Rada will ensure that any approved deal will have the necessary support in Ukraine. On the other it limits the "bargaining space" that Zelensky has in his negotiations.

Neutrality will also require security guarantees. Again, this is something that both Russia and Ukraine agree on. But the two sides differ in how they view this.

# Hong Kong leader Lam won't seek new term after rocky 5 years

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Monday she wouldn't seek a second term after a rocky five years marked by huge protests calling for her resignation, a security crackdown that has quashed dissent and most recently a Covid-19 wave that overwhelmed the health system. Her successor will be picked in May, with the city's hard-line security chief during the 2019 protests seen as a likely choice.

"I will complete my five-year term as chief executive on the 30th of June this year, and I will also call an end to my 42 years of public service," Lam said at a news conference. The 64-year-old career civil servant said she plans to spend more time with her family.

# Senate panel to vote on Jackson nomination to SC

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Democrats are launching a whirlwind of votes and Senate floor action on Monday with the goal of confirming Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black woman on the Supreme Court by the end of the week.

The Senate Judiciary Committee kicks off on Monday morning with a vote on whether to move Jackson's nomination to the Senate floor.

Democrats will then wind the nomination through the 50-50 Senate, with a final vote in sight for President Joe Biden's pick to replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer.

After more than 30 hours of hearings and interrogation from Republicans over her record, Jackson is on the brink of making history as the third Black justice and only the sixth woman in the court's more than 200-year history.

Democrats - and at least one Republican - cite her deep experience in her nine years on the federal bench and the chance for her to become the first former public defender on the court.

The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said Thursday that the high regard for Jackson after a combative four days of hearings is "evidence of the strength that she brings to this nomination and the value that she will bring to the Supreme Court."

The committee could deadlock on Monday's vote, 11-11, meaning Democrats will have to spend additional hours on the Senate floor to "discharge" her nomination from committee.

While it won't delay the process for long, it's another blow for Democrats who had hoped to confirm Jackson with bipartisan support.

A deadlocked vote would be "a truly unfortunate signal of the continued descent into dysfunction of our confirmation process," said Delaware Sen. Chris Coons, a Democrat on the committee.

# China sends in military to help with Shanghai Covid outbreak

AP ■ BEIJING

China has sent more than 10,000 health workers from across the country to Shanghai, including 2,000 military medical staff, as it struggles to stamp out a rapidly spreading Covid-19 outbreak in China's largest city.

The city was conducting a mass testing of its 25 million residents Monday as what was supposed to be a two-phase lockdown entered its second week.

While many factories and financial firms have been able to keep operating by isolating their employees, concern was growing about the potential economic impact of an extended lockdown in China's financial capital and a major shipping and manufacturing centre.

The highly contagious omicron BA.2 form of the virus is testing China's ability to maintain its zero-COVID approach, which aims to stop outbreaks from spreading by isolating everyone who tests positive, whether they have symptoms or not. Shanghai has converted an exhibition hall and other facilities into massive isolation centres where people with mild or no symptoms are housed in a sea of beds separated by temporary partitions. China on Monday reported more than 13,000 new cases nationwide in the previous 24 hours, of which nearly 12,000 were asymptomatic. About 9,000 of the cases were in Shanghai.

The other large outbreak is in northeastern China's Jilin province, where new cases topped 3,500.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

To be known to all that my client, **Uma Shankar Sharma, S/o Bal Ram Sharma, 38/8 Shakti Nagar Opp Last FCI Godown, Shakti Nagar, Malka Ganj Delhi-** 110007. Allottee / Purchaser /Owner of Plot No.67,Pocket-3,Block-C,Sector-11,Rohini,Delhi vide DDA File No. F.19 (528) 87/LAB(R).The original documents i.e. **Demand-Cum-Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, Perpetual Lease Deed,DDA Bank Challans And Other Related DDA Documents** of the above said Plot has been lost. **An F.I.R./NCR/ LR No: 282360/2022 dated 04/04/2022** to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/ contact with above named person at above Address/Phone. 9354055278 within 15days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or **write to Deputy Director LAB® or Director LAB ®, DDA, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Certificate(s) No 21486 for 49 equity shares of 10rs face value each distinctive number 3450762-3450810 in Xpro India Ltd standing in the name of Rajiv Gautam (Deceased) has/have been lost and that an application for the issue of duplicate certificate in respect of has been made to the company to whom any objection should be made within 15 days from the date of announcement to the company or the registrar and share transfer agent MCS Share Transfer agent Ltd of the company at their registered office at 383, Lake Garden, 1st Floor, Kolkata 700045 . The public are cautioned against dealing any way with these shares.

**Name: Charanjit Kumar Sharma**
**Place: Delhi** **Date: 05/04/2022**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby stated that the originals of all the title documents in respect of the following property owned by M/s. Texmaco Infrastructure and Holdings Limited (earlier known as Birla Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills) have been lost / misplaced somewhere and are not traceable:

Khasra numbers: 3 at Village Delhi Gaon, Tehsil and District Delhi and bearing Plot Nos. 12119-12207 P.O. Roshnara Road, Roshnara Extension, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-07, known as 'Roshnara Building, Shakti Nagar or Shivaji Line earlier known as Peeli Building.

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that no person / entity should deal with, use or transact in any manner, on the basis of the title documents, with respect to the above mentioned property, and any person / entity in custody of the title documents of the above mentioned property or having any knowledge thereof is hereby called upon to contact the undersigned.

**Sanjay Pahwa**
**Mobile - 9873747274**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

**E-Tender No.: 01-TRD-NDLS-2022-23** **Dated : 04.04.2022**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name of Work with its location | Replacement of damaged/ missing/faded location number plates with retro-reflective type location number plates over DLI Division |
| 2. | Approx. Cost of work | Rs. 7869165/- |
| 3. | Earnest Money Deposit | Rs. 157400/- |
| 4. | E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period | 12.04.2022 (00.00 Hrs.) to 26.04.2022 (15.00 Hrs) |
| 5. | E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time | 26.04.2022 (15.00 Hrs.) |
| 6. | Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen | **www.ireps.gov.in** |

733/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**
**TENDER NOTICE**

The Sr. Divisional Engineer/Cord, Northern Railway, DRM Office, Delhi Division, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open electronic-tenders for the under noted works:-

| S. No. | Name of Work | Approximate Cost of work | Earnest Money | Completion Period | Date of Opening |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Hiring of GPS trackers for monitoring of track Inspection/ Patrolling over Delhi Division & allied services etc. as per special tender conditions for a period of two years. (Cost is exclusive of GST). | Rs. 7144564.07/- | Rs. 142900/- | 24 Months | 29.04.2022 |

**Note:-1.** The e-tender is to be submit through railway website **'http:ireps.gov.in'**. The tenders can be submit on website Up to **15.00 hrs.** on **29.04.2022** and shall be opened there after.

**No.128-W/Sr.DEN C/NIT No. 1/22-23/WC Dt.04.04.2022** 730/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED**
**CIN : L50102UP1982PLC015532**
Regd. Office : Kashipur Road, Thakurdwara, Distt. Moradabad (U.P)
Corp. Office : M-14, Connaught Circus (Middle Circle), New Delhi-110 001
Tel. No. : 91-11-47627400, Fax No : 91-11-47627497
E-mail : delhi@pasupatiacrylon.com, Website : www.pasupatiacrylon.com

**DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF POSTAL BALLOT**

Pursuant to Section 108, 110 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended from time to time, approval of the shareholders of the Company was sought through Postal Ballot by remote e-voting only on the Special Resolutions as set out in Postal Ballot Notice dated March 3, 2022. The Board of Directors had appointed Mr. Susanta Kumar Hota, Proprietor of M/s. S.K. Hota & Associates, Practicing Company Secretaries as the Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot remote e-voting process. The Scrutinizer has carried out the scrutiny of the electronic votes received upto the last date of receipt i.e. Sunday, April 3, 2022 till 5.00 P.M and submitted his report on April 4, 2022.

Based on the Scrutinizer report dated April 4, 2022, the results of Postal Ballot as declared are as under :

| Item No. | Particulars of Resolutions | Type of Resolution | Results of E-voting | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | No. of Votes Polled | No. of Votes in favour | No. of Votes against | % of Votes in favour | % of Votes against |
| 1. | To Increase in Borrowing limits upto Rs. 350 Crores or aggregate of the paid-up share capital, free reserves and securities premium whichever is higher. | Special Resolution | 36888774 | 36883011 | 5763 | 99.98 | 0.02 |
| 2. | To Create Charges on the movable and immovable properties of the Company, both present and future, in respect of borrowings of the Company. | Special Resolution | 36888774 | 36882811 | 5963 | 99.98 | 0.02 |

Accordingly, the resolutions as set out in the Postal Ballot Notice dated March 3, 2022 are deemed to have been passed by the shareholders with requisite majority on Sunday, April 3, 2022, being the last date specified for receipt of e-voting.

By Order of the Board of Directors of
**PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED**
Sd/-
**BHARAT KAPOOR**
COMPANY SECRETARY
ACS-54267

Date : April 4, 2022
Place : New Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

ICICI Bank

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address | Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced | Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice | NPA Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Jagattaran Das, Piyali Das, House No 2857 Sunny Enclave Sector 125 Mohali Punjab, A/c No. LBZMO00002223145 | Flat No. C-034, 3rd Floor Raheja Revanta Sector 78 Gurgaon Haryana | 07/03/2022 Rs. 1,07,85,821/- | 06/12/ 2021 |

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

**Date : April 05, 2022**
**Place: Gurgaon**

**Authorized Officer**
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

ICICI Bank

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

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| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address | Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced | Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice | NPA Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ritendra Kumar, 110008, Flat No FF- 2 Plot No 212, Sector 4 Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ A/c No:- LBDEL00002520011 | Flat No AM-H-301, 3rd Floor, Tower- H Ajnara Ambrosia, Plot No GH-01, Sector-118, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201301 | 07/03/2022, Rs. 26,21,450.6/- | 06/12/ 2021 |
| 2. | Poonam Sharma, 201014, D- 232, T7, Indrapuram, Ashiyana Vpwan Shipra, Sun City, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ A/c No:-LBGHZ00002672463 | Flat No- 0205, 2nd Floor, Tower- A, Misty Heights, Plot No GH-01, Sector Sports City, Adjoning Tech Zone- IV, Greter Noida Noida Uttar Pradesh 201307 | 07/03/2022, Rs. 23,69,345/- | 06/12/ 2021 |
| 3. | Vikas Kumar,110094, C-1/26/362, Khajuri Khas Delhi- 94, Delhi/ A/c No:- LBNOD00002772053 | Flat No- L- 2502, 25th Floor, Tower- 0L, Ajnara Le Garden, GH-02, Sector-16, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201307 | 07/03/2022, Rs. 20,65,570/- | 31/10/ 2021 |
| 4. | James Butleroo, 110092, Flat No- 40, Savarkar Appartments, Plot No 39, 110092, IP Extension Patpargarh, 110092, IP Extension Patpargarh, Delhi/ A/c No:- LBDEL00005181584 | Flat No- E-1602,16th Floor, Block- E, Star Rameshwaram Tower-E, Noor Nagar Raj Nagar Extn, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201001 | 07/03/2022, Rs. 19,36,844/- | 06/12/ 2021 |
| 5. | Anurag Malik, 126101, H No 105 1st Floor, Sec 3 Ballabhgarh, Faridabad Haryana, Faridabad/ A/c No:- LBFDB00004960893 | Flat No- 803, Village Mujeri, 8th Floor, Aagman- Tower 5, Sector- 70, Faridabad, 121001 | 07/03/2022, Rs. 11,87,600/- | 04/11/ 2021 |
| 6. | Sonia. H No 96A 40 Futt Road School, Block Jain Nagar Karala North West, Block Jain Nagar, Karala North West Delhi, Delhi A/c No:- LBNOD00005037331 | Flat No 1403, 14th Floor, Sun- 1 Migsun Vilaasa, Plot No GH-01B(2), Sector-ETA-2, Greater Noida, Noida 201308 | 07/03/2022, Rs. 11,22,864/- | 06/12/ 2021 |
| 7. | Amit Dhingra, 670, Sector- 37, Faridabad/ A/c No:- LBDEL00000535336 | Flat No. 192, Ground Floor, Front Unit, Ashoka Enclave Extn- 1, Faridabad 121003 | 07/03/2022, Rs. 11,34,679/- | 08/12/ 2021 |
| 8. | Tapan Pani, H No 2176 Mavi Mohalla, Tehkand Village Okhla Industries, Phase 1, South Delhi, Delhi/ A/c No:-LBDEL00002868746 | Flat No- D- 0308, 3rd Floor, Tower D, Village Riwazpur, Ferrous City Studio Apartments Srtuate, Sector-89, Faridabad 121001 | 07/03/2022, Rs. 10,14,010/- | 06/12/ 2021 |
| 9. | Farhat Hashmi, Inbisat Ahmed Alvi, 337- C/10- 610- A, Road No. 6, Jamia Nagar, Batla House, Nr. Jamia College, Delhi/ A/c No:- LBGHZ00000946904 | Flat No. 10/11, Windsor, 2nd Floor, Shipra Sun City, Indirapuram, Ghaaziabad 201010 | 07/03/2022, Rs. 4,14,005/- | 07/12/ 2021 |
| 10. | Vikas Garg, Sunaina Gœl, F 24/ 214 Sector 3, Rohini North West Delhi. A/c No:-LBDEL00004662447 & LBDEL00005156101 | LIG Flat No 232 B First Floor Block QU Pitampura Delhi 110034 | 07/03/2022 Rs. 2794775/- & Rs. 265292.4/- | 06/12/ 2021 |
| 11. | Bhawna Shukla, Mamta Shukla, G 539 Street No 14, Gamma 2 Rampur Majra, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. A/c No:- LBNOD00004932614 & LBNOD00005244584 | Flat No- 12A01, 13th Floor, Migsun Vilaasa, Sun-3, Plot No-GH-1B (2) Sector- Eta-2, Greater Noida- 201310 | 07/03/2022, Rs. 1015874.52/- & Rs.108536/- | 02/12/ 2021 |
| 12. | Kapil Bhatia, 275 A Pocket- C- 08, Keshav Puram Onkar Nagar, Saraswati Vihar North West Delhi, Delhi/ A/c No:- LBDEL00004091666 | DDA LIG, Flat No-C-8/275A, Block -C 8, First Floor, Lawrence Road, Delhi 110035 | 10/02/2022, Rs. 20,91,088/- | 31/01/ 2021 |
| 13. | Ashima Bhatia, House No 22/ 1A, Block 22 SF Double, Storey Moti Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi/ A/c No:- LBDEL00002334912 | Flat No C 8/275 A, 1st Floor Block C8, LIG Flat Lawrance Road, Delhi, 110035 | 10/02/2022, Rs. 19,52,177.8/- | 31/10/ 2020 |
| 14. | Neeraj Gupta, C- 7/ 130, Sector 8, Rohini, Delhi, Delhi/ A/c No:- LBDEL00002030314 | Property No.- 280, Entire Second Floor (Without Roof Rights), Block-C, Prashant Vihar, Delhi | 10/02/2022, Rs. 23,69,505.1/- | 09/11/ 2021 |
| 15. | Vijay Shankar, 209206, 40, Pocket-D, Mayur Vihar- Phase- 2, Delhi/ A/c No:- LBNOD00001272648 | Flat No- 3118, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 8, Gaur Green City, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad | 10/02/2022, Rs. 9,71,807.11/- | 11/05/ 2021 |

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

**Date : April 05, 2022**
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

**Authorized Officer**
**ICICI Bank Limited**

# India's trade deficit up by 88% in FY22: Govt data

## Total exports during last fiscal year rise to record high of $417.81 billion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit rose 87.5 per cent to USD 192.41 billion in 2021-22 as against $102.63 billion in the previous year, the government data showed on Monday. While total exports during last fiscal year increased to a record high of $417.81 billion, imports too soared to $610.22 billion, leaving a trade gap of $192.41 billion.

"India's merchandise import in April 2021-March 2022 was $610.22 billion, an increase of 54.71 per cent over $394.44 billion in April 2020-March 2021 and an increase of 28.55 per cent over $474.71 billion in April 2019-March 2020," said a release by Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The trade deficit in March 2022 was $18.69 billion, while it was $192.41 billion during entire 2021-22. For the first time, India's monthly merchandise exports exceeded $40 billion, reaching $ 40.38 billion in March 2022, an increase of 14.53 per cent over $35.26 billion in the year-ago month, the release said. It was up by 87.89 per cent over $21.49 billion in March 2020.

The ministry said the country's merchandise import last month stood at $59.07 billion, an increase of 20.79 per cent over $48.90 billion in the year-ago period. It was up 87.68 per cent over $31.47 billion in March 2020.

During March 2022, the value of non-petroleum exports stood at $33 billion, registering a growth of 4.28 per cent over $31.65 billion in the same month a year ago. Non-petroleum exports grew by 74 per cent from $18.97 billion in March 2020.

Non-petroleum import stood at $40.66 billion during March 2022, showing a rise of 5.26 per cent over $38.63 billion in the year-ago month. It was up by 89.79 per cent from $21.42 billion in March 2020, showed the data from ministry.

# Report: India job market rebounds, witnesses 18.4% headcount growth across key sectors

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With the country recovering from the third wave of Covid-19 and the economy gradually returning to normalcy, the job market witnessed an 18.4 per cent year-on-year growth in March led by travel and hospitality and energy sectors, according to a report.

Even as the job market has seen recovery, travel and hospitality sector has witnessed a robust recovery at 47.6 per cent growth in payroll headcount in March 2022 as compared to the year-ago period, according to a report by Allsec Technologies.

Travel and hospitality sector was the worst affected due to the pandemic-induced lockdowns over the last two years, the report added.

The report is based on in-house data from Allsec Technologies, a comprehensive Business Process Services (BPS) provider that tracks the employment trends across various sectors. The overall movement from the previous year has been positive, with several industries showing progress in growing headcount, the report noted. However, a comparison with pre-pandemic numbers indicates that travel and hospitality sector has not quite bounced back to pre-pandemic levels as it witnessed a 24.3 per cent de-growth in March 2022 as compared to March 2020, but is certainly on way to recovery, it said.

Energy sector followed with a 41.5 per cent annual increase in headcount this year as compared to March 2021. It has notably surpassed pre-pandemic levels with a 42 per cent growth in March this year as compared to March 2020.

On third spot was IT/ITes industry, which witnessed a 27 per cent uptick and logistics saw a 27.3 per cent growth, it said.

Industries such as finance and food and beverages showed optimistic y-o-y trends with a growth of 16.6 per cent and 12.9 per cent, respectively, it added. While most sectors have recovered, healthcare (-8.3 per cent) and e-commerce (-1.5 per cent) have witnessed a marginal year-on-year drop in March this year. "We have seen an optimistic recovery pattern across industries this month.

# Fin Min: India continues to remain 'highest receiver of FDI'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asserted that India continued to remain "highest receiver of the FDI". Her assertion came after Congress member Shashi Tharoor maintained in Lok Sabha that there has been a decline in investments by foreign investors and sought to know the measures from the government to reverse it.

The Finance Minister also said Indian retail investors have created capacity to absorb the shock due to outflow of foreign funds from country's stock markets. Responding to a question asked by Congress member , she said foreign investments have to be gauged, not just by looking at FIIs and FPIs which by very nature depend on interest rates and they keep on "moving up and down."

"The FIIs and FPIs would come and go. But, today the Indian retail investors have proven that even if they come and go any shock that may come in is now taken care of because of shock absorbing capacity that Indian retailers have brought into Indian market," she said during Question Hour. "We in House should stand up and appreciate Indian retailer who has invested a lot of confidence in markets today in India," she said. Tharoor had said that overseas investors has pulled out over Rs 1.14 lakh crore from Indian market so far and wanted to know what measures government was taking to reverse it. "The FPI and FIIs obvious obviously going to be very typical of their very nature coming and going out. But, what's there to look at with fairness and objectivity is the inflow of the FDIs which is remaining unabated," the finance minister said in her reply.

"India is the highest receiver of FDI since before covid and that continues very much significantly during covid and subsequently also," she said. "It is that which indicates if money, which is coming in, is staying invested in this country, thereby creating jobs and prospects for us, not by FIIs and FPIs," she said.

After Tharoor had put question to Sitharaman and she rose to answer it TMC member Saugata Roy sought to butt in to which finance minister took objection to and drew attention of the speaker. She said TMC member is a senior member and should first hear her out instead of taking small pleasure of interjecting her.

# 'IndAus ECTA will provide more trade opportunities'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) inked last week will provide more trade opportunities for both countries and help in improving living standards, Australian High Commissioner to New Delhi Barry O'Farrell said here on Monday.

He also appreciated India's stand on Ukraine and lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative in talking to Russian President Vladimir Putting and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to end conflict there.

Farrell also said Australia and India have accepted a shared responsibility to ensure a peaceful and inclusive Indo-Pacific where rights of all states are respected regardless of their size. His remarks were in apparent reference to China adopting an aggressive posture in the region.

Speaking to new agency ANI, he said "Prime Minister Modi has spoken thrice to Russian President Putin and twice with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is a good thing because it shows that India wants to try and resolve these issues."

He also said Australia understands India's position. "An Indian Prime Minister 65 years ago outlined a sensible doctrine where he said India was not in business of condemnation but in business of creating conditions in which solutions can be found," Farrell said on India's stand on Ukraine Touching upon IndAus ETCA, he said "it means companies, farmers and technologists in India sell more to Australia and vice versa and that's good for nation.

It helps in living standards, jobs and this also guarantees peace and security in our region."

He also said "Chinese do not own majority of critical minerals in Australia. We're soon to have a visit from Indian Government along with an organisation called KABIL which will be oversighting Indian investment in the critical minerals, rare earths and mines in Australia."

The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) was signed by commerce minister Piyush Goyal and his counterpart Australian trade, tourism and investment minister Dan Tehan in a virtual ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison on Saturday.

Goyal said this trade pact will create one million jobs in next 4-5 years. This is first trade agreement with a developed economy after more than a decade. This agreement will be signalling for other developed countries' agreements such as the UK, Canada and the EU, with whom India is currently negotiating for Free Trade Agreement.

Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India and India is Australia's ninth largest trading partner. India-Australia bilateral trade for both merchandise and services is valued at USD 27.5 billion in 2021. India's merchandise exports to Australia grew 135 per cent between 2019 and 2021.

The envoy also said the invasion of Ukraine will have implications for regional security. "Current events in Europe serve to remind us of profound strategic challenges and disruption world is facing.

The order that has supported peace and prosperity over decades is being challenged," he said. "And there's no doubt implications of the invasion of Ukraine will reverberate in our region for some time," O'Farrell added.

The High Commissioner was speaking at an event organised by Australia India Institute on the topic 'The rise and rise of Australia-India relations'. Referring to maritime cooperation, O'Farrell said India and Australia share Indian Ocean and added, "We are -- by our very design --stewards of one of the world's greatest maritime resources."

# Broadcast Seva Portal launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur on Monday launched the Broadcast Seva Portal in New Delhi, heralding a new chapter in Ease of Doing Business in the Broadcasting sector.

Broadcast Seva Portal is an online portal solution for speedy filing and processing of applications of broadcasters for various kinds of licenses, permissions, registrations, etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Thakur said Government has harnessed technology to bring transparency in the system and make it more accountable. The Broadcast Seva Portal will reduce the turnaround time of applications and at the same time will help applicants track the progress. This portal will reduce the human interface that was required earlier and thus add to the capacity building of the Ministry and will be a major step towards Ease of Doing Business.

Thakur further added that the 360-degree digital solution will facilitate the stakeholders in seeking permissions, applying for registration, tracking applications, calculating fees and executing payments. This portal will provide its services under the wider umbrella efforts of Digital India to all stakeholders, private satellite TV channels, teleport operators, MSOs, community, and private radio channels, etc. "The portal is a giant leap forward in realizing Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance', as this simple and user-friendly web portal provides a broadcaster an end-to-end solution with just a click of a mouse.

It will boost the business environment and empower the entire broadcast sector by directly benefiting more than 900 Satellite TV Channels, 70 Teleport operators, 1700 Multi-service operators, 350 Community Radio Stations (CRS), 380 Private FM Channels and others," the minister said.

Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of I&B said that the new portal has several improvements over the previous version and has incorporated suggestions from stakeholders over a trial period of one month.

# Sebi issues fresh guidelines to curb misuse of clients' Power of Attorney

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To curb possible misuse of Power of Attorney (PoA) given by clients to stock brokers, Sebi on Monday came out with fresh guidelines wherein execution of a new document will be made compulsory for transfer of securities towards deliveries and settlements.

The execution of the document -- Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI) -- will also be applicable for pledging or repledging of securities. The fresh guidelines, which will be effective from July 1, also comes against the backdrop of instances of misuse of PoAs.

Under DDPI, clients can explicitly agree to authorise the stock broker and depository participant to access their beneficiary ownership account for limited purpose of meeting pay-in obligations for settlement of trades executed by them, according to a circular.The use of DDPI will be limited only for two purposes.

# IT Minister calls for dynamic legal structure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday called for a new "dynamic" legal structure which balances the right to privacy and freedom of expression, and demands for regulations and control to meet challenges posed by unscrupulous elements in cyberspace.

Addressing the second national conference on cyber crime investigations and digital forensics organised by the CBI, Vaishnaw said over the years technology has given a lot of productivity, efficiency and convenience but simultaneously it has brought intrusions in the lives of people which can be benign but most of the time it is malignant and aimed to commit a fraudulent act. Such problems can be tackled by legal strategy, technology, organisations, capacity building and mutual cooperation, the minister said. Speaking on legal strategy to counter cyber crimes, the minister said there is a need to overhaul the legal structure in a big way. "I don't think any incremental changes will help. The change has to be substantial, significant, fundamental and structural," he further said.

The whole conflict is between the two constraints -- the first constraint of right to privacy and freedom of expression and second conflicting demand of having more regulation and control -- to "prevent fraudulent activities in the garb of right to privacy and freedom of expression," he said

While one arm of the society says right to privacy and freedom of expression are sacrosanct and no one can be allowed in that sphere, the other section calls for regulations and control and there has to be a balance between two demands that society has to strike, he said.

# Rupee trades in narrow range against US dollar in early session

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee started the financial year 2022-23 on a muted note and inched higher by 3 paise to 75.71 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday amid a firm trend in the domestic equity market.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened lower at 75.77 against American dollar, then touched an early high of 75.71, up 3 paise over its previous close. The local unit also reached 75.79 in initial deals.

# Pact inked between India, Australia for cooperation in disability sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An MoU was signed between Government of India and Government of Australia for cooperation in disability sector on. The areas of cooperation, inter-alia, include disability policy and delivery of services, early identification and intervention for prevention of disabilities, community outreach, education and training, capacity building and promoting investment in disability sector.

University of Melbourne is implementing agency from Australian side as designated by Australian High Commission, New Delhi for implementation of MoU.

An Australian Delegation comprising officials from University of Melbourne, namely, Prof. Michael Wesley Dy. VC, Prof. M. Ashok Kumar, Assistant Dy. VC, Prof. M.O' Briyan, Dean Faculty of Science and Prof. Nathan Grills and Ms Lisa Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Australia-India Institute called on Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Minister, SJ&E at his office today i.e. 4th April, 2022 to discuss progress on implementation of aforesaid MoU and way forward in strengthening cooperation in disability sector. The members of Australian delegation appreciated progress made so far in implementing MoU. Hon'ble Minister, SJ&E appreciated contribution of University of Melbourne and DEPwD in developing a six month course on Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Programme, which has since been rolled out in 16 institutions across country in a pilot basis. Hon'ble Minister suggested that once the National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation becomes fully functional, the University of Melbourne could play a significant role in capacity development of institute through exchange of training programmes.

# Gold saving scheme for small investors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With aim to promote even small savers secure financial providence by investing in always increasing gold as part of inclusive India, Siply has launched a new scheme. Buyers can set the goal of buying gold by saving daily in small amounts and thus covering the stipulated monthly installment at their own pace. "Buying gold in installments has never been this easy or profitable," emphasizes CEO and founder, Sousthav Chakrabarty.


## PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address | Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced | Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice | NPA Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Chand Sharma, L1/1B, L1/1B, Malviya Nagar, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00001493262 | Flat No.480, Block- Gh-2, Sector- 28, Mig Flat, Ivth Floor, Rohini, Delhi, | 23-03-2022 Rs. 3,46,556/- | 09-09-2021 |
| 2. | Naveen Kumar Tyagi, Flat No-201 2nd Floor, Nand Kishore Appt Gulab Nagar, Flat No- 201 2nd Floor, Nand Kishore Appt Gulab Nagar, Gujarat, Jamnagar A/c No:- LBDEL00002361230 | Flat No. 1706 17th Floor, Plot No. Gh 11 Gayatri Aura, Tower A Sector 1, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 32,61,679/- | 30-12-2021 |
| 3. | Narender Lal, Y 221 A Sector 12, Noida Dadri Gautam Buddha Nagar, Y 221 A Sector 12, Noida Dadri Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida A/c No:- LBDEL00002449539 | Flat No. 221 A, Block Y, Sec 12, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 5,65,542/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 4. | Rashmita Kumari, C 3/8 C Block, Mandawali Unchepar, C 3/8 C Block, Mandawali Unchepar, Delhi A/c No:-LBDEL00004041544 | Flat No 803, 8th Floor Samridhi Grand Avenue, Tower A Plot No Gh-09, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 10,29,268/- | 13-12-2021 |
| 5. | Rashmita Kumari, C 3/8 C Block, Mandawali Unchepar, C 3/8 C Block, Mandawali Unchepar, Delhi A/c No: LBDEL00004149831 | Flat No. 803, 8th Floor, Samridhi Grand Avenue, Tower A, Plot No- GH-09, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 61,886/- | 13-12-2021 |
| 6. | Vikas Garg, F 24/ 214 Sector 3, Rohini North West Delhi, F 24/ 214 Sector 3, Rohini North West Delhi, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00004662447 | House No- F24/214, Sector 3, Rohini, Pin Code, Delhi, | 07/03/2022 Rs. 27,94,775/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 7. | Vikas Garg, F 24/ 214 Sector 3, Rohini North West Delhi, F 24/ 214 Sector 3, Rohini North West Delhi, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00005156101 | House No-F24/214, Sector 3, Rohini, Pin Code, Delhi, | 07/03/2022 Rs. 2,65,292/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 8. | Praveen Sharma, M 255 Ground Floor, M 255 Ground Floor, Pratap Vihar, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad A/c No:-LBGHZ00002913111 | Flat No. 939, 9th Floor Tower Saraswati Mahagun, Mantra-II Plot No Gh-01 A, Sector-10 Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 2580381/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 9. | Praveen Sharma, M 255 Ground Floor, M 255 Ground Floor, Pratap Vihar, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad A/c No:-LBGHZ00002946618 | Flat No- 939, 9th Floor Tower Saraswati Mahagun, Mantra - 22 Plot No. Gh 01 A Sec-10, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 13,701/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 10. | Arun Kumar, D-15 Kkms Awas, Samiti Kausambi, D-15 Kkms Awas, Samiti Kausambi, Kausambi 201010, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad A/c No:-LBGHZ00005077172 | Flat No- C 8/ 1905, 18th Floor, Plot No 4/ B S 01 And B S 05, Siddarth Vihar, Nh- 24, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 17,74,882/- | 09-12-2021 |
| 11. | Narender Lal, Flat No- P3/614, Ashiana Palm Court, Flat No- P3/614, Ashiana Palm Court, Ashiana Palm Court, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad A/c No:- LBGHZ00005142447 | Flat No- 221 A, Ground Floor, Block Y, Sector 12 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 4,20,261/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 12. | Narender Lal, Flat No- P3/614, Ashiana Palm Court, Flat No- P3/614, Ashiana Palm Court, Ashiana Palm Court, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad A/c No:-LBGHZ00005142447 | Flat No-221A, Ground Floor, Block Y, Sector 12 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 4,20,261/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 13. | Seema Rani, Sec-9 A Khushbu Apt 1101 II- Nd Floor, Plot-4 Gurgaon, Sec-9 A Khushbu Apt 1101 II-nd Floor, Plot-4 Gurgaon, Haryana, 122001, Haryana, Gurgaon A/c No:- LBGUR00003203238 | Flat No- 501, 5th Floor, Tower-1, Block A, Khusboo, Enclave, Sec 94, Gurgaon, Haryana | 23-03-2022 Rs. 23,60,653/- | 04-11-2021 |
| 14. | Anand Bakshi, 102 Adarsh Apartment Near Double Tree Hilton Hotel, Sector- 55 Gaurgaon, 102 Adarsh Apartment Near Double Tree Hilton Hotel, Sector-55 Gaurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon A/c No:- LBGUR00003928956 | Flat No. 17217, Floor No. 17 Coral Wood Plot No. Gh-04 Mahagun Mywoods Phase-III, Tower- Coral Wood Sector 16, Greater Noida (West), Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 32,33,095/- | 01-12-2021 |
| 15. | Kumar Samar, F- 262 1st Floor, Shalimar Residency, F- 262 1st Floor, Shalimar Residency, Sushant Lok, Gurgaon Haryana, 122001, Haryana, Gurgaon A/c No:-LBGUR00004006390 | Plot No 262, Block F First Floor, Sector 57 Sushant Lok, Phase 2, Gurgaon, Haryana | 23-03-2022 Rs. 40,79,665/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 16. | Kumar Samar, F 262 First Floor, Sec 57, F 262 First Floor, Sec 57, Sushant Lok Ph 2, Gurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon A/c No:- LBGUR00004132118 | Unit No 101 A, 1st Floor Iries, Tech Park, Sohna Road, Gurgaon, Haryana | 23-03-2022 Rs. 72,68,906/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 17. | Renu Rohtagi, 1132/ E Near Alka Public School, 1132/ E Near Alka Public School, Hari Om Gali Babarpur, Delhi A/c No:- LBNOD00001827790 | Flat No- 849, 8th Floor, F-Block, 5th Avenue, Plot No-GC-5, Plot No. Gh-01, Gaur City, Sector-4, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 12,29,238/- | 09-12-2021 |
| 18. | Milap Bansal, 41 Lamba Galyara An Danakaur Gautam Budh Nagar, 41 Lamba Galyara An Danakaur Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Noida A/c No:-LBNOD00003055663 | Unit No C- 417, Paramount Golf Forest, Surajpur, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 34,68,697/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 19. | Milap Bansal, 41 Lamba Galyara an Danakaur Gautam Budh Nagar, 41 Lamba Galyara An Danakaur Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Noida A/c No:-LBNOD00003055663 | Unit No C-417, Paramount Golf Forest, Surajpur, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 34,68,697/- | 06-12-2021 |
| 20. | Abhijeet Rana, Flat No. C 4 2nd Floor, Flat No. C 4 2nd Floor, Reena JM Arora Sector-73 Saffabad, Uttar Pradesh, Noida A/c No:-LBNOD00003132335 | Flat No-1105, 11th Floor Tower E Elegant Ville, Plot No Gh-06 B Sector- Techzone- IV, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 23,03,025/- | 10-12-2021 |
| 21. | Bhawna Shukla, G 539 Street No. 14 Gamma 2 Rampur Majra, Greater Noida, G 539 Street No. 14 Gamma 2 Rampur Majra, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida A/c No:- LBNOD00005244584 | Flat No 12 A 01 13th Floor Migsun Vilaasa Sun 3, Plot No-gh1 B (2), Sector Eta 2, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 07/03/2022 Rs. 1,08,536/- | 02-12-2021 |
| 22. | Alok Mishra, 32 Gajariya, Pratap Garh, 32 Gajariya, Pratap Garh, 229406, Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Pratapgarh A/c No:- LBNOD00005315336 | Flat No 505, Second Floor, Sector Mu II, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 23-03-2022 Rs. 14,63,818/- | 06-12-2021 |

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

**Date : April 05, 2022**
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

**Authorized Officer**
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**Major**Concern

The prevalence of Autoimmune Diseases has increased many folds over the past decades. They are more common in females with a female-to-male ratio ranging from 10:1 to 1:1, says Dr Uma Kumar, Prof & Head of Department, Rheumatology

**DOC**YARD

DR TUSHAR GROVER

Medical Director

VISION EYE CENTRE, NEW DELHI

# Not just a night problem

While night blindness or nyctalopia is a condition that sounds like a vision problem in the night, the truth is that it can impact eyesight even during the day. In fact, even in the daytime, when one is in a poorly-lit indoor space or where there is dim light, one can experience this problem in the eye. In effect, night blindness involves poor adjustment of the eye in transitioning from well-illuminated surroundings to an improperly or dimly-lit place.

### A SYMPTOM, NOT A CONDITION

More specifically, it is not a condition in and of itself but instead a symptom of an underlying eye condition that one may have. And the symptom is not being able to see clearly and comfortably in the dark. And it takes unusually long to see clearly after moving from a lighted area to a less-lighted one. Also, when one is having problems driving at night, it indicates the possibility of night blindness. Or when one is facing difficulty in recognising faces in dim light. Some of the other symptoms may include cloudy vision, problems in seeing far away objects, reduced contrast sensitivity, headaches, eye pain, nausea and vomiting.

What happens to the eye in dimly-lit space?

Typically, light travels through the cornea, the anterior chamber of the eye, the pupil, the lens and posterior chamber before striking the retina. When people with night blindness enter a low light area, the rod cells in the retina – which serve as photoreceptors and are responsible for converting light rays into electrical signals creating what the brain interprets as images – because of some anomaly don't function properly. As a result, the person has problems seeing in the less-lighted area.

### CAUSES

Night blindness can be attributed to a wide range of eye conditions. These can be as follows: myopia, cataracts, vitamin A deficiency, glaucoma, Retinitis Pigmentosa, diabetes and usher syndrome. While in myopia, one has difficulty in seeing far into the distance, it is the clouding of the lens which leads to cataract. Due to vitamin A deficiency, there is a lack of pigments needed for photoreceptor cells to function properly. Then whereas glaucoma is caused by abnormal pressure in the eye damaging the optic nerve, Retinitis Pigmentosa entails retinal damage due to genetic defects. And diabetes can lead to diabetic retinopathy and the consequent damage to blood vessels resulting in poor vision in dim light and at night. Usher syndrome is a genetic disorder characterised by hearing loss as well as Retinitis Pigmentosa.

### SOME ARE TREATABLE, SOME AREN'T

Of course treatment would depend on the condition which is causing night blindness. So, myopia can be addressed through simple prescription glasses and cataracts can be treated with artificial lens or surgery. For vitamin A deficiency, food rich in this nutrient apart from supplements can take care of night blindness. Glaucoma is treated with eye drops, medications and in certain cases, may require surgery as well. In Retinitis Pigmentosa, low vision aids, UV sunglasses and gene and stem cell therapies are modes of treatment. Diabetes requires good control of blood sugar levels, and if a person's condition advances to diabetic retinopathy, injections and medications, laser surgery and vitrectomy are different ways of treatment.

Of these, the genetic conditions are nearly untreatable and therefore those having night blindness due to genetic diseases may have to live with it. However, there are eye devices and therapies that may help. Even individuals with untreatable conditions can benefit significantly from low vision aids, which help improve their quality of life immensely using special devices and gadgets.

### PREVENTION

First of all, one should consume food items rich in vitamin A. These could be carrots, broccoli, spinach, strawberry, milk, eggs and foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids such as mackerel and salmon. Maintain a healthy exercise and fitness regime which would keep both eye pressure and blood glucose levels in control. Look out for and manage chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.

Lastly, one should get examined regularly by an eye doctor. At the slightest hint of having symptoms of night blindness, one should get a check-up done and make lifestyle adjustments in response to those symptoms. For example, one should avoid driving at night in case of certain conditions with severe night vision impairment.

In sum, if one has night blindness, one should remember that even in the daytime, one would have difficulty in seeing clearly in less lighted areas. So, it is not only a problem at night.

## SUMMERCOOLER

**BELL PEPPERS:** Water and carbohydrates make up the majority of bell peppers. Sugars like glucose and fructose make up the majority of the carbohydrates. Bell peppers are a good source of fibre as well. They're strong in vitamin C. Vitamin K1, vitamin E, vitamin A, folate, and potassium are among the other vitamins and minerals found in bell peppers. Capsanthin, violaxanthin, lutein, quercetin, and luteolin are all antioxidants found in them. Many health advantages have been linked to these plant compounds. Bell peppers, like other fruits and vegetables, may provide a variety of health advantages. Improved eye health and a lower risk of anaemia are two of them.

# Choose your diet wisely

## Diabetes has become more prevalent in the past few years, with most people adopting a sedentary lifestyle and a diet that is high in processed food, says DR SURENDRA K CHIKARA

India is home to 77 million diabetics, making our country the nation with the world's second largest population of diabetics. Diabetes has become more prevalent in the past few years, with most people adopting a sedentary lifestyle and a diet that is high in processed food. We might wonder what food has to do with high blood sugar levels.

Scientific studies have proved that our food choices have a lot to do with our weight, blood sugar, immune system and our metabolism. We have 100 trillion microbes in our gut, most of which are in the colon. It is the good bacteria in your gut that helps us to digest food, boosts our immune system and even helps the body to make certain vitamins.

Collectively, the microbes in our gut are known as the gut microbiome and have a significant impact on most major organ systems in the body including our liver, kidneys, heart and our brain. What happens in the gut does not stay in the gut, but affects both our physical and emotional health.

The number and diversity of our gut microbiome is an index of our overall health. Healthier people generally have a richer and more diverse gut microbiome. The gut microbiome is affected by several factors like the food you eat, the environment around you and your history of taking antibiotics.

In the event that you have a diagnosis of diabetes, it is possible to keep your blood sugar levels under control by paying proper attention to gut health. When your gut microbiome is in a healthy state, metabolism is more efficient and there are less chances of blood sugar levels spiking.

**Dr Surendra K Chikara**
Founder & CEO, Bione

**Our food choices have a lot to do with our weight, blood sugar, immune system and our metabolism. We have 100 trillion microbes in our gut, most of which are in the colon. It is the good bacteria in your gut that helps us to digest food, boosts our immune system and even helps the body to make certain vitamins**

### IMPROVE YOUR GUT HEALTH

**Switch to a more plant based diet:**

It would be good to switch to a diet that is more plant based. Plants are a good source of fibre, which serves as food for the good bacteria in the gut. FIber slows the digestion of carbohydrates and the absorption of sugar leading to more gradual spikes in blood sugar after a meal.

There is one particular kind of fibre called fermentable fibre that helps to reduce harmful bacteria as well as boost the growth of good bacteria. Foods like oats, yams, beans and cashews are good sources of fermentable fibre.

**Shift from saturated fats to unsaturated fats:**

Replacing foods high in saturated fats like milk, butter and meat with unsaturated fats can reduce insulin resistance. Intake of saturated fat can promote the absorption of a compound called endotoxin from the gut.

When released into the bloodstream, endotoxin triggers inflammation which can cause damage to insulin receptors, thus leading to higher insulin resistance. This can aggravate type 2 diabetes. Some good sources of unsaturated fat are nuts, olives, seeds and tahini.

**Get more exercise:**

A 2011 review of 11 studies found that when compared to sedentary people, professional athletes had lower levels of certain gut endotoxins and more diverse microbiota. The exact reason is not known, but it could be that exercise reduces inflammation. Researchers have found that moderate exercise for at least three hours a week is linked to greater numbers of healthy gut bacteria.

**Manage Stress Effectively:**

The gut-brain connection is very strong. In fact, the gut is known as the "second brain". Stress can trigger the release of certain hormones like cortisol. Studies carried out in animals have confirmed that lower levels of stress hormones are linked to a healthier microbiome. It is not quite clear whether having a healthier microbiome leads to less stress or if it is the other way around. It definitely cannot hurt to use techniques like deep breathing, meditation or yoga to cope with stress. This will ensure that your metabolism is as efficient as possible.

**Stay away from processed foods:**

Processed foods are generally high in added sugar, carbohydrates, refined grains and also contain artificial colours and flavours. It would be better to focus on whole foods like beans, nuts, seeds, wholegrains, vegetables and fruits. Processed foods are also low in fibre and protein which can help stabilise blood sugar levels.

# Ayushman Bharat: Model for the world

We believe mothers are the foundation for a healthier society and babies are the key to unlocking a healthier future for us all, says KRISTA DONALDSON

World-class medical technology manufacturer Equalize Health's CEO Krista Donaldson has appreciated the Modi Government's Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme for countrymen and says that it is a model for the rest of the world. "It's an iconic programme," Donaldson said while applauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the scheme as well saluting the largest pandemic related vaccination drive of India.

Donaldson's international firm works to bridge the biggest health equity gaps for mothers and newborns living in the world's toughest situations.

"While India has made rapid strides in healthcare, and recent data suggests overall maternal mortality ratio improving to 103 in 2017-19 from 113 in 2016-18, there are wide disparities. The Ayushman Bharat programme through its Health & Wellness Centers and comprehensive range of services, coupled with other programmes, offer a lot of hope," Krista says in an exclusive interview with The Pioneer.

Equalize Health believes in a world where we all have access to world-class medical treatment, no matter where we live. "We believe mothers are the foundation for a healthier society and babies are the key to unlocking a healthier future for us all," she adds, highlighting the range of cost effective devices the company has been working on, especially with focus on maternal and newborn healthcare.

"India is the company's biggest impact market, and the focus is going to grow in the days and years ahead. We are happier to see when our machines get installed in Nagaland and Manipur than when they are in New Delhi and Mumbai," Donaldson says.

She leads the design and scaling of disruptive medical devices to address global health inequities, with special focus on remote geographies. To date, over 1.4M patients – mostly children and young people have been treated by one of Equalize Health's products in 79 countries.

Among others, Equalize Health has been working on newborn jaundice. "We have extensively travelled across hundreds of hospitals in India, including in many remote locations, and we are happy to share that our phototherapy devices for treating newborn jaundice are sold in almost all states," Donaldson says.

What makes Equalize Health's devices especially suited to Indian conditions is its extensive focus on user research. "We are hugely focussed on user research from across diverse and remote locations, and this gives us the ability to customise our products better," said Krishnakumar Sankaranarayanan, India Managing Director, Equalize Health.

"We are also encouraged by positive policy prescriptions from the Niti Aayog under Dr Vinod Paul that encourage medical technology innovations in India and programmes such as the Make in India. We are working on scaling up manufacturing in India," he adds.

# HEALTHCARE MADE EASY

## Seva at Home is a remote healthcare service provider offering quality care to people who live far away from home. SUPRIYA RAMESH speaks with ATUL GANDHI to know more

◆ **What is Seva At Home about?**

Founded in 2019, the award-winning Seva At Home (SAH) is India's leading health and wellness concierge. This technology-enabled platform offers comprehensive healthcare services to individuals, corporates as well as to non-profits. Our mission is to be the trusted health & wellness advisor for every family.

While technology is the backbone of our services, Seva At Home is about making affordable, quality, and compassionate healthcare accessible to more and more people.

◆ **What are the services you provide?**

We offer healthcare at home, 24x7 tele consultations with doctors and empanelled specialists, post-hospitalisation and chronic care, elder care, convalescent care, palliative care, ambulance services, corporate medical rooms, full-body health checkups, speciality-specific rehabilitation programs, nutrition guidance and mental health support.

◆ **What is Seva PRO?**

Building on the early success of its direct to customer business proposition, in January 2021 Seva PRO was launched. PRO, which stands for People/Patient Related Outcomes, is SAH's B2B vertical focused on the well-being of employees at corporates and institutions who subscribe to the robust portfolio of wellness, health and medicare services. This can range from stationing a doctor in the office and home healthcare, to webinars, health check-ups, and COVID-19 assistance.

◆ **According to you, how has the healthcare sector evolved over the years?**

We've seen myriad changes across various fronts. People are more willing to engage with digital modes of healthcare, such as telehealth and digital records. This is, of course, a direct consequence of the pandemic, but people are recognizing the ease of virtual appointments and the convenience that comes with it. We're seeing many other start-ups, and even the government, enter this digital health space. There is also a collaborative spirit in the sector, between start-ups, government entities, and so forth. This is helping ease the burden on the industry, and fostering innovation.

◆ **Where do you see SAH in the next five years?**

By 2027, we expect to touch the 1 million customers landmark with our range of affordable health services. We are focusing on strengthening our technology and believe that digitalisation of health services will play a pivotal role in taking quality healthcare to the masses.

In parallel, we will continue to expand our reach by increasing our presence to 100+ cities by the end of 2023 and enhancing our regional language capabilities. Currently, our healthcare services are available in 9 languages. We are targeting to increase that to 15 languages by 2023.

◆ **How is SAH different from other similar service providers?**

At Seva At Home, our commitment to safety is unparalleled. Every family has to trust the care that we are providing, they need to know that the caretakers who are coming to their homes have been verified. We understand this, and have enlisted an independent agency to carry out all verifications. Our criteria for care providers is stringent, and we look for those who know how to carry out every element of the job, and are also compassionate. Healthcare is not a transaction, and the Seva At Home team goes above and beyond to make sure that each patient and customer has a quality experience.

All our staff is trained and not just query solving but to do so with a "seva bhav", understanding the pain points of the customers.

We have also leveraged technology to enhance all points of the customer's journey, and being able to personalise guidance for each customer taking into the view their past medical history.

◆ **How do you promise to stick to your offerings?**

Through regular training, building strong operational processes, as well as monthly check-ins on our customers by senior management. Every month, one person from the management team calls customers at random to get their feedback on their experience. This, along with quarterly research on why we lost certain customers, helps us better understand the problems our customers are facing so we can improve our processes and services.

Atul Gandhi is Founder and CEO, Seva At Home

## INBRIEF

### Rare cancer surgery gives a new lease of life

One of the rarely performed cancer surgeries - Appleby's procedure - saved the life of a 54-year-old school teacher from Noida.

She was diagnosed with a large tumour in the pancreatic body that had extended to nearby major blood vessels. Due to the complexity of the tumour position that engulfed several arteries and veins in the abdominal cavity, the challenging procedure took over seven hours. This feat was successfully achieved by a team of GI and HPB oncosurgeon led by Dr Vivek Mangla, at Max Institute of Cancer Care, Vaishali.

The doctor blamed the wrong body posture behind the substantial increase in the multiple skeletal issues in the kids.

"The procedure itself is quite challenging, and to add to the complexity, the case needed a segment of the portal vein be removed with the tumour and the blood flow restored by means of joining the two ends of the veins together.

Though challenging, this procedure was the patient's only chance at having the tumour removed.

The tumour could be completely removed successfully in a surgery lasting around seven hours performed by a team of doctors comprising surgeons, anesthesiologists, and radiologists," says Dr Mangla.

# Pedri masterclass sees off Sevilla

AP ■ BARCELONA

A wonder-goal from Pedri proved the difference for Barcelona on Sunday as a 1-0 win over Sevilla sent Xavi Hernandez's side up to second in La Liga for the first time this season.

Barca missed a string of chances against a dogged Sevilla at Camp Nou before the 19-year-old Pedri settled the contest with a moment of magic, dancing his way into space on the edge of the area before firing into the corner.

Victory continues Barcelona's recent surge as they backed up their 4-0 thrashing of Real Madrid before the international break with a convincing win against the team who have been Madrid's chief title challengers all season.

Madrid edged past Celta Vigo on Saturday to calm suggestions their Clasico nightmare could even prompt a late collapse and let Barca back into the race.

A 12-point advantage means that is surely impossible now but Barcelona are in the driving seat to finish second, which would be a remarkable achievement for a team that only a few months ago had serious concerns about missing out on the top four. When Xavi took over in November, they lay ninth.

The last time the Catalans were second in La Liga after a complete round of fixtures was May 10 last year, three matches before the end of last season.

Ousmane Dembele delivered another excellent to display to enhance the growing the sense that the Frenchman might yet stay in the summer, even if the club remain pessimistic.

Pedri, though, was the star of the show, a stunning performance in midfield rounded off with a masterful goal that will only further the reputation of one of the world's most exciting young talents.

Sevilla, meanwhile, continue to fizzle, have drawn seven out of their previous nine games before this defeat made it two wins from 10.

Add the surprise exit in the Europa League at the hands of West Ham and Julen Lopetegui's side are in danger of enduring a miserable end to what looked a promising season.

# 5 STAR PERFORMANCE

## Mbappe nets brace & creates three more to help Paris Saint-Germain thrash Lorient 5-1

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe said he has still yet to make a decision on his future at Paris Saint-Germain after scoring twice in a sensational display in Sunday's 5-1 demolition of Lorient in Ligue 1.

The France star was in unstoppable form, creating two goals for Neymar and another for Lionel Messi as the trio all scored in the same match for PSG for the first time.

However the post-match focus again quickly shifted to where Mbappe will be playing next season, with his PSG contract expiring in July.

"I haven't made my choice. I haven't taken my decision, I'm thinking it over, there are new elements and there are loads of factors," Mbappe told Prime Video.

"I don't want to be wrong," he added. "I know it's getting a bit late for people, we talk about it every day.

"If I'd taken my decision, I would say it. I don't have to explain myself to anyone, it's a personal choice. If I'd made my decision I would come and announce it and stand by it."

After three defeats in four games before the international break and a traumatic Champions League exit, PSG began the end-of-season run-in with a crushing win at the Parc des Princes.

They lead Marseille by 12 points and need just 13 more from their final eight games to be assured of a record-equalling 10th French title.

Messi and Mbappe combined to set up Neymar for the opening goal on 12 minutes as the Brazilian struck for just the sixth time in another injury-plagued campaign.

Mbappe then doubled the advantage with a neat finish inside the near post, but Terem Moffi gave Lorient hope early in the second half after punishing a defensive mix-up.

The Nigerian beat an uncertain Marquinhos to a loose pass from Achraf Hakimi, poking beyond Gianluigi Donnarumma.

With Lorient threatening to get back into the game, Mbappe restored PSG's two-goal cushion by drilling home from 20 metres to take his league goals tally to 17, one behind Monaco's Wissam Ben Yedder.

Mbappe teed up Messi to crash in a fourth via the underside of the crossbar on 73 minutes, moments after Sergio Ramos came on for a first appearance since January 23.

Neymar and Messi were both whistled by supporters in PSG's last home game. This time it was Ramos who was jeered following a nightmare first season in Paris blighted by a calf problem.

Mbappe nearly capped a sensational performance with a hat-trick, his shot grazing the post after a scorching burst into the box.

He instead turned provider in the final minute, exchanging passes with Neymar to send the Brazilian racing through to complete a 14th win in 15 home games for Mauricio Pochettino's side.

# Gimenez to miss Atletico's trip to Manchester City

AP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid defender Jose Gimenez will miss the Champions League quarter-final first leg against Manchester City on Tuesday due to injury, the club have confirmed.

Gimenez was forced off in the second half of Atletico's La Liga victory over Alaves on Saturday and has not travelled with the squad to Manchester.

"Jose Maria Gimenez is not part of the red-and-white expedition to Manchester," an Atletico statement read.

"The Uruguayan defender went off in the final minutes of the match against Deportivo Alaves due to some discomfort."

Gimenez's absence is a major blow for Atletico, who face Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday before the return leg at the Wanda Metropolitano the following week.

# INTER SNEAK PAST JUVE

AP ■ MILAN

Inter Milan kept their title defence alive with a 1-0 win at Juventus thanks to a controversial retaken penalty which moved them three points behind leaders AC Milan and Napoli, 3-1 winners at Atalanta.

The champions came away from the Allianz Stadium in Turin with a narrow win in a bad-tempered match decided by Hakan Calhanoglu's spot-kick which was scored at the second attempt five minutes into first-half stoppage time.

Inter stay third and extend to four points the gap between themselves and third-placed Juve, who could find themselves 10 points off the pace with seven games remaining should Milan beat Bologna on Monday after their unbeaten league run ended at 16 matches.

A match which started after an Italian and Ukrainian singer belted out a rendition of John Lennon's 'Imagine' to promote peace in Ukraine turned ugly almost immediately after kick-off, with rough tackles and niggly play which was dominated by the wasteful home side.

Events turned on the final few minutes of the opening period, with bedlam breaking out after Inter were awarded their spot-kick for Alvaro Morata treading on Denzel Dumfries' foot.

Calhanoglu's weak first effort was saved by Wojciech Szczesny and from there chaos ensued, with Inter's players wheeling away in celebration after the ball was clumsily bundled in by Juve's defenders.

However a VAR check showed that Matthijs de Ligt, who stopped Calhanoglu from scoring on the rebound, had encroached in the area before the Turk missed his penalty, allowing him a second chance to slam home the opener which was taken with gusto.

That goal was enough for Inter to snatch a win from their fiercest rivals who went closest through substitute Denis Zakaria's 72nd-minute shot which was tipped onto the post by Samir Handanovic.

Napoli prevailed in Bergamo thanks to Lorenzo Insigne's early penalty, a sweet Matteo Politano volley eight minutes before half-time and a stunning late breakaway finished by Eljif Elmas just as Atalanta were pushing for a leveller after Marten De Roon pulled one back in the 59th minute.

Napoli were given a huge helping hand by captain Insigne, who was heavily criticised after Italy failed to reach a second World Cup in a row but opened the scoring and also laid on Politano's strike with a delicate free-kick.

Defeat for Atalanta continued their dismal home record this season and leaves the one-time title hopefuls in seventh, eight points behind fourth-placed Juve and with little realistic chance of a place in the Champions League.

# Men's trap team wins Bronze to open India's account at Shotgun WC

PTI ■ LIMA

India opened their account at the ISSF World Cup for shotgun as the trio of Kynan Chenai, Manavaditya Singh Rathore and Shapath Bharadwaj won the Bronze medal in men's trap team event after beating Brazil via a shoot-off here.

In the Bronze-medal match, both teams were tied at 5-5 after five series of five shots each, before India clinched third place in the first shoot-off shot which Brazil missed.

The trio had finished fourth out of 11 teams in qualification, with a combined score of 205 out of 225. The effort set up the Brazil match-up, who had finished third in qualification with a score of 207.

However, India turned the tables on them in the medal match. USA beat Spain, also via a shoot-off to clinch Gold.

Veteran Shagun Chowdhary in the women's trap also had a good outing as she narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing fourth. Shagun shot 111 in the qualifiers to make it to the second semi-final in sixth place. She then made it to the Gold medal match, topping the second semi-final with a stunning 24 hits out of 25.

In the medal match where the top two of the two semi-finals fought it out, Shagun hit only nine 'birds' out of the first 15 hits to be eliminated first in fourth place. Italy won Gold and Bronze in the event while the USA won Silver.

In the trap mixed team event, Kynan Chenai and Rajeshwari Kumari also made it past the qualification stage of 10 teams, finishing fifth with a score of 132 out of 150. They made it to the Bronze medal match, eventually going down to Spain by a margin of 2-6, to miss out on a podium finish.

The tournament concludes on Wednesday, when the skeet mixed team medals are going to be decided.

# Alcaraz beats Ruud to win Miami Open crown

AP ■ MIAMI

Carlos Alcaraz became the youngest ever Miami Open champion on Sunday after the 18-year-old Spaniard defeated Norway's Casper Ruud to win his first ATP Masters title.

Alcaraz, who turns 19 next month, showed just why many believe he is currently the hottest young prospect in men's tennis with a 7-5, 6-4 victory.

Only two men have won titles at this level at a younger age — Michael Chang, who was 18 years and five months old when he won Toronto in 1990, and Rafael Nadal, 18 years and 10 months when he claimed the Monte Carlo crown in 2005.

Alcaraz dropped just one set on the way to his Miami crown and now will head off to compete on his preferred surface of clay buoyed by the biggest win of his career.

Much is expected of Alcaraz whose passionate, all-energy displays in the latter stages of the Miami Open energised the Florida crowd.

It was the more understated Norwegian, 23, however, who made the better start by breaking early and keeping the pressure firmly on his precocious opponent.

# Sindhu, Sen to lead Indian challenge in Korea Open

PTI ■ SUNCHEON

India's latest badminton sensation Lakshya Sen and double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu will lead the Indian campaign at the Korea Open Super 500 tournament starting here on Tuesday.

With back-to-back finals at German Open and All England Championships, Sen is in the form of his life and will look to be third time lucky as he opens his campaign against world number 25 Lu Guang Zu of China. It will not, however, be an easy outing for Sen as the men's singles draw boasts of some tough competitors such as the Indonesian duo of Anthony Ginting (top seed) and Jonatan Christie (third seed), world champion and fourth seed Loh Kean Yew, second seeded Malaysian Lee Zii Jia and the formidable Thai Kunlavut Vitidsarn, seeded eighth. Sindhu, on the other hand, claimed two Super 300 titles this season at Syed Modi International and Swiss Open and the third seeded Indian will look to continue her fine run when she begins against USA's Lauren Lam. Aya Ohori is likely to be her next opponent, while two wins will put her face-to- face with either left-handed Supanida Katethong or Busanan Ongbamrungphan -- both from Thailand. London Olympics Bronze medallist Saina Nehwal has looked a pale shadow of her usual self in the past one year and a half and the Indian will be hoping to put up a better show when she begins against Japan's Asuka Takahashi.

Among all the Indian shuttlers, if there is one who has shown tremendous grit in the face of adversity is HS Prannoy, who battled against multiple health issues to make his first final in three years at Swiss Open.

# ITF has preponed Davis Cup tie in Sept to avoid clash with Asiad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will be able to field its 'A' team at both Davis Cup and the Asian Games with the ITF preponing the team tournament and ATF pushing back the tennis events at the regional multi-sport showpiece by eight days to avoid a clash in dates.

The Indian Davis Cup team was recently drawn to meet Norway in an away contest, which was to be held either on September 16-17 or 17-18.

The tennis events at the Asian Games were scheduled to be held from September 10-14, which meant that India could play only one event with its 'A' team since reaching Hangzhou in China from Davis Cup venue Norway was not practically possible.

However, the All India Tennis Association (AITA) and the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) managed to convince the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to revise the dates.

The Davis Cup tie between India and Norway and that of nine other Asian nations will now be held on September 14-15 while the ATF itself rescheduled the tennis event at the Asian Games to September 18-24.

"The ATF has communicated to AITA that ITF has revised the dates of Davis Cup ties, involving 10 Asian Nations in World Group I and II, so that it does not clash with the tennis events at the Asian Games," AITA Secretary General Anil Dhupar said.

"India's Davis Cup tie will now be played on September 14-15.

"ATF has also pushed back dates of tennis event at Asian Games to avoid clash," Dhupar added.

It has been learnt that ITF President David Haggerty himself wrote to AITA President Anil Jain, conveying the ITF's decision to revise the dates. AITA wanted the tie to be postponed to November 2022 but that proposal was rejected even as it agreed to revise the dates.

According to AITA sources, efforts are still on to convince ITF to allow all 10 Asian nations in World Group I and II, where home-and-away tie format is followed, to host the ties.

"It will be challenging for the Asian nations to travel to far off European countries for Davis Cup and then spend two days to reach China. Like for India, even if we take flight on the night September 15, we will not reach China before September 17 and competition starts from September 18. That's tough on players," said India Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali.

India's top player Yuki Bhambri felt that preparations for Asian Games will suffer because of the tight scheduling but still it's better to be able to play both events.

India and Norway, who have world number eight Casper Ruud in their ranks, have never clashed in the history of Davis Cup.

Their next best player is Viktor Durasovic, who is placed 329 in ATP singles chart.

IN T20 CRICKET ONLY ONE MATCH IS REQUIRED TO GAIN MOMENTUM AND THEN THE WINNING STREAK BEGINS. WE ARE SEARCHING FOR THAT ONE WIN —RAVINDRA JADEJA

# Royal battle

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rajasthan Royals would aim to build on their promising start to the season when they take on Royal Challengers Bangalore, a side that is yet to unlock its potential, in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Rajasthan come into the game following their 23-run win over Mumbai Indians.

Bangalore, led by Faf Du Plessis, head into the match after a narrow three-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders and would be looking to be more convincing.

It's also learnt Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell will not be available for the game on Tuesday.

"No Australian player can play before (April) 6th. There's an embargo from the Australian Board, so Maxwell is not available," a source privy to the development said.

The Wankhede track has been aiding the pacers initially and both the teams can take advantage of it.

For Rajasthan, opener Buttler is in sublime form and can pummel any attack to submission, like he did on Saturday en route to a memorable hundred.

He would however, need support from fellow opening batter Yashasvi Jaiswal and one-down Devdutt Padikkal, who would be itching to get among the runs.

After his half-century in the first game, RR skipper Sanju Samson was unable to convert the start against Mumbai Indians. Knowing his ability to hit sixes at will, Samson would be more than keen to find consistency and lead from the front.

Another important cog in their wheel is West Indies batter Shimron Hetmyer, who has played useful cameos in the first two games. The top five, if they get going, can make things hard for the RCB bowlers.

On the bowling front, RR are unlikely to tinker with their combination. Trent Boult, Prasidh Krishna and Navdeep Saini held their nerve against Kieron Pollard and were right on the money.

Eight overs of Ashwin and Chahal can turn the game on its head and their contribution could prove decisive.

For Bangalore, their bowlers led by Sri Lankan leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga performed their task with perfection against KKR.

While Hasaranga will be key in stopping Samson and Co, pacers David Willey, Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj, who combined to take four wickets against KKR, would need to come good again.

Also death overs specialist Harshal Patel will have to be at his best if RCB aim to contain a powerful RR batting unit.

More than the bowling, batting has been a concern for RCB.

While opener Anuj Rawat needs to show consistency, Du Plessis also will have to lead from the front and get a big score.

Rajasthan vs Bangalore
Live from 7:30 pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

# Super Giants sink Sunrisers

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Lucknow Super Giants paid 25 times more than his base price of Rs 20 lakh to get Avesh Khan's services in IPL-15. The move was worth it as his excellent bowling acted as the catalyst for his team's 12-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Monday.

Heading into the lucrative T20 league as the most expensive uncapped Indian player, Avesh picked up four big wickets for only 24 runs and bowled a brilliant 18th over to turn the match decisively in LSG's favour.

Asked to bat first, skipper KL Rahul and Deepak Hooda struck useful half-centuries to lift Lucknow Super Giants to 169 for seven after a disastrous start.

Chasing 170, Kane Williamson's (16) innovation brought him two fours and a six but he paid the price for going overboard, his ramp shot off Avesh finding a sliding Andrew Tye at short fine leg in the fourth over with SRH score reading 25 for one.

Avesh brought about Abhishek Sharma's downfall with a change in pace as the batter failed to read it while trying to loft him.

As Sharma made his way back to the dugout, last-game's half centurion Aiden Markram walked out to join Rahul Tripathi in the middle, and the two began rebuilding the SRH innings.

Placed at 51 for two at the end of the seventh over, Tripathi used Tye's pace to hit the Australian bowler for three fours and then, using his wrists, smashed Krunal Pandya (2/27) for a six over fine leg. A quite 10th over was, however, followed by the dismissal of Markram, the bowler being Krunal.

Going strong at 44 off 30 balls, Tripathi tried to slog sweep Krunal and hit straight to deep mid-wicket, where Ravi Bishnoi was stationed. Nicholas Pooran smashed Krunal over long-on for six and then carted Jason Holder (3/34) for 15 runs to bring the equation down to 50 form the last 30 balls.

Andrew Tye kept it fairly tight in the 17th over, giving not more than eight runs, before Pooran hoicked Avesh Khan over deep square leg for a maximum.

However, Avesh had the last laugh as Pooran mistimed his knee-high full toss.

Earlier, after his team lost three wickets for just 27 runs in the powerplay, Rahul (68 off 50 balls) found an able ally in Hooda (51 off 33 balls) and added 87 runs for the fourth wicket to revive the innings.

Rahul hit six fours and a six, while Hooda found the fence three times and also cleared it thrice.

Coming back from a long break after playing their opener last Tuesday, SRH made a dream start and left the Super Giants in all sorts of trouble early on.

Making a strong comeback after the pounding in his team's heavy defeat against Rajasthan Royals, Washington Sundar (2/28) was handed the new ball and he delivered in his very first over, and SRH's second, dismissing the dangerous Quinton de Kock.

Few moments later, Washington had Evin Lewis (1) trapped in front of the wicket after the swashbuckling West Indian batter failed to execute his slog sweep.

**pointstable**

| Po. | TEAM | M | W | L | NR | Pts | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | RR | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2.100 |
| 2. | KKR | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0.843 |
| 3. | GT | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0.495 |
| 4. | PBKS | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0.238 |
| 5. | LSG | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0.193 |
| 6. | DC | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0.065 |
| 7. | RCB | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -0.048 |
| 8. | MI | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | -1.029 |
| 9. | CSK | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | -1.251 |
| 10. | SRH | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | -1.825 |

**boundarymeter**

| | |
|---|---|
| 4s | 337 |
| 6s | 178 |

# I see Krishna playing all 3 formats for India: Jos

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Seasoned Rajasthan Royals opening batter Jos Buttler feels team-mate Prasidh Krishna has the attributes of becoming a successful fast bowler and foresees the youngster playing for India in all three formats.

Krishna, who made his ODI debut last March, has given a good account of himself in the past year. He troubled the West Indies with his disconcerting pace and bounce while also doing well for his previous IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders.

"He has some pace in the nets and skills, he's got all the attributes to be a very successful fast bowler for India in all formats of the game. I see him playing red ball cricket for India as well," Buttler said on Monday.

The flamboyant opener feels the team is benefitting from the "invaluable experience" of veterans Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal and Trent Boult in crunch situations.

"Their experience is really invaluable. Having those guys is fantastic, we have lots of experience to draw from. Against Mumbai the game was in the balance and we needed wickets, Ashwin came up with a fantastic wicket and then Yuzi got two in two. Those guys are top performers and they know how to get things done," he added.

Talking about Sanju Samson, Buttler said the skipper has matured as a player since they first started playing together.

"Not many changes (since Sanju became captain). That is one of the greatest attribute any leader has to have -- being yourself, being authentic.

"Sanju definelty has that. He's game has matured, cricket has matured, he's a older and wiser than when we first started. We are enjoying playing under his leadership, he makes a great environment. He's a fun guy who has respect from the entire group."

# KL Rahul could also be the finisher for LSG: Gavaskar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Indian captain and batting great Sunil Gavaskar believes Lucknow Super Giants' skipper KL Rahul can play the finishers' role as well in the IPL 2022.

Praising the stylish right-handed batter, Gavaskar said KL Rahul has all the shots in the book to be a finisher for his side.

While speaking on 'Cricket Live' on Star Sports, Gavaskar said: "KL Rahul is such an integral part of any team. He opens the batting and gets to bat 20 overs and sets the pace for his team. I believe he has the ability to be the finisher as well."

"He's not just somebody who can begin the innings and get the team off to a good start. He has all the shots in the book to finish it off as well. So if he gets going till the 15th-16th over, then LSG can post 200-plus on the board," Gavaskar added.

# SA win 1st Test by 220 runs

AP ■ DURBAN

Keshav Maharaj's seven-wicket haul and Simon Harmer's three wickets helped South Africa register a massive 220 run victory over Bangladesh to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series here at Kingsmead, Durban on Monday.

Bangladesh were bowled out for just 53 runs in the second innings, their second-lowest total in Test history. Maharaj finished the match with figures of 7/32 in 10 overs. Simon Harmer picked up the other three wickets.

Resuming day five at 11/3, Bangladesh batter Mushfiqur Rahim was sent back to the pavilion in the very first over of the day. Maharaj trapped Rahim for a duck and followed it up by dismissing Liton Das for 2, reducing them to 16 for 5.

Yasir Ali and Najmul Hossain Shanto, in an attempt to break South Africa's momentum, tried playing some aggressive shots, but Maharaj struck once again, bringing up his five-for by dismissing Ali.

Harmer soon got in on the act. After getting smashed for a six down the ground by Shanto, the off-spinner hit back with the scalp of Mehidy Hasan for a duck.

Shanto and Taskin Ahmed were the only two batters who reached double digits for Bangladesh in their second innings. Shanto's resistance finally ended when he perished for 26, thanks to a smart stumping by wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne. Maharaj picked up a wicket each in his final two overs and completed his seven-for as Bangladesh folded for 53.

The damage was done in the six-over of play towards stumps on day four where South Africa picked up three wickets after setting a final-innings target of 274.

With the win, South Africa booked their second spot in the World Test Championship standings where they are currently behind Australia with a win percentage of 66.66. Bangladesh, on the other hand, are at the bottom of the table at the 8th spot with a win percentage of 20.

The two teams will next clash in Port Elizebeth in the second and final Test, starting on Thursday.

# 4 Aussies in ICC's Most Valuable Team of WC

PTI ■ DUBAI

Four players from champion side Australia featured in the 'Most Valuable Team' of the just-concluded ICC Women's World Cup while none from the Mithali Raj-led Indian side made the cut after their shock group exit.

In the MVT released by ICC on Monday, four Australians made the team, including Player of the Tournament Alyssa Healy, the wicketkeeper-cum-opening batter who slammed a record 170 from just 138 balls in the final against England on Sunday.

Australia skipper Meg Lanning was named captain, while her deputy Rachael Haynes and Beth Mooney were also picked in the team.

Haynes ended the World Cup as the second-highest run-scorer on 497 after Healy (509), with 130 of those coming in their opening game against England.

Haynes was picked to bat at number four with her usual opening partner Healy joined by South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt at the top.

The 22-year-old Wolvaardt smashed five half-centuries as the Proteas reached the semi-finals, and is one of three South Africans selected with the others being Marizanne Kapp and Shabnim Ismail.

Two players from the runners-up England side — Sophie Ecclestone and Nat Sciver — and one each from the West Indies — Hayley Matthews — and Bangladesh — Salma Khatun — complete the XI.

Bangladesh off-spinner Khatun had finished with 10 wickets from seven matches at an average of 22.40.

Charlie Dean was named the 12the player of the team.

Runners-up in the 2017 edition, India failed to impress in the World Cup which ended in New Zealand on Sunday and were knocked out after their three-wicket loss to South Africa in their concluding group league match.

Australia defeated England by 71 runs in the summit clash to win their record-extending seventh World Cup title at Hagley Oval, Christchurch on Sunday.

**Most Valuable Team:** Meg Lanning (c), Alyssa Healy (wk), Rachael Haynes, Beth Mooney (all Australia); Laura Wolvaardt, Marizanne Kapp, Shabnim Ismail (all South Africa); Sophie Ecclestone, Nat Sciver (both England), Hayley Matthews (West Indies), Salma Khatun (Bangladesh). **12th player:** Charlie Dean (England).

# NZ whitewash Netherlands as Taylor bids goodbye

PTI ■ HAMILTON

Top knocks by Martin Guptill and Will Young, followed by a four-wicket haul by Matt Henry, helped New Zealand in thrashing Netherlands by 115 runs in the third and final ODI of the three-match series here at Seddon Park, Hamilton on Monday.

With this win, New Zealand have claimed the ODI series with a lead of 3-0. The third ODI also marked the last appearance of Kiwi batter Ross Taylor in international cricket.

Young and Guptill played brilliant knocks of 120 and 106 runs, respectively to provide their side with a huge total of 333/8 at the end of the first innings. Ross Taylor departed after scoring 14 runs, as he got dismissed by Logan van Beek.

For the Netherlands, Fred Klaassen, Logan van Beek, Clayton Floyd, and Aryan Dutt scalped two wickets each.

# Jyothi wins 100m hurdles Gold but misses NR

PTI ■ KOZHIKODE

For the second straight day, wind assistance beyond legal limit denied an athlete a national record as Andhra Pradesh's 100m hurdler Jyothi Yarraji grabbed the Gold medal but her time did not enter the record books.

Jyothi, who trains in Bhubaneshwar, dominated the women's 100m hurdles final, winning with a wind-aided time of 13.08 seconds, faster than the existing national record of 13.38 in the name of Anuradha Biswal since 2002.

Jyothi's time will not be considered as national record since there was a tail-wind of 2.1m/s, slightly above the permitted limit of 2m/s.

It was the second time Jyothi had run better than Biswal's 20-year-old national record.

She was also credited with a time of 13.03 seconds in the inter-university championships in January 2020, but AFI did not ratify it as a national record as she was not tested for doping.

On Sunday, Tamil Nadu long jumper Jeswin Aldrin's wind-aided effort of 8.37m was not considered as national record though he won the Gold medal.

There was a tail wind of 4.1m/s during his jump. Tokyo Olympian S Sreeshankar of Kerala won the Silver with his 8.36m effort, which was also credited as national record.

The 22-year-old Jyothi glided over the hurdles with ease to secure herself a second 100m hurdles title at the national level, her maiden victory having come during the Inter-State Championships in Lucknow in August 2019.

In the heats on Sunday, Jyothi had bettered the meet record with a time of 13.43 seconds. In the women's long jump, Nayana James won a keen battle with Ancy Sojan on a day when the podium finishers, including Sandra Babu, accounted for as many as 11 jumps past the 6m mark.

# Ministry to spend ₹190 cr on training of athletes for CWG & Asian Games

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has finalised the Annual Calendar of Training & Competitions (ACTCs) for 33 Sports disciplines and earmarked a sum of ₹259 crores for the financial year 2022-23 as Assistance to various National Sports Federations (NSFs). Of this, as much as ₹190 crores will be spent on athletes for their training, foreign exposure, equipment and support staff for Commonwealth Games 2022 and Asian Games 2022.

The budget has been decided based on detailed discussions with 33 NSFs on their planned competition and training calendar for the year 2022-23, with special emphasis on the proposals regarding training and competition requirements of athletes participating in the upcoming Commonwealth Games (CWG)at Birmingham, UK in August, 2022 and Asian Games at Guangzhou, China in September, 2022. The Ministry, in active consultation with the NSFs, has carefully considered and approved every proposal made to further enhance the support being given to Indian athletes who are bound for these two prestigious international events.

Besides the 33 federations whose ACTCs have already been approved by the Ministry, ACTC consultation meetings with 3 more NSFs are in the offing and the budgets for them will also be finalised soon. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur said that the Government has taken note of the plans and proposals for training and competitions submitted by NSFs for the year 2022-23, and particularly with regard to the forthcoming Commonwealth Games 2022, Asian Games 2022 and Para Asian Games 2022, and approved the ACTCs.

He further stated that the funds will not be a constraint for the preparations of the athletes and that the Ministry will provide all necessary help and support to the players and NSFs. He also advised the players and teams to fully focus on their training, and put in their best performance and thereby make the country proud by winning maximum number of medals at the forthcoming events. Funding to NSFs under ACTC for 2022-23 has been done based on revised norms made effective from 1stMarch, 2022.