

**OPINION 6**  
THE NATION AWAITS  
A CDS AFTER RAWAT**WORLD 8**  
RUSSIA PREPARING OFFENSIVE  
IN SOUTHEAST: UKRAINE**AVENUES 10**  
IT IS ALL ABOUT  
ACHIEVING BALANCE

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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# Lankan crisis deepens as 50 lawmakers quit Govt

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's Government on Tuesday faced more trouble after the newly-appointed Finance Minister Ali Sabry resigned and dozens of lawmakers walked out of the ruling coalition amid nationwide protests over the country's worst economic crisis.

President Rajapaksa had appointed Sabry after sacking his brother Basil Rajapaksa, who was at the centre of anger within the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) coalition.

In a letter to the President, Sabri said that he took up the job as part of a temporary measure. "However, after much reflection and deliberation and taking into consideration the current situation, I am now of the view for Your Excellency to make suitable interim arrangement to navigate the unprecedented crisis fresh and proactive, and unconventional steps needs to be taken including the appointment of a new finance minister," Sabry said in the letter.

He was among the four new ministers appointed by the President who dissolved his cabinet on Monday and sought to form a unity government.

Meanwhile, a group of over 50 lawmakers who supported the government on Tuesday decided to function as an



Sri Lankans protest demanding President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign, behind a police barricade on a street leading to the Parliament in Colombo on Tuesday

PTI

Independent Group in Parliament unless the government resigns and hands over the ruling powers to a capable group, former state minister Nimal Lanza was quoted as saying by the Daily News.

Former minister Wimal Weerawansa also announced MPs who were part of the government from 10 parties will leave the government and remain independent.

A four-day session of the

Parliament started Tuesday morning during which the Opposition raised objections to going ahead with the day's agenda in the absence of relevant cabinet ministers.

It was the first session since a state of emergency was declared by President Rajapaksa last week. "We have a problem in continuing with the day's agenda as subject ministers have not been named," Opposition's senior

leader Ranil Wickremesinghe told the Speaker.

Another opposition leader Anura Kumara Disnayake said that Parliament must appoint a replacement for the deputy speaker as Ranjith Siyambalapitiya had resigned following the government ally and former president Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party's decision to act independent of the ruling coalition.

Continued on Page 2

## 18 Indian, 4 Pak YouTube news channels blocked

The fake news they spread could impact national security, foreign relations: I&B Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Months after it blocked 35 YouTube-based news channels and two websites, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has now ordered the blocking of 22 YouTube-based news channels and multiple social media accounts, including four from Pakistan, alleging that they were spreading fake news that could impact national security, foreign relations and public order.

This is the first time that action has been taken against the Indian YouTube-based channels since the notification of the IT Rules, 2021 in February last year.

In a statement, the Ministry said that it issued an order on Monday to block 22 YouTube channels, three Twitter accounts, one Facebook account, and one news website.

They had a cumulative viewership of more than 260 crore, and were used to spread fake news, and coordinated disinformation over social media on "subjects sensitive from the perspective of national security, India's foreign relations, and public order".



Through the recent blocking order, 18 are from India and four from Pakistan-based YouTube news channels.

The channels are ARP News (total views: 4,40,68,652), AOP News (total views: 74,04,673), LDC News (subscribers: 4,72,000), SarkariBabu (subscribers: 2,44,000), SS ZONE Hindi, Smart News, News23Hindi, Online Khabar, DP news, PKB News, KisanTak, Borana News, Sarkari News Update, Bharat Mausam (Subscribers: 2,95,000), RJ ZONE 6, Exam Report, Digi Gurukul, DuniyaMeryAagy (Subscribers: 4,28,000), Ghulam NabiMadni (total views: 37,90,109), HAQEEQAT TV (Subscribers: 40,90,000), HAQEEQAT TV 2.0 and (Subscribers: 3,03,000).

The Ministry has since December 2021 issued directions for blocking 78 YouTube-based news channels and several other social media accounts on grounds related to national security, sovereignty

and integrity of India, public order, etc. "Through the recent blocking order, 18 Indian and four Pakistan-based YouTube news channels have been blocked," the Ministry said, without naming them.

The blocked YouTube channels had a cumulative viewership of over 260 crore," the Ministry said, adding that they were spreading fake news and coordinated disinformation over social media on subjects sensitive from the perspective of national security, India's foreign relations, and public order.

According to the Ministry, multiple YouTube channels were used to post fake news on various subjects such as the Indian Armed Forces, Jammu and Kashmir, etc.

"The content ordered to be blocked also included certain anti-India content posted from multiple social media accounts operated in a coordinated manner from Pakistan."

Continued on Page 2

## Sonia calls for unity at all levels in Congress

Road ahead for party more challenging than ever, Cong chief says and slams BJP for 'divisive agenda'

PIONEER NEW SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



chievously distorted" to add fuel to its agenda.

The CPP meeting, the first one being held after the party's debacle in recent Assembly elections in five States, was attended by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, besides all party MPs in both Houses of Parliament.

Referring to the party's performance in recent Assembly elections, Sonia said she is aware "how disappoint-

ed you are" as they have been both "shocking and painful". She said the CWC has met to review the performance and received many suggestions on how to strengthen the organization. Many of these suggestions are pertinent and the party is working on them.

Sonia expressed concern over MSMEs being in a "most precarious condition" and no sign that commitments made to farmers are going to be fulfilled in any significant manner. She also noted that prices of cooking gas and oil, petrol, diesel, fertilizers and other essential commodities have risen to "unbearable" limits. She said the nationwide "Mehngai-mukt Bharat" campaign must be sustained.

She said in matters of governance, it is inevitable that some do the real work and lay the foundations while others claim the credit.

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## Not in India's interest to hike Russian energy imports, says White House

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The White House has reiterated that it is not in India's interest to "accelerate or increase" imports of Russian energy and other commodities, while offering to work with New Delhi to help it reduce its reliance on imports from Moscow.

Responding to questions on the visit of top Indian-American US advisor Daleep Singh to New Delhi last week, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference on Monday that he explained both the mechanisms of the US sanctions and reiterated that any country or entity should be abiding by those.

At the same time Psaki said that reporting energy payments by India are not sanctioned and New Delhi's imports of Russian energy represent only one to two per cent of its total energy imports.



Singh, the US Deputy National Security Adviser, who played a key role in designing American sanctions against Russia, was in New Delhi last week against the backdrop of increasing disquiet among Western powers over India not criticising Russia over its attack on Ukraine.

In New Delhi, he had also

cautioned that there will be consequences for countries actively attempting to "circumvent or backfill" American sanctions against Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine and said it would not like to see a "rapid" acceleration in India's import of energy and other commodities from Russia.

Continued on Page 2

## Pak's SC seeks record of proceedings of no-confidence motion

'Want to see validity of Dy Speakers' call to dismiss motion'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the record of the proceedings of the National Assembly conducted on the no-trust motion filed against Prime Minister Imran Khan before adjourning the hearing till Wednesday, prolonging the political and constitutional crisis in the country.

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri on Sunday ruled that the no-confidence motion was linked with a "foreign conspiracy" to topple the Government and hence was not maintainable. Minutes later, President Arif Alvi dissolved the National Assembly on advice of the PM.

The SC within hours took suo motu notice of it and a five-member bench started hearing the case on Monday. The bench is headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and includes Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail.

During the second day of the hearing on Tuesday, the court directed the Government to present minutes of the proceedings in the National Assembly after the no-confidence motion was presented.

Chief Justice Bandial said that the court did not interfere in the matters and only wanted to ascertain the constitutionality of the steps taken by the deputy speaker for the dismissal of the no-trust motion and subsequent dissolution of the National Assembly.

Continued on Page 2

## UG admissions in DU through CU-CET only

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Except for the School of Open Learning and the National Collegiate Women's Education Board, admission to all undergraduate courses of Delhi University will only be through the Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CU-CET) 2022.

The admission process to university will be done through the CU-CET 2022 issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for all the 45 Central Universities of India. Till last year, admission to DU was done on the basis of cut-off marks in Class 12 board exams.

DU Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Tuesday said, "It is mandatory for all candidates to appear in CU-CET-2022, including those seeking admission to supernumerary seats. The eligibility criteria will be decided on the basis of marks obtained in CU-CET."



In 50 per cent seats reserved for minority colleges, 85 per cent of the marks for admission will be taken from the CU-CET and the remaining 15 per cent will be decided by the colleges, Singh said.

Admission to non-reserved 50 per cent seats will be purely on the basis of CU-CET, he said. "There are three sections of CUET 2022 in which the first section is divided into two parts. It consists of 13 languages in the first part and 20 languages in the second part. It is mandatory for the candidates to appear in at least one language for admission to Delhi University, out of both these parts combined," Singh said.

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## Envoys, Ministers to attend yoga show on World Health Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Ambassadors and diplomats of various countries in India, Union Council of Ministers, and Parliamentarians along with a string of personalities from various walks of life and students will congregate at the historic Red Fort ground here to take part in a mega yoga event on World Health Day on Thursday.

The day will also mark the 75th day of the countdown to International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 21.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is expected to be the chief guest of the programme to be organised by the Union Ayush Ministry.

Giving details of the event, Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ayush, said, "As you are aware, at the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the United Nations General Assembly took a historic decision in 2014 to declare June 21 as the IDY. This worldwide acceptance of Yoga is a matter of pride for our country, as yoga is an integral part of our cultural and spiritual heritage."

The Ministry of Ayush is the nodal Ministry for observation of the IDY. Every year, the main event of IDY observation is a mass yoga demonstration which is led by the Prime Minister himself.

The 75 days' countdown is an important event in observation of IDY every year. The Ministry hopes to inspire a "mass movement for health and wellbeing" through yoga in the 75-day countdown to IDY-2022.

Continued on Page 2

## Act now or face 3.2° C rise by century end, IPCC tells Govts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

If Governments do not act now and continue business as usual, global temperatures will increase to 3.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century, bringing with it irreversible and cascading effects of global warming. Global temperatures are already at 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

However, in a ray of hope to the world which is already feeling the impact of climate change, the latest report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released recently has said the worst can be avoided within a decade if Governments across the world employ carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technologies and methods, make deep cuts in emissions through sustainable development.



As per the IPCC report, global emissions can be halved by 2030 with major transitions in the energy sector, including a substantial reduction in fossil fuel use, highlighting that mitigation action needed to be taken now to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The IPCC published the third and final part of its sixth assessment report — authored by Working Group 3 — on Monday. Like the two reports that preceded it, this report too reiterates that without deep

cuts in emissions, more extreme climate change will be inescapable, impacting the least developed countries the most.

The years between 2010 and 2019 saw the highest emissions in human history (at 56 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide or its equivalent), and the window to adapt to and mitigate climate change is quickly narrowing, said the latest IPCC report.

In order to keep global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, emissions would need to

peak by 2025, and fall right after, with "rapid and deep" reductions following every decade till 2050.

"Modelled mitigation strategies to achieve these reductions include transitioning from fossil fuels without Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) to very low or zero-carbon energy sources, such as renewables or fossil fuels with CCS, demand-side measures and improving efficiency, reducing non-CO2 emissions, and deploying carbon dioxide removal (CDR) methods to counterbalance residual GHG emissions," said the report.

The CCS refers to highly contentious technologies that can trap and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. According to the report, relying on carbon capture and removal of "hard-to-abate residual emissions" is "unavoidable" if the world is to achieve its net-zero targets.

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# Attack on CM’s house: Court nixes bail plea of 8

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Court on Tuesday dismissed the bail plea of eight persons arrested by Delhi Police in a case related to the violent protest and vandalism outside the residence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal recently.

The court denied relief to Chander Kant Bharadwaj, Naveen Kumar, Neeraj Dixit, Sunny, Jitender Singh Bisht, Pradeep Kumar Tiwari, Raju Kumar Singh, and Bablu Kumar.

Noting that the protesters had no regard even for the directions issued by Delhi High Court which were communicated to them by the Delhi Police that no protest is allowed at the CM house, the Additional Session Judge Naveen Kashyap said that in the present case, it is not a simple case that they protested and ended their protest then and there.

“But as per the investigation carried and reply filed by the Police, despite telling protesters and their leaders, including the present applicants, they can protest at a particular place, they did not comply with the same,” the court noted.

It noted that not at one stage but at three different security layers of barricades 1, barricade 2 and barricade 3, they violated the directions of the police officials concerned.

“Further, it may be noted that such pro-



testers had no regard even to the directions issued by High Court which were communicated to them, as per the reply of Delhi Police, that no protest is allowed at CM house, as they still continued with their protest,” it said.

It added that “prima facie”, it appeared that the accused persons even caused damage to public property and injured the police officials.

“Thus, prima facie it is clear that their fundamental right to peacefully protest is exceeded by them knowingly/intentionally,” the court said.

# Misogynistic text: DCW chief writes to Edu Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief, Swati Malwani on Tuesday wrote a letter to Union Education Minister Dharamendra Pradhan over a misogynist passage found in a nursing sociology textbook.

The passage which talked about merits and demerits of dowry and enlisted attractive dowry as a merit which helped in getting ugly girls married, went viral.

DCW taking cognisance of media reports in the matter wrote the letter expressing disapproval and seeking strict action against the author glorifying the dowry system. It sought penal action against the concerned officials involved in approving the textbook for nursing students and also gave detailed recommendations to the Education Minister for mak-

ing the curriculum "Gender Inclusive" and "Gender Sensitive", said an DCW official.

DCW chairperson through her letter also highlighted that the incident was not an isolated one and pointed out the misogynist passage which was recently given by CBSE in the Class X Board Examination. The letter also went on to express grave concern regarding the affects of such passages glorifying dowry in books upon the minds of the young students.

“I was shocked to read the passage on merits of dowry listing attractive dowry as a merit which helps in getting ugly girls married. It’s saddening that even in today’s India, such regressive beliefs glorifying the evil of dowry are being taught in textbooks. Dowry has and continues to destroy many lives across the country and the accountability in the matter must be set,” said Malwani.

# UG admissions in DU through ...

From Page 1

“The second section of the entrance exam consists of 27 domain specific topics. The third section is based on general knowledge which will be for admission to BA programme only. For admission to most of the programmes of DU, a candidate has to choose at least three subjects from the second section. The second section is classified as two lists B1 and B2. The candidates have to choose the subjects appropriately so that not more than one subject is selected at a time,” Singh stated.

While explaining eligibility for admission to most of the BSc programme, Singh said it would be calculated on the basis of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics or Biology. It is mandatory to obtain at least 30 per cent marks in any one language in CUET.

For admission to Bachelor of Arts, a candidate will have to appear in the entrance test in any one language from section one and in any three subjects from the other section. Merit will be calculated on the

basis of marks obtained by the candidate in the same subject and language,” he said.

“For admission to BA (Hons) Economics, it is mandatory for the candidates to take the test in Mathematics for CUET. Merit for this will be calculated on the basis of marks obtained in the chosen language, Mathematics and any two subjects. However, a candidate can appear for CUET in a maximum of 6 subjects, out of which one must be a language subject. Best score will be considered for admission in DU,” he said.

Giving further information, Singh said for admission through Sports and Extra Curricular Activities (ECA), a candidate will have to appear for a performance-based test along with the CUET. Merit for this will be made on the basis of combined score of CUET and performance-based test.

“For BBA, BMS, BBE candidates will have to appear in any one language, Mathematics and as per section 3 of CUET. For BA, BVoc, BCom programmes (popularly known

as “Pass” courses), candidates have the choice of a language plus one subject and a general examination or a three-subject test,” he said.

“For admission to linguistic programmes, candidates can choose a particular language at CUET or take a test in any other language. However, preference will be given to those appearing in the particular language and centralized e-counselling will be also done after the test,” he added.

Minority colleges like Jesus and Mary, St Stephen’s and Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa have 50 per cent seats reserved for minority communities. Hanee Gandhi, Dean (admissions), said candidates will be able to appear for the CUET only in those subjects which they have studied in class 12. The merit will also be calculated on the basis of a combination of only those subjects in which the candidate has appeared in the CUET, she said. There will be no disadvantage to anyone on changing the stream, Gandhi said.

# Lankan crisis deepens as 50 lawmakers quit Govt

From Page 1

Main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa urged the government to pay heed to the protesters whom he said have suffered with hardships experienced recently.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeyawardene summoned a meeting of the party leaders to decide on a two-day debate on the current economic and political crisis which will be held on Wednesday and Thursday.

The ruling coalition, which had won 150 seats in the 2020 general elections and went on to increase its numbers through defections from the Opposition, lost the support of at least 41 MPs.

The names of the 41 lawmakers to leave the coalition were announced by party leaders in Parliament. They have now become independent members, leaving Rajapaksa’s government with fewer than the 113 members needed to maintain a majority in the 225-member house.

The government, however, claimed that it commands simple majority. Sri Lanka is currently experiencing its worst economic crisis in history. With long lines for fuel, cooking

gas, essentials in short supply and long hours of power cuts, the public has been suffering for months. The ruling coalition commanded 157 votes out of 225 at the last vote held on the government budget. However, Rohitha Abeygunawardena, a SLPP lawmaker, said that the government was rock solid with 138 members backing it.

The President had invited the Opposition parties to join a unity Cabinet to tackle the raging public anger against the hardships caused by the economic crisis. But the Opposition parties rejected the offer.

Despite the declaration of the state of emergency and a weekend curfew, people joined the protests calling for the resignation of Rajapaksa throughout the island on Tuesday. Protesters even blocked the access roads to parliament.

The protests took place in all parts with a large crowd thronging opposite the prime minister’s official residence here. In Parliament, several government members who were under siege from protests blamed planned action by the opposition groups to intimidate them in their homes.

# Noida Authority grants mortgage permits to real estate developers

Three stalled housing projects have received the SWAMIH fund

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

To help complete the stalled housing projects, the Noida Authority has granted mortgage permission to real estate developers which will help them access the Centre’s stress funds to complete their projects and end the hardship of investors.

According to a senior official, the decision to grant mortgage permission and reschedule dues

was taken during the 204th Board Meeting of the Noida Authority on Monday.

“Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) fund has been formed by the central government to rescue the group housing sector from the financial crisis,” the Noida Authority said in a statement on Tuesday.

It further noted that “on receipt of proposal from SBI CAP under SWAMIH fund by Noida Authority, mortgage permission will be granted in favour of SBI CAP to the builder concerned.”

# Not in India’s interest...

From Page 1

During her briefing on Monday, Psaki said that “certainly our expectation and our public and private message is — will continue to be that every country should abide by the sanctions that we have announced and that we are implementing around the world.”

She said that “energy payments are not sanctioned; that’s a decision made by each individual country. And we’ve been very clear that each country is going to make their own choice, even as we have made the decision and other countries have made the decision to ban energy imports.”

“What Daleep did make

clear to his counterparts during this visit was that we don’t believe it’s in India’s interest to accelerate or increase imports of Russian energy and other commodities,” Psaki said.

“Right now, just to give everybody the full scope of it, India’s imports of Russian energy represent only 1 to 2 per cent of their total energy imports,” she added.

Do Singh explained both the “mechanisms of our sanctions and reiterated that every country or entity should be abiding by those, we also made clear that we’d be happy to be a partner in reducing their reliance or even their small percentage of — of reliance on that,” the White House Press Secretary said.

# 18 Indian, 4 Pak YouTube news ...

From Page 1

It was observed that a significant amount of false content was published by the Indian YouTube channels related to the ongoing situation in Ukraine, and aimed at jeopardising India’s foreign relations with other countries,” it said.

The Ministry said that the blocked Indian YouTube channels were using templates and logos of certain TV news channels, including images of their news anchors to mislead the viewers to believe that the news was authentic. “False thumbnails were used, title and thumbnail of the videos were frequently altered to increase the virality of content on social media.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद पोथमपुर जिला धार ( म.प्र. )

क्रमांक/1554/न.पा./22

पोथमपुर दिनांक :- 31.03.2022

--:: ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना :-::

नगर पालिका पोथमपुर क्षेत्रान्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य की निविदा सूचना ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति से ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल (www.mptenders.gov.in) पर आमंत्रित है। निविदा का विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

क्र.	पोर्टल क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनु. लागत (लाख)	अंसेट मनी	समायविधि	टेंडर फार्म शुल्क
1	2022_UAD_194853	वाई क्र. 22 सागौर में स्कूल भवन निर्माण	163.81	81905/-	6 माह	12500/-

समय सारणी :-

01	निविदा प्रश्न ऑनलाईन क्रय करने प्रारंभ दिनांक	:-	02.04.2022 ( प्रातः 11.00 बजे से )
02	निविदा ऑनलाईन क्रय/बीड सबमिशन की अंतिम दिनांक	:-	01.05.2022 ( शाम 5.30 बजे तक )
03	निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	:-	03.05.2022 ( प्रातः 11.00 बजे )

(श्रीमती क्षमा सुभाष जायसवाल) (श्री हंसराज पटेल) (श्रीमती कविता संजय वैष्णव)

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी प्रभारी लो. नि. वि. उपाध्यक्ष अध्यक्ष

नगर पालिका परिषद पोथमपुर नगर पालिका पोथमपुर नगर पालिका पोथमपुर

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Mail ID :- [sepwdbalangir@gmail.com](mailto:sepwdbalangir@gmail.com)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE: BALANGIR

e - Procurement Notice

BID IDENTIFICATION No: CCE(R&B) BGR / 12/ 2021-22

No. 1272 // Dtd.31.03.2022

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate composite bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

2. Nature of Work : Building and Road work

3. No. of tender : Buildings- 3no's and Road work -1 no

4. Tender Cost : Rs.10, 000/-

5. Class of Contractor : B/A

6. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids : From Dt.07.04.2022, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.21.04.2022 up to 05.00 P.M.

7. Date of opening Bid : Dt.22.04.2022 at 11.00 A.M.

8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir.

OIPR-34131/11/0001/2223

GOVT. OF ODISHA Tel. 06766-258301(O) email: [se\\_newkjr@rediffmail.com](mailto:se_newkjr@rediffmail.com)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR

Procurement Notice for Bridge Work under BSY

Identification No. Bridge Online NCB No. 336

No. 741 / Date: 04.04.2022 /

1. Name of the work :- Bridge Work under BSY in the District of Keonjhar.

2. No. of work :- 01 (One) No.

3. Estimated Cost :- As per Annexure in NIT.

4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) :- As per Annexure in NIT.

5. Period of Completion :- As per Annexure in NIT.

6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W. Circle, Keonjhar	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar.	Bridge Online NCB No. 336	Dt.12.04.22 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.27.04.22 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.26.04.22 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.28.04.22 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be initiated later

Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar.

OIPR-25177/11/0001/2223

From 19

[Sub-rule (1) of rule 27]

Declaration By Appropriate Government/Collector

[Under Sub-Section (1) of Section 19 of the act]

GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH

NOTIFICATION NO-1773

DATE- 16 March, 2022

Notification

No. 1773/VIII-S.L.A.O./Amroha(2022)-Whereas Preliminary Notification No. 1194 dated 18.09.2021 was issued under sub section (1) of section 11 of the rule Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, in respect of 1.2646 Hectares of land in Village Dehrachak, Pargana Dhanaura, Tehsil Dhanaura, District Amroha, is required for public purpose, namely, project MGC Stage II Through Madhya Ganga Canal Construction Division-15, Moradabad (Name of Requiring body) published on dated December 04, 2021. The Deputy Collector/Assistant Collector Dhanaura was appointed as Administrator for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the project affected families.

After considering the report of the Collector submitted in pursuance to provision under sub-section (2) of the Section 15 of the Act, the Governor is pleased to declare under Section 19(1) of the Act that he is satisfied that the area of the land mentioned in the given Schedule "A" is needed for public purpose and the land to the extent of 0.00 Hectares in Village Dehrachak, Pargana Dhanaura, District Amroha, as given in schedule "B" has been identified as the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Area for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the displaced families.

The Governor is further pleased under sub section (2) of section 19 of the Act, to direct the Collector of Amroha to publish a summary of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme with publication of the declaration to this effect. The summary of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme is attached herewith.

District	Tehsil	Pargana	Village	Plot No.	Area (In hect.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Amroha	Dhanaura	Dhanaura	Dehrachak	373	0.5831
				374	0.2944
				385	0.3871
				Total	1.2646

District	Tehsil	Pargana	Village	Plot No.	Area
1	2	3	4	5	6

Nil

Note—A Plan of land may be inspected in the office of the Collector for the purpose of acquisition.

UP 174583 Date 4.4.2022

विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgvo.nic.in](http://www.upgvo.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

(Sd.) ILLEGIBLE, Collector, Amroha

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificate No(s) 13917, 21032, 21033, 21034 for 188 share(s) having distinctive nos. 725497-725546, 606132-606161, 100079-100088, 725597-725601, 100099-1000137, 1000138-1000175 respectively of International Combustion (India) Ltd. having its registered office at Infinity Benchmark, 11th Floor, Plot No. G-1, Block EP & G9, Sector - V, Kolkata, West Bengal-700091, registered in the name(s) of Meena Kumari Mehta (since deceased) has / have been lost.

I/we Dwendra Rai Mehta successor(s) / executor(s) / receiver(s) / administrator(s) / legal heir(s) to the estate of Late Meena Kumari Mehta have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu of the above. Any person having any objection to the issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu of the original share certificate(s) as aforesaid is requested to lodge his/her/their objection there to with the Company at their above address or to its Registrars C B Management Services (P) Ltd., P-22, Borel Road, Kolkata-700 019 in writing within 15 days from the date of publication.

Add: C-3/1, Iwan Jyoti Apartment, Panspura, Delhi-110034 of the Legal heir(s) to the estate of Late Meena Kumari Mehta

Place: Delhi Date: 05.04.2022

THE PIONEER

CLASSIFIED

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohd. Altamash S/o. Sh. Tanveer Alam, R/o. 134-A, C-1, 2nd Floor, Begumpur, Shivalki Road, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017 have declared that my correct and complete name is Mohd. Altamash instead of Altamash Tanveer.

PD(9169)/A

I, Shabnam Jamal, W/O Asif Anwar, R/O B-201, Sector-14, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301 is same as Shabnam and will henceforth be known as Shabnam Jamal for all purposes. Declared vide affidavit#24AE751947 dated 21/03/2022.

PD(9170)/C

# Sonia calls for...

From Page 1

Referring to the National Food Security Act and MGNREGA, she said, “I am glad that at least two landmark initiatives of the Congress-led UPA Government much criticised by no less a person than the Prime Minister have turned out to be saviors for crores of our people in the last two years.”

“The divisive and polarising agenda of the ruling party and its leaders has now become a regular feature of the political discourse in state after state. History, not just ancient but also contemporary, is mischievously distorted and facts are maliciously invented to add fuel to this agenda.

It is for us all to stand up and confront these forces of hate and prejudice,” she charged.

Sonia noted with satisfaction that the value of non-alignment as a foundational principle of the nation's foreign policy, which was criticised so much, has now been rediscovered even though it may not be acknowledged. Raising the issue of students evacuated from Ukraine, she said they need to be assured at the earliest.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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# ED cracks down on Satyendar Jain’s kin

**Attaches assets worth ₹4.81 crore in a money laundering case**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Assets worth Rs 4.81 crore linked to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Minister Satyendar Jain’s family have been attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case. According to officials, the attached immovable properties belong to Akinchan Developers Pvt Ltd, Indo Metal Impex Pvt Ltd, Paryas Infosolutions Pvt Ltd, Manglayatan Projects Pvt Ltd, JJ Ideal Estate Pvt Ltd, Swati Jain, Sushila Jain and Indu Jain. The attachment by the ED was made in a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case.

The ED had initiated a money laundering investigation based on an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against Jain and others under relevant

Sections of the Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act.

“Investigation by the ED has revealed that during the period 2015-16, when Satyendar Kumar Jain was a public servant, the above-mentioned companies beneficially owned and controlled by him received accommodation entries to the tune of Rs 4.81 crore from shell companies against cash transferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through the hawala route. These amounts were utilised for direct purchase of land or for the repayment of loans taken for the purchase of agricultural land in and around Delhi,” said an ED.

Jain is the Minister for health, power, home, PWD, industries, urban development, flood, irrigation and water in the AAP Government.

The money laundering case against Jain stems from an August 2017 FIR filed by the CBI against him and others on charges of alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

The CBI has claimed that



Jain purchased 200 bighas of agricultural land in the names of companies controlled by him in Delhi in five years preceding 2018 and ‘laundered black money’ to the tune of several crores of rupees. It had alleged that Jain controlled these companies in the past either in the form of being one of the directors or by holding one-third of shares of these firms in his name or in the names of his family members or others.

The laundered funds were

allegedly used to purchase over 200 bighas of land in Auchandi, Bawana, Karala and Mohammed Mazvi villages in Delhi between 2010-16, the CBI had said.

The Income-Tax Department, too, had probed these transactions and issued an order attaching ‘benami assets’ allegedly linked to Jain.

Kejriwal in February had said that he has learnt from sources the ED was going to arrest Satyendar Jain just before the Punjab Assembly elections

and accused the Centre of targeting the AAP after realising the BJP “would lose” the polls.

After the ED statement, the Delhi Congress demanded the dismissal of the Delhi Minister from the Cabinet. Criticising Kejriwal and the AAP Government, Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar alleged that Kejriwal is protecting Jain as he is using him as a conduit for his corrupt deals, and that was the reason he had expressed his concern before the Punjab Assembly elections that Jain would be arrested.

Commenting on the case, Delhi BJP spokesperson said that after a long investigation, the ED has attached the property worth 4.81 crore linked to Jain. “Everyone believes that after this long investigation if ED seizes the assets then they have proof. But today Delhi will notice new ‘Nautanki’ of AAP. They will scream and try to suppress the theft. For AAP, Satyendar Jain does that work which Ahmed Patel does for the Congress. I am not accusing anyone, I am telling the truth,” he said.

# MCD unification Bill cleared in RS amid Opp protests

**Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on March 30**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed a Bill to unify the three municipal corporations of Delhi with voice votes after negating all amendments sought by the Opposition. The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was piloted in the Upper House of Parliament by Home Minister Amit Shah. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill, which seeks to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act of 1957, on March 30.

According to the Bill, the unification of the municipal corporations will ensure synergised and strategic planning and optimal utilisation of resources.

Replying to the Rajya Sabha, Shah said it has been

necessitated after the AAP-led Delhi Government meted out step-motherly treatment to the civic bodies.

Shah said that it was a mistake to trifurcate the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) into three bodies in 2012 but added that they could still have functioned normally, had the Delhi Government not treated them in such a manner.

“This Bill is in no way an attack on the federal structure,” Shah said, allaying concerns raised by some Opposition members.

“The Centre has the power to amend the Bill. I am wondering why Chidambaram (former Home Minister P Chidambaram) is not here. I will try to speak to him tomorrow (Wednesday) provided he takes my call,” said Shah on a day when his and Chidambaram’s photo exchanging pleasantries remained talk of the media.

Delhi is only a Union Territory and not a full State, he said, adding that Parliament

has competence to frame laws for Delhi and that is why it has brought this Bill.

Dismissing the Opposition charge that the ruling dispensation at the Centre brought in the Bill out of fear of losing the civic elections, Shah said the BJP has no such phobia and is ready to contest the polls soon after delimitation.

“It is being alleged that the Bill has been brought due to fear of losing elections. But if elections are held after six months, will you lose,” he asked Opposition members.

He said the BJP has no fear of losing or arrogance of victory and is fully geared up to contest the polls.

The three municipal corporations control around 1,400 sq km of the city and their smooth functioning is necessary for the citizens of Delhi and the country.

In the last 10 years, there were more than 250 strikes and in the decade before, there were only two big strikes.

# Call meeting of NCR States Mins on air pollution: Rai

**Gopal Rai writes to Bhupender Yadav to form a joint plan to fight air pollution in city**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to fight air pollution in the national Capital, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday wrote a letter to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, urging him to immediately call a meeting of the environment ministers of NCR States and experts to form a joint plan to reduce air pollution.

Citing a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Rai said that around 31 per cent of the air pollution in Delhi comes from local sources and the rest is from outside.

“It is clear that all NCR States will have to work together to reduce air pollution in Delhi. I had on November 7,

November 11 and December 3 urged you to call a meeting of NCR States. Once again, I request you to immediately convene a meeting of environment ministers of NCR States and experts to form a joint plan to reduce air pollution,” said Rai.

Rai further said that the number of good and moderate air quality days in the city had increased and poor air quality days reduced in the last four years on account of the anti-air pollution steps taken by the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government.

Earlier on Monday, Yadav had told the Lok Sabha that the Arvind Kejriwal Government has the responsibility of reducing pollution in the national Capital.

He was responding to a question by BJP MP from Delhi Parvesh Sahib Singh, who slammed the AAP Government for its alleged lackadaisical attitude towards solving Delhi’s pollution prob-

lem.

Addressing a press conference, Rai said on Monday: “I have repeatedly requested the Centre to tackle the air pollution issue at the regional level. It’s not our problem alone. We have been taking steps to reduce pollution from local sources. We demand that the Centre conducts joint review meetings with the States on a monthly basis.”

The Delhi Government had on Monday announced that it will prepare a summer action plan to fight pollution in the Capital on the lines of a similar plan being implemented in the winter.

Rai said the plan will focus on road dust, industrial pollution, open burning of garbage, fires at landfill sites, increasing green cover on the roadside, rejuvenation of water bodies, parks, sapling plantation, tree transplantation monitoring, phasing out of single-use plastics, development of an eco-waste park, city forests, urban farming among others.

**‘Uniform Banking Code’ for Forex transactions**

# HC issues notice to Centre on BJP leader’s plea

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday issued a notice to the Centre on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, seeking implementation of a ‘Uniform Banking Code’ for Foreign Exchange Transactions to control black money generation and Benami transactions.

A Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla asked the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice and the Ministry of Finance to examine the matter and file a reply within four weeks. The matter is fixed for May 25 for further hearing.

In his petition, Upadhyay has sought direction to ensure that Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), National Electronic Funds Transfer

(NEFT) and Instant Money Payment System (IMPS) are not used for depositing foreign money in Indian banks.

Upadhyay submitted that the immigration rules for a visa are the same whether a foreigner comes in business class or economy class, uses Air India or British Airways, and comes from the US or Uganda. The petition states that a ‘Uniform Banking Code’ would help in controlling black money generation and benami transactions.

He also urged that International Money Transfer is the only mode which should be permitted to be utilised for transfer of funds from foreign sources in Indian bank accounts as it will leave a stamp with regard to identify and source of the funds.

It is submitted that Foreign Inward Remittance Certificate (FIRC) must be issued and all

international and Indian banks must send the link through SMS to get FIRC automatically in case foreign exchange is being deposited in the account as converted INR.

Moreover, only a person or company should be permitted to send Indian Rupees from one bank account to another bank account inside the territory of India through the RTGS, NEFT and IMPS and international banks should not be allowed to use these domestic banking transaction tools.

As per the petitioner, the code will control the menace of bribery, black money, benami transaction, tax evasion, money laundering, profiteering, grain hoarding, etc. It will also control mafia activities including land mafia, drug mafia, liquor mafia, mining mafia, gold mafia, transfer-posting mafia, betting mafia, hawala mafias and so on.

**Ghazipur landfill**

# EDMC has no cash, plan to solve problem: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Kalkaji, Atishi on Tuesday said that East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) does not have money, land or an adequate plan to solve the garbage problem of the Ghazipur landfill site.

On Tuesday, the Chairperson of the Environment Committee of the Delhi Legislative Assembly also sought explanations from the EDMC on what steps had been taken to clear the Ghazipur landfill site and prevent fires as well as the data on garbage management. Atishi also questioned what the BJP had been doing for the last 15 years in power in the MCD?

“Now that MCD will be controlled by the central Government, will the Prime Minister solve this problem? The EDMC has no plan of action for remediation of legacy waste at the Ghazipur landfill site; how will the growth of the garbage mountain ever end?” Atishi asked. Meanwhile, the EDMC

has stated that it will take at least 10 years at peak performance to clear the Ghazipur Landfill.

Currently, 140 lakh tonnes of legacy waste is lying at the landfill site which continues to be a long-standing problem for Delhi’s residents and is leading to various health issues. The EDMC Commissioner said they have been able to clear only nine lakh tonnes of waste in the past 1.5 years. The Commissioner also pointed out that the Waste to Energy Plant located in Ghazipur hasn’t been functioning since the bankruptcy of the private partner. The plant is undergoing renovations and is only expected to be operational from May.

Meanwhile Atishi tweeted: “The East Delhi Municipal Corporation admitted that they don’t have money, land or an adequate plan to solve the garbage problem of East Delhi! So what has BJP been doing for the last 15 years? Now that MCD will be controlled by the central Government, will the PM solve this problem?”

# DBSE inks MoU with Goethe Institute to teach German

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the aim to teach students German, the Delhi Government’s Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Goethe Institute, a non-profit German cultural association operational worldwide to promote the language. The MoU was signed in the presence of Delhi’s Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Ambassador of Germany to India, Walter J Lindner.

“As a part of the Kejriwal Government’s plan to introduce a prominent global language in Government schools, German is one of the first languages that students will learn. This partnership with Goethe Institute

will open many new jobs as well as academic opportunities for students of Delhi Government schools in future,” said Sisodia, who is also the Education Minister. Walter Lindner said, “This linguistic partnership with the Delhi Government will open new horizons to culture, art, education and many other partnerships in future. Learning German will open routes to job opportunities for Delhi Government school students in many EU countries, not just Germany.”

Notably, in the pilot phase the German language will be introduced in 30 schools under the Directorate of Education (DoE) including Schools of Specialised Excellence (SoEs) informed Director of Education Himanshu Gupta.

# Health Dept forms panel to implement scheme on refreshments for hospital staff

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Health department has formed a six member committee to implement the scheme to provide food and refreshment for medical staff and attendants of patients in all Delhi government-run hospitals round-the-clock facilities.

According to the order issued by the health department, in order to identify the space in each hospital of GNCTD (Delhi government) for creating infrastructure for implementation of scheme of setting up of round-the-clock, two facilities to provide food and refreshment for doctors and all supporting staff, and relatives/attendants of patients, a committee is here-

by constituted.

The six-member panel is being headed by a former director general of health services (DGHS) while the other five members are doctors from different city government-run hospitals.

“The mandate of the committee will be to implement some steps in all hospitals under Delhi government, including to identify space measuring at least 1000-1500 sq ft in hospitals having 500 or more beds; and 800-1000 sq ft in hospitals having less than 500 beds, for setting up ‘round-the-clock facilities to provide food and refreshment to relatives/attendants of patients,” the order further stated.

# 40 public EV charging stations by June

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

There will be 40 public charging stations across the national Capital till June where people driving ‘Electric Vehicles’ will be able to charge their EVs free of cost between 12 noon and 3 PM.

This initiative of free afternoon charge to EV users is being taken up by an EV charging startup ElectriVa, which has set up over 40 public charging stations in partnership with the three civic bodies.

According to authorities, the move is aimed at promoting the use of electric vehicles and also to incentivise EV charging at public stations.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday handed over monetary awards to Delhi’s Olympians. The CM honoured Olympic Bronze Medalist Bajrang Punia with a cheque of ₹1 crore; while, Olympians Manika Batra, Deepak Kumar and Coach Shalaz Kumar were awarded ₹10 lakh each. The CM also handed over Paralympic Bronze Medalist Sharad Kumar his letter of appointment as an Assistant Director in the Education Department at the event

Pioneer Photo

# Delhi BJP MP backs SDMC mayor’s call for meat shops’ closure during Navratri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma on Tuesday supported his party ruled South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) mayor’s direction for closing meat shops during Navratri, saying such restriction should be imposed all over the country.

Verma who represents West Delhi Lok Sabha seat, also appealed the Muslims not to be influenced by “provocative” statements and show respect to the Hindu festival and welcome the SDMC decision.

lowers of a religion should respect other religions.

“Navratri festival is there with people holding fasts and worshipping the goddess. Whether its Muslim community or others, they should respect it which is what our culture says,” Verma said while talking to reporters.

Welcoming the SDMC mayor’s direction for closure of meat shops during Navratri, the BJP MP said the other two municipal corporations in Delhi should also follow it. “In fact, this should be implemented all over the country,” he said.

Verma said that Muslim community should not be influenced by “provocative” statements of leaders like Asaduddin Owaisi and should maintain harmony. “If other communities respect the Hindu festival and welcome the decision, we will also show respect

when their festivals will be celebrated,” he said.

In a letter written today by the Mayor of South Delhi Municipal Corporation, Mukkesh Surayan, it read, “Keeping in view the sentiments and feelings of the general public necessary directions may be issued to the officers concerned to take necessary action for the closure of meat shops during the nine-day period of the Navratri festival extending from April 2, 2022, to April 11, 2022.”

South Delhi Municipal Corporation notified that during the auspicious period of Navratri, devotees to Goddess Durga observe fast for nine days with a strict vegetarian diet and abstain from the use of non-vegetarian food items, alcohol and also certain spices. The area in the city is also coloured in consonance with the festival, the official statement read.

# Delhi Jal Board allows Muslim employees to avail short break

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the ongoing Ramzan fasts, the Delhi Jal Board has issued a circular allowing its Muslim employees to avail a short leave of around two hours a day till May 2.

“The competent authority has accorded approval to allow short leave (of approx. Two hours a day) by the concerned DDO/controlling officer to the Muslim employees during the days of Ramzan i.e., April 3 to May 2 or till the date of Idul fitr is declared, subject to the condition that they will accomplish their work during the remaining office hours so that the office work does not suffer,” according to the DJB circular.

Ramzan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar during which the followers of Islam fast from dawn to dusk, pray for peace and guidance, and give back to the community in the form of charity.

# 90% people feel most don’t own masks: Survey

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A survey by LocalCircles, a social media platform that raises people’s voices revealed that as several states have decided to end the mask mandate amid the declining COVID-19 cases and 90 per cent respondents believe that most people either do not have a mask or are not wearing it properly.

According to LocalCircles, the survey received more than 30,000 responses from people residing in 349 districts of India. The respondents were asked questions to understand “where things stand currently in regards to masking compliance as states remove the mask mandate”.

As per the survey, 57 per cent of the respondents said that most of the people in their areas have a mask but don’t wear it properly, while 22 per cent said that most have a mask but don’t wear it at all.

As many as 11 per cent of the participants said, “Most don’t even have a mask with them now”. Only 7 per cent respondents said that most have a mask and wear it properly, while 3 per cent did not have an opinion, the survey found.

Around 68 per cent of the respondents were men while 32 per cent were women, it said, adding that 48 per cent of the respondents were from tier 1, 31 per cent from tier 2 and 21 per cent from tier 3, 4 and rural districts.

Also, of those who are wearing masks, 66.67 per cent are wearing a “cloth mask” which provides limited protection from the viral infection, the survey showed. Several states, including Delhi, Haryana, Telangana and Maharashtra, have lifted COVID-19 restrictions and made use of face masks optional in public places in view of the decline in COVID-19 cases across the country.

# Paramedical staff on strike for reinstatement of jobs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Para medical staff like lab technicians, temporary nurses and computer data entry operators (CDEOS), who worked with the Delhi government for Covid-19 special duty, are feeling a neglected lot as they lamented that while they were declared as ‘Corona warrior’ during pandemic and as the infections have started declining, their services have been abruptly terminated.

They have been protesting for the last six days near Delhi Secretariat, urging the State Government to reinstate their jobs or provide alternate jobs. The para medical staff from eleven zones across the city had congregated at the venue to seek justice for their demand.

“Hiring of additional manpower (Doctors, Nursing Personnel and CDEOS) for vaccination activity is not to be extended beyond March 2022. Due rationalization and utilization of this additionally hired manpower is to be done

at the session sites till 31st March 2022,” an official order dated March 24 read.

At the venue, Kajal Sharma, ANM from South Zone said that they were employed on contract during Covid duty, initially for three months which was later extended renewed in a phased manner to ten more months for Covid vaccination programme. “But now they have suddenly asked us to not come to duty. Our demand is to adjust us in some other medical facilities such as mohalla clinics or dispensaries. After all we also have our families to fend upon.”

Asim Raja, a lab technician from North district said that they were just given a day’s notice through SMS. We should be adjusted in the Delhi Health Services as we have been playing an important role in the vaccination programme. We have been demonstrating for last six days but so far no one has come from the Government to listen or grievances, they rued.



# Opp slams Govt in LS for ‘chest thumping’ for students’ evacuation from Ukraine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With Union Ministers narrating the hardships and success in evacuating students from war-torn Ukraine in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Opposition MPs lamented that students were asked to chant slogans in favour of the Government and termed it as a self-defeating spectacle.

Initiating the debate on the issue, Congress MP Manish Tewari criticised the Government, saying he had never seen such "self-congratulatory ecstasy" as displayed during the evacuations.

India has a long history of conducting such evacuations and it has conducted 23 such evacuations since 1962-63, including from Burma, Kuwait, Lebanon, and Libya, Tewari said as he lauded the way students were brought back from the European nation.

"But I regret to say that I have never seen the kind of chest thumping and the kind of self congratulatory ecstasy that was at display during the recent evacuations. Making young students chant slogans in favour of the government in



airplanes by ministers of the government of India, I think it was a self-defeating spectacle," he said.

Tewari said, "I know friends from that side of the House leave no stone unturned and with every breathe try and criticise the first Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru."

Shashi Tharoor asked the Government to use its influence to mediate a truce between Russia and Ukraine engaged in a war for over 40 days. He said that India should not shy away from taking a morally correct position in line with its foreign policy.

Referring to the softly-worded statements on the Russia-Ukraine war at the United Nations, Tharoor said, "We need to take a principled stand on such matters... With moral conviction." In this case, Russia has started the war, he said and added that India cannot endorse Moscow's action.

On India getting a lot of military supplies from Russia, Tharoor said the country pays in "top dollars" and it was not a one-way relationship. The former Union Minister also expressed concern about the emerging Russia-China-Pakistan axis. With Russia becoming weak on account of sanctions, China will get an

upper hand and "it is a matter of great concern" for India, he added.

Hitting back at Opposition leaders' charge of Government taking credit for evacuation of Indians, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government took steps for the welfare of the people and the country, and adverse comments like these should not have been made. When the evacuation operation was on, comments were made here which should not have been made as there is a time for doing politics, he said intervening in the discussion.

"The Government was not working to take credit. It is our responsibility and the prime

minister sent ministers as the scale of the operation was big...If we send a joint secretary, a response there would also be from a joint secretary that is the set protocol. When Ministers go, the response is at that level," said Rijiju, who was one of the special envoys sent to countries bordering Ukraine to coordinate the evacuation of Indians from the war-torn nation.

He said Slovakian Prime Minister Eduard Heger told him that no Government had made as much effort as the Indian government to help its citizens in Ukraine. Participating in the discussion, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah said the Ukraine-Russia conflict was a failure to the United Nations and the world body continues to fail this world.

"I would like to thank not only the Prime Minister of India but all those Ministers whom he chose to go to that war-torn country to bring our children back and I must say at the cost of their own safety, they undertook this journey and brought those children.

# Over 5 lakh fell prey to coronavirus: Govt in RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday informed Parliament more than five lakh deaths have taken place so far due to the corona pandemic. However, no deaths occurred due to a shortage of oxygen, it said.

Giving these details in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for health Bharati Pravin Pawar also said 97 per cent population was administered the first dose of the anti-corona vaccine. Moreover, 85 percent of people got the second dosage of the vaccine.

She said states and union territories reported 5,21,358 deaths due to Covid-19 till April 4. Also, the states were asked to provide details of people who died because of a shortage of oxygen. Twenty states and union territories (UTs) have responded and none of them have reported confirmed deaths due to oxygen shortage, the minister said during Question Hour.

"As on 4th April, 2022, states/UTs have reported a total of 5,21,358 deaths due to Covid-19 in the country. The government of India maintains data of total cases and deaths due to Covid-19 report-

ed and updated by states/UTs on a regular basis," she told the Elders.

Replying +to supplementaries, Pawar said, "the Union government has requested states/union territories, and 20 states and Union Territories have responded and none of them have reported confirmed deaths due to oxygen shortage." She said some states are even now updating and reporting deaths due to Covid-19 on the ministry's web portal.

Responding to a query by Shaktisinh Gohil (Congress) that the government had promised Rs 4 lakh as compensation for Covid deaths and why this money was not being given, Bharati said the government has issued guidelines transparently.

She said arrangements were made to protect and take care of patients through insurance schemes for poorer patients. The minister also said ex-gratia payments was examined at central, state and district levels and it was determined that the amount to be given is not Rs 4 lakh.



"An ex-gratia of Rs 50,000 as per central, state and district level. The NDMA has proposed Rs 50,000 compensation and not Rs 4 lakh for each victim of COVID-19," she told the House.

The minister also said during COVID-19, the government has taken a number of measures and a budget of Rs 64,000 crore sanctioned for strengthening health infrastructure.

The country now has 300 plus laboratories, over five lakh oxygen supported beds, 1.5 lakh ICU beds, over 4,000 PSA plants, over 60,000 ventilators and all emergency facilities have been upgraded, Pawar said. She also said a new bio-safety level (BSL)-3 mobile laboratory is also being added for the detection of new strains and viruses.

# Nadda to meet envoys on BJP foundation day today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president JP Nadda will interact with foreign envoys and heads of missions of several nations, including France, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and the European delegation on the party's foundation day on April 6.

Before his extensive meeting with the foreign envoys of diverse nations, the BJP President on Tuesday also met the Russian ambassador to India Nikolay Rishatovich Kashev.

Head of Missions from France, EU Delegation, Portugal, Switzerland, Poland, Romania, Bangladesh, Singapore, Slovakia, Italy, Hungary, Vietnam, and Norway have confirmed their participation, sources told the Pioneer.

Seen as BJP's major diplomatic outreach, the party chief is to particularly exchange views with the envoys of BIM-STEC nations and apprise

them about the structure, organization, and ideology of his party.

BIMSTEC (the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) summit meeting has recently been virtually addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BIMSTEC comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Modi had also extended financial aid to BIM-STEC to expand its secretariat and activities.

Nadda's meeting with foreign envoys on BJP's foundation day comes soon after the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to the BJP headquarters at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg.

Besides BIMSTEC ambassadors, the envoys from UAE as also from East Asian and European countries to are to be present during the BJP's foundation day which will also be addressed by Prime Minister virtually in the morning.

# ED attaches assets worth ₹35 cr under PMLA in Saradha chit fund scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹35 crore on money laundering charges in connection with the ongoing investigation of Saradha chit fund scam.

The attached assets are in the form of vehicles, buildings, flats, and bungalows in Bishnupur, plots of land in South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Cooch Behar, and Jalpaiguri, the ED said in a statement.

The "book value" of these properties is ₹35 crore, it said.

"These properties were either owned by Saradha Group or proceeds of crime were invested in such properties (Saradha Group having paid full advance to vendors)," it said.

The Saradha group is alleged to have run a chit fund scam with operations spread in

West Bengal, Assam and Odisha till 2013.

The group is alleged to have cheated thousands of depositors, promising abnormally high returns on investments in its illegal schemes.

The ED filed a criminal case in 2013 under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after studying the Kolkata Police FIRs against the group and its promoters.

As per the ED, the quantum of total money mobilised by this group company is about ₹2,459 crore out of which about ₹1,983 crore remains unpaid to the depositors till date (excluding the interest amount).

A prosecution complaint or charge sheet was filed by the agency in March, 2016 followed by a supplementary charge sheet that was filed in August last year.

# India, Singapore discuss ways to boost military ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI SINGAPORE

In an effort to further strengthen defence ties between the two countries, India and Singapore on Tuesday discussed the roadmap to enhance bilateral military co-operation in various spheres during the ongoing three-day visit of Army Chief General M M Naravane there.

The two countries also reaffirmed their strong and long-standing defence ties during Naeavane's talks with top Singaporean military leadership. Naravane also called on Singapore's Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, and discussed regional geopolitical developments.

"The strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both nations was reaffirmed in the meetings," the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) tweeted. The Army chief also called on Singapore's Army chief Brigadier General David Neo after inspecting the Guard of Honour at the Ministry of



Defence and discussed "the roadmap to further enhance defence cooperation between both nations," it said.

He complimented the Guard for an "impeccable turnout and parade".

After meeting the top military leadership, he visited the Infantry Gunnery and Tactical Simulator Centre at Pasir Laba Camp. The Army chief witnessed the state-of-the-art sim-

ulators, which enable troops to hone their weaponry skills and commanders to improve tactical decision-making abilities.

On Wednesday, the Indian Army chief will visit the Changi Regional Disaster Relief Coordination Centre and Information Fusion Centre at Changi Naval Base. He will also deliver a speech at the Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College's Distinguished

Speaker's Dialogue titled, "India's Strategic Perspective".

On the first day of his tour on Monday, Naravane visited the Kranji war memorial in Singapore and paid tributes to those who laid down their lives in the line of duty during World War-II. He also visited the Battle Box Bunker at Fort Canning, an authentic World War II secret Command Centre built 9 metres underground in the late 1936 by the British forces.

Naravane's visit underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relations between Singapore and India. The Singapore Army and the Indian Army interact regularly through bilateral exercises, professional exchanges, visits and cross-attendance of courses.

These mutually beneficial interactions have deepened the bilateral defence relationship enhanced mutual understanding and strengthened the cooperation between the two armies, Singapore's Defence Ministry said in a statement.

# Ahmed Patel's son may quit Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress veteran late Ahmed Patel's son Faisal Patel on Tuesday indicated that he may look beyond Congress when it comes to his political future, saying he got "no encouragement from the top brass". The tweet, which comes ahead of Assembly polls in Gujarat later this year, sparked off the speculation that he could consider joining the Aam Aadmi Party.

"Tired of waiting around. No encouragement from the top brass. Keeping my options open," Faisal Patel tweeted.

Faisal Patel's tweet did not mention what kind of encouragement he was looking for, however, many believe it could be linked to his possible electoral debut. He holds no official position in the party.

His Twitter bio states, "Using Artificial Intelligence to uplift society. Empathy a must. Harvard Business & Doon School Alumni. Proud Indian & Global Citizen." Faisal Patel's sister Mumtaz Patel also remains active on Twitter and posts on political issues.

Ahmad Patel, who died in November 2020, at a

Gurugram hospital where he was admitted with COVID-19, was the quintessential organisation man of the Congress who was known to be the party's very effective crisis manager and troubleshooter.

He was known to quell many a rebellion in his stint as Congress president Sonia Gandhi's political secretary.

Ahmed Patel represented Gujarat for eight terms in Parliament — three times in Lok Sabha and five times in Rajya Sabha. He had a close association with the Bharuch constituency.

# BJP takes jibe at Congress over ‘one family rule’ in party

**Anurag Thakur said every member of the Gandhi family has tried to steer the Congress but it continues to face defeat**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday took a swipe at its main political rival the Congress, saying it does not look beyond the

Gandhi family irrespective of whether its members have the ability or not to run the party.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur said every member of the Gandhi family has tried to steer the Congress but it continues to face defeat, with an overwhelming number of its candidates even losing deposits in the recent Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

Talking to newsmen Thakur said Rahul steered the party in the West Bengal polls but the Congress could not win a single seat, he said.

# Bill seeking ban on funding of weapons of mass destruction introduced in Parl

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha that seeks to ban funding of weapons of mass destruction and also empower the Centre to freeze, seize or attach financial assets and economic resources of people engaged in such activities.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar introduced the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill that also seeks to fulfill India's international obligations in this

regard. The bill was introduced amid din by Opposition MPs over the repeated fuel price hikes.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, passed in 2005, only banned the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

"In recent times, regulations relating to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems by international organizations have expanded," Jaishankar said in the statements of objects and reasons of the bill.

# India generates 3.5 million tonnes plastic waste annually: Env Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is generating 3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Tuesday as he launched several green initiatives for plastic waste management.

Speaking at the launch of mascot 'Prakriti' to spread awareness among masses about small changes that can be sustainably adopted in lifestyle for a better environment, Yadav urged everyone to join the efforts to beat plastic pollution and work towards a better future.

"Plastic has become one of the most pressing environmental issues that we are facing today. India is generating about 3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste annually and the per capita plastic waste generation has almost doubled over the last five years. "Plastic pol-

lution adversely affects our ecosystems and is also linked to air pollution," he said.

The minister also launched several initiatives like National Dashboard on Elimination of Single Use Plastic and Plastic Waste Management to bring all stakeholders, including central ministries, departments, states and Union Territories, at one place and track the progress made for elimination of single-use plastic (SUP) and effective management of such waste.

Another initiative that was launched was Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Portal for plastic Packaging for improving accountability, traceability, transparency and facilitating ease of reporting compliance to EPR obligations by producers and brand-owners.

# SC rejects claim of married daughter of deceased Govt employee for compassionate appointment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea of a married daughter seeking a compassionate appointment in the place of her deceased father without the approval of the surviving mother.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and CT Ravi Kumar said that Rule 2.2 of Madhya Pradesh Police (Non-Gazetted) Service Rules of 1997 clearly indicates that name has to be sponsored by the deceased Government employee or the survivor parent.

"Rule 2.2 of the scheme clearly indicates that the name has to be sponsored by him/her, the deceased Government employee. Indisputably, in the instant case the name of the petitioner has not been sponsored by her mother for the reasons best known to her. The question which has been raised by the petitioner is answered by rule 2.2 of the scheme of rules, needs no further consideration

by this Court. Accordingly, the Special Leave Petition stands dismissed", the bench said in its recent order. The bench noted the submission of advocate Dushyant Parashar, appearing for the petitioner, that she happens to be the married daughter of the deceased Government servant, although has not been sponsored by the widow (petitioner's mother), still, she has an independent right for being considered for compassionate appointment under the existing scheme of Rules.

Parashar said that the law is settled in the case in an earlier verdict of the top court that married daughters are entitled to compassionate appointments.

The bench said that it is alright, but in this case, Rule 2.2 does not support the petitioner. Parashar said that the broader question is involved in view of the settled law, that "my brother is practising lawyer and I am the eldest sister and my mother has objected as I

have filed property case seeking partition."

Justice CT Ravi Kumar asked the counsel "What is the purpose of Compassionate Appointment? After four years of demise you have filed an application for the compassionate appointment".

Justice Rastogi said that the problem is Rule 2.2 does not permit as it requires authorisation by the Survivor parent for grant of compassionate appointment to their son/daughter.

"Sorry, we are not inclined to interfere", the bench said and passed the order.

Rule 2.2 of the Madhya Pradesh Police (Non-Gazetted) Service Rules states that a dependent husband/wife of the deceased government servant, if not being eligible or opting not to accept compassionate appointment by self, then the son or unmarried daughter nominated by him/her will be granted a compassionate appointment.

# Chinese apps trying to destabilise Indian economy: Sanjay Raut

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the recent arrest of eight people by Delhi in a case related to fraud through a mobile app, Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena) on Tuesday alleged that certain Chinese mobile apps were trying to destabilize the Indian economy through fraudulent practices.

Raising this issue during the Zero Hour, he also urged the government to take strict action against them and expressed concern that China was now keeping an eye on every smart phone user in India.

"This is a serious issue. The matter is not only of cheating, but is related to the security of the country," Raut said. He also alleged that data was stolen and sent out of the country.

Eight people were arrested on the charge of extorting



money from people using their morphed pictures obtained through a bugged loan app.

The Intelligence Fusion

## CORRIGENDUM

Apropos news story headlined "Chargesheet against Bardhan, Das, Kanodia for Remdesivir black marketing" in the edition dated April 5, 2022, the photograph of Foreign Secretary designate Vinay Mohan Kwatra was inadvertently placed along with the story. *The Pioneer* deeply regrets the inadvertent error.



Foreign Secretary designate Vinay Mohan Kwatra.



# ED attaches ₹11 crore assets linked to Raut in PMLA case

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■**  
MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) ticked off the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) once again on Tuesday, as it attached provisionally properties worth ₹11.5 crore belonging to three persons, including Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a case relating to the alleged irregularities in the Patra Chawl redevelopment project in Mumbai.

On the heels of it attaching Rs 6.45 crore worth properties of chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's brother-in-law Shridhar Patankar and 11.35 crore worth properties belonging to Sena's influential MLA Pratap Sarnaik, the ED attached immovable properties worth Rs 11,15,56,573 under PMLA in connection with the alleged irregularities in the Patra Chawl redevelopment project undertaken by Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd at Goregaon in north Mumbai.

Apart from that of Varsha Raut, the other individuals -- whose assets have been provisionally attached -- are businessman Pravin Raut, a relative of Sanjay Raut, and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar

who is a close associate of Sanjay Raut.

"The attached assets are in form of lands held by Pravin M Raut, former director of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, Mumbai at Palghar, a flat at Dadar of Varsha Raut and plots at Kihim beach at Alibaug jointly held by Varsha Raut wife of Shri Sanjay Raut and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar," the ED said in a statement.

The ED's action came as a follow-up of the arrest of Pravin Raut under PMLA on February 4 in connection with an alleged finding that Pravin had received Rs 100 crore from Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL) and "diverted" it to various accounts of "his close associates, family member, his business entities" including the family of Sanjay Raut.

Reacting to the attachment of properties belonging to his wife and close associates, Sanjay Raut put out a tweet: "Satyameva Jayate" (truth shall triumph).

Later talking to media persons, Sanjay Raut said: "I am not one to get scared, seize my property, shoot me, or send me to jail, Sanjay Raut is Balasaheb Thackeray's follower and a Shiv Sainik, he'll fight and expose everyone. I am not one to stay quiet, let them dance.

The truth shall prevail".

"If it is proved I have amassed property in an illegal manner, then I will donate the entire property to the BJP," the Sena MP said, while reiterating that the ED was acting at the behest of the ruling BJP.

In its investigations conducted on the basis of an FIR registered against Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd by an executive engineer of MHADA, the ED found irregularities in the redevelopment of Patra chawl redevelopment project undertaken as per a tripartite agreement was signed between the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) and Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of HDIL.

Under the tripartite agreement, Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd was to provide flats to 672 tenants of the chawl, develop flats for MHADA and then sell the remaining area to private developers, develop flats for MHADA and thereafter remaining flats were to be sold by the developers.

However, the directors of Guru Ashish Constructions, including Pravin Raut, allegedly misled MHADA and managed to sell the floor space index (FSI) to nine developers and collected Rs



901.79 crore without constructing the rehab portion for 672 displaced tenants or the MHADA portion.

"Further, Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd has also launched one project namely Meadows and took the booking of amount (of) around Rs 138 crore from flat buyers. The total proceeds of the crime generated by directors of Guru Ashish Constructions Pvt Ltd through the illegal activities was approximately Rs 1,039.79 crore. A part of the proceeds were transferred to the close associates," the ED statement said.

The ED has also alleged that in 2010, a part of the proceeds of crime of Rs 83 lakh was transferred to Varsha Raut from Madhuri Raut, wife of Pravin Raut. "This amount was utilized by Varsha Raut for

purchase of a flat at Dadar. It is also revealed that after initiation of ED investigation, the amount of Rs 55 lakh was transferred by Varsha Raut to Madhuri Raut," ED said.

Tuesday's was the third major attachment of property linked to the Shiv Sena leaders. It may be recalled that on March 22, the ED had attached provisionally Rs 6.45 crore-worth immovable properties belonging to a company owned by Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's brother-in-law Shridhar Patankar at Thane in an alleged money laundering case.

On March 25, the ED attached two flats and a parcel of land worth Rs 11.35 crore owned by influential Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik at Thane in an alleged money laundering case relating to NSEL fraud.

# Maha Govt sets up SIT probe into 'extortion' charge against ED officials

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■**  
MUMBAI

The Central and State investigating agencies were set on a collision course on Tuesday, as the Maharashtra Government set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into the allegations that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was running a major "extortion racket" in the State.

In a development that came on a day when the ED attached properties worth Rs 11.15 crore worth belonging Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut and two other associates, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil set up an SIT to investigate allegations that the ED was "extorting" money from the builders and others at the behest of the ruling BJP at the Centre.

Walse-Patil said that Additional Commissioner of Police Viresh Prabhu would head the SIT probe. "We have set up a SIT to investigate these allegations. The SIT is headed by Additional Commissioner of Police Viresh Prabhu. We will give whatever time period required for its investigations".

Earlier, the Mumbai Police Economic Offences Wing (EOW), monitored by a Deputy Commissioner of Police, was conducting the investigations,

**Sanjay Raut had alleged that the ED was running a major extortion racket in Maharashtra and the investigating agency had become an ATM for the ruling BJP at the Centre**

but now the SIT will take over the probe.

The institution of an SIT probe comes more than a month after Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, alleging the excesses of the ED and other central agencies.

It may be recalled that on March 8, Sanjay Raut had alleged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was running a major "extortion racket" in Maharashtra and the investigating agency had become an "ATM" for the ruling BJP at the Centre.

Talking to media persons here, Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha member and party's chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut had said: "...The ED has become an ATM for the BJP. I have given all the details of the extortion indulged in by the ED to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Modi government is misusing its investigating agencies to harass and victimise its political rivals".

Among other things, Raut

had charged that acting at the behest of the BJP, the ED had zeroed in on around 100 top builders and corporate houses to 'extort' hundreds of crores of rupees from them. "BJP's former MP Kirit Somaiya is acting as the ED's conduit to extort money from builders. One Jitendra Chandralal Navlani, who is a director in seven private companies is acting as the keeper of the ill-gotten wealth and benami properties of ED officials and BJP leaders," Raut had alleged.

Raut had said that on February 28, he had submitted a detailed 13-page complaint to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and was awaiting action from the Centre.

"I have also given around 50 big names of people indulging in money laundering to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) with thousands page of documentary evidence. But, the ED has not yet any action on my complaint. It is ironically that the department responsible for preventing money laundering has itself become a money launderer," Raut said.

Raut said that Sena leader Arvind Bhosale had submitted a detailed complaint to the Mumbai police against the ruling BJP politicians and officials colluding with them.

# Recruitment scam: CBI grills ex-SSC advisers

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■** KOLKATA

Hours after the Calcutta High Court — hearing petitions on recruitment scam — ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation to interrogate former advisors to the Bengal School Service Commission, SP Sinha and Alok Sarkar the Central agency on Tuesday began quizzing the former senior officials at its Nizam Palace office in Kolkata.

The officials in question however got a small reprieve from the Division Bench of Justice Subrato Taluqdar who made slight modification in the Single Bench order directing the CBI to refrain from arresting the officials for the time being but making it mandatory for the petitioners to appear before the central Agency and cooperate.

Four Division Benches

erate in investigation process. The Single Judge has directed the CBI to go into the money trail in the recruitment scam. The two officials are said to be close to a senior Bengal minister.

Following the single Bench order the petitioners appealed before four Division Benches in a single day only to be spurned by each of them in succession. All the four Benches refused to hear the case leading Chief Justice Prakash Srivastav to send it to the Bench of Justice Taluqdar who made slight modification in the Single Bench order directing the CBI to refrain from arresting the officials for the time being but making it mandatory for the petitioners to appear before the central Agency and cooperate.

refusing in a row to hear appeals in a single case is unprecedented in the history of Calcutta High Court.

Reports of rampant corruption in recruitment process have plagued the State SSC --- since 2013 --- both in appointing of teachers and Group D staff leading to multiple court proceedings.

The Group D recruitment scam started in 2016 when the State Government recommended the appointment of more than 13,000 non-teaching staff in the government-aided schools. While tests were conducted and panels were created subsequent to the expiry of the panels it was seen that 500 irregular appointments had been made. This led to the filing of a number of law suits in the Calcutta High Court which filed.

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■**  
KOCHI

Kerala High Court on Tuesday issued notice to Bishop Franco Mulakkal on appeals filed by the State of Kerala and a nun challenging the trial court verdict acquitting him of all charges of "rape and molestation". A Division Bench consisting of K Vinod Chandran and C Jaya Chandran admitted the separate appeals filed by the victim and the prosecution and ordered the issue of notice to the Bishop.

On January 14, Kottayam additional sessions judge G Gopakumar had delivered a 289 page verdict in which he said that the prosecution as well as the victim failed miserably to substantiate their charges against the Bishop though they were given

enough time. The charge against the Bishop filed by the nun was that he had raped her 14 times and noaction was taken against the predator despite her complaints to the Church authorities including the Vatican.

The nun said she had approached the police when the attacks became unbearable. Bishop Franco Mulakkal was the head of the Jallandhar Diocese during the time of the 'attack'. On receipt of the complaint, the Kerala Police had arrested the Bishop and was incarcerated in a jail in the State.

The trial took almost two years to complete and judge Gopakumar had said in his verdict that the there was no evidence against the Bishop except the testimony of the victim. The Court also said

that the testimony of the victim was inconsistent and were riddled with variations posing questions on her credibility.

The entire case was built around some obscene messages sent by the accused to the phone of the victim but the mobile phones of the victim and that prosecution witness to whom the victim forwarded the messages from the accused were not produced, the trial court had noted.

The judge further said that the allegations were an outcome of factional feud within the church due to which Bishop Mulakkal had rivals, as well as in-fighting among the sisters within the congregation and the desire of power and position of the complainant/prosecutrix over the congregation.

The investigation officer

Harishankar had told immediately after the trial court verdict that it was a travesty of justice despite the prosecution submitting a detailed case with all necessary documents and evidences.

But Kevin Peter, president, Christian Alliance for Social Action (CASA) told The Pioneer that the action of the State Government in filing the appeal was discriminatory in nature.

"The trial court verdict is clear and there was no aberration of any kind. The Kerala Government remained silent when T Nazeer an accused in Kozhikode serial bomb blast case was acquitted by the Kerala High Court.

But they are harassing a spiritual leader knowing well that he is innocent," said Peter.

# Delimitation panel leaves J&K; report in the works

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
JAMMU

After completing the marathon exercise of interacting with around 400 delegations from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir the three member Delimitation Commission headed by Justice(Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai Tuesday winded up their two day long visit before returning to New Delhi.

The Commission is now expected to work over time to present the final report before its term expires on May 6. The Assembly elections are expected to take place after the completion of the Delimitation exercise.

According to a statement issued by the Department of

Information and Public Relations, "the Delimitation Commission of Jammu and Kashmir met with approximately 400 delegations from different parts of UT of J&K during its two day public sittings at Convention Centre, Jammu and SKICC, Srinagar".

The Delimitation Commission assured the delegations who called on the Commission in Jammu as well as Srinagar that the commission shall consider their genuine suggestions/grievances sympathetically in accordance with the Delimitation Act.

The commission had received around 400 suggestions/representations with 4000 signatories till 21st of March, 2022 in response to the draft

delimitation proposal published in Gazette of India (extraordinary) and in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Gazette on 14th March, 2022 .

During the two day long exercise the general public, public representatives, social workers and members of political parties utilised this opportunity and highlighted their demands/suggestions/grievances before the commission which were duly noted by the commission.The Commission informed the participants that the Delimitation exercise of Jammu and Kashmir has been carried out by the commission in a record time of two years despite the prevalence of Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

ums in all the blocks," he said.

On the occasion Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh , Deputy CMs Keshav Prasad Maurya & Brajesh Pathak, party's state general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal and other senior leaders will be present.

Gupta said that from the Foundation Day of the party (April 6) till the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on April 14, the BJP will organise 'Samrsata Week' and do social service.

"Under the service work, blood donation camp, cleanliness campaign, fruit distribution in hospitals, health check-up camps and drinking water arrangement in public places will be done," he said.

# UP Govt to give new dimension to Namami Gange project



**PNS ■** LUCKNOW

Keeping up with their promise of making the rivers of Uttar Pradesh clean, the Yogi Government 2.0 has announced to introduce several new dimensions to its ambitious Namami Gange project.

The government has planned to revive the extinct wells and convert them into recharging wells, and at the same time, to bring to life the ponds, and to establish village forests on their banks. The plan also includes rejuvenating 19 of 22 tributaries of the Gomti river that have dried up.

Social and government organisations like Lok Bharti and Nehru Yuva Kendra have come together to launch a campaign to make people aware and revive the rivers. This campaign is scheduled to start on April 6 across the state and will last up to May 3.

Multiple organisations will work together to make these things accessible to the people through awareness. Not only this, a campaign to plant peepal, banyan, pakar, sycamore and mango trees on the banks of the rivers will also take place. To maintain the extinct wells and convert them into recharging wells, arrangements will be made to clean the wells and redirect the rainwater inside them.

"Villagers will also be taught to plant useful and medicinal plants, thereby making village forests on the banks of the ponds," a government spokesman said.

It is worth mentioning that Lok Bharti and Nehru Yuva Kendra, in collaboration with Namami Gange department, are going to start the river and water resource conservation campaign from Fatehpur on April 6. The programme of cleanliness of rivers and oath ceremony will be done at Om Ghat Block, Bhitora.

On April 7, this event will be organised in the form of a water source festival in Lakhimpur Kheri at Takshka river Bhuiya Dev Ghat Biharipur. Similarly, a strategy has been prepared to organise events in the villages situated on the banks of rivers that have become extinct across the state.

# Gorakhnath case: IIT alumnus was already on police radar

**PNS ■** LUCKNOW

Arrested for attacking police personnel posted outside the Gorakhnath temple on Sunday, IIT alumnus and chemical engineer Ahmed Murtuza Abbasi was already on the radar of Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS). In fact, Central intelligence agencies had shared his details barely a few days back, apprehending that he might carry out subversive activity involving the Gorakhnath temple.

"On March 31, Central intelligence agencies had shared profiles of 16 suspects plotting an attack on Gorakhnath temple and Abbasi's profile in that list," disclosed a well placed source in UP Police. Barely two days after the Central intelligence input, Abbasi struck at Gorakhnath temple and tried to force his entry into the premises by injuring two PAC personnel before being overpowered.

In the wake of the Central advisory, the government had already beefed up security in Gorakhpur and created two new posts of senior officers to oversee security arrangements. Soon after learning of Abbasi's arrest in the aftermath of the attack, top agencies including ATS and STF went on the alert and the government also termed the attack as a probable part of a big terror plan.

Sources claimed that Abbasi was dropped off outside the temple premises but he

chose to escape after Abbasi was apprehended by the police personnel. Top intelligence sources said that the investigators found Abbasi was linked to terrorist outfit ISIS and the probe so far has pointed that it was a planned attack. While scanning through his belongings, the sleuths learnt that Abbasi had carried out a recce of the temple complex. It also came to light that gate no 3 of the temple complex is regularly used by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during his visits to Gorakhpur.

The sources claimed that Abbasi met a couple of men on a bike with a Lucknow number plate outside the temple complex on Saturday. After an hour-long meeting with them, Abbasi went missing. ADG (Law and Order), Prashant Kumar said that the police did not rule out the involvement of terrorist outfits and all possible angles were being pursued. He further said that it was a well-planned conspiracy to attack the temple premises.

During investigations it surfaced that Murtaza Abbasi had visited Mumbai, Jamnagar, Coimbatore, and Nepal. It also surfaced that he had visited Nepal after leaving his house on Saturday and during his return, he purchased a sharp-edged weapon from Mahrajganj. A police team went to Maharaajganj and picked up two aides of Abbasi for quizzing.

Earlier on Tuesday, Chief Judicial Magistrate Deepak



Nath Saraswati sent Ahmad Murtaza Abbasi to police remand for seven days. The police found evidence that Abbasi was influenced by banned and wanted Islamic leader Zakir Naik and listened to his videos on YouTube. The cops also found videos of Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) on his laptop. Besides, several documents in Arabic were retrieved from Abbasi's laptop which was being translated by experts.

When asked about the Navi Mumbai link to the probe, the top official said that Abbasi's Aadhaar card mentioned his residential address as 'Millenium Tower, Sanpada, Navi Mumbai'. It surfaced that the flat was sold in 2013. Murtaza Abbasi's father Munir Abbasi purchased another flat at Taj Heights Apartment in Sector 50 in Seawoods Darave, also in Navi Mumbai.

The ATS team, with the help of officials of NRI police station, visited that flat and found that the Abbasi family had shifted to Gorakhpur in

October 2020 and the flat was rented to Muslim Khan during lockdown.

Last week, Munir Abbasi visited his flat in Seawoods and then returned to Gorakhpur. While gathering inputs about Abbasi, the police learnt that he mostly kept to himself and was not extrovert. The police were now speaking to people who knew Abbasi while he stayed in Navi Mumbai.

Meanwhile on Monday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached Gorakhpur to take stock of the situation and visited the injured PAC personnel Gopal Gaur and Anil Paswan at the hospital.

Later at a high-level meeting, Yogi said that Gorakhnath temple was not the only place of worship for local people but devotees from across the world visited the temple. He announced that the state government would pay for the treatment of the PAC personnel and both

would be rewarded with Rs 5 lakh each for showing exemplary courage and nabbing the assailant despite being injured.



## Peering into you

Delhi ranks first among the world’s most surveilled cities, but what about privacy?

The remote glass eye watches you at 1,31,792 spots in the national Capital of Delhi. That is the number of CCTV cameras the Arvind Kejriwal Government has installed across the city’s 70 Assembly segments. The highest number of cameras (2,829) is installed in Patparganj, the Assembly constituency of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. The New Delhi constituency of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal comes fourth with 2,552 cameras. The Government has spent ₹306 crore so far on the project, according to a detailed report submitted to the State Assembly last week. Last August, *Forbes India* issued some data saying New Delhi ranks first among the world’s most surveilled cities with 1,826.6 cameras per square mile. London comes second with 1,138.5 cameras. Chennai is third and Mumbai, 18th. At that time, Kejriwal tweeted that he felt “proud” that Delhi beat cities like Shanghai, New York and London with most CCTV cameras per square mile. Completing a work in time may be a matter of pride for him, but turning Delhi into a surveillance city could be a matter of concern for others. The CCTV camera network is expanding across India. Some reports say nearly 1.5 million cameras are spread among India’s top 15 cities with Delhi leading the way, followed by Hyderabad, Chennai and Indore. Before India smarts under criticism like China for having become a surveillance State, there is a need to check out a couple of issues.



One, whether the presence of the cameras has stemmed the crime rate? Two, whether or not the cameras are installed respecting the privacy of the citizens or is it a case of large-scale monitoring of people without their consent? Random surveys show that cities with a high concentration of cameras also figure high on the crime index and vice-versa. The cameras are useful more to deconstruct a crime rather than to prevent it. And there are increasing instances of people

petitioning the courts against the intrusion of these cameras into their lives. Urban psychologists say the Governments go into the surveillance mode to deter crime whereas surveillance is strictly a matter of policing. A classic example is the Telangana police that relies heavily on surveillance. Amnesty International has even alleged that the State police indulges in discriminatory policing by unwarranted use of both CCTV cameras and facial recognition technology. The cameras do have their uses so long as their use is regulated, controlled by due process and subject to oversight. It is pertinent to recall here that the Delhi Government was taken to court by parents and teachers associations some time ago when it decided to install CCTV cameras inside classrooms in Government schools. The Madras High Court recently rejected a Tamil Nadu police request to install cameras inside clubs and recreation centres to monitor suspected gambling activities. These instances underline the need for selectively operated surveillance systems that balance people’s privacy against public interest and safety.

### PICTALK



Marwari women carry idols of lord Shiva and goddess Parvati to celebrate ‘Gangaur’ festival, in Bhopal

PTI

## Unbottling a battle

Delhi and Haryana are engaged in a price war to prove their credentials as a drinker’s haven

It can’t exactly be called “healthy competition”, rather another round of the war which is currently brewing between the liquor retailers of Delhi and Haryana to entice Bacchus devotees in the National Capital Region. The conflict reminds one of basically the Whisky War (also known as the Liquor War), which was a pseudo-confrontation and border clash between Denmark and Canada over Hans Island (here it’s over the buyers!) since the 1930s. It actually started in 1880, when the island got lost in the shuffle of the British transferring remaining Arctic territories to Canada. Due to the use of predominantly outdated, 16th-century maps, the small island was not explicitly included in the transfer, and as such wasn’t even recognised until decades later. This ‘war’ lasted until 2005, when both the Nato allies agreed to resolve the dispute citing the presence of the Russian Army in the Arctic region. Speaking of Russia, there’s another pertinent point flowing out of the contentious barrel. Since its “special military operation” in Ukraine on February 24, there’s been an international boycott of Russian vodka,



from the US to Australia, as a means of protesting the invasion by targeting one of the most iconic products of President Vladimir Putin’s country.

Returning to the issue at hand, the bad blood between Delhi and Gurugram is actually old wine in a new bottle, which started around mid-November last year when Delhi notified its new excise policy which allowed liquor vendors to offer hefty discounts for the first time ever. People naturally went crazy and it resulted in hundreds of metres-long serpentine queues in violation of the COVID-19 guidelines before the AAP Government was forced to ban the strapping discounts on February 28. But the city Government’s decision late last week to allow booze discounts up to 25 per cent has kicked off a fresh price war with Gurugram, which is obviously miffed at the challenge thrown its way in being called the ‘cheapest liquor adda’ in the NCR (liquor in Haryana does not have an MRP; it just can’t be sold below the minimum price). Meanwhile, as the prudes throw up their hands in despair and anguish, the lesser mortals and the AAP Government are rubbing theirs in glee. A word of caution, though: Drink moderately, drink responsibly! There’s a huge difference between ‘leverage’ and ‘liver-age’.

# The nation awaits a CDS after Rawat

The conjecture among the Services officers is that the delay in appointing the new Chief of Defence Staff is linked to the Army chief of choice



ASHOK K MEHTA

It is eminently clear why the Government has shown no sense of urgency in appointing a permanent Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to replace late Gen Bipin Rawat, who was killed in an accident on December 9, instead of merely nominating an officiating one — Army chief, Gen MM Naravane, who has been given additional charge of CDS. Senior serving officers from the Integrated Defence Staff and Service Headquarters have been whispering that the Government has had its eyes fixed on Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Manoj Pande, previously Eastern Army Commander, an engineer who belongs to the cosmopolitan city of Nagpur, otherwise famous for the headquarters of the Rashtra Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). His father is a reputed academic from Nagpur University. Gen Pande was relocated as VCOAS on February 1 after two senior Lt Gens had retired.

The IDS officers point to the fact that the Government, which claimed resolve and boldness in appointing the CDS, the first in 70 years, went limp after Gen Rawat’s death and let strategic issues in CDS ambit freeze and drift. While admitting that the controversial CDS paper on Integrated Commands was circulated to stakeholders and comments sought in six months, there were other key projects on the anvil which had the Rawat imprimatur and have since gone cold. They said one reason the Government was constrained in announcing the appointment of new Army chief was the restrictions imposed by the Election Commission and that the appointment would be made after March 10, when election results would be announced. But nothing like that happened because a Lt Gen senior to Gen Pande was still in service till March 31. Their most telling observation was that the CDS void had given an opportunity for Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, whose portfolio became extremely restricted on the formation of Department of



Military Affairs, to resuscitate his remit and enlarge strategic space which he has ably done.

One can recall that when DMA was established, former Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra said the Government can do without a Defence Secretary and that the military should have a role in formulation of defence policy. Currently, Kumar is the principal coordinating secretary of four other Secretaries in the MoD, which includes the multi-tasked CDS who is also Secretary DMA and is several notches above Defence Secretary in the Warrant of Precedence. Besides articulating defence policy, the Defence Secretary is responsible for capital acquisition, international defence cooperation and minor routine issues. Kumar recently acquired a defence advisor, Lt Gen (Retd) Vinod Khandare, who was previously military advisor to National Security Council Secretariat in the PMO and DG Defence Intelligence Agency. Kumar already has a tri-service team of advisors on international defence cooperation led by an IFS



IDS OFFICERS POINT TO THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH CLAIMED RESOLVE AND BOLDNESS IN APPOINTING CDS, THE FIRST IN 70 YEARS, WENT LIMP AFTER GEN RAWAT’S DEATH AND LET STRATEGIC ISSUES IN CDS AMBIT FREEZE AND DRIFT

officer who is assisted by an Administrative Service officer. Confidential Reports of service officers are written by them and the Vice Chief of their service, representing synergy of high order. Senior officers fear that the longer the Government takes in appointing CDS, Kumar will make hay. In any case, Gen Naravane, who is popularly tipped to become the CDS, will not have the charisma, heft and experience of Rawat to preserve and promote military turf. The DMA threatens the traditional bureaucratic supremacy over the armed services.

On March 31, the last of the Lt Gens senior to Gen Pande retired, clearing the way for him to be appointed the COAS. By current reckoning, the Government will announce his promotion anytime after March 31 as the Army chief to take over from May 1, when Gen Naravane superannuates. The office of CDS will have been lying vacant for more than four months when a CDS could have been appointed in a few weeks, had the Government shown the same alacrity it had while appointing one. It let

two Lt Gens go and waited for another Lt Gen, all senior to Gen Pande, to retire paving the path for his elevation. The Government has apparently taken a laidback approach in appointing a CDS showing unusual sensitivity in not dislocating the line of succession in the Army — a concern it ignored while appointing Gen Rawat as the Army chief when he superseded two senior Generals.

The real story, as officers explained, is the Government’s fixation in making Gen Pande the COAS. He is capable, technically suave and the first Engineer officer ever to rise to assume the ultimate command. While Infantry, Armoured Corps and Mechanised Infantry are the three combat arms, Artillery and Engineers are combat support arms and their officers also make it to General cadre and Army chiefs. It is the Government’s prerogative to select and appoint a service chief, especially the COAS. It is said that Gen Pande, owing to his background, was politically most acceptable and hence the nearly five-month delay. There is no consistency in Government’s appointments policy. It follows what is appealing and best suited in the ruling party’s interest. When Gen Rawat was appointed the Army chief over two other Generals, Government cited his exceptional operational experience in counter-insurgency, different operational theatres like J&K and North East and UN peacekeeping. Gen Pande may not be comparably gifted but managed seniority and in a way deep selection has triumphed.

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### RUSSIA NOT BEING PENALISED

Sir — The scene of the Russian massacre in the suburbs of Bucha, near Ukrainian capital Kyiv, can give one goosebumps. So far, the rotting bodies of about 400 civilians have been found there. The evidence of women being raped and elderly people with their hands and feet tied and shot at close range is clearly visible. Once again, US President Joe Biden has recommended that Vladimir Putin be tried, calling him a war criminal. But how practical is this suggestion? Because Putin became a war criminal the very day he attacked the sovereignty of Ukraine.

He proved that he will do whatever he wants by raining down bombs on hospitals, orphanages, civilian residences and shelter homes. The efforts of the world community against his actions haven’t yielded any results. Now the US wants Russia expelled from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Would it be possible? Even if that happens, will it be able to compensate for the atrocities committed by the Russians? To date, no country has announced that it is ending diplomatic relations with Russia. The meaning is clear; they are only doing lip service. Tomorrow, all these countries which imposed economic sanctions will lift these restrictions.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

### SENSEX IS HEADING NORTH

Sir — The Indian equities market’s key indices, Sensex and Nifty, surged more than 2 per cent after HDFC Bank announced a surprise merger deal. The 30 per cent stock S&P and BSE Sensex surged 1335 points or 2.25 per cent to close at 60611.74 points against the previous session’s close at 59276.69. It’s a phenomenal increase. We finally saw some semblance of market stability after a long time as the Sensex gains supported the market. The fresh appetite for investment is being seen due to foreign institutional investors’ cumulative purchases of equity and the domestic institutional investors’ cumulative purchases of equity that worked wonders.

## Congress must groom leaders



At the Congress Parliamentary Party meeting, Sonia Gandhi described the outcome of the recent Assembly elections as “shocking and painful”, and said the road ahead is “more challenging than ever before”. Sonia, without referring to the remarks of the G23 leaders or rumblings in several State units, said she was determined to ensure unity in the party. I have respect for both Sonia and Rahul Gandhi for trying (after each and every election defeat), but that’s not going to help anymore. Because in spite of repeated mes-

sages through the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) from Indian people, since the last eight years Congress has been unable to find new leaders who can resurrect the party.

Interestingly, Union Minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari said a few days ago that a strong Congress party is needed to prevent regional parties from capturing the Opposition space, and that a strong Congress is essential for India’s democracy. This is the right time for the Congress to need a fresh and young set of leaders to take our country forward. It’s a shame that the Congress leaders cannot find or groom next-generation leaders. The Congress should not forget that the duty of the Opposition is not just to give a verbal pushback to the party in power but to be prepared to replace it. The country needs Congress to save unity, secularity and democracy.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

It is a clear indication that on experiencing a stable Government, Sensex shoots up. This is due to the fact that the market is driven by hopes of an earnings recovery. It is also creditable that India bucked the trend while markets across the world fell amid trade war fears. It is, however, felt that the market rally is not supported by fundamentals. Both our neighbours Sri Lanka (in a sliced salad situation) and Pakistan (in a political pickle) are lurching amid crises while India is progressing.

GK Jayanthi Mani | Navi Mumbai

### RHINOS NEED TO BE PROTECTED

Sir — It is common knowledge that poaching is the biggest threat to all animals — endangered or otherwise. The horns of rhinoceros are thought to be of medicinal use, and the one-horned rhinos are considered exclusive to India. It is home to approximately 80 per cent of world’s rhinoceros population. Myths surrounding rhino horns about their ‘power’ to alleviate pain associated with bone disorders are in prevalence. No won-

der, the horns cost a fortune. However, there is some good news: The number of one-horned rhinos has increased by 200 in two years in the Kaziranga National Park, according to the 2022 census.

A heartening increase in rhino population has been documented in other National Parks, too. The Rhino Vision Programme of India has apparently clicked. That being said, rhinoceros poaching is quite common in India and their translocation has met with mixed success. Preserving their habitat and taking protective measures for rhino population should be high on the agenda of authorities. The existing rhinos have to be safeguarded by protecting their habitat and providing them food and water. If not, they may trudge into human settlements resulting in man-animal conflict. Rhinoceros, one of the five extinct species of odd-toed ungulates, should be conserved at all costs.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

The PM himself should appeal against polarisation in the name of religion and caste.

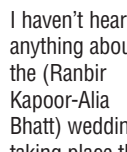


Rajasthan Chief Minister — Ashok Gehlot



I worry about making ends meet as much as the end of France.

French nationalist leader — Le Pen



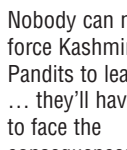
I haven’t heard anything about the (Ranbir Kapoor-Alia Bhatt) wedding taking place this month.

Actor-filmmaker — Ranbir Kapoor



I didn’t realise how good a player he (Moeen Ali) actually is; a beautiful batter.

CSK batting coach — Michael Hussey



Nobody can now force Kashmiri Pandits to leave ... they’ll have to face the consequences.

RSS chief — Mohan Bhagwat



FIRST COLUMN

STOP STEREOTYPING DIFFERENTLY ABLED

The practice of societal indifference results in failure to tap their potential



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

The perception about persons with disabilities, the differently abled, is still discriminatory in today’s society. Many “negative myths” and superstitions are prevalent. They are considered as objects of pity and disability is commonly associated with illness or disease. Consequently, their potential remains untapped and that is a great loss to the society. Ten per cent of the world population suffers from one or more disability. In India, it is difficult to find but the 2011 census says about 2.68 crore are differently abled. That comes to 2.21 per cent of the population. The media plays a major role in forming and molding the public perception about differently abled persons. However, despite the technological advancement and advent of digital media, mass media in India still remains inaccessible for persons with disabilities. Generally, the media depicts people with disability in accordance to the common stereo-



types such as the two extremes of “pity” and “heroism”. Tracing the history of portrayal of people with disability in media, we find that since early days, the disability issues were projected through documentary films. The medical and nursing students were exposed to disability sector by showing them educational silent films on hospital patients with various disabling conditions. The films made on World War I veteran patients with symptoms of catatonia, extreme Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (shell shock)symptoms and many other such films are available for viewing even today. The disability conditions of World War I veterans inspired the prominent Minnesota politician and newspaper publisher, Michael J. Dowling (1866-1921) who was himself a quadruple amputee to further the cause of veterans with disabilities by make films on them. Way back in 1918, he filmed himself doing routine tasks and got the other films on disability screened for groups such as the American Medical Association. Immediately after World War II, when returning veterans with war related disabilities were being reintegrated into the society, it was found that media portrayals of disability became more normalizing and acceptable. However, during the mid-20th century, a backlash of intolerance towards disability was observed. Some researchers felt that this may have been related to society’s reaction against any identifiable “difference” as a result of Cold War tensions. In the modern times, the arts, film, literature, television and other modes of mass mediafiction works are responsible for portraying stereotypical depictions of disability. These created images are frequently normalized through repetitions to the general audience. Once such a stereotype is observed and accepted by the mainstream public, it continues to be repeated in the media, maybe in slightly varies forms, but staying close to the stereotype. As a pioneering effort, the Community Radio Association of India in association with Blind Welfare Council,Dahod,Gujarat conducted a two-day National Orientation-cum-Training Workshop in March. The objective was to create awareness, identify emerging issues, trends and strategies for promoting the concept of inclusive society in the area of disability and human development through community radios, to provide insight and opportunity in the requisite skills for practicing community radio professionals in new era of digital information technology by using available accessibility tools and specific skills and techniques in radio production and discuss about making quality radio programmes on issues related to disability such as prevention, identification,intervention and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. There is a need to organize many more workshops for media professionals and to prepare accessible information,educational and entertainment materials in digital format for children and persons with disabilities. The media houses, organizations and media professionals should come forward to understand and highlight the issues pertaining to the people with disabilities in the right prospective.

*(The writer is a Senior Journalist and President, Community Radio Association of India. The views expressed are personal.)*

# Yogi sets targets for the first 100 days



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

In a proactive decision for Government accountability, the UP CM says that from now on, Ministers will make presentations of projects during Cabinet meetings

In 2017, when Yogi Adityanath was declared a “surprise” Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, eyebrows were raised. Questions were asked how a Mahant of a temple, with no administrative experience, can run a state as crucial as Uttar Pradesh. Political pundits prognosticated that Yogi would be replaced with a “more seasoned” politician mid-way of the tenure. But this saffron-clad Mahant of Gorakshanath peeth (Mutt) not only completed his tenure but also led the BJP to a stupendous victory creating a history of a sort, as he became the first Chief Minister in over three and half decades to be re-elected after completing five years in office.

When Yogi took charge in 2017, he was a bit shaky. His reliance on bureaucracy was palpable as he held his first cabinet meeting after almost a fortnight. In his 2.0 government, the confident Yogi not only held the meeting with the council of ministers the very day he took the oath of office and secrecy but also held the cabinet meeting the next day where he announced the extension of the free ration distribution scheme for ration cardholders for the next three months. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a meeting with all the principal secretaries and secretaries of the government and discussed the promotion of industrial investment in UP as well as the effective implementation of the development projects.

The demeanour of Yogi in his 2.0 government reflects the confidence he has gained from the first tenure. This is echoed by the way he set the agenda of 100 days for the State Government in which he focused on generating jobs, improving infrastructure, and attracting investments for the state. Chief Minister announced the holding of a grand ground-breaking ceremony in the next 100 days with a target to attract investment of ₹10 lakh crore. This ceremony will be held in Lucknow and is likely to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Chief Minister had organized an Investors’ Summit in Lucknow on February 21 and 22, 2018, almost a year after he was sworn in as Chief Minister for the first time. During that summit, he formulated an industry-friendly new industrial policy. The first investor summit was attended by the eminent industrialists of the country and 1065 MoUs worth ₹4.65 lakh crore were signed during the event in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Within six months, in July 2018 the first ground-breaking ceremony was held in which projects worth ₹60,000 crore were started. During this summit, the Government had prepared a complete roadmap through the policy to promote industrial investment in UP. Then the Yogi Government had also promoted the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme to promote the traditional industries of every district. Later, the Union Government adopted this scheme and



THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON WHAT’S NEW THEY CAN DO IN THEIR DEPARTMENTS. BASED ON THAT REPORT, MINISTERS WILL BE ASKED TO PREPARE A WORK PLAN WHICH INCLUDES GENERATING JOBS. YOGI ADITYANATH HAS SET AN AMBITIOUS TARGET TO FULFILL AS MANY AS 10,000 VACANT POSTS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

*(The writer is Political Editor, Lucknow edition of The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)*



named it Vocal for Local.

The picture of industrial investment in UP has changed in the last five years due to the Investor Summit and subsequent Ground Breaking Ceremony. There is no doubt that both these events proved to be expressways to bring industrial investment in the state as the volume of investments increased and even foreign players showed their interest in investing in Uttar Pradesh. According to the officials of the Industrial Development Department, 1045 investment proposals worth 4.65 lakh crore were submitted to the government by investors from India as well as from abroad in the first Investors’ Summit in 2018. Out of which 215 investors have established their enterprises by investing ₹51,240.25 crore. While 130 investors are setting up their venture by investing ₹37,478.63 crore and 449 investors are taking action to set up their venture by investing 86,842.89 crore.

Looking for holistic development, Yogi Adityanath has even-handed the 100 days agenda to his council of Ministers. In his first interaction with his cabinet colleagues, he made it clear that from now on only the Cabinet ministers will make presentations of projects during the cabinet meetings. The Additional Chief Secretary or the Principal Secretary of the department would only assist him. This order is passed with the intention to ensure that ministers know the nitty-gritty of the project and are in a position to explain the scheme to

their colleagues. This also shows that in his 2.0 Government Yogi wants to curtail the dominance of bureaucracy in the administration.

As he has set a clear agenda for governance, Yogi made the work difficult for the ministers as he made it clear during his first meeting that a Ministerial rank is not a matter of prestige alone, it comes with a big responsibility as well. He ordered that no minister will be allowed to leave Uttar Pradesh without taking permission from the Chief Minister. The CM has issued this instruction to prevent unnecessary visits of ministers to Delhi on the pretext of official work. Now if any minister goes out of UP for any work, he will have to tell why he is going and whether the tour is Government or personal. Besides he also suggested that they should not buy new cars or furniture for their office or home. The Rajya Sampatti Vibhag, (the department which looks after the renovation of the bungalows of ministers) has been asked not to go for unnecessary expenditure on furnishings of bungalows for the minister. Yogi also declared that ministers will not be allowed to keep old staff. They will also not be able to hire a personal staff of their choice.

CM Yogi has given a target of 100 days to all the newly-elected ministers of the UP Government. The ministers are supposed to give a report to Yogi as to what they will do in the next 100 days. The focus in this report should be on what’s new they can do in their

departments. Based on that report ministers will be asked to prepare a work plan which includes generating jobs and employment opportunities in different departments. Yogi Adityanath has set an ambitious target to fulfill as many as 10,000 vacant posts in government departments and create self-employment opportunities for over 50,000 people in the state. All the departments have been asked to prepare the complete details of the vacant posts and place them before Chief Minister’s office.

Yogi confirmed his commitment through a tweet on March 31 when he said that the State Government has given instructions to all the service selection boards to provide Government jobs to more than 10,000 youths of the state in the next 100 days. He has also set a target of providing 5 crore employment opportunities in UP in the next 5 years. In his meetings with the officials, the chief minister made it clear that he will keep a constant watch to achieve this goal.

In its first term, the Yogi Government had given 5 lakh government jobs in the first five years while over 2.5 crore people were given employment opportunities directly and indirectly through the schemes like MSME and ODOP. among others in the last five years. The next target set by Yogi Adityanath is to double this number so that maximum people become economically empowered.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE CRISIS IS NOT OUR GOVERNMENT’S MAKING ... THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IS LARGELY PANDEMIC-DRIVEN.

— SRI LANKA PRESIDENT GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA



THERE’S NO GENUINE EFFORT TO BRING SANITY TO OUR SOCIETY. IT (CABINET RESIGNATION) IS AN EXERCISE TO FOOL PEOPLE.

— LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION SAJITH PREMADASA



# Tamil Nadu faces possible Lankan Tamil refugee influx

The refugee issue has become political with all the Dravidian parties sympathising and speaking for them

The ongoing Sri Lanka crisis finds echoes across the Palk straits in Tamil Nadu as refugees have started arriving in the state over the past fortnight. Since the Eelam war ended in 2009, this is the first time that refugees have arrived on the Tamil Nadu coast.

Driven by hunger, the Tamil community has taken refuge with their Tamil brethren in India. About 16 of them landed in Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu in two batches. They are Sri Lankan Tamils who cannot face the untenable situation in the island country that is undergoing an unprecedented economic crisis, including severe food shortage.

The elite ‘Q’ branch of the Tamil Nadu Police has increased its coastal security following the possibility of a massive refugee



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

influx from Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankan refugees fleeing to India is not a new phenomenon as Tamil Nadu had provided them shelter and food since the days of the Eelam War. These refugees landed in Tamil Nadu at different times, mainly to avoid violence. But today, they have left the island country for economic reasons and hunger. Some of them are still living in the state in shelters.

The second generation of refugee Tamils is also living in camps in the state. They have no identity, don’t belong to any country, and are stuck in no man’s land. The Tamil Nadu government provides them free education, health care, ration cards and a meagre allowance for their families. They hope to get Indian citizenship, while the older generation is open to



returning to Sri Lanka.

The Tamil refugee issue has become political with all the Dravidian parties sympathising and speaking for them. They also put pressure on the Centre for the Sri Lanka reconciliation process with the Tamils.

India has received refugees from many countries, including Tibet, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. According to UNHCR, there are

about 200,000 refugees in India. The tricky point here is that India is not a signatory of the UN Refugee Convention (1951) or its Protocol (1967), so the Tamil refugees face the problem of not belonging to a country.

This time too, Tamil Nadu chief minister M.K.Stalin has sought the Centre’s approval for providing the Tamil refugees with humanitarian relief. During his visit to Delhi last week,

Stalin revealed to the media that he had also spoken about the new arrivals running away from the Sri Lankan crisis. He has suggested that they could be accorded refugee status and rehabilitated. How far it is correct to send aid to a section of Sri Lankan is a question when the whole country suffers from hunger. Tamil Nadu puts pressure on India’s foreign policy towards Sri Lanka on three main issues. The other issue pending is the resumption of talks between India and Sri Lanka about the frequent detention and arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen who stray into the Sri Lankan waters.

The third is retrieving Katchateevu, a small island Indira Gandhi ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974. The Tamil Nadu government has been insisting on its retrieval.

Stalin’s Government announced in the State Assembly on August 27 a welfare package of Rs 317 crores, which includes rebuilding houses for the refugees. He proposes to set up a committee for looking after their welfare, including their return to Sri Lanka and citizenship for those who want to live in India.

On the education front, Stalin said the government would bear the tuition and hostel fees of 55 students and children of refugees. He announced hikes in cash support to the refugees that would cost the exchequer an additional Rs 21.49 crore.

Stalin’s push is in addition to the Centre’s help to Sri Lanka. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who was in Sri Lanka last week to participate in the

Bimstec summit, has assured continued cooperation for Sri Lanka. Last month India had extended a Line of Credit worth \$ one billion and considered the request for another billion.

It is indeed an excellent decision to help Colombo at this hour of crisis. India has been concerned about the growing Chinese influence in Sri Lanka as the Rajapakse brothers lean towards Beijing. China, too, has been competing with India for a better relationship and has invested millions of dollars in infrastructure and building harbours and airports.

While New Delhi should be concerned about the overall grim political situation in the neighbourhood, the refugee issue also needs some attention, or the trickle will become a torrent of rain in the coming days.



# Russia preparing offensive in southeast: Ukraine

AP ■ BUCHA (UKRAINE)

Russian forces on Tuesday were preparing for an offensive in Ukraine's southeast, the Ukrainian military said, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy prepared to talk to the U.N. Security Council amid outrage over evidence Moscow's soldiers deliberately killed civilians.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's government is pouring soldiers into Ukraine's east to gain control of the industrial heartland known as the Donbas. That follows a Russian withdrawal from towns around the capital, Kyiv, which led to the discovery of corpses, prompting accusations of war crimes and demands for tougher sanctions on Moscow.

Russian forces are focused on seizing the cities of Popasna and Rubizhne in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the Black Sea port of Mariupol, the General Staff said on its Facebook page.

Donetsk and Luhansk are controlled by Russian-backed separatists and recognized by Moscow as independent states. The General Staff said access to Kharkiv in the east, Ukraine's second-largest city, was blocked.

"The enemy is regrouping troops and concentrating its efforts on preparing an offensive operation in the east of our country," the statement said.

"The goal is to establish full



control over the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions."

Zelenskyy, speaking from Ukraine, planned to address Security Council diplomats Tuesday amid demands for an investigation of possible war crimes.

Germany and France reacted by expelling dozens of Russian diplomats, suggesting they were spies. President Joe Biden said Putin should be tried for war crimes.

"This guy is brutal, and what's happening in Bucha is outrageous," Biden said, referring to the town northwest of the capital that was the scene of some of the horrors.

In another show of support, European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen plans to travel to

Kyiv to meet with Zelenskyy this week, her spokesman Eric Mamer announced.

Before Zelenskyy speaks, the most powerful U.N. Body is due to be briefed by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres; his political chief, Rosemary DiCarlo; and U.N. Humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths, who is trying to arrange a cease-fire. Griffiths met with Russian officials in Moscow on Monday and is due to visit Ukraine.

Associated Press journalists in Bucha counted dozens of corpses in civilian clothes and apparently without weapons, many shot at close range, and some with their hands bound or their flesh burned.

After touring neighborhoods of Bucha and speaking

## Russia urged to stop using landmines

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

A top official in the global campaign against the use of landmines urged Russia on Monday to stop its troops in Ukraine from laying the weapons that too often kill and maim civilians.

Alicia Arango Olmos, Colombia's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva and this year's president of the state parties to the 1997 convention banning the production and use of land mines, expressed deep concern at media reports that Russia is using land mines in its war in Ukraine.

She pointed to Human Rights Watch, which said on March 29 that Ukrainian explosive ordnance disposal technicians located banned anti-personnel mines in the

eastern Kharkiv region a day earlier. The rights group said Russia is known to possess the type of mines that were discovered, but Ukraine doesn't have them.

Arango Olmos said at a news conference Monday -- the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action -- that Ukraine is one of the 164 state parties to the convention, but Russia is not.

She said her appeal to Russia is: "Anti-personnel mines only cause victims, they don't resolve any type of problem."

"So please, Russians, please stop using it, because many of the people that are victims of land mines have nothing to do with what's happening between Ukraine and Russia," Arango Olmos said.

to hungry survivors lining up for bread, Zelenskyy pledged in a video address that Ukraine would work with the European Union and the International Criminal Court to identify Russian fighters involved in any

atrocities.

"The time will come when every Russian will learn the whole truth about who among their fellow citizens killed, who gave orders, who turned a blind eye to the murders," he

## EU proposes Russian coal ban in new sanctions

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union's executive branch proposed on Tuesday a ban on coal imports from Russia in what would be the first sanctions targeting the country's lucrative energy industry over its war in Ukraine.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU needed to increase the pressure on

Russian President Vladimir Putin after what she described as "heinous crimes" carried out around Kyiv, with evidence that Russian troops may have deliberately killed Ukrainian civilians.

Von der Leyen said the ban on coal imports is worth 4 billion euros (\$4.4 billion) per year and that the EU has already started working on additional sanctions, including on oil imports.

She didn't mention natural gas, with consensus among the 27 EU member countries on targeting the fuel used to generate electricity and heat homes more difficult to secure.

The EU gets about 40 per cent of its natural gas from Russia and many EU countries, including Germany -- the bloc's largest economy -- are opposed to cutting off gas imports.

said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov dismissed the scenes outside Kyiv as a "stage-managed anti-Russian provocation." Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the images contained "signs of video forgery and various fakes."

Russia has rejected previous allegations of atrocities as fabrications by Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials said the bodies of at least 410 civilians have been found in towns around Kyiv that were recaptured from Russian forces.

The Ukrainian prosecutor-general's office described one room discovered in Bucha as a "torture chamber." In a statement, it said the bodies of five men with their hands bound were found in the base-

ment of a children's sanatorium where civilians were tortured and killed.

The bodies seen by AP journalists in Bucha included at least 13 in and around a building that local people said Russian troops used as a base. Three other bodies were found in a stairwell, and a group of six were burned together.

The dead witnessed by the news agency's journalists also included bodies wrapped in black plastic, piled on one end of a mass grave in a Bucha churchyard. Many of those victims had been shot in cars or killed in explosions trying to flee the city. With the morgue full and the cemetery impossible to reach, the churchyard was the only place to keep the dead, Father Andrii Galavin said.

## 11 million people fled homes in Ukraine: UN

AP ■ GENEVA

The UN migration agency on Tuesday estimated that more than 11 million people had fled their homes in Ukraine since Russia's invasion.

The International Organisation for Migration, in its first such full assessment in three weeks, reported that more than 7.1 million had been displaced within Ukraine as of April 1.

The latest numbers came on top of the figure of more than four million people who fled abroad, reported by the UN refugee agency.

## Democratic, GOP Senate bargainers reach \$10B Covid agreement

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Senate bargainers have reached agreement on a slimmed-down \$10 billion package for countering Covid-19 with treatments, vaccines and other steps, the top Democratic and Republican negotiators said, but ended up dropping all funding to help nations abroad combat the pandemic.

The compromise drew quick support Monday from President Joe Biden, who initially pushed for a \$22.5 billion package.

In a setback, he ended up settling for much less despite administration warnings that the government was running out of money to keep pace with the disease's continued - though diminished - spread in the U.S.

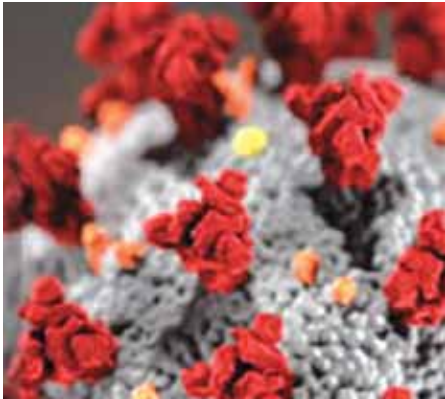
"Every dollar we requested is essential and we will continue to work with Congress to get all of the funding we need," said White House press secretary Jen Psaki.

"But time is of the essence. We urge Congress to move promptly on this \$10 billion package because it can begin to fund the most immediate needs."

Biden and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., his party's lead bargainer, abandoned Biden's request to include \$5 billion to help countries - especially poorer ones - where the disease is still running rampant.

The inability of Biden and top Democrats to protect the additional spending they wanted came after the two parties gridlocked over GOP demands to pay for it by pulling back unspent aid from earlier pandemic measures. It also reflected the diminished political force that battling COVID-19 has this election year, two years into a pandemic that began with bipartisan support for throwing trillions of dollars at it.

Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, the lead GOP bargainer, hailed the accord as one that would address "urgent COVID needs". He also trumpeted the measure's savings, which he said meant it "will not cost the American people a single additional dollar".



Still uncertain Monday was whether objections by some Republicans might prevent the Senate from considering the bill this week, as Biden wants, before Congress begins a two-week spring recess. It was also not yet certain there would be the minimum 10 GOP votes needed for passage in the 50-50 chamber.

In the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and many liberals have criticized the ejection of global assistance. But leaders signaled they were ready to accept compromise.

While short of Biden's agreement full request, "This package will fulfill immediate needs to secure more vaccines, boosters, testing and therapeutics to keep the pandemic at bay - and it must be enacted as quickly as possible," Pelosi set an a statement released overnight.

Schumer said the agreement would provide "the tools we need" to help the country recover from the economic and public health blows that COVID-19 has inflicted. But he said while the \$10 billion "is absolutely necessary, it is well short of what is truly needed to keep up safe" over time. He said members of both parties want to craft a second spending measure this spring that could include funds to battle COVID-19 and hunger overseas and more assistance for Ukraine as it continues battling the Russian invasion. The fate of such a measure is uncertain.

## Russia: Imran paying price for being disobedient to Washington

PTI ■ MOSCOW/ISLAMABAD

Russia has criticised the US for making "another attempt of shameless interference" into the internal affairs of Pakistan and asserted that Prime Minister Imran Khan was paying the price for being "disobedient" to Washington and being punished for visiting Russia in February this year.

Khan met Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin on February 24, the day the Russian leader had ordered a "special military operation" against Ukraine.

In doing so, he had also become the first Pakistani premier to visit Russia in 23 years after former premier Nawaz Sharif travelled to Moscow in 1999.

On Monday, Russia's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said despite pressure from the US to cancel his visit to Moscow, Khan went ahead with his trip.

"Immediately after the announcement of the working visit of Imran Khan to Moscow



on February 23-24 this year, the Americans and their Western associates began to exert rude pressure on the Prime Minister, demanding an ultimatum to cancel the trip," Zakharova said in a commentary on the controversy over Khan's allegation that the US was trying to effect a regime change in Islamabad.

"This is another attempt of shameless interference by the US in the internal affairs of an independent state for its own selfish purposes. The above facts eloquently testify to this," Zakharova said.

The US-led West has imposed a series of crippling sanctions on Russia since it invaded Ukraine and has been pressing other nations to

reduce their dependence on Russian oil and other products.

The senior Russian diplomat said that the sequence of events left no doubt that Washington had "decided to punish a disobedient Imran Khan," which also explained why a number of members from Khan's ruling coalition decided to switch sides and shift their allegiances ahead of the April 3 no-trust vote.

Khan, 69, stunned the Opposition on Sunday by recommending snap elections within three months, minutes after a no-confidence motion against him was dismissed by the deputy speaker of the National Assembly.

Khan then got Pakistan President Arif Alvi to dissolve the 342-member National Assembly.

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday adjourned the hearing on the deputy speaker's decision to reject the no-confidence motion against the premier, who had lost majority in the lower house of Parliament.

AP ■ SACRAMENTO (US)

A suspect believed connected to the mass shooting in Sacramento was arrested, but the multiple shooters police believe fatally shot six people and wounded 12 on a crowded street in California's capital are still on the loose. More than 100 shots were fired early Sunday in downtown Sacramento, creating a chaotic scene with hundreds of people trying desperately to get to safety.

A day later police announced the arrest of Dandrea Martin, 26, as a "related suspect" on charges of assault with a deadly weapon



and being a convict carrying a loaded gun. A court appearance was set for Tuesday.

Detectives and SWAT team members found one handgun during searches of three area homes. The arrest came as the three women and three men

## Afghan evacuees mark Ramzan in US with gratitude, agony

AP ■ LAS CRUCES (NEW MEXICO)

Sitting cross-legged on the floor as his wife and six children laid plates of fruit on a red cloth in front of him, Wolayat Khan Samadzoi watched through the open balcony door

for the sliver of new moon to appear in the cloudless New Mexico sky, where the sun had set beyond a desert mountain.

Then, munching on a date, the bushy-bearded former Afghan soldier broke his first Ramadan fast in the United

States - far from the Taliban threat, but also the three dozen relatives he would be marking the start of the Muslim holy month with if he was still home in Khost, Afghanistan.

A few minutes after naan was dipped into bowls of stewed okra and beans, Samadzoi, his wife and the two oldest children retired to worship on their prayer rugs.

On Saturday evening, the two-bedroom apartment filled with the murmurs of their invocations.

"I pray for them, and they pray for me, they miss me," he said of his relatives back home. His cousin Noor Rahman Faqir, who is also now in Las

Cruces, translated from Pashto to the simple English he learned working with American forces in Afghanistan.

As they adjust to their new communities, Afghan families evacuated to the United States as the Taliban regained power last summer are celebrating Ramadan with gratitude for their safety. Yet there's also the agony of being away from loved ones who their fear are in danger under a Taliban leadership crafting increasingly repressive orders.

From metropolitan areas with flourishing Afghan diasporas to this desert university community less than 40 miles

(64 kilometers) from the Mexican border, tens of thousands of newly arrived Afghans share one predominant concern that's amplified in what should be a celebratory time: With only temporary immigration status and low-paying jobs, they feel helpless to take care of their families here and back home.

Abdul Amir Qarizada repeats several times the exact moment, 4:30 p.m., when he was ordered to take off from Kabul's airport during the chaos of the evacuation - with no time to get his wife and five children, who are still in Afghanistan more than seven months later.

**उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि०**

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत जानपद खण्ड, 33/11 के०बी० उपस्थान, श्रीनगर (गढ़वाल)

**निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना**

इस कार्यालय के पत्र संख्या 433/वि०जा०ख०बी०टी-1/निविदा दिनांक 15.03.2022 के द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा संख्या 17, 18, 19, 20/विजाखश्री/2021-22 जो कि दिनांक 01.04.2022 तक बेची एवं खोली जानी थी, अपरिहार्य कारणों से दिनांक 18.04.2022 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। निविदा की शेष नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् मानी जायेगी।

पत्रांक सं. : 448/वि०जा०ख०बी०टी-1/निविदा  
दिनांक : 05.04.2022

**अधिशासी अभियन्ता**  
विद्युत जानपद खण्ड, श्रीनगर (गढ़वाल)

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER**

**MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN**

**RAIPUR (C.G.)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

**eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>**

**(2<sup>nd</sup> Call)**

**System Tender No. : 96286 /NIT No. : 01/SAC/2022-23, Kasdol, Dated: 01.04.2022**

**Online Tenders are invited for The Following Works up to 19.04.2022 at 17:30 Hour (IST):-**

**Name of Work : RENOVATION & REPAIR OF HEAD WORK, 02 NOS. HEAD SLUICE & WEIR AND CONSTRUCTION OF 02 NOS. SUPER PASSAGE OF TELASI TANK SCHEME IN PALARI BLOCK OF BALODABAZAR-BHATAPARA DISTRICT.**

**Probable Amount : Rs. 264.51 Lakhs**

**The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 08.04.2022, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.**

**NOTE:-** All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**Sd/-**  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
Water Resources Construction Division, Kasdol  
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin  
Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)

**R.O. NO. 90041/7**  
**R. O. Date 05/04/2022**

**Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) (Contact No. 0164-2756446)

**Tender Enquiry No. 303/GHTP/C&I/M&I/M-112/Vol.1 Dated 04-04-2022**

Dy. Chief Engineer/ C&I Circle, O&M, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tenders for the work of Routine/ Preventive, Breakdown & Shutdown maintenance of C&I Equipments/ Instruments, Measurement & Interlocks System, Annunciation System, Flue Gas Analyzers, Steam & Water Analysis System, etc., installed at 2X210MW Stage-I and 2X250MW Stage-II, Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant (GHTP), Lehra Mohabbat, Distt. Bathinda, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications for a period of one year.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 06-04-2022 till 11 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum(s) and/or Addendum(s), if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

76155/12/761/2021/13312 GHTP-12/22

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE**

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

**Whereas** The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Roop Narain Kaushik/ Chanchal Kaushik/ Frames Twenty Four Communications Pvt Ltd (LBFD800003334292)	Plot No A 10A, Basement Rear Front Side, And 2nd Floor Rear Side With Terrace Green Park, Delhi./ April 1, 2022	June 24, 2021 Rs. 3,09,85,833/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date : April 06, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/ Ncr**

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



# FADA expects auto industry to come out of woods by 2024

**New Delhi:** Supply chain disruptions and low demand across segments, especially two-wheelers, are expected to impact automobile retail sales in the current fiscal with the turn-around anticipated only in the next financial year, automobile dealers' body FADA said on Tuesday.

According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), the on-going Russia-Ukraine war and China lockdown is expected to hit supplies of critical components thereby impacting the revival of the domestic auto industry. Besides, revival of demand in rural parts of the country would also have an impact on the overall growth of the industry in the current fiscal.

"We expect the situation to remain challenging in the current fiscal with

sales volumes expected to grow by single digit," FADA President Vinkesh Gulati told reporters here.

For the fiscal year ended 2021-22, the total auto industry retail sales grew by 7.21 per cent to 1,63,75,799 units, as compared to 1,52,74,314 units in the 2020-21 fiscal.

"The near-term outlook for the Indian auto industry continues to remain a challenge as the on-going Russia-Ukraine war and China lockdown does not hint towards a smooth path. Crude is on a boil and hence fuel prices have been raised by around Rs 10. This will continue to rise and further hit sentiments," Gulati noted.

The passenger vehicle segment is expected to witness an impact due to the disruption in precious metals and neon gas supplies which originate from the

war hit zone, he added.

It will further slow the supply of semiconductor thus making waiting periods longer for the PVs, Gulati said.

"Overall, FADA remains extremely cautious in terms of any recovery in sight until the Russia-Ukraine war and China lockdown comes to an end," he noted.

FADA anticipates the auto industry to come out of the woods and reach pre-pandemic highs by FY2024, Gulati said.

Rise in raw material costs have made Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) increase the prices of their vehicles, he noted.

While there is no dent in terms of demand in the passenger vehicle (PV) segment, it is definitely going to impact the two-wheeler segment, which is an extremely price sensitive

market, Gulati said.

In the last fiscal, PV retail sales witnessed a jump of 14.16 per cent at 27,26,047 units, as against 23,87,925 units in 2020-21.

Two-wheeler retail sales stood at 1,19,73,415 units last fiscal, up 3.81 per cent as compared to 1,15,33,928 units in 2020-21. Commercial vehicle sales saw a year-on-year growth of 45 per cent, while three-wheeler sales increased by 50.32 per cent as compared to the 2020-21 fiscal.

Gulati said the increase in volumes across sectors in 2021-22 fiscal was on a low base of COVID-hit 2020-21 financial year.

In March, overall automobile retails across categories declined by 2.87 per cent to 16,19,181 units, as against 16,66,996 units in the same month last year.

PV retail sales in March declined by 4.87 per cent to 2,71,358 units, as compared to the same month last year.

According to FADA, PV sales stood at 2,85,240 units in March 2021.

"Passenger vehicles continue to see high demand and long waiting periods as semiconductor availability still remains a challenge, even though supplies slightly improved from previous month," Gulati noted. Similarly, two-wheeler sales declined by 4.02 per cent to 11,57,681 units last month, as compared to 12,06,191 units in the year-ago period.

"The two-wheeler segment was already a non performer due to rural distress. It saw further dampening due to rise in vehicle ownership cost coupled with rising fuel cost," Gulati stated.

## Individual investors can use UPI for up to ₹ 5 lakh payment in public issues

**New Delhi:** Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday said individual investors applying in public issues of equity shares and convertibles can use Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for application amount up to Rs 5 lakh.

Also, they have been asked to provide their UPI ID in the bid-cum-application form submitted with any of these entities -- syndicate member, stock broker, depository participant and registrar to an issue and share transfer agent.

The new guidelines will come into force for public issues opening on or after May 1, 2022, Sebi said in a circular.

The decision has been taken after National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) reviewed the systemic readiness required at various intermediaries to facilitate the processing of applications with increased UPI limit.

As on March 30, 2022, more than 80 per cent of Self Certified Syndicate Banks (SCSBs)/Sponsor Banks/UPI Apps have conducted the system changes and have complied with the NPCI provisions.

In December 2021, NPCI enhanced the per transaction limit in UPI from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for UPI-based Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) in Initial Public Offers (IPOs).

## Gas price hike supports upstream profitability: Fitch

**New Delhi:** The more than doubling of natural gas prices and rise in oil prices will boost the profitability of oil and gas producers like ONGC and Reliance Industries Ltd, Fitch Ratings said on Tuesday.

From April 1, the government has raised the price of gas for old fields of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) to USD 6.1 per million British thermal unit for April-September 2022 from USD 2.9.

The rate for difficult fields of deepsea KG-D6 of Reliance has gone up to USD 9.9 per mBtu from USD 6.1.

The increase in natural gas prices by the Indian government, along with a recent revi-

sion in our Brent crude oil price assumptions to USD 100 per barrel in 2022, from USD 70 earlier, and USD 80 in 2023, from USD 60 previously, will boost the profitability of rated Indian upstream companies and support their investment spending and shareholder distributions," Fitch said.

The rise in prices "should improve the upstream companies' profitability from gas fields where domestic prices were below the cost of production," it said.

The domestic price is based on the prices of four global liquefied natural gas benchmarks of the last 12 months, implemented with a quarter's lag. "We also expect prices to be revised higher in the next reset in October 2022 in light of the high gas prices to date," it said.

## Sebi invites application to hire digital forensic services provider

**New Delhi:** Capital markets regulator Sebi is planning to hire an agency that will provide assistance to its search team for onsite data acquisition during search and seizure operations.

In this regard, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has invited applications from eligible service providers experienced in digital forensic services for acquisition, extraction and analysis of digital evidence from mobile, computers, and tablets, among others, on an ongoing basis.

This comes in the backdrop of the Sebi crackdown against entities allegedly involved in a front-running scam using messaging app Telegram. Recently, the regulator carried out a search and seizure operation at the premises of several entities in multiple locations across the country in the matter.

## HDFC twins see heavy selling pressure, settle nearly 3% down

**Mumbai:** Stocks of HDFC twins on Tuesday witnessed a heavy selling pressure and settled nearly 3 per cent lower amid profit booking at higher valuations, and ended up as the top losers on both the benchmark indices.

Shares of mortgage lender HDFC ended the day at Rs 2,622.00 apiece, down 2.12 per cent over its previous close, while the HDFC Bank settled the day at Rs 1,607.15, lower by 2.98 per cent.

On Monday, shares of HDFC and HDFC Bank had witnessed heavy buying and settled with nearly 10 per cent gains as investors lapped up the announcement of their proposed merger.

At the end of Tuesday's trading session, market capitalisation of HDFC stood at Rs 4,75,375.07 crore, down from Rs 4,85,691.18 crore on Monday.

## Follow dairy cooperatives to reduce import dependency: Union Min to oilseeds bodies

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

**Union Minister**

**Parshotam**

**Rupala** on

**Monday urged**

**oilseeds bodies**

**to follow**

**the footsteps of**

**diary cooperatives**

**like Amul to**

**reduce the country's**

**dependence on**

**imports for the require-**

**ment of edible oil. While**

**launching the Dhara sunflower**

**oil brand packaged by**

**Bengaluru-based oilseeds**

**cooperative KOF, the minister**

**said cooperatives in the edible**

**oil sector "need to adopt the**

**Amul model" to grab larger**

**market.**

**The cooperatives need to**



Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandary and Dairy Parshotam Rupala hands over working capital cheque worth ₹10 crore to Karnataka Cooperative Oil Seeds Growers Federation Chairman Annasaheb Shankar Jolli

Pioneer photo

adopt the dairy cooperative Amul model and make a mark in the edible oils sector. It is possible if "healthy cooperatives" work with a motto to benefit both farmers and consumers, he said.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mr. Sukhbir Singh S/o Mr. Uggarsain Singh is authorized to deal in respect of Freehold Residential Property Ball Up Third Floor with roof rights a part of Property No. B-5, land area measuring 50 sq. yds., out of Khaseera No. 311/2, Situated in the area of Chanda Mazra, Gurat, abadi known as Gali No. 1, Hardev Nagar, Gurat, Delhi, vide notified general power of attorney and other documents dated 25.08.2014. All persons are hereby informed that Mr. Sukhbir Singh S/o Mr. Uggarsain Singh has lost Notarised General Power of Attorney and other linked document dated 19.09.2009 somewhere. ANCR Report has already been registered with respective police station on dated 03.04.2022. General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/ title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.  
**Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm) Unit No. 7, Basement, Plot No C-78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301. E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837**

**FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007 (Ares of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)**  
Summons For Filing & Appearance By Publication  
**O.A. No. 67/2022**  
Date 28/03/2022  
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)  
**Original Application No.67 of 2022**  
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant  
Versus  
MR. MOHIT KUMAR & OTHERS ...Defendant  
**To, 1. MOHIT KUMAR S/O SURESH CHANDER R/O H. NO-494, Nyay Khand-III, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014**  
**Also At:**  
Flat No. 319, Ground Floor, Block-K, Habitat Centre, Plot No. 16, Ahinsa Khand-I, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201001  
**2. PRIYA W/O MOHIT KUMAR R/O H. NO-494, Nyay Khand-III, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014**  
**Also At:**  
Flat No. 319, Ground Floor, Block-K, Habitat Centre, Plot No. 16, Ahinsa Khand-I, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201001  
**3. INDUPURAM HABITAT CENTRE PVT. LTD. Registered Office at: 702-704, D Mall, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034.**  
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 18/07/2022 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.  
**Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice**  
**Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**  
N.I.T.No. 01-22-23-WE  
Name of work with its location: Renovation of R242 & R-245, R-238 to R-244 (9 rooms) of B Wing, & R-333, R-334, R-335, R-336 including redevelopment of R-342 as VC room of 3rd floor and other misc. works at Rail Bhawan in the section of SSE/W/Rail Bhawan under ADEN-E-III  
Approx cost of work: Rs. 64,98,441/-  
EMD amount: Rs. 1,30,000.00  
Completion period of work: 5 Months  
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Closing date of tender on 19.04.2022 at 1500 hrs.  
Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.  
Above tender available on website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
**128-W/269/OET/NIT No.01-22-23-WE Dated: 05.04.2022 744/22**  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**कार्यालय वन संरक्षक, वन प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़**  
(अखण्ड मवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, तृतीय तल, कक्षा क्रमांक-TA807, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर)  
ईमेल - [effmis.cg@gov.in](mailto:effmis.cg@gov.in) वेबसाईट - <https://www.forest.cg.gov.in>  
क्र. / FMIS/IT/निविदा / 2022/534 अटल नगर, दिनांक 31.3.2022  
**निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना**  
वन प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली वनमण्डल, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.) के कार्यालयीन पत्र क्रमांक / FMIS/IT/2022/निविदा / 231 दि. 10.02.2022 द्वारा जारी निविदा "Tender for Supply of GAGAN (Indian SBAS) enabled GPS Receivers" एवं "Tender for Supply of Handheld GPS Receivers" के लिए पर्याप्त निविदाकार नहीं होने के कारणवश एतद् द्वारा निरस्त किया जाता है।  
हस्ता / —  
उप वन संरक्षक,  
वन प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली,  
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)  
**R.O. No. 90066/2**  
**R.O. Dated 05/04/2022**

**MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR UNIVERSITY KUMARHATTI-SOLAN (HP)**  
(Established under HP Govt. Act No.22 of 2010 and approved by U/S 22 of the UGC Act, 1956)  
**ADMISSION NOTICE-MBBS (2021-22)**  
Applications are invited for admission to MBBS course Extended Mop-up round (NRI Seats) counselling 2021-22 in M.M. Medical College & Hospital, a constituent institute of M.M. University, Kumarhatti, Solan from NEET qualified NRI eligible candidates from All India as per the Guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P (C) No. 689/2017 dated 22/08/2017. The application form and instructions are available on the websites [www.mmusolan.org](http://www.mmusolan.org) and [mmch.mmusolan.org](http://mmch.mmusolan.org). The application and Non-refundable Registration fees of Rs.20000/-is to be submitted on the website by 07.04.2022, 5:00 P.M. Counselling of registered candidates will be done in the Administrative Office of the M.M. University, Kumarhatti - Solan on 08.04.2022 from 9:00 AM. The candidates should attend the counseling physically with all original documents and fees. After the seat allotment, the fee is to be deposited on the spot.  
**Ph. 01792-268267 REGISTRAR**  
Website: [www.mmusolan.org](http://www.mmusolan.org), Email: [info@mmusolan.org](mailto:info@mmusolan.org)

**FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007 (Ares of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)**  
Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication  
**O.A. No. 66/2022**  
Date 28/03/2022  
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)  
**Original Application No.66 of 2022**  
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant  
Versus  
MR. SUMAN CHALKA & OTHERS ...Defendant  
**To, 1. SUMAN CHALKA W/O SHIVNATH CHALKA R/O Flat No. 306, A wing, Jalaram Park, Bhanpur, Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400078.**  
**Also At:**  
Flat No. A803, 8th floor, tower A, Meghdutam, Encore Sports City Plot No. GH-05, Sec- Adjoining, Techzone IV, Greater Noida, Noida- 201307  
**2. SHIVNATH CHALKA S/O OM PRAKASH CHALKA R/O Flat No. 306, A wing, Jalaram Park, Bhanpur, Mumbai, Maharashtra-400078**  
**3. PALM DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD. Registered Office at: 304, Sita Ram Mansion, 718/21, Joshi Road, Karol Bagh New Delhi 110005.**  
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 18/07/2022 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.  
**Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow**

**UJVN Limited**  
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)  
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone:0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax 0135-2763507  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC02886 Website: [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com)  
**RO. No. 119 SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE** Date: 05.04.2022  
The office of the Executive Engineer (M), UJVN Ltd. Chilla invites sealed tenders from interested firms following details.  
**Tender No. 01/EEM/2022-23**  
**1. Name of work :** Supply and Application of Coating Material on different Underwater parts in Unit No-1 of Power House  
**2. Estimated Cost :** Rs. 36,78,271.36 (GST extra)  
**3. Date of availability of tender document :** 06.04.2022 at 16:00 Hrs  
**4. Last Date of Receipt of tender :** 20.04.2022 at 16:00 Hrs  
For fuller and further details kindly visit our website e-procurement Portal [uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in).  
**Executive Engineer(M), Chilla Power House**  
**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007 (Ares of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)**  
Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication  
**O.A. No. 65/2022**  
Date 28/03/2022  
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)  
**Original Application No. 65 of 2022**  
ICICI BANK LTD ...Applicant  
Versus  
MR. DEVESH PRATAP SINGH & OTHERS ...Defendant  
**To, 1. DEVESH PRATAP SINGH G-53, A G Block, Shakarpur, Delhi, Krishna Mandir, Delhi-110092.**  
**Also At:** Flat No. 1031, 10th Floor Tower-Saraswati, Plot No. GH-01, Sector-10, Mahagan Mantra-2, Ganga and Gyatri, Greater Noida (West)- 201307  
**2. AMRITA SINGH A G-53, A G Block, Shakarpur, Delhi, Krishna Mandir, Delhi-110092.**  
**Also At:** Flat No. 1031, 10th Floor Tower-Saraswati, Plot No. GH-01, Sector-10, Mahagan Mantra-2, Ganga and Gyatri, Greater Noida (West)- 201307  
**3. HEBE INFRASTRUCTURE PVT. LTD. Registered Office at: C-227, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-110095.**  
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 18/07/2022 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.  
**Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform to all concerned public at large that Smt. Neeta Saha W/o Shri Anil Kumar Saha R/o G-22, Sector-27, Noida, Distt. G.B. Nagar (U.P) is the original allottee of Residential Plot No. B-221, Sector-92, Noida (Area- 300 Sq.mtr) the aforesaid property has been sold on the basis of GPA Dated 15.09.2005 which was registered at MP in favour of Shri Ashok Kumar Khanuja S/o Late Shri Sant Lal Khanuja R/o 71, Silver Park, Delhi-110051, now the said Plot is being transferred in favour of Shri Sanjay Balyan S/o Shri Jai Singh R/o C-91, Sec-33, Noida Distt. G.B. Nagar (U.P) if any has/have any objection may file objection in 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the office of Residential Plots Department of Noida Authority. **Ashok Kumar Khanuja**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)**  
**Tender Notice (1st Call)**  
Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works:-  

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
279/95935	माननीय मुख्यमंत्री / मंत्रियों / संसदीय सचिवों, छ.ग. शासन के शासकीय आवासों / कार्यालयों में साज-सज्जा कार्य।	Rs. 54.50 Lakh
281/95937	माननीय मंत्रीपरिषद छ.ग. शासन के सदस्यों के शासकीय आवासों में साज-सज्जा कार्य।	Rs. 95.77 Lakh
283/95938	S/R work on Various Culvert under Section No. 1, Sub Division No. 3 Raipur	Rs. 50.00 Lakh
282/95939	Special Repair Work on Various Road under Section No.-3, Kashiram Nagar And Kachana Section Sub Division No-3, Nawa Raipur Atal Nagar	Rs. 40.00 Lakh

**Last date of tender Download Date up to 24.04.2022 Time 17:30 PM**  
● **Note:-** All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e-procurement portal (<https://epro.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.  
**R.O. No. 90060/5**  
**R.O. Date 05/04/2022**  
**Sd/ Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1 Raipur (C.G.)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**ICICI Bank**  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohatk 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.	The Kore Projects & Logistics Pvt Ltd, Sanjeev Kumar Singh (Director), Pratibha Singh (Director), Arvind Mishra (Director), Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Arvind Mishra, E-55, 2nd Floor, Suncity, Sector 54, Gurgaon, A/C No:-039905005489 & 039995000009	Flat No. 7252 First Floor Sector B, Pocket 10 Vasant Kunj New Delhi 110070	09/03/2022 Rs. 1,59,96,107.81/- & Rs. 30,20,215.67/-	28-01-2022
2.	French Arabian Aroma, Neeta Bedi D/o Pratap Singh, Subir Bedi S/o Bimal Bedi, M/s Etosha Pan, Neeta Bedi D/o Pratap Singh, SDF Noida Special Economic, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Noida, A/C No:- 081505500664 & 081555000002	Plot No. 40, Sector 53, Hsids Industrial Estate Kondali Sonepat Haryana	10-03-2022 Rs. 2,03,57,244/- & Rs. 36,69,898.34/-	28-01-2022
3.	Robotech Private Limited, Nishant Jain, Amit Jain, Himani Jain, Kshama Jain, Nishant Jain, Himani Jain, Represented By Director Nishant Jain, Himani Jain & Amit Jain, 15 Vignay Vihar, 1st Floor, North East Delhi, Delhi, A/C No:-107905000850 & *107955000003	House Situated At Plot No-78 P, Sector- 07 Urban Estate Faridabad Haryana	12-03-2022 Rs. 1,24,00,153/- & Rs. 21,33,057/-	28-01-2022

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 06, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/NCR**  
**Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited**



In today's world, HR has become a diverse field that also looks after management and its different aspects, such as performance, competency, succession, and a system that works on integrated talent management, says ARPITAA SEN

# IT IS ALL ABOUT ACHIEVING BALANCE



As times have changed, the need for better techniques has also emerged. Every aspect of corporate life is evolving and being adaptive. With the advancement in technology, there has been a development in the system of handling employees in every corporation. Human resource management evolved alongside the change as we phased it in, and it has shown enormous progress over the years for better employee management and the smooth operation of organisations.

The institution of human resources is efficient and effective in increasing the productivity and efficiency of employees. HRM has numerous facilities to offer and has a very distinctive role in the welfare of an organisation. Every corporation has a HRM which looks after the functioning of the whole system. It is considered a pillar of the corporate world as they are the ones who manage the workforce that creates revenue.

HRM has shown a significant change in its field, as in the current situation, it is not limited to hiring people. Although the term "human resource" has been recently acknowledged, it was mainly started somewhere in the 80's. In the ancient and mediaeval times, there

was no such system that talked about employees' welfare and benefits.

Down the memory lane History has not been kind to workers who worked their whole lives to fulfil their daily needs. They struggled to find work due to their dire situations. And back in the days when working was considered slavery, people were bought and sold. There was no proper management of any kind to look after them.

When the world faced industrialisation, it led to large numbers of workers working for one individual employer or a company, where the workers were only used for exploitation, as owners focused on profitability and productivity. Managing workers in businesses began during the late eighteenth century's Industrial Revolution. Many huge organisations existed before this era, but they were difficult to manage due to a lack of efficient technology. During this time, the work environment was extremely hostile, and employees were expected to work long hours for little pay.

The conditions, however, changed with time, which led to workers questioning the management. People talked about effective worker management, which repre-



Arpitaa Sen Sharma  
HR Director, TekMonks

sents workers and their problems. It worked as a mediator between the organisation and its workers.

Current scenario HR is not limited as a function in the current scenario. Conditions have changed drastically with a positive approach. It has become an essential part of an organisation. The role of human resources has also evolved with the change, as they are not limited to personal administration, payroll, or hiring, and administration design. Human Resource Management has stepped up to the occasion. In today's world, human resources has become a diverse field that also looks after

**ACCORDING TO A SURVEY, FROM 2020 TO 2030, EMPLOYMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGERS IS EXPECTED TO EXPAND AT A RATE OF 9 PER CENT, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY AVERAGE FOR ALL OCCUPATIONS. WOMEN HOLD 49 PER CENT OF THE TOP HR POSITIONS AND 22 PER CENT OF THE TOP INCOMES, ACCORDING TO THE HR EXECUTIVE LIST**

management and its different aspects, such as performance, competency, succession, and a system that works on integrated talent management.

The role of HR has profoundly changed over the years with advancements in technology and changes in work culture. Due to the evolution and broadening of human resources, many people seek career opportunities in it. According to a survey, from 2020 to 2030, employment of human resources managers is expected to expand at a rate of 9 per cent, which is approximately average for all occupations. Women hold 49 per cent of the top HR positions and 22 per cent of the top incomes, according to the HR Executive list.

The role of human resources has become more dynamic with evolution and is now inclined towards the development of employees. For the growth of the organisation, HRM has now been focusing on improving employee experience and providing a comfortable working environment for them to work in.

HRM works to achieve a healthy balance between employees and their organisations and also makes efforts to provide a work-life balance.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.**

— Cesar Chavez

### DEGREE COURSES AT IMS

The Institute of Management Studies (IMS) Offered Degree Programmes affiliated to CCS University Meerut Invites application for different courses for its 2022 batch. IMS Noida offered Under Graduate and Post Graduate Programmes in Business Management, Law, Mass Communication, and Information Technology.

**How to Apply:** Applicants seeking admission are required to fill a separate application form for the same. Applicants can collect the application form from the institute by paying Rs.1050/- (cash) for UG courses & Rs.1450/- (cash) for the PGDM program. It can also be obtained by post, online or demand draft facility of Rs.1050/- for UG courses & Rs.1450/- for PGDM in favor of IMS- NOIDA payable at Noida / Delhi Noida / Delhi.

**Admission Process:** Applications for Academic Year



2022 are open to applicants who have passed or will appear for the qualifying examinations under the higher secondary (10+2) from any recognized Board of Education such as AISCE/IB/ICSE, or equivalents.

All eligible candidates will have to undergo Entrance Exam Campus at Noida comprising a written test and personal interview. All qualifying candidates will be required to carry their portfolios. Admission is based on the marks obtained in the qualifying examination and the performance in written Tests and Personal Interviews.

**Check out:** <http://imsnoida.com/> <http://imsnoida.in>

## Unacademy signs MoU with Backward Classes Welfare Department

PNS ■ INDIA

Unacademy, a learning platform, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Backward Classes Welfare Department (BCWD), Govt. of Telangana to identify and empower meritorious students from the state to prepare for competitive exams with scholarships.

Over the course of three years, Unacademy will conduct a series of aptitude tests for meritorious students of Telangana in three phases to cater to the state and central govt. job exams and college entrance exams.

Under this MoU, 4500 aspirants will receive the benefits of this scholarship program, which is a one-year Unacademy Plus subscription for a competitive exam.

Additionally, all-girl students from Telangana who qualify for the aptitude test will receive scholarships under Unacademy's mega-national program 'Shikshodaya'.

All aspirants applying for state govt. jobs as identified by BCWD and students studying in classes 10th, 11th, and 12th in school and those in Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) colleges are eligible for these tests and scholarships.

## Making way for effective traffic management & criminal tracking

Video analytics facilitate seamless analysis of videos to generate information based on what is seen. The information generated automatically can later be used for taking appropriate actions, such as, notifying security personnel or recording the incident, says KAPIL BARDEJA

The rising number of criminal activities across the country call for futuristic video surveillance and analytics solutions to control crimes. Also, Video Analytics is playing an effective role in managing traffic congestion and better compliance with traffic laws. Vehant Technologies is a pioneer in designing video analytics systems that are indigenously developed to keep traffic violations and other criminal activities at bay. The Video Analytics platform, Okean, by Vehant Technologies, has been making waves across the country as a game-changing video analytics platform that helps traffic management and prevent crimes.

### What are Video Analytics Systems?

Video analytics (VA) is a software solution that automatically generates descriptions and alarms based on video footage. It enables law enforcement authorities to facilitate real-time tracking of crimes. It also helps track the movement of criminals, trespassers, intruders, stolen vehicles, or abandoned objects or baggage identified in the video stream. Additionally, it is also widely used for traffic management and detecting traffic violations such as triple riding, riding without the helmet, seat belt violation or mobile phone usage

while driving among others. A dynamic CCTV camera with analytics software can detect vehicles that skip traffic signals or pickpockets in places, allowing police officers to respond quickly and automatically punish offenders.

Video analytics facilitate the seamless analysis of videos to generate information based on what is seen. The information generated automatically can later be used for taking appropriate actions, such as, notifying security personnel or recording the incident. VA-enabled systems are essential for facilitating better governance and civic administration. The Government of India's Smart City/safe city projects have given rise to new-age IP Video integrated end-to-end solutions to serve various purposes ranging from traffic management and identification of criminals.

### Why are Video Analytics Systems important?

Video surveillance systems produce large volumes of video. However, the videos are rarely watched or reviewed because of a lack of resources or time. This situation leads to security incidents being overlooked which may give way to unfortunate events. These challenges have shaped the development of video analytics systems.



Kapil Bardeja  
CEO & Co Founder at Vehant Technologies

**Okean: AI-powered VA Platform** Vehant's Artificial Intelligence-driven VA platform, Okean, provides Enterprise Analytics Suite and APIs. The AI-powered system combines GPU and CPU power into a single platform to facilitate seamless incident detection, alert generation, and data visualisation

within a user interface that is intuitive and straightforward. Users can also make use of its actionable insights to understand people's behaviour, incident patterns, and much more. The VA tool, for instance, detects sudden and random movements of people in a specific area to indicate a potential safety and security threat. An alert can be generated if one or more people fall/collapse simultaneously in the field of view of the camera and do not get up within a specified time period. Likewise, a motion-triggered alert can be generated when an object or person is continuously moving in a camera's field of view.

In addition to detecting motion, this revolutionary VA tool also tracks non-motion behaviours of people, objects, and vehicles. Live monitoring, recording, snapshot capture, database management, and reporting are all possible with this VA system.

In a smart city setting, it can sometimes be difficult to discern whether the surveillance cameras are still working as intended or capturing the scenes for which they were originally set up. A camera's view may change for a variety of reasons, including the natural accumulation of dirt or grime. Furthermore, malicious interference from people wishing

to have their actions masked can also affect the camera's view.

Okean also comes with Camera Tamper Detection capabilities, which can be applied individually to each camera to provide an alert if the field of view is tampered with or modified or its lens has been covered with paint. The VA platform by Okean does not require any hardware adaptations and is built on machine learning (ML) and deep learning frameworks. As a bonus, it can work with different types of operating systems without any compatibility issues.

### Empowering country's smart cities

A city can be safer and smarter only if lawbreakers are punished immediately. Only an intelligent platform like Okean can help authorities penalise lawbreakers without losing time. As a part of Jammu City's requirement for improving crime control and monitoring of the traffic & general surveillance system, Vehant has offered its ITMS & Virtual Analytics solution to fulfil the requirement, enabling authorised users to view live and recorded images and control all cameras through the system. Additionally, a 24x7 monitoring centre monitors the camera feeds to check crimes and improve traffic management.

## Fiction is liberating

An inspiration! A thought! An idea! This is how a story begins. A few facts interwoven with real-life events take the story forward. Some delicately placed feelings and experiences give it a soul and an action-packed scene sets up the grand finale. This is how fiction is told.

Fiction is an interesting form of writing for the novice, alive and happening. The characters are molded out of imagination or fantasy. Or they may sometimes be a reflection of themselves or perhaps inspired by a real-life character in their midst. Where every scene is perceived, expressed, and even lived as an event taking place around the writer. A fiction story is enacted in an author's imagination like a play on a stage where the author enacts every character in its totality. The stage is set with imaginary props and the author delivers each line and gesture as if she were playing a part.

One may say, to write fiction is easy. Once the plot of the book is perceived the author has to imagine the settings in the novel. That could be any place or terrain one has visited in the past or present. Any inspiring locale in tune with the storyline would work well and propel the story forward. The author then goes on to imagine the habitat around them. The description follows easily as more and more entities of the environs emerge and come alive in the imagination. People, each with a distinct characteristic feature, are added. What's wonderful about fiction is that every character can be what the author wishes it to be, an extension of their imagination. It can be perceived as perhaps a longing, fulfilling a burning desire, or maybe a dream come true. These characters may even relate their

actions and behavior with acquaintances they see in their lives.

Once the stage is set the story rolls. As the author lives through the story incidents and events emerge. The entire story flows around the author with each scene being enacted like a virtual interactive game. The imagination guides the author through each scene building up each scenario which is easily perceived by the readers just as they were enacted out in the mind of the author. The reader then begins to relive that part of the story.

Some may say, fiction writing is difficult. But where imagination is vivid and fertile, fiction is often easy to follow. It is born from the depth of an author's imagination. It is limitless and knows no boundaries. It's beyond logic and not often bound by facts or rules of truth. A book of fiction can take a reader beyond the realms of existence into the world of the unknown where only imagination and its boundless possibilities exist. A truly inspiring experience for an author.

What's wonderful about writing fiction is that it is beyond the norms of questions and exclamations like 'how can this ever happen' or 'is this even possible' or 'that really can't be'. Anything can happen because this is fiction that abounds the wings of imagination in a world where everything is possible.

To the aspiring authors, I have one piece of advice- Do not be afraid to write fiction. Unleash your imagination and let it sweep you away. For untethered and untamed, your imagination with reap fantastical characters and scenarios that will amaze you and your readers alike.

The writer is Viral Roger, Author of the book *The Mysterious Elixir*

## JKLU organises SPARDHA

PNS ■ JAIPUR

India's premier higher education institution, J K Lakshmi Pratap University ((JKLU), Jaipur, today kicked off the 10th edition of SPARDHA, their three-day Annual Sports extravaganza. This Sports festival embodies the true spirit of healthy competition and youthful fervour amongst students and has students from over 30 colleges, from

across the country, participating in 21 different sporting events.

Asian Para Games medalist and Arjuna Award winner Sandeep Singh Maan was the Chief Guest of the occasion and Dy Superintendent of Rajasthan Police & trophy-winning Pro Kabaddi player Mr Raju Lal Chaudhary was the Guest of Honour. All the sports events are hosted by JKLU on the respective cam-

pus grounds and facilities. Sandeep Maan mentions that he had often faced rejections owing to injuries even after preparing very hard but he practiced diligently and won accolades later. He wants to motivate children who go through struggles by sharing his own life stories.

He says, "Physical disabilities are not shortcomings; they can be converted into strengths. Today people

know me for those shortcomings. Everybody has some talent - recognize your talent. There are no short cuts to success. Hard work eventually pays".

Raju Lal says that there are enough job and career growth opportunities for sportsmen. "The Rajasthan Government has made some very good policies and provided facilities for sportsmen and it has benefited us," he says.

## Instructorless online training for doctors

PNS ■ KARNATAKA

As cardiovascular issues are becoming the major cause of death in India, MedLern, a leading digital learning solution for hospitals and healthcare professionals, has unveiled an innovative, online resuscitation training platform that does not require instructor oversight. Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), Mangalore is the first university in India to adopt this program for training their medical practitioners in BLS,

ACLS and PALS.

The globally proven, online programme, 'HeartCode' Complete is co-developed and powered by American Heart Association (Association) science and Laerdal Medical technology.

This programme significantly reduces training time as compared to the traditional instructor-led model. The program is divided into two parts - online, self-paced Cognitive Part 1 and Skills Session on the RQI-P GO Simulation Station.

Upon completing both parts, the learner receives an American Heart Association course completion e-Card. RQI-P GO Simulation Stations are portable and can be used by hospitals to train their staff on BLS/ACLS/PALS on their hospital premises rather than their travelling to training centres in different locations.

The program provides consistent training that meets diverse learning needs and features real-time, audio-visual feedback.

The programme accommodates the learning style and needs of the learners and they can complete the eLearning portion at their own pace and on their own schedule.

The innovative programme will improve the staff productivity and deliver better patient outcomes.

The programme will also reduce the operational cost of physical training and optimize time and resources while delivering high-quality resuscitation training.





## TAKE DEVELOPER'S ROUTE

Aspiring programmers should create a defined path with an actionable strategy to sharpen their coding skills. HARI KRISHNAN NAIR shares a few tips for aspirants to carve a better professional graph

Technology segments such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning along with robotics have opened up a plethora of opportunities for developers in the country. India continues to lead in terms of the growing base of software developers with the fastest-growing concentration of programmers in the world. Currently, the country has witnessed a significant spike in demand for roles like IT Security (Up 166 per cent), Full Stack (Up 110 per cent), Android Developers (Up 80 per cent), Data Analytics (Up 44.7per cent) and AngularJS (Up 40 per cent) according to the data released by Qness.

Aspirants ambitious to build a career in programming should create a defined path with an actionable strategy to sharpen their coding skills. In a highly competitive environment, it becomes difficult for young graduates and freshers to figure out how to start and carve a successful career in this domain.

**Carve a better career graph**

◆**Horizontal problem solving**

Complex applications are built on various layers. The ability to understand, work and solve issues on them effectively would help one become a better programmer. Programmers aspiring to build a career in software development should at least try to master one or two layers. Post achieving fluency, expert coders can easily tackle different challenges across the production and come up with a cohesive strategy to solve the problem. Horizontal problem-solving covers areas of coding including scalability, stability, performance, reusability of code along with maintenance, and debugging.

◆**Learn techniques and their application**

Developers require a wide array of technical and non-technical proficiencies, which allow them to design, implement, test and integrate complex enterprise applications. Ones who are well versed in several languages and coding styles can stand out by gaining a broader understanding of programming fundamentals. To gain an in-depth understanding of programming techniques, it is important to ensure that chosen learning programme credentials offered by any learning partner should include a well-structured curriculum, industry-relevant case studies, and live sessions. Today, multiple leading universities in collaboration with edtech platforms offer comprehensive software development programmes with a deep-dive into skill sets like Cloud foundations, AWS Core & Advanced, DevOps on AWS, Exploratory Data Analysis that can make for an intellectually stimulating and financially rewarding career.

◆**Attend conferences and meetups**

Conferences, meetups and hackathons produce great opportunities to build networks. Aspirants can use these events as a networking opportunity and learn new tech trends. Chatting with fellow coders and participating in hackathons also helps assessing one's own skills and discovering the gaps. It opens up opportunities to get constructive feedback on products, concepts and ideas. It also offers a chance to gain different perspectives, experiences and helps you get valuable feedback from industry experts, inventors and tech pioneers.

◆**Make open source contributions**

Making open source contributions is a good way to learn new coding practices, team up with other fellow programmers, and understand the business implications of open source products. It can help budding software developers gain recognition in their respective communities. It also creates a number of opportunities, such as job offers and invitations to attend conferences and events. As open source is visible to the public, prospective employers often inspect code and assess skills written by potential hires. One step further would be to team up with other open source contributors and build a great coding profile.

◆**Peer reviews and collaboration**

Working as a programmer in any organization requires collaboration with other developers in the team. Collaborating and participating in code review activities gives an opportunity to discover more optimal solutions and learn new best practices that are worth adopting. It further encourages younger developers to sharpen their skills and become experts in their field. Activities such as hackathons, peer reviews, technical round-table discussions create a great opportunity to learn from peers.

The global rise of digital-first business solutions has led to a spike in demand for programmers that can build and customize these solutions as per organisational needs. Once an aspirant gains fluency in technical skills, there are multiple options available to choose as a career path in Software Development, starting from Front-end Development to Website Development, Data Science, DevOps Engineering, Full Stack Development, and Cloud Development.

The average compensation for skilled professionals in these domains has also moved up from ₹8 lakh in 2017 to ₹10 lakh in 2020. Looking at this scenario, it is the best time for students as well as professionals to gain fluency in the programming techniques to build a successful career in software development.

The writer is Co-founder, Great Learning

## 'Technology in education improves the quality of learning'

Technology plays an important part in almost every subject, and one such field where its presence is utmost is in the education sector, says DR NEELIMA KAMRAH

In the world that we now live in, technology plays an increasingly important role. Each day, a new piece of software or device is introduced to the market that helps to better our lives in some way. Technologies in education play an important role and wisely change the learning process broadly. Teachers would never have been able to make students productive learners at home in this epidemic period of COVID-19 if technology had not been developed.

The significant contributions of technology to education improve the quality of learning; greater communication facilitates the transfer of skills and knowledge to students. EdTech has transformed the entire educational framework, improving the learning process at the touch of a student's fingertip.

Imperative roles of technology

Learn at your own pace: There are online classes in which students from all around the world can participate from the comfort of their own homes. There are study materials available online. All you need is a smart device and internet access.

Enhances the educational process: Teachers can build more imaginative and inventive lesson plans by adding current technologies, such as artificial intelligence, into their lessons to keep students' interest. Gamification of the classroom is making it easier for students to complete their syllabus on time, without getting bored.

Knowledge sharing: Students from all over the world may get together and exchange their experiences. One can attend the seminars and lectures by the world's top mentors from their home. Not just seminars but many foreign universities are offering various courses online.

Distance learning: Anyone can obtain a second degree or other certificates with the help of online courses. Distance learning is becoming a new trend in the education sector. Earlier, distance learning was assumed as the inferior way of studying but now people are adapting it freely and completing their education through distance courses.

Information is easily stored : Typing or copy-pasting various information takes only a few seconds. A little pen drive can hold a large quantity of data. As a result, keeping track of records online is simpler. When opposed to



Dr Neelima Kamrah  
Principal KIIT World School Gurugram

handling hard copies, computers provide for better and more secure data storage.

Time saving: Teachers benefit from technology in a variety of ways. Teachers can simply handle evaluations. All data may be organised logically, making searching a breeze. When necessary, properly entered data about any student can be retrieved. Instead of discussing topics orally, teachers can show videos in class.

Economical than the traditional way: Students can rely on their electronic devices and save money by not purchasing books, assignment papers, or study materials. They can use the e-device to complete all of their assignments and transmit them to their teachers. The teacher can use her smart device to grade them.

Education has taken on a whole new meaning as a result of technological advancements. Essentially, it proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that our educational system has been revolutionised as a result of technological advancements. We can now prepare kids for lifetime learning, which necessitates innovative educational approaches that progressively incorporate technology into students' daily lives. A well-rounded education is widely recognised as a key to personal success. It puts pupils on a path of lifelong learning that will help them achieve in a rapidly changing world. Individuals can broaden their minds and embrace new ideas and opportunities through education, and at the same time will also improve and build better lives for themselves.

The pandemic has transformed everything, right from the way we live to the manner in which we work. The global health crisis has accelerated the process of the utilisation of technology among the masses. This new wave of technological advancements seems to fundamentally change the future of jobs. Some people believe that transformations are set to pull down jobs at a tremendous level as nearly every activity that workers perform today possesses the potential to be automated. Conversely, others foresee a future where technologies will recruit talent and create better jobs. This state of

having a positive belief doesn't appear to be baseless as it is based on historical experiences. History, time and again, has been proof of how each new wave of change brought phases of job destruction but eventually led to creating many newer ones.

The industrial revolution enhanced the economic condition of the society and provided a route to the creation of a middle class, who could enjoy health, education, and other amenities that were earlier enjoyed by the wealthiest only. It can be a bit of a hurdle to predict the kinds of jobs that this new digital revolution will create and in what quantities, but according to the World

Economic Forum, nine out of the top ten most in-demand jobs of 2021 did not exist in 2003. This clearly indicates that the digital transformations are originating new and better employment opportunities. However, it wouldn't be wrong to say that the new tech-savvy professions will require students to acquire a completely different set of skills. This, evidently, will steer the majority of students to embrace offbeat courses and become the experts in them.

## MIND IT

Cloud infrastructure Manager: An increasing number of corporations are finally adopting cloud computing. And to oversee its functioning, who are they turning to? Yes, cloud managers, one of the most popular STEM fields today. These managers with engineering backgrounds foster the company's computing strategy, establish cloud management and monitoring schemes, produce the cloud application design, all in order to achieve the desired end product.

Telemedicine Manager: Although telemedicine is not new, it has fueled the aftermath of the pandemic. The sector's development has seen a blast in new

positions, and surprisingly the change of how doctors practice medicine. The duty of the manager offers a bridge between doctors, patients, technology, medicine and diagnosis. Remote patient care through virtual communication channels. This is booming, primarily due to the rise in the consumption of technology.

Podcast producer: This position incorporates several responsibilities, including podcast management, quality control supervision, audio check, guest research and much more.

The witer is Prof Rajneesh Chauhan, Dean, FORE School of Management



**International Scholarships at Alvernia University, USA**

The educational programme is open to support international students who want to pursue an undergraduate degree at Alvernia University.

**Award:** \$10,000

**Course**

**Level:**

Undergraduate

**Supporting documents:**

International scholarship application

Statement of proposed study: This should be a separate document in which the student applicant outlines (in 300 words or less) why a scholarship should be given to them by Alvernia University and how their academic and personal interests can contribute to the community campus

Unofficial previous years grade report

One letter of recommendation

**Admission requirements:**

Must have a previous year's degree certificate with outstanding academic achievement.

**Language requirement:** If English is not your first language or mother tongue, you should provide evidence of your English language proficiency

**How to apply:** First, applicants have to take admission at the university. After that, applicants have to submit the online

**DIGITAL MARKETING AT TOWHEE**

Location – Work From Home

Stipend – ₹10,000-12,000/Month

Link – [internshala.com/i/8756d8](https://internshala.com/i/8756d8)

Deadline – April 14, 2022

**PROOFREADING & CLIENT INTERACTION AT INTERNSHALA**

Location – Work From Home

Stipend – ₹16,667/Month

Link – [internshala.com/i/837b81](https://internshala.com/i/837b81)

Deadline – April 14, 2022

**CONTENT WRITING AT SHYCO**

Location – Work From Home

Stipend – ₹7,500/Month

Link – [internshala.com/i/bfba1e](https://internshala.com/i/bfba1e)

Deadline – April 14, 2022

**SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT (REACT & NODE.JS) AT EULERCODER TECHNOLOGIES**

Location – Work From Home

Stipend – ₹20,000/Month

Link – [internshala.com/i/691c32](https://internshala.com/i/691c32)

Deadline – April 16, 2022

**HR AT LEDOS LIGHTINGS**

Location – Work From Home

Stipend – ₹5,000-10,000/Month

Link – [internshala.com/i/1792dc](https://internshala.com/i/1792dc)

Deadline – April 14, 2022

**COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AT DESIGN SUNDAYS**

Location – Delhi, Gurgaon

Stipend – ₹10,000/Month

Link – [internshala.com/i/36f830](https://internshala.com/i/36f830)

Deadline – April 14, 2022

**CONTENT WRITING AT PATENTSKART**

Location – Chandigarh

Stipend – ₹10,000-15,000/Month

Link – [internshala.com/i/a9437b](https://internshala.com/i/a9437b)

Deadline – April 13, 2022

## IN BRIEF

### PFWS CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Police Families Welfare Society (PFWS), a non-profit organisation under the welfare unit of Delhi Police, is celebrating its golden jubilee. The PFWS is organising a mega event and observing a PFWS Week from April 1 to 7 across all the ten welfare centers. As part of the celebrations a T20 cricket match was held today on 2nd April morning between Delhi Police XI vs PFWS at Roshanara Club, Delhi. Commissioner of Delhi Police Rakesh Asthana also participated and was the chief guest.

Dr Mukesh Kwatra, founder

Smiling Tree, honored CP, Asthana by gifting him a plant. On the occasion Smiling Tree gifted around 70 plants to all the participants, the dignitaries of Delhi Police and their families. Dr. Mukesh Kwatra said, "Gifting a plant is gifting life, gifting happiness, gifting hope. Smiling Tree takes pride in it."

Established in 1972, the Police Families Welfare Society works with the sole aim of meeting financial, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs of the families of the police personnel.

Currently, the PFWS runs ten welfare centers located in Malviya Nagar, Vikaspuri, New Police Lines, Pitampura, Shalimar Bagh, Model Town, Dwarka, Jyoti Nagar, Ahata Kidara and Narela.

### SGI'S 3RD GRADUATION CEREMONY

The 3rd Graduation Ceremony of the pass-out graduates of year 2021 of Satyam Fashion Institute, School of Journalism and

Mass Communication and Satyam College of Education was organised in the campus of Satyam Group of Institutions at Sec-62, Noida. 87

students of B.Ed., 64 students of Fashion and 12 students of Mass Media were awarded degrees on this occasion.

### IMS CELEBRATES 13TH CONVOCATION

Institute of Management Studies (IMS) Noida organised the convocation ceremony for the management students at Radisson hotel, Noida. During the programme, former President of Havells Pvt Ltd, Ken Lifestyles Pvt Ltd AVP

Dhruv Kumar Gupta, Institute of Cost Accounting of India, MD SK Gupta, and Senior Director of IMS Noida, Dr Kulneet Suri graced the event by their presence. Students were awarded for their outstanding academic achievements.

### ONE INDIA-2022: CULTURAL DIVERSITY FEST

Annual One India fest-2022 of Lovely Professional University was held today amid mega cultural diversity celebrations at the campus. This year in its 12th session, the Fest was celebrated carrying the theme — Tribal Cultural Heritage Walk. The day proved celebrative and informative with a massive presentation of diverse tribes, tribal heritage and celebrations thereof.

For this, a large number of Indian festivals, rituals, cultures, traditions, dances, songs were showcased and performed on, in full mirth and merriment. Students raised slogans for oneness, particularly *Bharat Mata Kee Jai & Hum Sab Ek Haen*, amid large diversity of the country and as at the campus.

Rajya Sabha Member (MP) of India & Chancellor of LPU Ashok Mittal

inaugurated the fest by releasing tri-coloured balloons. LPU Pro-Chancellor Rashmi Mittal accompanied him. Chancellor Mittal congratulated all at the helm of affairs of the fest for upholding India's magnanimity in its diversity, as it is maintained at the campus also. He encouraged students to always stand united in all endeavours for the betterment.

### ANNUAL TECHNICAL FEST- COGNIZANCE 22 CONCLUDES

IT Roorkee hosted third day Cognizance 2022, Institute's Annual Technical Festival, and India's illustrious technical extravaganza. The technical fest offered a plethora of events, which was held in hybrid mode. Cognizance 2022's theme was Unravelling Enigmas, which aims to unwind mysterious theories like quantum entanglement.

Each day of the three-day festival has been earmarked for guest lectures on pertinent issues, thrilling competitions, and informative workshops on different topics by prestigious companies.

Around 2500 colleges had participated and more than 15000 students of registered for different events of Cognizance.

### SIMPLIFYING STOCK MARKET TRADING AND GOAL-SETTING

Business coach, mentor, & entrepreneur Gaurav Bhagat has recently launched two board games titled The Stock Market Game and Lakshya - The Goal Setting Game aimed at decoding stock market trading and teaching the art of setting goals respectively. These two one-of-a-kind board games, specifically designed for young professionals and students, are now available for purchase

on Meesho, Amazon and Flipkart. The USP of these games is the fact that there are very few products like these in the market that promotes edutainment in a non-digital setting.

At a time when start-up culture and entrepreneurship have become buzzwords in the country, these board games will help in introducing vital concepts and principles to both the uninitiated as well as a seasoned entrepreneurs. They also have the potential to be included in the curriculum of schools and colleges in order to upskill millennials and sharpen their minds.

As these two board games are played in groups, they also promote team-building skills and help build confidence in the players. Gaurav Bhagat announced the launch through a statement.



# Never say never with DK

## Veteran wicket-keeper batter's 23-ball unbeaten 44 helps RCB beat RR

### points table

Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1.	RR	3	2	1	0	4	1.218
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.	RCB	3	2	1	0	4	0.159
7.	DC	2	1	1	0	2	0.065
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

### boundary meter

4s	363
6s	194

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A sensational display of hitting from Dinesh Karthik and Shahbaz Ahmed helped RCB recover from a mini batting collapse and record a four-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Jos Buttler hammered half a dozen sixes in his unbeaten 70 off 47 balls as Rajasthan Royals grafted their way to 169 for three after RCB opted to bowl.

Losing four wickets in a space off 11 balls, RCB were in all sorts of trouble at 62 for four before Karthik (44 not out off 23 balls) and Ahmed (45 off 26) took the game away from the opposition with a 67-run partnership off just 33 balls.

Karthik eventually got the team



home in 19.1 overs.

It was RCB's second win in three games while it was the first loss of the season for the Royals after consecutive victories.

At 55 for no loss in the seventh over, RCB were on course in the run chase before the game turned on its head with the Royals taking a flurry of wickets.

The wily Yuzvendra Chahal (2/15), playing against a team he played for seven seasons, was largely responsible for the RCB collapse. He forced an error

from Faf du Plessis (29), who mistimed a leg break to be caught at long-on, before cleaning up left-hander David Willey (0) with a classical leg-break.

Chahal also effected the run out of Virat Kohli (5) after a brilliant take and throw from Royals skipper Sanju Samson. Trent Boult then getting rid of Sherfane Rutherford made it 87 for five, leaving RCB in a lot of trouble.

That was when Karthik, who has shown stellar form this season, came into the middle and brought back RCB into the contest with some sensation-

al strokes including a reverse sweep off Ravichandran Ashwin whose fourth over went for 21 runs.

Karthik did the bulk of the damage batting alongside Ahmed as they brought up their 50-run stand off just 21 balls.

Earlier, Buttler, fresh off a hundred in the previous game, had to work hard in his 47-ball knock on a slow Wankhede pitch. He had the support of Shimron Hetmyer (42 not out off 31) at the other end as the duo shared an unbeaten 83-run stand off 51 balls.

# Winless MI face uphill task against Iyer's KKR

PTI ■ PUNE

Mumbai Indians' domestic bowlers will look to step up as they take on a buoyant Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL here on Wednesday, looking to turn things around after back-to-back defeats.

MI have so far looked like anything but IPL's five-time champions, losing both their opening games - first against Delhi Capitals by four wickets and then against a resurgent Rajasthan Royals by 23 runs.

And skipper Rohit Sharma will seek improvements on multiple fronts to effect a turnaround when they face KKR, who come into the game after beating Punjab Kings by six wickets.

Jasprit Bumrah, with his three-for showed why he is the best in the business, particularly at the death and MI would be hoping for another stellar show from him.

For a turn-around, Rohit himself will have to be at his brutal best and hammer his favourite opposition, against whom he has a formidable record.

Opener Ishan Kishan has been rock solid, smashing a brilliant 81 in the lung-opener followed by a gusty 54.

If Mumbai have to post score or chase a big total, which is likely at the MCA stadium in Gahunje, Rohit and Kishan would need to fire on all cylinders.

MI has badly missed the services of Suryakumar Yadav, who is known for playing many a match-winning knocks for the franchise.

Yadav has recovered from his finger injury but it remains to be seen whether he plays or not with Rohit remaining non-committal about his availability.

While the emergence of unheralded N Tilak Verma, who smashed 61 off 33 balls to take MI to 81 in 8 overs against RR, was a big positive.

And the likes of Anmolpreet Singh, Tim David and West Indian Kieron Pollard will need to shoulder responsibility.

While Singh scored in single digits, David too didn't look comfortable on Indian tracks and it needs to be seen if MI brings in South Africa's U-19 star Dewald Brevis, known as 'Baby AB'.



For Kolkata, the biggest asset is star all-rounder Andre Russell coming back to form. His six-hitting prowess was on display against Punjab Kings and he would be keen to continue from where he left.

But their top-order, comprising Ajinkya Rahane and Venkatesh Iyer, faltered against Punjab and the duo would want to give the side a good start.

KKR pacer Umesh Yadav has been impressive and could pose a potential threat to MI batters but he would need support from Tim Southee and Shivam Mavi, while the eight overs from Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine can change the match situation.

Mumbai have won 22 times against KKR, while KKR has been victorious only seven times, and they would want to add a win to their tally.

# 'India missed death over specialist Natarajan in T20 WC'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former coach Ravi Shastri has hailed T Natarajan as a death bowling specialist, saying the Indian team missed the left-arm pacer sorely during its T20 World Cup debacle in UAE.

Natarajan, who came to limelight in India's historic Test series win Down Under in early 2021, suffered a knee injury and missed most part of the year before making a comeback in Sunrisers Hyderabad's second match of the IPL-15 here on Monday.

"Very happy for him. We missed him in the World Cup. He would've been a certainty had he been fit," Shastri said in *ESPNcricinfo's T20 Time-Out*.

India had made a heartbreaking group stage exit in the T20 World Cup in 2021. "He got injured against England when we were playing the ODI series and we really missed him (in the World Cup)."

"He's that specialist death bowler,



bowls those yorkers very skilfully. He's got quicker control. He is skiddy. A bit quicker than you think and hits the bat," Shastri said. The 31-year-old, who was bought back by SRH for ₹4 crore, made a fine comeback after 12 months, picking 2 for 26 from his full quota of four

## Hazlewood unlikely before April 12

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood hasn't yet joined the Royal Challengers Bangalore team bubble for IPL-15 and is unlikely to be available for at least another week.

Hazlewood, who was a part of the Australian squad during the Pakistan series, will be joining the franchise in

next couple of days and will undergo a mandatory three-day quarantine before being available for selection. "Hazlewood would be joining the team in next couple of days. Unlike others, he didn't directly link up with his franchise post Pakistan series. He has taken a short break due to personal reasons," an IPL source said.

The Australian play-

ers are supposed to be available after April 6 and had Hazlewood completed his quarantine by now, he could have played the game against Mumbai Indians on April 9.

However, since he would take another few days to arrive, the likely match for which he could be available post quarantine is the one against CSK on April 12.

The former coach said Natarajan was a lucky charm for them.

"Every game I've picked him we've won. In his debut in T20, India won. In his debut in Test cricket, India won. From a net bowler, he played those other two formats," Shastri said.

# Sen, Bansod enter Korea Open 2nd round



PTI ■ SUNCHEON

World championships Bbronze medalist Lakshya Sen and fast-rising Malvika Bansod progressed to the second round of the men's and women's singles competitions respectively after registering gruelling three-game wins at

the Korea Open Super 500 badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

While Sen staved off a spirited challenge from local hope Choi Ji Hoon 14-21, 21-16, 21-18 in just over an hour in his opening round match, Bansod rallied her way to notch up a stunning 20-22, 22-20, 21-10

win over world No 24 Han Yue of China.

Sixth seed Sen, who has been in sensational form in the last six months with back-to-back final finishes at German Open and All England Championships, will next meet Indonesia's Shesar Hiren Rhustavito. Unseeded Bansod, who had reached the finals of Syed Modi Super 300 tournament in January, will face sixth seeded Thai Pornpawee Chochuwong in the second round. However, it was curtains for Swiss Open finalist HS Prannoy as he went down meekly to Malaysia's Cheam June Wei 17-21, 7-21 in 41 minutes. In doubles, men's pairing of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala lost 14-21, 19-21 to Pramudya Kusumawardana and Yermia Erich Yoché Yacob Rambitan of Indonesia.

# Mitahli slips, Mandhana rises in Women's ODI rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India skipper Mithali Raj dropped a place to seventh but star opener Smriti Mandhana moved up to ninth position in the ICC Women ODI batters rankings issued on Tuesday.

After her below-par outing in the just-concluded Women's World Cup, Mithali dropped a rung in the chart with 686 rating points. The veteran India captain accumulated 182 runs from seven games at an average of 26.

In comparison, Mandhana

(669 points) scored 327 runs from seven games with a best of 123, averaging 46.71 in the showpiece.

Besides the duo, vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur climbed one place to the 14th spot.

Harmanpreet has been India's second best batter in the World Cup with 318 runs from seven games. Her highest was 109.

Australian keeper-batter Alyssa Healy jumped to the top of the batter rankings after her phenomenal 170 in the

final against England.

The Australian's outstanding knock sent her soaring into the number one spot, ending South African opener Laura Wolvaardt's short stay at the summit.

The 32-year-old Healy smashed 509 runs, including two hundreds and two half-centuries, across her nine matches at the World Cup at a strike rate of 103.66.

Healy finished just ahead of compatriot Rachael Haynes as the tournament's top scorer.

Four Australians remained in the top six in the latest ODI rankings, with Beth Mooney, Meg Lanning and Haynes joining Healy among the world's top-ranked batters.

# Manika, Archana make it to top 5 in ITTF women's doubles rankings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian women's doubles pair of Manika Batra and Archana Girish Kamath jumped two places to break into the top-5 in the latest rankings, released by the ITTF.

The duo now occupies the fourth spot with 1501 points.

Batra and Kamath had claimed the Bronze medal at the WTT Star Contender Doha 2022 after losing the semifinals to the Chinese Taipei pair of Li Yu-Jhun and Cheng I-Ching, last week.

The Chinese pair of Wang Manyu and Sun Yingsha is sitting atop the chart with 4289 points,



followed by Japanese combination of Mima Ito and Hina Hayata and Luxembourg's Xia Lian Ni and Sarah de Nutte.

## Diagnostic brand to invest \$10mn on IPL campaign

New Delhi: Healthians, a leading diagnostic services provider, is the first diagnostic brand to ever advertise on IPL, India's popular TV prop-

erty with 400 million + viewers.

"We wanted to communicate that unabashedly to our audience, that no matter what,

should anyone need a health test anywhere, Healthians is just a call or click away," said Deepak Sahni, Founder & CEO, Healthians.



# Arsenal's top 4 bid rocked in 'unacceptable' defeat

AP ■ LONDON

Mikel Arteta apologised for Arsenal's "unacceptable" performance in a 3-0 defeat at Crystal Palace that dealt a significant blow to their bid to finish in the Premier League's top four.

Arteta's side was destroyed by first-half goals from Jean-Philippe Mateta and Jordan Ayew at Selhurst Park on Monday.

Unable to muster a revival after the

break, Arsenal's second defeat in their last three league games was sealed by Wilfried Zaha's late penalty.

Arsenal had gone into the weekend in fourth place, but Tottenham's 5-1 win against Newcastle on Sunday piled pressure on the Gunners and their response could not have been any less convincing.

The battle to qualify for next season's Champions League via a top-four finish is heating up and Arsenal are in danger of wilting.

They sit in fifth place, behind Tottenham on goal difference having played a game less than their north London rivals.

West Ham and Manchester United, both three points behind Arsenal, will also fancy their chances after a result that blew the top-four battle wide open.

"We made it impossible for ourselves with the way we competed. You have to be physical and run and then you earn the right to play. We were

really inconsistent on the ball and that is unacceptable," Arteta said.

"We were poor, especially in the first half. I apologise to our supporters. We didn't have the presence or the composure to dominate the situation. That's what I'm most annoyed with."

It was an especially painful result for Arsenal fans given the presence in the Palace dug-out of Eagles boss Patrick Vieira, a Gunners legend after his trophy-filled playing career with the club.



# Rossoneri's Serie A lead cut to a single point

AP ■ MILAN

A C Milan lead Serie A by a single point after failing to get past mid-table Bologna on Monday, a goalless draw the latest twist in a thrilling title race which looks to be heading to the wire.

After dropping two precious points Stefano Pioli's side hold a slender lead over second-placed Napoli, who ran out impressive 3-1 winners at Atalanta on Sunday afternoon and are now snapping at Milan's heels.

Defending champions Inter Milan are four points back in third with a game in hand following their 1-0 triumph at fourth-placed Juventus, who are eight points off the pace with seven matches left.

The draw was another disappointing result against one of the league's lesser lights, their displays against teams they should beat a consistent problem as the season inches towards its

climax.

Milan took 33 shots over the course of the match but only seven were on target in an imprecise performance in front of goal which could yet cost them a first league title since 2011.

"The only thing that we were missing was the goal because we fought, played with intensity and created a lot of opportunities," said Pioli to DAZN.

Earlier Giovanni Simeone struck his 16th league goal of the season in Verona's 1-0 win over relegation-threatened Genoa who fell to their first defeat under coach Alexander Blessin.

Simeone became only the second player in Verona's history after Luca Toni to net more than 15 times in a single Serie A campaign after his decisive fifth-minute strike which moved Verona up to ninth and left Genoa second from bottom, three points from safety.