

**OPINION 6**  
SALMAN KHURSHID  
& HIS EQUIVOCALISM**WORLD 9**  
RUSSIA HITS UKRAINIAN CITIES,  
POURS MORE TROOPS INTO WAR**MONEY 10**  
MARKETS BOUNCE BACK  
AFTER 5-DAY ROUTPublished From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADALate City Vol.32 Issue 109  
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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY APRIL 21, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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LIVERPOOL  
BEAT MAN  
UTD 4-0  
11 SPORT

# SC HALTS BULLDOZERS

## Demolition went on till SC stay came in black & white

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

As a file of nine bulldozers and hundreds of police officials made their way to violence-hit Jahangirpuri on Wednesday morning uprooting shops and kiosks, chaos broke out and the Supreme Court intervened twice in a span of a couple of hours to finally stop the North Delhi Municipal Corporation's (NMC) controversial "anti-encroachment drive".

However, by then the NMC's action had created national headlines and triggered an all-out war between the BJP and Opposition parties.

The word about the impending anti-encroachment drive had been doing the rounds on Tuesday night itself. The build-up started around 7.30 am on Wednesday with the deployment of hundreds of Delhi Police, CRPF and RAF personnel in the area to maintain law and order.

A flag march by the police took place around 8.30 am. Around 10 am, bulldozers made their way to the place of action in the presence of NMC Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh.

Singh said an anti-encroachment drive will take place across the national Capital. "We had requested security for the drive earlier also but due to some reasons the action was not taken," he said.

At 10.30 am, the bulldozers started to raze the encroached areas. Soon came the Supreme Court order to stay the drive. But the drive didn't stop with the NMC officials saying they did not get an official copy of the SC order.

"The anti-encroachment drive will be stopped as soon as

we receive the Supreme Court order," said the NMC mayor.

From 11.30 am to 12.30 pm, the anti-encroachment drive continued with police personnel guarding from rooftops and a drone keeping a close eye.

This prompted senior advocate Dushyant Dave to again approach the SC to bring to its notice that an official communication through the apex court secretary-general to the police commissioner and the mayor and the NMC commissioner be made.

*Continued on Page 2*

Police take away a protester during an anti-encroachment drive in the violence-hit Jahangirpuri in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

## Govt persecuting poor, minorities, blasts Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday attacked the Government over the use of bulldozers for an anti-encroachment drive in violence-hit areas of Delhi and Madhya Pradesh and alleged that this is a demolition of India's constitutional values and the drive targeted the poor and minorities.

He urged the Prime Minister to switch off "bulldozers of hate" and switch on power plants, while highlighting the shortage of coal in the country due to which power plants were being shut down.

"This is a demolition of India's constitutional values. This is state-sponsored targeting of the poor and minorities," Rahul tweeted, sharing a picture of a bulldozer and the Constitution.

## Rahul sowing seeds of hatred, retorts Anurag

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for criticising the BJP over the use of bulldozers for an anti-encroachment drive in violence-hit areas of Delhi and Madhya Pradesh.

"He is doing no good to the country by sowing the seeds of hatred. He is maligning the country's image... This is all you can expect from someone whose history is linked to corruption and riots," Thakur replied to Rahul's comment.

He also hit back at the Aam Aadmi Party for accusing the BJP of instigating riots and saying that its headquarters should be bulldozed. "It is a party which goes to the extent of compromising with terrorists and separatists for power," Thakur alleged.

## Bulldoze BJP HQ, Shah's house to end riots, says AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Slamming the Centre for use of bulldozers to bring down several structures in Delhi's Jahangirpuri on Wednesday, the Aam Aadmi Party said razing the residence of Home Minister Amit Shah and the BJP headquarters with bulldozers will free the country from communal violence and riots forever.

"Bulldozers should be run on the BJP headquarters and on the residence of Amit Shah. After this, riots will not happen in this country," said AAP leader Atishi said.

The AAP alleged the BJP had engineered riots in Jahangirpuri last week as well as other such incidents of violence in various parts of the country during Ram Navami.



A bulldozer removing illegal structures during a joint anti-encroachment drive by NMC, PWD and the police in the violence-hit Jahangirpuri in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Nudged by a battery of top lawyers, the Supreme Court on Wednesday stalled the anti-encroachment drive launched by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation in the violence-hit Jahangirpuri area in the national Capital.

The bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, which ordered maintaining of status quo in the forenoon, intervened again during the day after it was apprised that the authorities were not stopping the demolition drive on the ground that they had not received any official communication.

Senior lawyers Kapil Sibal, Dushyant Dave and Prashant Bhushan appeared for the petitioners against the demolition without any notice. The case

will now be heard by a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai.

After the demolition continued despite the SC order, senior advocate Dave, appearing for the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, again mentioned the matter before the Chief Justice. The bench, also comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, directed the SC secretary-general to convey its morning order to stop demolition to the mayor, the NMC commissioner and the Delhi Police chief immediately.

"I am sorry to mention it again...In the morning, I had mentioned the matter. Despite communicating the (stay) order, they (authorities) are not stopping the demolition. They are saying that they have not officially received any communication. I request to ask the secretary-general to commu-

nicate the order to the police commissioner and the mayor and the commissioner of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC)," Dave said. "It will be too late otherwise," the senior lawyer said urging urgent remedial action on the part of the top court.

"Ok. Communicate it through the secretary-general



(of the apex court) immediately," the CJI said.

The senior advocate said that the order of the apex court was widely reported by the media in the morning and still the authorities were not acting on it. "I don't understand. We are in a rule of law society... I am feeling sad as it will send a terribly wrong message," Dave said.

In the forenoon, Dave mentioned the petition of Jamiat against the special joint encroachment removal action of the civic bodies, including the NMC and the PWD, and said "a completely unauthorised and unconstitutional demolition" has been ordered.

He alleged that the demolition, which was to start at 2 pm on Wednesday, began at 9 am and no mandatory notice, granting time for response, for demolition had been served on

the alleged violators.

Senior advocate Sibal, also appearing for the Muslim body, mentioned another petition in which a direction to the Centre and some States, including Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, has been sought asking them not to take "precipitate actions" like razing buildings in criminal proceedings against riots accused.

"Upon being mentioned by Dave, We direct the registry to list the matter tomorrow (Thursday) that is on April 21 along with (other petition)... Before an appropriate bench. Status quo, as exists today, shall be maintained, until further orders," the bench ordered.

Jamiat, in its separate plea, has sought a direction to the Centre and the States, where buildings are being razed in criminal proceedings, that such an action be not taken.

## Cong to end suspense on PK entry within 72 hours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress is all set to complete within the next 72 hours the exercise to build consensus within the party for the inclusion of poll strategist Prashant Kishor in its top echelons. Kishor has already presented a roadmap for the revival of the grand old party to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the forthcoming Assembly elections.

Going by all indications, Kishor will formally join the Congress and oversee the crucial task of rebuilding the party and formulating its narrative to take on the saffron outfit.

After four days of regular meetings chaired by party chief Sonia Gandhi which also saw participation by Kishor on three occasions within a week, Congress chief Ministers Bhupesh Baghel and Ashok Gehlot joined the deliberation on Wednesday.

Gehlot and Baghel met Sonia in the presence of



Kishor and discussed the organisation's strategy for the upcoming Assembly and general elections.

During the meeting that lasted several hours, the two Chief Ministers presented their plans for the respective States and asked Kishor to give his additional suggestions.

About the entry of Kishor into the Congress, Gehlot told the waiting media that it would be good if the party makes use of the experience of an expert like him to bring the Opposition together.

The Rajasthan Chief Minister said Kishor has become a brand. He was with Narendra Modi during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and later with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, with the Congress in Punjab and with

many other leaders, Gehlot said.

"It will be good if his experience is used in uniting the Opposition and in fighting the NDA Government. There is a need to do so. The manner in which there is violence during festivals... A very dangerous politics is going on in the country and if one thinks only on the basis of religion, it is not good for the country," Gehlot alleged.

"Congress president Sonia Gandhi has constituted a short committee to look at the various suggestions given by Prashant Kishor as also by certain very experienced people in the party. Those suggestions include the ways and means to strengthen the Congress organisation and to gear up the Congress for the upcoming elections leading up to 2024, both the State and Central elections," party's chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said in a Press briefing.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Delhi makes mask mandatory again

### Capital logs 1,009 Covid cases, 60% jump in 24 hours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the national Capital logged 1,009 fresh Covid cases on Wednesday, a 60 per cent jump from a day ago, the Delhi Government decided to make face masks mandatory in public places. This was decided by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) chaired by Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal at Raj Niwas.

The DDMA also decided not to shut schools but chose to come up with a separate Standard Operating Procedure in consultation with experts. It has also decided to enhance testing, focus on vaccination coverage of the targeted popu-



lation and ensure strict enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour.

As per the health department data, Delhi reported 1,009 cases while one person died due to the infection on Wednesday. This was the maximum number of cases recorded in Delhi since February 10 when 1,104 infections were reported. A total of 17,701 tests were conducted a day ago and 5.7 per cent of them came out positive.

The DDMA meeting was attended by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Chief

Secretary, AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria, and Director of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Dr SK Singh and other senior officers.

Sources said that the DDMA decided that in consultation with experts, standard operating procedures for prevention and management of Covid should be laid down for schools and their strict enforcement by school management should be ensured.

The Government is expected to issue an official order regarding the mandatory use of masks soon even as it chose to keep the schools open and decided against bringing back other restrictions involving regulating markets or social gatherings.

Sources said authorities have been asked to keep a close watch on social gatherings and ramp up testing in the national Capital.

*Continued on Page 2*

## E-locomotive plant to be set up in tribal Dahod: PM

**Dahod:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday announced that an electric locomotive manufacturing plant with an investment of ₹20,000 crore would be set up in the tribal-dominated Dahod district of Gujarat.

The area, thus, will become a major centre of the Make in India initiative, he said, speaking at a large gathering of members of tribal communities on the outskirts

of Dahod town.

"A steam locomotive workshop was established here before Independence. Now it will give a push to Make in India as the Railways will set up ₹20,000 crore electric locomotive manufacturing facility here," Modi said. Dahod will play a major role in fulfilling the demand for electric locomotives. The demand has increased in foreign countries too," he added.

PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the exhibition during the Global AYUSH Investment &amp; Innovation Summit in Gandhinagar

PTI



# MHA seeks views on proposal of CRPF

Force wants to rename 2I/C post to Addl Commandant

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has sought comments on a proposal of the CRPF for renaming of the rank of second-in-command to Additional Commandant so that the officials can take pride in their ranks.

The move comes after the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) submitted a proposal to the effect to the Ministry.

The Second-in-Command, also referred to as 2I/C is a post between Deputy Commandant and Commandant.

As per the CRPF proposal,

officials superannuating from the Second-in-Command find it difficult to explain their rank and profile in the civil society and even government organisations and departments.

"It goes without saying that a CAPF officer should take pride in his rank but the rank of second-in-command fails to add to the pride of the officer rather it becomes a matter of embarrassment," reads the Ministry letter circulated to various paramilitary forces like the CRPF, Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) besides Assam Rifles that under the operational control of the Union Home Ministry and administrative control of Defence Ministry.

This led the CRPF to submit the proposal for re-designating the post of second-in-command

to additional commissioner. Citing the proposal, the Ministry has sought comments/recommendations on the subject matter at the earliest from the Forces. Veterans said comparison of the posts of the paramilitary forces is needless as posts should not be confused with ranks. A section of officers said additional commandant will refer to an additional post and could adversely affect the chain of command organisational structure. Instead of re-designating 2I/C as additional commandant, posts should be elevated as commandant and senior commandant. Also, more pressing issues like timely conduct of departmental promotion committees for preparing a panel of officers for promotion to the next level are plaguing the forces and should get due attention instead of involving the administrative energy into nomenclature of designations.

# Delhi power demand rises to 5,761MW, highest ever in April

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The power demand of the national capital on Wednesday made history as it clocked 5,761 MW, which is the highest ever in the month of April till the date, as the maximum temperature of Delhi settled at 41.2 Degree Celsius, which is four notches above the normal for this time of year.

The minimum temperature in Delhi was recorded as 25.6 degree Celsius, which is four notches warmer than the normal for this season, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The relative humidity recorded at the Safdarjung observatory, in the morning at 8:30 A.M was 39 per cent and 19 per cent in the evening at 5:30 P.M.

The weather stations at Ridge, Ayanagar, Mungeshpur, Najafgarh, Pitampura and

Palam recorded maximum temperatures of 43 degrees Celsius, 42.4 degrees Celsius, 43 degrees Celsius, 43.1 degrees Celsius, 43.1 degrees Celsius and 41.2 degrees Celsius, respectively, stated the IMD data.

The IMD predicted, "Likely occurrences of Rain and Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and gusty winds over Western Himalayan Region and adjoining plains on 20th and 21st with peak activities on 21st April, over central India on 21st and 22nd and over east India during 20th-22nd April, 2022."

"Heavy rainfall spell likely to continue over Assam-Meghalaya during next 5 days," said IMD.

"Since April 1, Delhi's peak power demand has increased by 28 per cent. The expected peak demand for summer 2022 is 8200 MW," said sources.

# Awaited underpass at Ashram crossing to be inaugurated on April 24

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After missing nearly eight deadlines and a delay of over a year, the much-awaited 750-metre long underpass at the Ashram crossing in South Delhi will be inaugurated on April 24, a move that will benefit lakhs of commuters, officials said on Wednesday.

Barring some finishing touches, the Public Works Department (PWD) has finalised the construction work of the underpass, they said. "The Ashram underpass will be inaugurated by the government on April 24. It is still unclear whether Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal or Deputy CM Manish Sisodia will inaugurate it but the facility will be completely thrown open for the public," a government official said.

Last month Sisodia, who also holds the PWD portfolio, had said the facility will be opened for the public on March 22 but it could

not be done because of non-completion of work. However, the PWD had started the trial run of the facility from March 22. Currently the underpass remains closed during the night.

The underpass connects Bhogal with New Friends Colony on Mathura Road. Once opened, the commuters travelling to and from ITO and other parts of central Delhi will have a smooth ride through the busy Ashram crossing. Officials said opening of the underpass will benefit lakhs of people daily.

Ashram Chowk is an important link between central and south Delhi and also with Faridabad. The junction connects the Mathura Road and the Ring Road (linking Lajpat Nagar-Sarai Kale Khan and the DND flyover). According to data provided by the traffic police, around 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh vehicles cross the Ashram intersection every day during peak traffic hours.

# Sisodia reviews streetscaping from Naraina to Moti Bagh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday reviewed the ongoing streetscaping work between the National Capital's Moti Bagh to Naraina with the officials of the Public Works Department (PWD).

Sisodia, who is also PWD Minister said that the city government's aim is to make all the roads in the city pedestrian friendly which will provide a pleasant experience to pedestrians walking on them.

"Under the streetscaping project, the government aims to decongest, redesign and beautify several roads across the national capital. Redesigning of roads will eliminate bottlenecks and improve aesthetics of the road stretch that will include facilities like open air sitting areas, barrier free walking area, ornamental plantations, cycling tracks etc," said Sisodia.

# Delhi Police arrests man with arms after exchange of fire

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After a brief exchange of fire, the Delhi Police arrested a 38-year-old man with arms and ammunition in Outer North Delhi on Tuesday night. Police said that they have recovered eight country-made pistols and seven live cartridges from the possession of the accused.

The accused has been identified as Rajan alias Rahul. Police said that he is found involved in around 70 cases, including Arms Act, two previous cases of encounters with

the police, and incidents of snatching and theft. He also faces cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), 1985, police said.

Rajan used to supply weapons to criminals based in Delhi-NCR, said police, adding that he has been labelled as a "bad character" at Mahender Park police station.

According to Brijendra Kumar Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer north district, constable Sandeep Mann received a tip-off that Rajan

was arriving with a consignment of firearms to be sold to criminals in Outer North Delhi and adjoining districts.

"On the basis of specific inputs, a trap was laid in Shabbad Dairy area and Sector 36 Rohini, the accused was intercepted when he was coming from Bawana Road towards Sector 36 Rohini on a scooter," the DCP said.

Rajan opened fire at the police from his country-made pistol and in retaliation, the police fired three rounds out of which one hit his right leg, the DCP said.

# Gurugram cops to start E-Beat system

Gurugram: To prevent and ensure the reduction of crimes the Gurugram is planning to introduce a new E-Beat system which is expected to be not only simple to implement, but also effective in detecting crime as well as improving the police-public outreach and building relations with the community, police said.

Giving details about the project the Commissioner of Police, Gurugram, Kala Ramachandran said that the idea is to introduce an effective and transparent beat patrolling system with centralized monitoring to enhance accountability and performance.

"The new beat system is expected to help us increase police visibility in public places; monitor criminals and their movement with public cooperation; increase the safety of women in public etc.

Additionally, the effort would help in improving police response time since they beat police can quickly reach emergency spots," she said.

Ramachandran said, "Police personnel work extremely hard, but there is a need to 'work smart' by making optimal use of technology.

"We had started the process of crime-mapping last month to identify 'hot spots', i.e., crime-prone areas in the different Zones of Gurugram, especially crimes against property like vehicle thefts, burglary, snatching, etc. Additionally, Geo-mapping will now be done of ATMs, banks, courts, residential areas, schools, bus stands, public areas, important CCTV points, and other priority places of all police stations and sector-wise. Following this, we shall decide on the beat points and routes," she said.

# Gurugram Police books 14 for impersonating as Microsoft employees, duping US nationals

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram police on Wednesday arrested 14 people, including three women, busting a gang of fake Microsoft employees involved in duping US nationals by sending pop-ups on their computer screens, offering various technical support.

The police made the arrests in an early morning raid at the racketeers' fake call centre in the South City-1, Sector 51 and also seized 14 laptops, nine mobile phones and over Rs 1.10 lakh in cash.

Set up in March this year jointly by five partners, the call centre used to send pop-ups on users' computer screens offering them technical support, hardware upgrades, antivirus etc while posing as Microsoft employees, police sgaid.

Following the search, seizure and arrests, the police lodged an FIR at Sector 40 police station under various sections of the IPC and IT Act. The police raided the fake call centre on a tip-off to Inspector Samer Singh of the Cybercrime police station.

The arrested people included the four call centre partners Karan Sharma, Mayank Nath, Rahul Bhati and Mohit Bajaj, police said adding that the fifth partner, Rajat Juneja was out of the city when the raid was conducted.

Police identified other accused as Nikita, Simran, Ankit Singh, Rahul, Mukesh, Lovish Sehgal, Priyal, Abhishek, Vishwas, and Gurpreet Chawla, all Delhi residents. Revealing their modus operandi to the police, one of the arrested accused Karan Sharma said, "We would

send pop-ups to computer systems in the US through call vendor Jordan who charges Rs 1,500 per call."

"The call was transferred by Jordan through the X-LITE dialer. Our employees then used to receive calls and talk to foreigners posing as Microsoft employees and offer to fix their problem through remote access like team viewer, any desk or ultra viewer and ask them to pay USD500 to USD1500 dollars through gift cards for our services," he said.

"The accused trapped foreigners to clear pop-ups and provide antivirus in the name of technical help. They would ask US nationals to purchase iTunes gift cards and then would take their numbers and redeem them," Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Virender Vij said.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd., Office Number 201-B, 2nd Floor, Road No 1 Plot No-B3, WIFI IT Park, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane, Maharashtra- 400604

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Rahul Yadav/ Karishma Singh A 1403/1404, 14th Floor, Quantum Park CHS Ltd., Union Park, Off Carter Road, Khar West, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Mumbai- 400052/ (LBMUM00005141344)	Property 1: Flat No.1901, 19th Floor, G-Wing, Kanakia Paris, J.I. Shirshekar Marg, C.T.S No.629/1284/A, 629/1284/B, 629/1284/C, "F" Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Opp. Ascend International School, Bandra (East), Maharashtra, Mumbai - 400051. Property 2: Flat No.1902, 19th Floor, G- Wing, Kanakia Paris, J.I. Shirshekar Marg, C.T.S No.629/1284/A, 629/1284/B, 629/1284/C, "F" Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Opp. Ascend International School, Bandra (East), Maharashtra, Mumbai- 400051.	March 25, 2022 Rs. 5,90,04,413/-	03/01/2022

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 21, 2022  
Place : Noida

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

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**E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com**  
**Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) – 01/ 2022 – 23**

- The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE firm eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge works as detailed in the table below :
- Nature of work : Bridge / Road works
- No. of work : 04 nos.
- Tender cost : Rs.10,000.00
- Class of Contractor : Super Class Contractor
- Available of bid document : From 10.00 AM of 22.04.2022 to 5.00 PM of 20.05.2022 in the website
- Pre-Bid meeting : Dt.29.04.2022 at 11.30 AM
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt.21.05.2022 at 11.30 AM
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in> . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

OIPR-3400311/0004/2223

Chief Engineer  
World Bank Project, Odisha

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**निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र**  
**क्र. 23/यां.वि./2022**  
**भोपाल, दिनांक 19.04.2022**  
निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदार परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदाये निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

S. No.	Tender ID	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract (Rs. in lakh)	Earnest Money/ Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (in Months)	SOR
1	2022_UAD-182775_3	CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PHASE-1 AT CONGRESS NAGAR WARD-14 ZONE-03 (3rd call)	893.34	446671	20000	12 months	MPUADD ISSR 2021

- Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/>
- The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 10:30 A.M. (time) 20.04.2022 (date) to 17.30 P.M. (time) 04.05.2022 (date).
- For electrification related works: It is mandatory for bidders should have own "A" Class electrical registration or agreement with "A" Class electrical registration Holder (Attach as per)
- Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/> only, and not in newspaper.

The initial period of 3 (Three) year after completion shall be treated as Defect Liability Period (DLP)

In. Chief Engineer  
Municipal Corporation Bhopal  
District Bhopal

नि.क्र.81/022/023

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Pawan Kumar R/o 8A/78, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi have changed my name from Pawan Kumar to Pawan Kumar Agarwal for further purposes.

PD(9182)C

I, Anil Kumar, S/o Late Shri Chiman Lal R/o House No. 1896 Sector 15 Panchkula have changed my name from Anil Kumar to Anil Kumar Arora.

PD(9183)C

I, Shakuntla D/o Late Shri Azad Singh R/o House No. 1334, Sector 25 Panchkula have changed my name from Shakuntla to Shakuntla Rana.

PD(9184)C

# Demolition went...

From Page 1

This was subsequently done by the SC.

The demolitions stopped thereafter. But by then the officials of the NMC had already removed the around 20 temporary kiosks on the pavement, ramps, and the wall outside the mosque, etc.

"About two kilometres of the road near Kushal cinema were cleared from encroachment, 25 items were seized and 20 tonnes of garbage were lifted. The encroachment was removed by the licensing department, engineering department, enforcement cell, and the health department of Civil Lines as a joint team," said an NMC official.

Around 12:30 PM, Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Brinda Karat reached Jahangirpuri with a copy of the SC order and said that the law and the constitution have been bulldozed by

illegal demolitions. At least the SC and its order should not be bulldozed.

"At 10:45 am, the SC gave the order to maintain the status quo on the demolition drive, I have come here for the implementation of the order," she added, standing defiantly before a bulldozer.

Locals alleged the NMC defied the Supreme Court order but the municipal body's chief later said that only temporary structures were removed and no permanent building was harmed. "The roads will be cleared and people are happy. It is routine work with no agenda. People are very happy, people are supporting us," he said.

He said that wherever there is any illegal encroachment, please remove them yourself.

The officials of NMC removed temporary kiosks on the pavement, and ramps with the help of seven JCBs and bulldozers.

# Cong to end suspense....

From Page 1

"Those suggestions also include coming up to the aspirations of people of India, to reflect their pain and agony being heaped upon them by the Government as also to reflect aspirations of a forward looking growing India, India of the 21st century and how to propel the country forward," he added.

"Congress organisation must adapt to all these changes and that's why this committee has been holding deliberations for the last three days on the various suggestions that were given by Prashant Kishor as also time to time to the Congress president by various

seasoned leaders," he said.

"Because our two Chief Ministers are very experienced, they have organisational and administrative experience, that's why the committee thought it fit to request them to come today and to join the deliberations and to give their suggestions. We have had a fruitful round of discussions with both Ashok Gehlot as also with Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel, Surjewala said.

"For the last three days, these deliberations have been held. We propose to conclude these deliberations over the next 48 to 72 hours. Currently I have nothing further to add," he said.



# AAP Govt gears up as Covid cases rise

'Adequate number of hospital beds, medical oxygen and medicines arranged although hospitalisations low'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a rise in Covid cases, the Delhi Government has stepped up preparations, including arranging hospital beds, medical oxygen and medicines, officials said on Wednesday and asserted that the situation is "fully under control" in the city.

The Government has arranged an adequate number of hospital beds, medical oxygen and medicines although hospitalisations are very low," officials said during a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Wednesday.

"Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is keeping a close watch on the Covid situation and is in constant touch with top officials to ensure that the infection is controlled and preparations are in place to meet any eventuality," they said.

According to figures, only 80 beds (0.82 per cent) of the total 9,737 beds in hospitals here were occupied. The occupancy of oxygen-supported beds was 0.64 per cent, ICU beds 0.91 per cent, and ventilator beds 1.03 per cent. Of the total 1,729 active cases on April 18, just 40 were hospitalised, 12 were on oxygen support, nine were in ICU, five in ICU on oxygen support and one was on ventilator.

The Arvind Kejriwal Government has a target to scale-up hospital beds to 37,000 of which 31,622 were ready by April 19. Out of total 10,594 ICU beds, 9,274 have been readied, official data showed. Officials said availability of all drugs for the treatment of comorbidities and other medicines related to Covid has also been ensured.

The medical oxygen infrastructure has also been scaled up to over 991 MT by April 19 while it was 730 MT till May 31 last year. A buffer stock of 442 MT of liquid medical oxygen was also readied by the Government. A total of 97 PSA oxygen plants were running in the city with a combined capacity of over 116 MT, they said.

Two cryogenic bottling plants with a capacity of 12.5 MT have been installed that can refill 1,400 jumbo cylinders per day, they said. Shortage of oxygen had claimed many lives in Delhi during the second Covid wave in 2021. Officials said work has also been awarded for the delivery of 15 LMO tankers, of which one tanker has been received.

Three more will be delivered by the end of April. While one tanker will be delivered by May 15, five tankers will be delivered by June 19, officials said during the meeting. The Government has also maintained an operational fleet of 240 CATS ambulances for aiding patients. Besides, 65 ambulances have also been hired.

The fleet of ambulances is planned to be raised to 350 shortly, they added.



A health worker administers a dose of Covid-19 vaccine to a beneficiary at a dispensary in New Delhi on Wednesday. RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

## City parents divided over online/offline classes

As cases rise some prefer hybrid mode while others want schools to continue with offline classes

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a spike in Covid-19 cases in the national Capital, parents are divided over whether schools should go into hybrid mode of learning again or continue with offline classes. While a section of parents, citing experts' views, says online classes will result in further learning loss for their wards, others are of the opinion that the schools should opt for hybrid mode (online and offline sessions) and leave the decision to parents.

"There cannot be a single decision which will suit everybody's needs and put concerns to rest. So why not leave it to parents? Those who want, will send their kids to school, others will not," said Kuldeep Kumar, parent of a seven-year-old child. Akhilesh Garg, however, had a different

opinion on hybrid mode. "The option of letting parents take a call is a good one, but it triggers problems for those who want to send their wards for offline classes. If many students opt for online classes, the school will stop the transportation service and many others will be forced to opt for online classes because they cannot manage to pick and drop their children themselves," he said.

Schools in Delhi will continue in offline mode, but they will have to ensure that Covid protocols are strictly followed, failing which a penalty may be imposed for creating a deterrent effect, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) decided on Wednesday.

The DDMA decided that a separate Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be developed for schools in consultation with experts. Reports of infections from schools have triggered concerns weeks after they opened for offline classes following a two-year gap due to pandemic.

## Samples show 97% casualties were due to Omicron: Data

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 97 per cent of the samples taken from those who died of Covid in Delhi from January to March had the Omicron variant.

According to Delhi Government's data, Genome sequencing of 578 samples collected from the deceased showed 560 of them had the Omicron variant. The third wave of infections driven by the Omicron variant saw lesser hospitalisations and severe cases in the national capital and Government data showed the virus isn't the primary reason in most fatalities.

The remaining 18 (3%) had other variants, including Delta, which fuelled the ferocious second wave of infections in April and May last year, and sub lineages. Overall, the Omicron variant was found in all the 504 samples analysed at genome sequencing laboratories in the capital in March.

# Traders, RWAs hail move to make masks mandatory

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Various trader associations and Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs) in the national Capital, welcomed the move to make masks mandatory in public places but urged the Delhi Government to hold consultations with them before imposing any further restrictions if Covid cases continues to rise. The Delhi Government on Wednesday made wearing of masks mandatory in public places and imposed a fine of ₹500 on violators. Welcoming move, Atul Bhargava, president, New Delhi Traders Association, said he never wanted customers to visit shops in Connaught Place without masks and social distancing. "The government has done a very

good thing and I really never wanted people to remove masks while visiting public spaces. We will implement and follow it strictly in Connaught Place," he said. Asked if government imposes further restrictions, including odd-even scheme, amid rising coronavirus cases, he said, "Let's maintain social distancing and wear masks. We should not go for odd-even scheme.

"However, if things get worse in future, the government should then call the associations for a discussion and we are ready to provide solutions too. The government would not know the ground realities sitting in their office." Sanjeev Madan, president, Traders Associations of Lajpat Nagar said the government should not have removed order

of wearing of masks. He suggested that fine amount for violators should also be increased from ₹500 to ₹1,000.

"I feel ₹500 fine is still very less and it should be increased to at least ₹1,000, especially because people in Delhi have to be pressured to follow or they would get away using the 'influence factor'. We should have strict adherence and should also follow Covid norms," he said. Most of the major trader associations, including those at the Lajpat Nagar, Connaught Place, Karol Bagh, South Extension and wholesale dealers associations from Chandini Chowk and Sadar Bazar, stressed that they should be called for consultations before imposing further restrictions if the cases continue to rise.

# BJP wants to see India flying high, Anurag Thakur

Rahul sowing seeds of hatred, says Union Min while reacting to Cong leader's comments on use of bulldozers in riot-hit areas of Delhi, MP, UP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday said while it wants to see the country "rooted in its heritage" flying high and making infinite progress, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was maligning the country's image and "sowing seeds of hatred."

The BJP was reacting to the Congress leader's comments over the use of bulldozers in riot-hit areas of Delhi and States like Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Congress leader had in a tweet urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to switch off "bulldozers of hate" and switch on power plants.

Responding to a question on Rahul's comments, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said in reference to the Opposition party, "This is all you can expect from someone whose history is linked to corruption and riots."

Thakur was addressing a press conference here, giving details about 25,000 programmes and events which were carried out across the country till April 18 to celebrate the 'Aside ka Amrita Mahotsav' which included giving due recognition to the "unsung heroes" of the country who he said were sidelined as the "focus" thus far was only on a few in the country.

On the comments of Rahul Gandhi who attacked the Government over the use of bulldozers in violence-hit areas of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, Thakur said the Congress leader was "doing no good to the country."

Apart from the issue of bulldozers, Rahul Gandhi also raised the issue of coal shortage in the country and shared a report saying that India stares at outages as coal stocks at power plants hit a low.

"Eight years of big talk has resulted in India having only 8 days of coal stocks," Rahul said on Twitter. "He is doing no good to the country by sowing the seeds of hatred. He is maligning the country's image," Thakur said answering a query on Rahul's comment.

The BJP leader also hit back at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for accusing the ruling party of instigating riots and saying that its headquarters should be bulldozed.

It is a party which goes to the extent of compromising with terrorists and separatists for power, Thakur alleged saying "what to say about them". The question was on AAP's charge that the BJP was a party of "hooligans."

Thakur responded saying that politics is meant to change society with ideology and policies but some people are determined to lower its standards, he said adding "give them wisdom".

Since launch of 'Azadi ka amrit mahotsav' by Prime Minister in Sabarmati on March 12, 2021, coinciding with Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi march, over 25,000 events have been held across country and abroad by April 18 this year.

## Situation under control, say cops



Children watch the demolition drive from behind the half-closed shutters of a shop in Jahangirpuri area on Wednesday RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

## Heavy police cover, drones deployed to monitor Jahangirpuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After Wednesday's demolition drive by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) in Delhi's Jahangirpuri area, four days after the communal clashes in which eight police personnel and a civilian were injured, the Delhi Police said that the situation in the area is normal and under control. However, there was heavy security presence with all senior

police officials being present on the spot to avoid any untoward incident.

In the morning, before the demolition drive started, the personnel of Delhi Police, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Reserved Armed Force (RAF) in hundreds were deployed in the area. Around 8:30 a.m. the police also carried out a flag march in the area to maintain law and order while the anti-encroachment drive began at around 10.40 a.m.. Dependra Pathak, the Special Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, said that the police in

large numbers were there to only provide protection to the civic agency while they carried out the demolition process.

"There was adequate deployment of security forces and we were also in touch with the citizens of the area to maintain peace," said the Special CP.

Though the demolition process stopped after the Supreme Court's stay order on it but heavy security forces deployment continued in the area in order to avoid any untoward incident. Police said that drones have also been deployed to monitor the situation.

## Demolition drive an example of vigilante justice: Owaisi



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi was allegedly stopped by the police from visiting Jahangirpuri where the NMC demolished several structures on Wednesday.

Police personnel were deployed in Jahangirpuri in large numbers as Owaisi tried to reach violence-hit area. He lashed out at BJP and AAP over anti-encroachment drive. "The AAP is saying they are Rohingyas and Bangladeshis. I condemn it," he said and termed the demolition drive an "example of vigilante justice" and slammed the BJP for it.

"A BJP leader wrote a letter for using bulldozers in Jahangirpuri and the Mayor said that they are criminals," he said.

# Delhi BJP leaders meet Amit Shah

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A group of leaders from the BJP's Delhi unit on Wednesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on a day the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) carried out an anti-encroachment drive in violence-hit Jahangirpuri which was stopped on a Supreme Court order. Bulldozers tore down several concrete and temporary structures close to a mosque in Jahangirpuri as

part of an anti-encroachment drive by the BJP-ruled civic body, days after the northwest Delhi neighbourhood was rocked by communal violence.

The Supreme Court had to intervene twice to stop the drive after it took cognisance of a petition filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind against the demolition. BJP's Delhi unit president Adesh Kumar Gupta, MLA Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, party leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa were among those who met the Home Minister at his office at North Block.



## BJP engineered Jahangirpuri clashes: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders on Wednesday lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the demolition of several structures in Delhi's Jahangirpuri and alleged that it was saffron party that engineered clashes between two communities in Jahangirpuri during a Hanuman Jayanti procession last week. Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia on

Wednesday alleged that BJP was solely responsible for all unrest in country and easiest way to get rid of this situation was to run a bulldozer over BJP headquarters.

Sisodia said that the BJP-led MCD let illegal structures flourish in area in the past 15 years in first place and now that people have settled down, they are staging the demolition drive. "Along with these illegal structures, houses of those BJP leaders should also be demolished under whose reign

these illegal structures flourished in past 15 years. The people of the country want to discuss education, employment and inflation, but the BJP wants people to talk about violence and ruffianism. And moreover, for those who commit violent acts, BJP honours them and welcomes them to the party," said Sisodia. Sisodia said that BJP must answer why a huge number of Bangladeshi-Rohingyas were settled across country in last eight years during BJP's reign.

# Delhi Govt forms committee for autos-taxis fare revision



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Wednesday set up a fare revision committee for auto-rickshaws and taxis to revise their fares in the national Capital in the wake of growing demands from the unions due to massive

rise in the CNG, Petrol and diesel prices. The unions of auto, taxis and cab aggregators on Monday went on strike, pressing their demand to increase fares. Top sources said that Special Commissioner (Transport) will be chairman of the committee. The committee

is expected to submit their recommendations within 30 days. The fare revision committee would comprise DC (Vehicle Inspection Unit/Auto Rickshaw Unit/Taxi Unit), the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Controller of Accounts, along with 2 nominated District

Transport Officers (DTOs) and a technical expert. In addition to this, members of civil society including representatives from Resident Welfare Associations, commuters and students are also part of the committee.

Sources said that CK Goyal, (VP) Road Transport, Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMITS) will render technical assistance /support to the committee.

The Committee, following these consultations, was notified on Wednesday, under Section 67 (1) of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, which gives the State Government the power to issue directions to both State Transport Authority and Regional Transport Authorities by notification in the official gazette from time to time. CNG prices have risen by Rs 15.6 per kg in less than six weeks. The price of CNG is currently Rs 71.61 per kg in Delhi. The National Capital currently has

close to 97,000 autos including newly registered e-autos, 12,000 yellow-black taxis, and 50,000 economy radio taxis; all of these categories are expected to benefit from the revised fares. Commenting on the setting up the committee, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said committee has been formulated and directions have already been issued to provide a report as early as possible.

"I assure you that we will come up with a solution that is amicable to drivers/owners and commuters alike.

Meanwhile, I request the taxi owners/drivers who are still on strike to resume their duties so that the Delhi public is not inconvenienced.

The Kejriwal Government understands the plight of drivers and owners who are affected by the rising fuel prices. Over the last 2 days, I have met with many auto and taxi unions and discussed various issues they are

facing," Gehlot added.

The Delhi government on Friday announced setting up a committee for considering a revision of auto and taxi fare in a time-bound manner.

The auto fares were last revised in 2019 while taxi fares were revised in 2013.

The Delhi government in June 2019 had notified new auto-rickshaw fares, effecting more than 18 per cent increase over prevailing rates and raising per Km charge from Rs 8 to Rs 9.5.

The auto and taxi association of Delhi had written a letter to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on April 6 demanding that they be provided with a subsidy of Rs 35 per kg on CNG.

On April 11, hundreds of auto, taxi and cab drivers staged a protest at the Delhi secretariat, demanding a subsidy on CNG prices. The protest was held under the aegis of the Delhi Auto Rickshaw Sangh.

# MHA transfers 81 IAS, IPS officers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major reshuffle, the Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday transferred 81 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) officers to new postings.

According to the order issued by Rakesh Kumar Singh, the Under Secretary to the Government of India on April 20, the AGMUT cadre 39 IAS and 42 IPS officers have been transferred and given new postings in Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI), Lakshwadeep, Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry, Delhi and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Of 42 IPS officer, two AGMUT cadre officers Sanjeev Kumar Yadav and Umesh Kumar have been transferred to Jammu and Kashmir from Delhi.

Yadav was posted as the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Cell unit of Delhi Police.

"The IPS, Hargobinder Singh (1997), Ankit Kumar Singh (2013), Raja Banthia (2014), Hemant Tiwari (2014), Kushal Pal Singh (2014), Harsh Indora (2016) have been transferred from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi," stated the order adding that the IPS, Bosco George has been transferred to Goa from Arunachal Pradesh.

"The IPS Viav Singh (2005), Ravi Kumar Singh (2012), Vichitra Veer (2013), Ankit Chauhan (2013), Raieev Kumar (2014) and Sandhya Swami (2016) have been transferred to Delhi from Andaman and Nicobar Islands" the order further stated. "Five IPS officers in Delhi, Pramod Singh Kushwah (2009), Amit Roy (2009), Mangesh Kashyap (2009) Sudhanshu (2016).



# Govt announces Ayush Visa for those visiting India for traditional treatment



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An Ayush Visa category for those visiting India for traditional treatments, an "AYUSH Mark" to ensure authenticity to quality 'Made-in-India' Ayush products and Ayush Parks are some of the Government's major initiatives afoot to ensure the presence of Indian Ayush System in the global market.

This was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the inauguration of the three-day Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit in Gujarat's Gandhinagar on Wednesday.

"A special Ayush mark for Ayush products will give people all over the world the confidence of quality Ayush products. Government will develop a network of Ayush parks to

encourage the promotion, research and manufacturing of Ayush products across the country.

"A new category named 'Ayush Aahar' was announced which will greatly facilitate the producers of herbal nutritional supplements. Further, India will soon introduce a special Ayush visa category."

Describing the current age, the era of unicorns, the Prime Minister informed that in 2022 itself, so far 14 start-ups from India have joined the Unicorn Club. "I am sure unicorns will emerge from our Ayush start-ups very soon", he stated.

It is very important that the farmers involved in growing medicinal plants get the facility to easily connect with the market. For this, the government is also working on modernisation and expansion of the

Ayush e-marketplace, he added.

"So far, this year, 14 start-ups have joined the unicorn club. I am confident that unicorns will soon emerge from among the Ayush ecosystem" said Modi, who had inaugurated the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar a day ago.

Speaking about Ayush's contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic, Modi said, "During this time 'AYUSH Kada' and other similar products have helped people boost the immunity of many."

He also announced the launch of Ayush Export Promotion Council and four Ayush ICT initiatives which includes Ayush Information Hub, AyuSoft, Ayush Next and Ayush GIS. The Chief of WHO emphasised the areas of developments. "Long term strategic investments and government commitment needed to support innovation, innovators."

The government needs to develop traditional medicine in a sustainable way, bringing traditional medicine to market must make sure communities that gave this knowledge also benefit out of it."

Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said, "According to the WHO, 80 per cent of people in the

world use traditional medicine. The knowledge of this medicine should not only be respected but should also be protected and promoted."

According to the Government data, in 2014, the Ayush sector which was less than USD 3 billion, has increased to more than USD18 billion presently.

Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal added that the Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) are developing entrepreneurship among ayurveda and other traditional medicines professionals.

The Ministry of Ayush has also developed the Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) to encourage young entrepreneurs to establish startups in Ayush in line with the Startup India Initiative of the Prime Minister, he said.

Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel lauded PM Modi's efforts in Yoga and traditional medicine.. It's time to now move toward preventive medicine."

On the occasion, the Prime Minister also distributed awards to the winners of 'Ayush Start-up Challenge' organised by Delhi-based All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in association with Start-up India.

# India's R-value for Covid increases to over 1 first time since January

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India's effective reproduction number (R) for Covid, an indicator of how quickly the infection is spreading, increased to over one for the first time since January, estimates Sitabhra Sinha, a researcher from Chennai's Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

The country's R-value, steadily increasing over the last few weeks, is 1.07 for the week between April 12-18.. In the preceding April 5-11 week, it was 0.93. The last time the R-value was above 1 was in the week between January 16-22, when the value was 1.28, Sinha said.

"This increase in R-value is not just because of Delhi but also Haryana and Uttar Pradesh," the mathematician, who has been tracking the R

number for India since the beginning of the pandemic," the researchers told a news agency.

An R number lower than 1 indicates that the disease will stop spreading as there aren't enough people being infected to sustain the outbreak.

"The total cases in India are indeed increasing exponentially. Of course, this being a very large country, this national rise is primarily being driven by a few regions - one cluster in the north (Delhi, Haryana, UP) and the other in the south (Karnataka)," Sinha said.

"It is interesting that the major cities of Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru also have R above 1, suggesting that urban areas may be showing an increasing number of

cases even though at the level of the entire state such an increase may not yet be apparent," he noted.

Among the major states, Kerala and Maharashtra have an R-value less than 1, with values of 0.72 and 0.88 respectively WHILE karnataka also has R over 1 currently, possibly because of the rising cases in Bengaluru, Sinha explained.

With 2,067 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's total tally of Covid-19 cases rose to 4,30,47,594 (4.3 crore) while active cases increased to 12,340, according to the Union Health Ministry. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.49 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 0.38 per cent, according to the Ministry.

# Patients diagnosed with Covid pneumonia have higher risk of dementia: Researchers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Patients hospitalized with Covid-19 pneumonia have a higher risk of developing dementia than those with other types of pneumonia, as per new study from the University of Missouri School of Medicine and MU Health Care.

A team of MU researchers had reviewed Cerner Real World Data from 1.4 billion medical encounters prior to July 31, 2021. They selected patients hospitalized with pneumonia for more than 24 hours. Among 10,403 patients with Covid-19 pneumonia, 312 (3 percent) developed new onset dementia after recovering, compared to 263 (2.5 percent) of the 10,403 patients with other types of pneumonia diagnosed with dementia.

The study was recently published in the journal Open Forum Infectious Diseases.

"The risk of new onset dementia was more common in Covid-19 pneumonia patients over the age of 70 in our study," said lead researcher Adnan I. Qureshi, MD, a professor of clinical neurology at the MU School of Medicine.

"The type of dementia seen in survivors of Covid-19 infection mainly affects memory, ability to perform everyday tasks and self-regulation. Language and awareness of time and location remained relatively preserved."

The median time interval between infection and dementia diagnosis was 182 days for Covid-19 patients. The study only included new onset dementia associated with hospital admission during a short follow-up period.

Qureshi said further study over longer periods of time would provide a more complete picture and may help to determine the underlying reasons why COVID-19 pneumonia might increase dementia risk. "The findings suggest a role for screening for cognitive deficits among COVID-19 survivors," Qureshi said. "If there is evidence of impairment during screening and if the patient continues to report cognitive symptoms, a referral for comprehensive assessment may be necessary."

In addition to Qureshi, the study authors include fellow MU School of Medicine collaborators S. Hasan Naqvi, associate professor of clinical medicine; William Baskett, graduate student; Wei Huang, graduate student; and Chi-Ren Shyu, PhD, director, MO Informatics Institute.

# Ex-Kenyan PM's daughter credits Ayush for regaining eyesight

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Kenyan PM's daughter Rosemary Odinga, who was the focus of attention when Prime Minister Narendra Modi called her name from the dais, said that

her story is testimony to the fact that solutions of Ayush are universal as she credited Ayurveda for regaining her eyesight a few years ago. An Ayurvedic treatment at a Kerala hospital helped bring back her eyesight, which she

had lost after suffering from brain aneurysm (weakness in blood vessels) and atrophy (shrinkage of muscle) in the optical nerve, she said.

At the event, the Prime Minister also gave a new name -- 'Tulsi-bhai' -- to

Director General of the World Health Organization Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus at his request. The Tulsi plant ('holy basil' or Ocimum tenuiflorum) has been an integral part of India's spiritual heritage, Modi said.

# India overachieves it's defence acquisition target

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an encouraging sign for the Indian defence industry, the Government has overshoot its acquisition target from them in the last fiscal ending March end. Against an earmarked 64 per cent of the capital acquisition budget, 65.50 per cent was spent on indigenous procurements.

Nearly Rs 1, 35,060 crores were set aside in the last financial year for capital budget to procure weapons and other military systems. In order to

give a boost to the Indian industry, 64 per cent of this capital budget was reserved for them. The revised estimate of this allocation went up to Rs 1,38,850 crores.

Besides this significant achievement, as per preliminary expenditure report of March 2022, the Defence Ministry was able to utilise 99.50 per cent of the Defence Services Budget in financial year 2021-22. The allocation under this head was Rs 3,68,418 crores.

Stepping up its objective of making India the hub of defence



manufacturing on the global scene, the government set aside 68 per cent of the capital budget for financial year 2022-23. The overall capital budget is now pegged at Rs 1,52,369 crore.

Giving details of the achievement, the defence ministry said here on Wednesday 64 per cent of Capital Acquisition Budget for domestic industry was earmarked in Financial Year (FY) 2021-22.

At the end of the financial year, the defence ministry has been able to over achieve this target and has utilised 65.50 per cent of capital acquisition budget on indigenous procurements through Indian Industry to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat,' it said.

Stepping up its effort to promote Indian private sector in defence manufacturing, the government recently earmarked 25 per cent to it of the Rs.

84,597.89 crore allocated specifically for the entire domestic industry for the current financial year.

The 25 per cent block for the private sector amounts to more than Rs 21,000 crores and forms part of the overall 68 per cent capital budget earmarked for the Indian industry.

Giving the details, defence ministry officials said here in continuation with the government's efforts to promote private industry, MSMEs and start-ups in defence production ecosystem, the defence ministry decided that 25% of Domestic Capital Procurement and Acquisition Budget, amounting to Rs. 21,149.47 Crore, will be earmarked for Domestic Private Industry in the Financial Year 2022-23.

Further, to foster innovation and encourage technology development in defence, it was decided that an amount of Rs. 1,500 Crore will be earmarked for procurement from start-ups, including iDEX Start-up, from within the allocations for Domestic Capital Procurement. These steps will foster the growth of private industry,

MSMEs and start-ups in Defence ecosystem.

Earlier, the government had decided to earmark 68% of Capital procurement budget for the entire domestic industry during Financial Year 2022-23. Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 84,597.89 Crore was allocated specifically for domestic defence industry in current fiscal year, they said.

In the last few years, the government has taken a series of measures to boost domestic defence manufacturing. In May 2020, the government announced increasing the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit from 49 per cent to 74 per cent under the automatic route in the defence sector. India is one of the largest importers of arms globally.

According to estimates, the Indian armed forces are projected to spend around USD 130 billion (in capital procurement in the next five years.

The government now wants to reduce dependence on imported military platforms and has decided to support domestic defence manufacturing.

## INSHORT

### AICTE, IPA INK MOU FOR PLUMBING COURSES

New Delhi: The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has signed a pact with the Indian Plumbing Association (IPA) to introduce a course in plumbing in engineering and architecture institutions across India. The MoU was signed between AICTE Chairman Anil D Sahasrabudhe and Gurmit Singh Arora, IPA's national president.

### AJAY KUMAR SOOD APPOINTED PSA TO GOVT

New Delhi: Ajay Kumar Sood has been appointed as the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government. Sood, a member of Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, has been appointed to the post for a period of three years to succeed renowned biologist K Vijay Raghavan.

### SC RESTARTS ITS GUIDED TOUR PROG



New Delhi: With the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court restarted its 'guided tour programme' for the common public, including foreigners, to visit on Saturdays to see its grand interiors, judges' library, and the apex court museum. The apex court's 100th Guided Tour programme was permitted on April 16..

### CJI HAILS SERVICES OF DFS PERSONNEL

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana Wednesday hailed the "gallant services" of the personnel of Delhi Fire Services (DFS) here. A team of DFS officers led by its Director Atul Garg called on the CJI on Wednesday morning as part of the ongoing Fire Service Week.

### MOPR AND UNDP SIGN AGREEMENT ON SDG

New Delhi: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a joint statement of understanding on localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The agreement was signed by the Secretary, MoPR Sunil Kumar and UNDP Resident Representative Shoko Noda on the final day of the Iconic Week Programme.

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड 14/71, सिविल लाइन्स 'केसा हाउस' कानपुर, ई-निविदा सूचना अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा ई-निविदा पृथक-पृथक दो भागों में निम्न सामग्रियों हेतु केकेको ई-निविदा वेबसाईट <https://etenderup.nic.in> पर आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। ई-निविदायें प्रपत्र पूर्ण कर निविदादाताओं द्वारा वेबसाईट पर खुलने की तिथि के अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती हैं। उक्त ई-निविदा उसी दिन 15:00 बजे से 17:00 बजे तक वेबसाईट पर सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। उक्त तिथि को अवकाश घोषित होने पर निविदायें अगले कार्यदिवस में नियत समय पर खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा घनराशि का भुगतान ऑन लाईन एन0ई0एफ0टी0 / आर0टी0जी0एस0 (खाता सं0 628805018266 आई0एफ0एस0सी0 कोड- ICIC0006288) के माध्यम से किया जायेगा। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर दिये गये समय से दो घण्टे पूर्व तक वेबसाईट से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ यूटी0आर0 की स्कैण्ड प्रति अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग में घरोहर घनराशि का भुगतान ऑन लाईन एन0ई0एफ0टी0 / आर0टी0जी0 एस0 / बी0जी0 (खाता सं0 628805018266 आई0एफ0एस0सी0 कोड-ICIC0006288) के द्वारा स्वीकार किया जायेगा एवं निविदा प्रपत्र के प्रथम भाग में निर्धारित पी0 क्यू0 आर0 एवं तकनीकी अभिलेख होंगे तथा निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में दर्े एवं व्यवसायिक शर्तें होगी, बिना घरोहर घनराशि के तथा सशर्त निविदायें खोली/स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। निविदा सं0 08/22-23 पात्र फर्म मूल निर्माता विवरण विभिन्न प्रकार के 11 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 केबल बाक्स के की आपूर्ति हेतु घरोहर घनराशि (रू0) 200000 /- निविदा घनराशि रू0 में (जीएसटी0 के साथ) 5900 /-ई-निविदा अपलोड करने एवं खोलने की तिथि 27.04.2022 उपरोक्त ई-निविदा की पूर्ण प्रक्रिया केरको की ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाईट <https://etenderup.nic.in> के माध्यम से की जायेगी। तकनीकी योग्यता पूरा न करने वाले निविदादाता की निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। सामग्री क्रय की मात्रा घट बढ़ सकती है। अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी एक अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा। (ललित कृष्ण) अधिशासी अभियन्ता (भण्डार क्रय) पत्रांक- 33 दिनांक- 20.4.2022 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**E-NIT No. 05/JS(PHE) DC OF 2022-23 Dated: 19.04.2022**

For and on behalf of LT. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jai Shakti (PHE) Division Chadoora invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Chadoora of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jai Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. **Cover 1** "consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and **Cover 2** "consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

**S. No. 1. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Bugam Dooniwari, **Description of work :-** Construction of Sluice Chamber, Chain link fencing and other allied items for WSS Bugam Dooniwari, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 146.33, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 2. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Baghimahab, **Description of work :-** Construction of JE Quarter, Brick Mansinary, Chain Link Fencing, RCC Jackaling, Steel truss for WSS Baghi-Mehab., **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 128.64, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 3. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Qazipora, **Description of work :-** Construction of Sluice chamber and chainlink fencing and other items for WSS Qazipora, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 124.51, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 4. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Qazipora, **Description of work :-** Laying and fitting of pipes for WSS Qazipora, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 123.75, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 5. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Gogoo Handle Bagh, **Description of work :-** Laying fitting of pipes including construction of Chowkidar Quarter, Chemical Shed, Sluice Chamber, Chainlink Fencing for WSS Gogoo Handel-Bagh, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 119.95, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 6. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Padshahi Bagh, **Description of work :-** Laying/Fitting of Pipes for WSS Padshahi Bagh, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 112.77, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 7. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Kulreth Wanpora, **Description of work :-** Laying and fitting of pipes for WSS Kulreth Wanpora., **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 111.51, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 8. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Rangreth Wavooa, **Description of work :-** Laying Fitting of pipes including construction of Sluice chamber, chainlink fencing and Chowkidar Quarter for WSS Rangreth Wavooa, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 107.73, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 9. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS HAKHPORA, **Description of work :-** Laying and Fitting of pipes including construction of SR, Sluice Chamber, Chainlink fencing and Chowkidar Quarter for WSS HAKHPORA, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 96.78, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 10. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Bugam Dooniwari, **Description of work :-** Laying and Fitting/Testing and Commissioning of pipes for WSS Bugam Dooniwari, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 94.83, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 11. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Kulreth Wanpora, **Description of work :-** Construction of Service Reservoir/Sluice chamber/Chainlink fencing/Chowkidar Quarter for WSS Kulreth Wanpora, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 93.37, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 12. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Padshahi Bagh, **Description of work :-** Construction of Sluice Chamber, Chainlink Fencing and Chowkidar Quarter for WSS Padshahi Bagh, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 89.72, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 13. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Baghi-Mehab, **Description of work :-** Laying Fitting of pipes for WSS Baghi-Mehab, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 73.67, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 14. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Awanpora, **Description of work :-** Laying and fitting of pipes including stabilization of existing system, regulating devices, levelling of premises, Construction of Intake chamber/Anchor blocks, thrust blocks and P/Installation of 50KV 3-Phase Automatic stabilizer Water Supply Scheme Awanpora, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 53.85, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 15. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Batapora, **Description of work :-** Laying and fitting of pipes including construction of sluice chamber and Chain link fencing and other allied works for WSS Batapora, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 53.83, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60, **Class of Contractor :-** AAY.

**S. No. 16. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS CHECKI MARI COLONY, **Description of work :-** Laying and fitting of pipes including regulatory devices, Stabilization of existing system, levelling and dressing of premises of OHT WSS CHECKI MARI COLONY, **Jai Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Chadoora, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 39.85, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 30, **Class of Contractor :-** BEE.

i. Publish Date :- 19-04-2022  
ii. Document Download Start Date :- 19-04-2022  
iii. Clarification Start date :- 20-04-2022 from 10: A.M  
iv. Clarification End date :- 25-04-2022 up to 4: P.M  
v. Bid submission Start date :- 27-04-2022 from 10: A.M  
vi. Bid submission End date :- 10-05-2022 at 4:00 P.M  
vii. Date of Bid opening :- 11-05-2022 at 11:00 A.M.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Jai Shakti (PHE) Division Chadoora

No. DIPK-802/22 Dated: 20-04-2022



# ‘Will act if Raj creates religious rift’

**Maha HM Walse-Patil advises MNS chief against vitiating atmosphere in State**

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Amid a fierce debate over MNS chief Raj Thackeray’s call for removal of loudspeakers from mosques by May 3, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil on Wednesday warned Raj that the MVA government would initiate stringent action against him if he took law into hands, created rift between the religions and vitiated the atmosphere in the in the state. However, taking a calibrated stand on the contentious issue of removal of loudspeakers from atop mosques, the State Home Minister said: “It is not the responsibility of the government to either install or remove loudspeakers (from mosques). Whoever wants to install loud-

speakers can do so by taking requisite permission from the police”. Picking up the gauntlet thrown by Raj that the MNS chief that the MNS activists would play Hanuman Chalisa in front of mosques five times a day—if the loudspeakers are not removed from the mosques by May 3, Walse-Patil said: “Maintaining law and order is the responsibility of the government. For the last few days, an attempt is being made to disturb law and order in the state. We are serious about acting against such anti-social elements who are trying to disturb peace”. “On behalf of the state government, I am making an appeal that no one should attempt to take law into his or her hands, create rift between the religions and vitiate the atmosphere in the process. If someone indulges in such an act, the state government would initiate stringent action against

the person concerned”, the State Home Minister said. Walse-Patil of the NCP said that before taking action against those trying to disturb law and order in the state, he would convene an all-party meeting to discuss the issue. Addressing conference after the State Director General of Police (DGP) submitted a report on the implications of the MNS chief’s ultimatum for removal of loudspeakers from mosques Walse-Patil said: “I had asked State DGP to hold a meeting of senior police officers and review the situation arising out of the MNS chief’s call for removal of loudspeakers from mosques. Accordingly, the DGP held a meeting yesterday and submitted the review report to me today. I have had a detailed discussion with the DGP on the emerging situation in the state. I have given clear-cut instructions to the DGP to take stringent action against those trying

to create a rift between communities and religions”. Alluding to a question raised by the MNS chief as to why the state government had mandated the mosque management to install CCTV systems within their premises as done in the case of temples, the State Home Minister said: “We have not made installation of CCTV systems compulsory for any one. The temples have installed CCTV systems on their own from the point of view of security. If such CCTV systems are installed at other places of worship, we will not oppose or raise any objection to such a move. The places of worship can take N decisions to this effect of their free will. The question of the state government interfering in their decision making process does not arise”. It may be recalled that Raj had on Sunday exhorted the “Hindu brothers” across the country to prepare themselves to

give a “fitting reply” to the Muslims – in the form of playing Hanuman Chalisa in front of mosques five times a day—if the loudspeakers are not removed from the mosques by May 3. Talking to media persons in Pune, the MNS chief had said: “Playing of Azan through loudspeakers from mosques is more a social issue than a religious issue. It is not just Hindus but people from all sections of the society get disturbed by the playing of azan through loudspeakers”. “I appeal to all the Hindu brothers across the country to give a fitting reply if the loudspeakers are not removed from mosques by May 3. We do not want any kind of riots in the country, but they (mosque management) should remove loudspeakers peacefully from the mosques. Otherwise, we will play Hanuman Chalisa in front of mosques five times a day,” Raj had said.

# Didi, Guv trade barbs at Bengal global biz summit

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

A forum designed to draw global investment in an industry-starved State on Wednesday turned into a show-ground of political jibes with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar trading politically-laced remarks at the much-touted Bengal Global Business Summit attended by a galaxy of foreign business delegates from all over the world. While Dhankhar in his inaugural speech called upon the Chief Minister to segregate development and partisan politics, Banerjee made use of her closing speech asking the Governor to advise New Delhi not to get the Agencies to disturb the industrialists. “It will be appropriate for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to proactively catalyse ‘development bonhomie’ with all con-

cerned as it is imperative to distance development from partisan stance,” the Governor said adding a greater sync between the State and the Centre could better serve the cause of industrial development. “A greater reflection of (the) political spectrum of the state in participation in such ventures would surely be motivationally wholesome,” he said adding “this could fructify by synergic working between the government at the Centre and the State.” Bengal must work to be a “significant part of the ongoing script of India’s economic rise by credibly exemplifying its commitment to transparent accountable decision making that is pivoted on systemic and not individualistic functioning,” he maintained apparently unmindful of the expressions on the face of an “embarrassed” group of Cabinet ministers sitting on the dais.

Though the Chief Minister summed up her speech dishing out a “data of positivities in Bengal” she hit the Governor back by politely asking him to advise the Union Government not to use the central Agencies against the investors. Banerjee told looking at Dhankhar, “I want to tell the honourable Governor that we are all ready to cooperate with the Union Government to ensure economic development of the state and the country... But I would also like to request to take the matter with the Union government so that we receive central assistance. “I want to tell one thing... If you don’t mind... Your Excellency, Governor Sir... On behalf of all the industry... they (investors) cannot open their mouth... please see that industrialists should not be disturbed through some agencies”

# K’taka to form panel to clear tender proposals for projects worth ₹50 cr

**PTI ■ SHIVAMOGGA (KTKA)**

The Karnataka Government will form a three-member commission comprising a retired High Court judge and two experts to clear tender proposals for all public projects worth ₹50 crore in a bid to check malpractices in awarding contracts. Also, the Government has ordered a total ban on starting works based on oral instructions of Ministers or higher officials. These decisions are a fallout of civil contractor Santosh Patil’s death by suicide on April 11 in an Udupi hotel accusing the then Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa of demanding 40 per cent commission on a public work that was carried out on the Minister’s oral instruction at Hindalga village in Belagavi district last year. Eshwarappa, an MLA from Shivamogga, who had maintained that he was not at all involved in the issue, resigned

from his ministerial post on April 14 due to mounting pressure on him. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, “Our government has taken a decision. Public works start from the time of preparing estimates. Tender conditions are prepared to benefit only a section of people. I have ordered formation of a high-level committee which will have a retired high court judge as its chairperson and a financial expert and a technical expert as its members.” All the tenders above ₹50 crore will go to the commission, which will review estimates and the tender condition as per the provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, Bommai said. After the project is reviewed and cleared by the panel, the tender process will start, he added. “A Government order has been passed and in a few days, the commission will be set up.

This will be a deterrent against corruption. The judge and members will be named in a week. Every estimate has to be cleared in 15 days,” Bommai said. He added that a provision has also been made that if there are more proposals, then a parallel commission will be constituted so that there should not be any delay in clearance of projects. “It is true that on many occasions, oral orders are given in the Panchayat Raj bodies. After learning about this, I have directed the Urban Development department and the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department that no work should take place on the basis of oral instructions,” the Chief Minister said. He warned that if someone carries out work based on such oral instructions then the assistant engineers, assistant executive engineers, panchayat development officer or the section officers will be held accountable.

# Case filed against SP leader over controversial remarks

**PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH**

The controversy of Azaan and Hanuman Chalisa on loudspeaker is gaining momentum. Now the SP has also jumped into this controversy. In UP’s Aligarh, SP’s woman leader Rubina Khanum threatened that no attempt should be made to tease Muslims. “If Hanuman Chalisa is recited in front of mosques, then we will also recite Quran while sitting in front of temples,” she allegedly said. A case has been registered against her after a video went viral on social media. In the video, SP metropolitan president Rubina can be seen saying, “Loudspeakers have been installed in mosques and temples for a long time. Let us do our religious activities in the holy month of Ramadan. The way it is being blocked is wrong.”

She warned that hundreds of women would protest if Hindus tried to remove loudspeakers from mosques targeting Muslims. She said that “anarchists say to take off the loudspeaker or else we will read Hanuman Chalisa.” Rubina said that “if the work of removing loudspeakers from mosques is done, then hundreds of Muslim women will sit and read the Quran in front of the temples. We will do this work in a peaceful manner. Our behavior is not like yours. I want to tell you that follow your religion. Respect everyone’s faith.” Rubina Khanum said, “You are creating obstacles in the holy month of Ramzan. We have always been doing the work of religion. Loudspeakers have always been installed in mosques. So follow your religion and let us follow our religion.”

On the other hand, Circle Officer Swetabh Pandey said: “A video of a woman is going viral on social media in which objectionable remarks have been made about a particular community on which the charge was filed. Legal action will be taken after collecting all the evidence.” It is noteworthy that in Aligarh, Hindu organisations have announced to read Hanuman Chalisa by installing loudspeakers at 21 intersections. Earlier in Varanasi also, the threat of recitation of Hanuman Chalisa was made by putting loudspeakers during Azaan. The issue of Azaan on loudspeakers from mosques has heated up across the country. In Maharashtra, where Raj Thackeray has given an open warning, but in many states including UP, the issue of loudspeakers is gaining momentum.

# Surge in wheat export pushes up grain prices

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The surge in wheat exports from India due to the Russia-Ukraine war has adversely impacted the procurement of grain by the official agencies at minimum support price (MSP) from the farmers. At the national level, the procurement so far is only 70 lakh metric tons, down by 32 per cent as compared to last season. The price of cereal in the open market is ruling above the MSP fixed by the Centre due to sharp fall in arrival of the commodity in agricultural mandis. The wheat export is booming due to the Russia-Ukraine war. Russia and Ukraine together contribute 30 per cent wheat in the global market and this year the contribution is nil due to war. Currently, the mandi prices of wheat in key producing

states like Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are ruling at 8-10 per cent above the MSP of Rs 2,015 per quintal. The sharpest fall in wheat procurement this season has been in Uttar Pradesh, the biggest producer of grain, where the state government has purchased just 30,206 MT of wheat so far from 6,155 farmers, while it had procured 35,000 MT of wheat from 67,395 farmers during the same period in 2021. According to an Uttar Pradesh Food and Civil Supplies department official, the main purpose for the MSP-based wheat procurement initiative is to ensure that farmers get the remunerative price of the commodity and it is not below the MSP. “With the surge in wheat export, the farmers are getting

better prices in the market and our purpose is achieved,” the official said. More than 3.21 lakh MT of wheat has been procured in Punjab so far against 3.44 lakh MT of grain purchased during the same period last year. Punjab is the second biggest producer of wheat in the country and also contributes the highest volume of grain to the central pool. Madhya Pradesh, which had announced incentives such as abolition of mandi tax and other levies from the wheat purchased for export, has procured 9,000 MT of wheat against 1.7 lakh MT purchased during the same period last year. In Haryana so far, wheat purchase from farmers has declined by more than 62 per cent to 2.77 lakh MT against 4.45 lakh MT of wheat purchased during the same period last year.



On the occasion of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar’s birth anniversary, the Centre for Narendra Modi Studies (CMS) organised a national seminar on sustaining India’s climate and development in the post-pandemic era. Along with Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, chief guest, environmentalist Gopal Krishna, IGNCA chairman Ram Bahadur Rai, Sandhya Times’ former editor Prof Suresh Sharma, and secretary of Yuva Bharti Trust HN Sharma are seen

RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

# University of Mumbai in soup for giving land on lease for film shooting

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The University of Mumbai has found itself on the defensive over its decision to give five acres of land on its Kalina campus on lease for ₹75 lakh for a period of eight months to a private for a film shoot allegedly without seeking necessary permission from the Maharashtra Government. Having obtained information through an RTI query that the University of Mumbai had leased out five acres of land on its Kalina campus to M/s Siddhesh Enterprises for film shooting, activist Anil Galgali has written to State Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and State Education Minister, demanding a high-level inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the Mumbai University’s decision to give its land on lease for a film shoot. Quoting a reply received from the University for his RTI queries, Galgali said here on Wednesday that Ashok Ghule, Deputy Secretary of the University had informed him that the University had not written to the Maharashtra government

seeking permission to give out 5 acres of land on the Kalina campus on a lease for eight months for a film-shoot. “Similarly, no tenders were invited for allotment of five acres of land for a feature film shooting at Mumbai University,” he said. Galgali said that it was highly improper of the University management to have such a wrong precedent by leasing out its land for a film shooting. “If the University had taken the state government’s permission, adopted proper procedures and invited tenders before leasing out its land, the University would have earned several crores of rupees as revenue towards lease.” Because, the rental charges at Filmcity at Goregaon in Mumbai is higher. The University should have found out the rates at Film City”. “I have a strong reason to believe that some politicians are behind the whole thing. That’s why I have written to the Governor, chief minister and Education Minister demanding a high-level inquiry into the University to lease out five acres of its land for a film-shoot without following proper procedures,” Galgali said.

# Govt to develop 150 nurseries under NREGA

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

In another ‘farmer centric’ move, the Uttar Pradesh Government will develop as many as 150 nurseries under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as this will not only create employment opportunities in the state but also give a boost to the farmers engaged in horticulture. In line with this decision, the Rural Development department has been asked to prepare a proposal to set up nurseries in 100 days. As many as 22.50 crore saplings will be planted in these nurseries and each nursery will have at least 15 lakh saplings. The nurseries will comprise traditional crops, flowers, vegetables as well as good quality fruits and vegetables and will become a source of increased income for the farmers of the state, a government spokesman said. He said a maximum of two nurseries would be set up in each district. In these, farmers would be taught and made aware of ways to cultivate medicinal plants like Sarpagandha, Ashwagandha, Brahmi, Kalmegh, Kaunch, Shatavari, Tulsi, Aloe vera along with other flowers and fruits.

# As Covid cases rise, CM Yogi stresses on caution, vigilance

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

With Uttar Pradesh recording a disturbing surge in Covid-19 cases, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stressed that caution and vigilance were the two weapons to control the viral disease and instructed officials to strengthen arrangements for the prevention and treatment of the deadly infection. During the review of the spread of novel coronavirus infection across the state at Shastri Bhawan in Lucknow on Wednesday, the chief minister was apprised that 170 new cases were reported in the state in the last 24 hours and 110 COVID-19 patients were discharged after treatment in the corresponding period. At present there are 856 active COVID-19 cases in the state. Yogi directed officials that masks be made compulsory in public places in National Capital Region (NCR) districts like Noida, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Baghpat as well as in Lucknow. In these districts, people will be vaccinated on priority basis. He also directed that people be made aware of the need to follow Covid protocol. Yogi was also informed

that till Tuesday, more than 30.86 crore doses of Covid vaccines were administered across the state. The entire population above 18 years has received at least one dose of the vaccine while 86.69 per cent people have taken both doses. The chief minister said that 6,700 paediatric ICUs had been set up to protect children from coronavirus infection. “In 2016-17, there were only 150 PICU beds in the state while today there are as many as 6,700 PICUs beds. Uttar Pradesh has become self-reliant as it has established 206 labs and multiple oxygen generation units. There has been a 2.5-fold increase in liquid medical oxygen and an eight-fold increase in PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption),” he said. He also directed officials to plan for setting up an e-hospital in Uttar Pradesh and make it functional in the next two years. Uttar Pradesh will be the first state in India to have a live emergency monitoring system. In this regard, Yogi asked officials to make preparations for a mobile app-based digital platform and command call centre to make its execution smooth.

# Yogi praised by his Gujarat counterpart

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The Government of Uttar Pradesh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has come in for a huge praise from his Gujarat counterpart. Applauding efforts of the Uttar Pradesh government, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in his letter to journalist-cum-writer Shantanu Gupta said that the UP chief minister made “remarkable success” in transforming the scenario of the state which was very well depicted in the biography. He was acknowledging the effort of the author whose book on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has, of late, earned a wide ranging appreciation. “I am thankful to receive your informative creation of ‘The Monk who transformed Uttar Pradesh’, how Yogi Adityanath changed ‘UP waala bhaiya’ abuse to a badge of honour, an obvious effort to make understand the situation handled by Shri Yogi Adityanath after taking charge as the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.”

# UP to credit in 100 days women’s welfare grants

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The Uttar Pradesh government is set to transfer the grant for the first three months of the 2022-23 fiscal online to the beneficiaries of Destitute Women’s Pension Scheme, Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana and Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana in the next 100 days. The Women’s Welfare department will hold a series of self-reliance camps for women in different blocks across the state for this every 15 days and also accept and approve application forms of deserving candidates under the above mentioned schemes. This was revealed during a presentation made by the department recently on its plans for the next five years. The state government will also seek convergence of ‘One Stop Centre’ and ‘Women’s Empowerment Centre’ to provide all kinds of services like raising awareness of financial assistance being provided by the government, opportunities available for employment, self-employment and skill development in addition to facilitating transfer of benefits of welfare schemes to the people. After the presentation, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to formulate effective policies and implement schemes for the empowerment of women and all-round growth of children. Officials were also told to set up at least one protection home and a shelter for women at each divisional headquarters on a priority. They were also

instructed to take the next phase of Mission Shakti to gram panchayat level. Meanwhile, the Women’s Welfare department aims to amend certain clauses in the guidelines of Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana in order to simplify it and impact the beneficiaries within six months. The department also has plans to map skills of women associated with institutions as well as children above 16 years of age and hone their abilities in the next six months. Furthermore, the state government will inaugurate three shelter homes with a capacity to accommodate 100 women each at Moradabad, Ghaziabad and Ghazipur at the cost of Rs 6.74 crore, Rs 7.18 crore and Rs 6.29 crore respectively in the next few years. The state government will also ensure provision of grants under the Destitute Women’s Pension Scheme, Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, and Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana every three months to all beneficiaries in the next two years. In its Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra issued ahead of UP assembly polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party had pledged to increase the pension for widows under Destitute Women’s Scheme from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1500 per month and the total amount to beneficiaries of Kanya Sumangala Yojana from Rs 15000 to Rs 25,000 in five years. There are currently around 31 lakh beneficiaries of the Destitute Women’s Pension Scheme in Uttar Pradesh.







FIRST COLUMN

BRITAIN’S HOUR OF SHAME

Johnson’s popularity in the party and in the country has collapsed



GWYNNE DYER

Writing in The Observer on Sunday about Conservative politicians making headlines, Stewart Lee said they were “a child molester, a serial adulterer and compulsive liar, a handsome but morally bankrupt financial whiz-kid, and a bully who sends immigrants to Rwanda.” “That’s less like a government and more like a special team of convicted criminals given their freedom in exchange for accepting an impossible mission behind enemy lines in a 1970s Italian-funded war film.” Imran Ahmad Khan, a Conservative member of parliament, resigned after being convicted of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old boy, but the real story was that another Tory MP, Crispin Blunt, a former Justice Minister, condemned his conviction as “an international scandal, with dreadful wider implications for millions of LGBT + Muslims around the world.” The ‘serial adulterer and compulsive liar’ was of course Prime Minister AI ‘Boris’ Johnson, still refusing to deny that he has no more children than the seven he admits to by various mothers. But it was the ‘compulsive liar’ part of the indictment that was getting more attention last week. That really was a legal matter. For more than a year the Conservative government has been haunted by ‘Partygate’, an ongoing scandal about numerous drinks parties at the prime minister’s combination home and office, No. 10 Downing Street, even when the entire country was in Covid lock-down. Revelations about these parties trickled out one by one starting about a year ago, each denied by Johnson both to the public and in parliament (where deliberately lying is a resigning offence). Eventually the police got involved, as these were criminal offences, and the first fines were handed out to Johnson and other senior Conservatives last week. The police are dealing with the offences one at a time, drip-feed, and Johnson is due for up to five more fines.

He is also going to have to brazen it out for lying to parliament, and while the Conservative majority there will save him for the moment, his party has irretrievably lost faith him The ‘handsome but morally bankrupt financial whiz-kid’ is Rishi Sunak, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (finance minister), who was universally seen as Johnson’s chief rival and possible replacement - until he fell from grace a couple of weeks ago. He too has been fined for the parties, but his bigger problem is his personal finances. First it came out that Sunak’s wife, an Indian heiress, has been exploiting a tax loophole to avoid paying British taxes on her dividend income of \$15 million a year. All she had to do was declare that she didn’t intend to stay in the UK permanently - which may be true, because it then came out that Rishi and she had both kept their US-issued green cards. That ends Sunak’s prime ministerial ambitions - and then there’s the ‘bully who sends immigrants to Rwanda’, Home Secretary Priti Patel. She announced the plan last week while handing a £120 million down payment to Rwandan dictator Paul Kagame for taking asylum seekers off Britain’s hands. It’s probably illegal, and Patel doubtless realises that it won’t ever really happen. She’s just throwing some red meat to the racist and anti-immigrant voters who played a big part in putting Johnson & Co. into power in the last election. But she hasn’t solved the bigger problem, which is what to do about Johnson. Nobody has. Johnson’s popularity in the party and in the country has collapsed, and even his recent sub-Churchillian posturing in Ukraine has done nothing to restore it. But following the decline of Rishi Sunak’s star, the Conservatives have no other candidate who will tickle the electorate’s fancy.

*(Gwynne Dyer’s new book is ‘The Shortest History of War’. The views expressed are personal.)*

# Grand illusion of inclusive growth

True inclusive growth can happen not with distribution of free ration but by attacking social and economic discrimination that hinder our youth’s progress

The argument of noted economist Surjit Bhalla that food subsidy has wiped out extreme poverty in India is highly erroneous. Bhalla, who arrived at this conclusion in a recent study done for the International Monetary Fund with two other economists, wants to make us believe that if only the stomachs of the poor are filled, poverty should be deemed to have been wiped out.

Bhalla and his team arrived at the conclusion on the basis of the subsidized and free rations supplied by the Government to the people below the poverty line through the public distribution system during the months of the Covid spread. Those were months when the country was under lockdown, workplaces were shut, and the workers were forced to sit at home without any income. The free rations, given in addition to the subsidized rations, were intended to provide enough food to the poor homes. It was a temporary measure to save the poor from starvation-an extraordinary government response to an extraordinary situation and not a lasting solution to poverty. Even the Modi Government says it was done, so that “no Indian should sleep hungry.”

The lasting solution to poverty is not free rations but employment with decent income. The poor need money to meet both the food and non-food demands of their families. Filling their stomachs is not enough. When the Government gave them adequate rations to cope with their needs for basic cereals wheat and rice during the Covid times, the poor still needed money to buy other food items such as cooking oil and fuel and medicines and clothes and to meet other needs. There were allegations that the poor sold some of the free rations to local grocers to get some cash. But that cash was too inadequate to meet their needs.

Poverty cannot be wiped out unless the Government creates adequate job opportunities for the poor. What do we see instead? Even the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) creates off-season employment to the labourers, presuming that they need to earn wages to survive during the months when there are no agricultural activities. This programme, which has been running through the UPA and NDA regimes, only aims to help the rural labourers survive. It is not regular employment.

The scope for employment away from agriculture is not increasing. The government is reducing jobs in the public sector. More and more public sector undertakings are being sold to the private sector. The Government’s mantra is, “The Government has no business to be in business.” The government is outsourcing a number of works which were earlier done by its departments, which means contraction in public employment.

The Government’s policy of more and

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THE SITUATION THAT OBTAINS IN THE COUNTRY TODAY THEREFORE IS THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY JOB SEEKERS SEEKING TOO FEW JOBS. IN THIS COMPETITION THE JOB SEEKERS FROM POORER FAMILY BACKGROUNDS FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO GO PAST THE JOB SEEKERS FROM RELATIVELY PRIVILEGED BACKGROUNDS

(The writer is an independent journalist and author. The views expressed are personal.)



more privatization presumes that it will be the private sector that will provide employment to the job seekers. However, that is turning out to be a fantasy tale. The private sector’s priority is not to employ labour but to free itself from ‘labour hassles’. Its policy is guided by the spectre of trade unions ‘ruining’ the company.

So, while the Government subsidizes and promotes privatization selling the fantasy to the people that it will create jobs for them, the harsh reality is the private sector, while taking all the benefits from the public resources, is devoted to the cause of creating less and less employment. It is using technology in more and more of its space to avoid employing humans. A recent report suggested that more and more Indian factories are rapidly adopting robots, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) to reduce dependence on human resources. The demand for robots among Indian companies has been increasing exponentially. Inputs to machines are now being done through barcodes and finished goods are moved from factory to stores by robots.

The other thing the Indian companies are doing is outsourcing as much of its work as possible, so that ‘labour hassles’ happen in the courtyards of its suppliers, contractors and vendors and not

in its courtyard. Where the businesses are forced to employ humans, they do so on terms of contract which gives them all the authority and power to reduce the financial benefits and to fire them whenever they want. The pro-privatization Government is making it easier for them by making laws in the name of ‘labour reforms’ that empower the employers.

The situation that obtains in the country today therefore is that there are too many job seekers seeking too few jobs. In this competition the job seekers from poorer family backgrounds find it extremely difficult to go past the job seekers from relatively privileged backgrounds. Decent jobs today demand a certain level of education, skill and cultural refinement which the job seekers from the poorer backgrounds lack in.

With more and more high-technology automation, the type of human resources the manufacturing and trading companies require demands higher skills, such as knowledge of how computers operate and quick adaptability to technological upgradation. These are areas in which job seekers from relatively privileged backgrounds leave those from poorer backgrounds miles behind, because the latter are constrained by deeply-embedded negative social and economic discrimination in making progress in acquiring educa-

tion and skills.

No wonder, while India has been witnessing high economic growth since the 1990s, growth has not translated into transformation in the lives of the majority of the young men and women from poorer backgrounds. The pattern of economic growth has led to the widening of the chasm between the higher and lower sections of society. While the size of the middle class has grown with the economic growth, it has not included the major part of the population of the poorer strata.

Seen in this light, the Modi Government’s mantra chant of ‘Sabka saath, sabkavikas’ sounds like nothing but an illusion. Although economic growth is happening, Inclusive growth is not taking place.

True inclusive growth cannot happen with distribution of free ration of 5 kg to 80 crore people. It can only happen by attacking the deeply embedded social and economic discrimination that does not allow the young men and women from poorer backgrounds to climb out of the pit of poverty. This discrimination is institutionalized. Unless the barriers at the ground level are removed, the life chances of the poor will not improve and there can be no inclusive growth. The poor look up to the Surjit Bhallas to suggest how it can be done.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE ROLE OF AAP SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY PROBED IN THE JAHANGIRPURI VIOLENCE. THOSE ARRESTED ARE CONNECTED TO AAP. —DELHI BJP CHIEF ADESH GUPTA



USING AN IMAGE, THE BJP IS HELL-BENT ON TRYING TO ASSOCIATE THE MASTERMIND WITH AAP, FALSELY PUTTING THE BLAME ON US. —AAP LEADER SAURABH BHARDWAJ

## Modi’s offers charm US to create an Indian Asia bazaar

The Americans are ready to invest in India because it has a growing economy and they get a cost-effective access to the Asian market



SHIVAJI SARKAR

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

worth several trillion dollars since 2001 largely from Indian subcontinent. The US is lured by the expanding new arms bazaar.

The US understands that even if its companies set up manufacturing units in India, as per its ‘make in India’ priority, they will repatriate huge profits and the 20 largest US arms manufacturers will continue to create employment at home. A country in economic crisis, particularly post-Afghanistan scenario, finds the Indian magic touch soothing even as European NATO allies remain cautious on the Ukraine war.

The gap between India and the US on the Ukraine issue was evident. The White House expansive preamble spoke of close consultations on the consequences of the brutal war.

Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS) in 2023. In support of the Indian military’s expanding operational reach and emerging opportunities for cooperation in the Indian Ocean and the wider region, the ministers welcomed regular bilateral logistics operations.

India has separately entered into a nuclear deal with Westinghouse and other firms committing to invest \$30 billion in nuclear, space and cyber security. They applauded the ongoing development of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, planned for launch from India in 2023. The space ventures would have \$ 5 billion or ₹38,000 crore investments.

Westinghouse is keen on setting up six nuclear power reactors worth ₹60,000 crore. It

will also invest ₹10,000 crore for developing exportable mini-modular reactors. Under the South Asia Regional Energy Partnership, US AID and private American firms are to build Smart Grid Knowledge Centre for ₹3800 crore. The US would invest about ₹15,000 crore for the clean energy agenda.

The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will invest \$ 500 million in debt servicing for integrated solar photovoltaic plant in Tamil Nadu under Modi’s international solar alliance with annual capacity of 3.3 Gigawatts. Bill Gates’ Breakthrough Energy Ventures-backed 1366 Technologies plans to invest \$300 million to set up a 2 Gigawatt solar wafer and cell manufacturing facility in India under production-linked incen-



Prime Minister Modi was unequivocal on Bucha killings in Ukraine. The terse Indian preview outlines a broader agenda and exchange of views on developments in South Asia, Indo-Pacific region and global issues of mutual interest.

Both sides look forward to India’s co-hosting of the Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC) and Indo-

tive (PLI) scheme. The DFC will also invest \$350 million for multiple projects in India in financial services, health infrastructure, renewable energy and food security. These businesses are projected to generate billions of dollars in profits to the US firms.

Virtually all US majors are making a beeline for India. The US aerospace company Lockheed Martin is open to setting up a maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in India for F-21 to sweeten its bid for 114 fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force. Meanwhile, US-based Fisker Inc sets up its India headquarters in Hyderabad for electric vehicle manufacturing.

The summit is beneficial to the US. While it proposes to invest large sums in multiple projects and many of these very strategic as the US tries to

capture the Asian market. It saves huge sums as India is cost-effective and provides easy access to the Asia market at low cost. The South Asia and Southeast Asian economies as per the US perspective have hefty foreign exchange reserves, stronger financial systems and unassailable place as the world’s manufacturing powerhouse. Their stock markets like those in the developed world have posted gains during the pandemic while other emerging regions lost.

This strategic interest makes the White House ignore India’s deals like oil and other purchases from Russia. The Indian soft push helps the US gain in monetary terms and India develops a manufacturing Asian export bazaar in a span of over a decade.



# In a blow to Lanka’s Rajapaksa Govt, 3 more MPs withdraw support



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who is under pressure to resign, was dealt a further blow on Wednesday when three more parliamentarians withdrew their support to the government.

Earlier this month, 39 lawmakers out of 156 MPs pulled their support to Rajapaksa in the 225-member Parliament. The breakaway group, which sits independently, has declared not

to align with any other coalition, including the Opposition. The independent group demands the formation of an all-party interim government with the resignation of the Rajapaksa family from power.

Sri Lanka Muslim Council (SLMC) MP Faizal Cassim informed Parliament that he along with MPs Ishak Rahuman and M S Thowfeek will withdraw their support to government. The three MPs were part of the opposition Samagi Jana

Balawegaya (SJB) coalition, including from the SLMC. They had been Rajapaksa's allies since 2020 and voted for the controversial 20A which conferred absolute power on the President. A heated exchange erupted on Wednesday morning when Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana denied a claim by main Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa that the Speaker told party leaders that Rajapaksa was ready to resign if all party leaders requested him

to do so. Abeywardana, a member of the ruling coalition, said it was a misinterpretation by Premadasa. However, the main Opposition leader stood by his statement calling Abeywardana a liar.

An extended public protest, which began near Rajapaksa's secretariat on April 9 demanding Rajapaksa's resignation, entered on its 12th day.

Sri Lanka is grappling with unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948. The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

The island nation is witnessing large-scale protests against the government's handling of the debt-ridden economy - the worst-ever economic crisis in the country's history. Protests demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his Sri Lanka Podujana (Peramuna)-led government have intensified as shortages continued and prices soared.

## Oppn leader claims Parliament Speaker said Prez Gotabaya ready to step down

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa on Wednesday claimed that Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena had assured that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was ready to resign if all political parties request him, media reports said on Wednesday.

There have been growing calls for President Rajapaksa's resignation over the past few weeks over his Government's mishandling of Sri Lanka's worsening economic crisis.

Speaker Abeywardena, however, denied informing party leaders that the President was ready to step down, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

"There is a report circulating on social media that I have informed party leaders of the President's willingness to resign if they (party leaders)



make a request. I only said the President is ready to handover the government to anyone who commands majority," the Speaker clarified in Parliament. Leader of Opposition Premadasa reiterated that Speaker Abeywardena had said this at a party leaders' meeting. "You said to the party leaders that all party leaders of his House go and ask him to step down, he is ready for it. We're ready to

do that. You give us the opportunity. All of us in the Opposition are ready to unanimously make that statement. "I am not a fool to distort what you said. Don't deny your statement. You are a Tom Pachaya (blatant liar)," Premadasa said.

The Speaker said it was Premadasa who was coming up with "Tom pacha (blatant lie)". Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella also confirmed that the Speaker did not say.

A unanimous call from party leaders would have to include the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), led by President Rajapaksa's elder brother Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. Political analysts say it is unlikely that the SLPP will back such a call.

Sri Lanka, which is on the brink of bankruptcy, is grappling with an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst

since its independence from Britain in 1948. The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

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Last week, the Sri Lankan government said it would temporarily default on USD 35.5 billion in foreign debt as the pandemic and war in Ukraine made it impossible to make payments to overseas creditors.

## Pak court directs Govt to make public details of gifts received by former PM Imran Khan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a setback to Imran Khan, a Pakistani court on Wednesday ordered the government to make public details of the gifts received by the former prime minister from foreign dignitaries since assuming office in August 2018.

Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb of the Islamabad High Court issued the directive to the Shehbaz Sharif-led government after hearing two petitions - one by a citizen seeking the implementation of the Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) order, and the other by the Cabinet Division challenging that order.

After a citizen approached PIC to get details of gifts, it directed Cabinet Division to "provide requested information about the gifts received by Khan from foreign heads of states, heads of governments and other foreign dignitaries ... description/specification of each gift, information about gifts retained by Prime Minister and rules under which gifts thus received are retained by him." The Cabinet Division was told to share the required information within 10 working days and also upload it on the official website. But the Cabinet



Division challenged the PIC order in the Islamabad High Court after the then Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government said that the disclosure of any information may jeopardise ties with some countries.

The Islamabad High Court upheld the PIC order and observed that the gifts belonged to the office of the prime minister and were not to be taken home. Gifts given to government officials by foreign governments belong to the state of Pakistan and not some individuals, Justice Aurangzeb observed on Wednesday.

"These gifts are not meant for taking home," he said, adding that these gifts should be recovered if someone had taken them home. "Individuals come and go but the office of the prime minister of Pakistan is permanent," the Express

Tribune report said, quoting the judge. The High Court said that information regarding the gifts should be shared with the petitioner since there was no stay order regarding making information about these gifts' public, the report said. The court said that there should not be a policy of buying these state gifts by paying a meagre sum. "Such a policy means that these gifts are on sale," the judge said.

Justice Aurangzeb added that if there was a need for constitutional interpretation regarding these gifts then the high court was willing to help, the report said. Last week, Prime Minister Sharif had alleged that his predecessor Khan during his tenure sold gifts from the Toshakhana or state depository worth Rs 140 million in Dubai.

The Toshakhana scandal surfaced last year when it was reported that Khan as the premier received gifts such as wrist watches and bracelets from the Arab rulers. Instead of depositing them in the Toshakhana, Opposition parties alleged that Khan purchased back some of them at a throwaway price and in turn sold them in Dubai, thus making hefty profits.

## British Judge sends Assange extradition decision to UK Govt

AP ■ LONDON

A British judge on Wednesday formally approved the extradition of Julian Assange to the United States to face spying charges. The case will now go to Britain's interior Minister for a decision, and the WikiLeaks founder still has legal avenues of appeal.

The order, which brings extradition closer, comes after the U.K. Supreme Court last month refused Assange permission to appeal against a lower court's ruling that he could be extradited.

A judge at Westminster Magistrates' Court issued the order in a brief hearing, as Assange watched by video link from Belmarsh Prison.

Home Secretary Priti Patel will now decide whether to grant the extradition.

The move doesn't exhaust the legal options for Assange, who has sought for years to avoid a trial in the U.S. On charges related to WikiLeaks' publication of a huge trove of classified documents more than a decade ago.

His lawyers have four weeks to make submissions to Patel, and can also seek to appeal to High Court. Assange lawyer Mark Summers told the court that legal team had "serious submissions" to make.

The U.S. Has asked British authorities to extradite Assange so he can stand trial on 17 charges of espionage and one charge of computer misuse.

## Bilawal likely to meet Nawaz Sharif in London to ‘discuss’ political situation

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday is headed to London where he is expected to meet PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif to "discuss the current political situation" of Pakistan, a day after he excused himself from taking oath as foreign minister, leading to speculation that all allies of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif are not on the same page.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) -- the two main political parties -- have been alternatively in power when the military was not ruling the country. The powerful Army has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its 75 plus years

of existence. Confirming Bilawal's departure for London, PPP Secretary-General Farhatullah Babar said the main purpose of meeting Nawaz Sharif, the elder brother of Shehbaz Sharif, is to congratulate him on the coalition government and "discuss the current political situation", the News International newspaper reported.

Nawaz Sharif -- against whom several corruption cases were launched by the government of former prime minister Imran Khan -- had left for London in November 2019 after the Lahore High Court granted him a four-week permission allowing him to go abroad for his treatment. Nawaz Sharif, 72, had given an undertaking to



Lahore High Court to return to Pakistan, citing his record to face the process of law and justice within four weeks or as soon as he is declared healthy and fit to travel by doctors. He was also given bail in the Al-Azizia Mills corruption case in which he was serving seven-year imprisonment in Lahore's high-security Kot Lakhpat jail.

**Public Notice**  
This is to inform general public that Mr. Kul Bhushan Maddan is owner of Free hold built up property with roof rights bearing no. F-282-B. Area measuring 100 sq. yds. Part of Khasra no. 644, situated in the area of village Basai Darapur, Colony known as Sudershan Park, New Delhi-110075 (Vide Rellingushment) deed dated 10/12/2021 Doc no. 8368, executed by Mr. Anil Kumar S/o Late Mr. Jagdish Chander, Mr. Yogesh Kumar Maddan S/o Late Mr. Jagdish Chander, Mr. Rajesh Maddan S/o Late Mr. Jagdish Chander & Mrs. Sangeeta Hindesh Arora D/o Late Mr. Jagdish Chander, Now, Kul Bhushan Maddan is mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of the publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066701712/9818228636 (M).

**Public Notice**  
This is to inform general public that Mr. Kewal Kishan has acquired the 1st floor without roof rights (Hereinafter referred to as 'said floor') on Portion of plot no. D-53, land area measuring 40 sq. yds, out of khasra no. 30/2/728, situated in the area of village Basai Darapur, in the abadi of Sudershan Park, New Delhi-110075 (Vide Rellingushment) deed dated 10/12/2021 Doc no. 8368, executed by Mr. Anil Kumar S/o Late Mr. Jagdish Chander, Mr. Yogesh Kumar Maddan S/o Late Mr. Jagdish Chander, Mr. Rajesh Maddan S/o Late Mr. Jagdish Chander & Mrs. Sangeeta Hindesh Arora D/o Late Mr. Jagdish Chander, Now, Kul Bhushan Maddan is mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of the publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066701712/9818228636 (M).

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**No. Estb./TS/2022 Date: 03.03.2022**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**  
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment as ASSISTANT PROFESSOR under Merit Quota in Hindi (One Vacancy) Age and Qualifications are as per UGC/University/Govt. norms. Apply within thirty days from the date of publication of this notification. Forms can be had from the College office on payment of Rs 1000/-.  
(Sd/-) Manager

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that I, SURESH KAPUR D/O LATE SH. J. C. KAPUR & SAMESH KAPUR SON OF LATE SH. J. C. KAPUR RESIDENT OF EB-85, GROUND FLOOR, MAYA ENCLAVE, HARI NAGAR, RAJOURI GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110026, we both legal owner myself and my brother of EB-85, GROUND FLOOR, MAYA ENCLAVE, HARI NAGAR, RAJOURI GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110026, FILE NO. F-4(108)1981/SFS/III which is allotted by the DDA Original DDA Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, Water and Electricity NDR for the above flat has been lost. An FIR/NDR to this effect has lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi vide UR No. 325447/2022, Dated-19-04-2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or write in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No.9888173831 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any person claiming any right, interest, or having any objections with respect to this property can also personally inform/contact me.

largest federal investment in saving financially distressed nuclear reactors. Owners or operators of nuclear power reactors that are expected to shut down for economic reasons can apply for funding to avoid closing prematurely. The first round of awards will prioritise reactors that have already announced plans to close.

The second round will be opened up to more economically at-risk facilities. The program was funded through President Joe Biden's USD 1 trillion infrastructure deal, which he signed into law in November.

"U.S. Nuclear power plants contribute more than half of our carbon-free electricity, and President Biden is committed to keeping these plants active to reach our clean energy goals," Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said in a statement.

"We're using every tool available to get this country powered by clean energy by 2035, and that includes prioritising our existing nuclear fleet to allow for continued emissions-free electricity generation and economic stability for communities leading

this work." A strong majority of states - about two-thirds - say nuclear, in one fashion or another, will help take the place of fossil fuels. A dozen U.S. Commercial nuclear power reactors have closed in the past decade before their licenses expired, largely due to competition

from cheaper natural gas, massive operating losses due to low electricity prices and escalating costs, or the cost of major repairs. This has led to a rise in emissions in those regions, poorer air quality and the loss of thousands of high-paying jobs, dealing an economic blow to local communities, according to the DOE.

A quarter or more of the fleet is at risk, the DOE added. The owners of seven currently operating reactors have already announced plans to retire them through 2025.

Most U.S. Nuclear plants were built between 1970 and 1990 and it's costing more to operate an aging fleet. The only nuclear plant under construction in United States is in Georgia. Costs have ballooned and another delay was announced in February.

## Poland coal mine blasts kill 4, injure 19; 7 missing

AP ■ WARSAW

Methane explosions at a coal mine in southern Poland on Wednesday killed four people and injured 19, authorities said. Seven others were missing.

The blasts took place at 12:15 a.M. Local time (2215 GMT Tuesday) about 1,000 meters (3,000 feet) under the surface at the Pniowek mine in Pawlowice that is operated by the Jastrzebska Spolka Weglowa, or JSW, mining company. The immediate rescue operation by 13 units of rescuers had to be suspended because of a fire and need to protect rescuers, JSW officials said.

Contact with seven of rescuers is lost during operation, mine authorities said. Doctors at Siemianowice Slaskie hospital that specializes in treating burns say condition of some of injured is life-threatening. They have suffered burns to their lungs and to large areas of their bodies. Poland relies on its own and imported coal for almost 70% of its energy.

## Ultra-nationalists to march in Jerusalem despite ban

AP ■ JERUSALEM, APR 20

A group of Israeli ultra-nationalists said it is determined to go ahead with a flag-waving march around predominantly Palestinian areas of Jerusalem's Old City later Wednesday, brushing aside a police ban of an event that served as one of triggers of last year's Israel-Gaza war.

Israeli police said a large number of officers were deployed around Jerusalem's historic Old City, home to religious sites for Jews, Christians and Muslims, out of concern that confrontations could further ignite an already tense atmosphere in city during the Jewish holiday of Passover and the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Palestinian militant groups said Tuesday evening that they were "raising state of general alert", and warned against Israeli radicals holding a flag march in Jerusalem. "At this stage police are not approving protest march under urged layout," police said in a statement, without elaborating.

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER COM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Jitender Kumar Chhabra (Borrower)/ Ram Devi (Co Borrower) LBNOD00002116807	Flat No A-2002, Tower A, Springview Floors, Crescent Parc Township, NH-24, Ghaziabad, UP area: 1243 Sq. Fts	Rs. 61,48,288/- as on April 11, 2022	Rs.41,80,000/- From Rs. 4,18,000/-	April 29, 2022, From 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	May 13, 2022, From 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM
2.	Sonu Kumar (Borrower), SHIV KUMAR (Guarantor) Lan No. LBNOD00002252451	G/UH-801 8th Floor, Tower-G Urban Homes, Shahpur Bamhelta, NH-24 Ghaziabad, 201001 Super Area: 585 Sq. fts	Rs. 18,87,752.42/- as on April 11, 2022	Rs.17,10,000/- From Rs. 1,71,000/-	April 29, 2022, From 12:00 Noon to 01:00 PM	May 13, 2022, From 12:00 Noon to 01:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **May 12, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.  
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **May 12, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **May 12, 2022 before 05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at **Delhi**.  
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8126013708** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**  
Please note that Marketing agencies 1. **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.  
The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.  
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date: April 21, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

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

**COURT NOTICE**

Before the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Bench No. V

Company Petition no. IB-122/ND/2020

In the Matter of: Mr. Rohit Gudwani& Anns., Applicant

Versus M/s Ronnie Finance Ltd... Respondent

Notice may be taken by the directors of the Company, M/s Ronnie Finance Ltd., that a Company Petition u/s 7 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016 being filed by the above mentioned applicant before the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Bench No. V

Kindly note that the matter is listed on 22.04.2022

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

1. Sanjeeta Thapa, holding R.C. M/s. STST Core Services Pvt. Ltd. RC. No. F.0882/05/COM/1002-15/5045/2013, Dated 22-12-2014 Office at 53/3 Floor Bharat Nagar New Friends Colony New Delhi-110025. Under the Emigration Act 1983 for Export of manpower, I intend to closed my business with immediate effect in the event, there is any complaint against me, the same may be referred to within 30 days of publication of this notice. Copies of the complaint may also sent to Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs, Akbar Bhawan, 10th floor Satya Marg, Chanakyaপুরi, New Delhi 110021.

Place Delhi Date 30/3/2022 Sd/- Sanjeeta Thapa (Managing Director)

Flat Unit No.11192, Floor 19th, Tower- 11, Happy Trails, Sec-10, Greater Noida (West) was booked in the name of Mr. Vijay Kumar Sinha, S/o Lt. K.K Sinha, Mrs. Benu Mathur, W/o Mr Sanjay Mathur and Mrs Shenu Sinha, W/o Mr Pramod Kumar. Mr. Vijay Kumar Sinha expired on 10.01.2020. Regarding mentioned property, the name of Mrs Benu Mathur and Mrs Shenu Sinha who is also co-allottee of this property is being noted as Primary Allottee in M/s HomeKart Infra Pvt Ltd records in respect of captioned unit. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach M/s Shridhara InfraTech Pvt. Ltd. within 21 days of publication of this notice at address: ATS Tower, Plot no: 16, 2nd Floor, Sector-135, Noida 201305, Ph:91-120-7111500

## 24 structures burned, hundreds evacuated in Arizona inferno

AP ■ FLAGSTAFF (US)

At least two dozen structures have been destroyed in a fast-moving wildfire in rural northern Arizona that ballooned to over 9 square miles (23 square kilometers) Tuesday, Coconino County Sheriff Jim Driscoll said during a news conference.

The county declared an emergency Tuesday as winds whipped the flames, shut down a major highway and grounded aircraft that could drop water and fire retardant. County officials said 766 homes and 1,000 animals have been evacuated.

A couple of hundred homes are still threatened as smoke billowed into the air in an all-too-familiar scene. Residents recalled scrambling

to pack their bags and flee a dozen years ago during a much-larger wildfire burned in the same area. Driscoll said sheriff's office got a call saying a man was trapped in his house, but that firefighters couldn't get to him.

They do not know if he survived. Flame lengths are as up as 100 feet (30 meters) high, the U.S. Forest Service said. Firefighters on Tuesday were up against 50 mph (80 kph) gusts that pushed the wildfire over the highway and weren't expected to let up much this week, authorities said.

"It's blowing hard, and we have ash falling on highway," said Coconino County sheriff's spokesman Jon Paxton. About 200 firefighters were working blaze that appeared to be moving northeast away from more

heavily populated areas of Flagstaff, toward Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument and volcanic cinders, said Coconino National Forest spokesman Brady Smith. "It's good in that it's not headed toward a very populated area, and it's headed toward less fuel," he said. "But depending on intensity of fire, fire can still move across cinders."

A top-level national fire management team is expected to take over later this week. Fire and law enforcement agencies that were knocking on doors to warn of evacuations Tuesday were forced to pull out to avoid getting trapped by the flames, Paxton said. Arizona Public Service Co. Shut

off power to about 625 customers to keep firefighters safe, a spokeswoman said.



# Russia hits Ukrainian cities, pours more troops into war

AP ■ KYIV

Russia hurled its military might against Ukrainian cities and towns and poured more troops into the war, seeking to slice the country in two in a potentially pivotal battle for control of the eastern industrial heartland of coal mines and factories.

The fighting on Tuesday unfolded along a boomerang-shaped front hundreds of miles long in what is known as the Donbas. If successful, it would give President Vladimir Putin a victory following the failed attempt by Moscow's forces to storm the capital, Kyiv, and heavier-than-expected casualties.

In Mariupol, the now-devastated port city in the Donbas, Ukrainian troops said the Russian military dropped heavy bombs to flatten what was left of a sprawling steel plant and hit a hospital where hundreds were staying.

The eastern cities of Kharkiv and Kramatorsk came under deadly attack.

Russia also said it struck areas around Zaporizhzhia and Dnipro west of the Donbas with missiles.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Moscow's forces bombarded numerous Ukrainian military sites, including troop concentrations and missile-warhead storage

depots, in or near several cities or villages. Those claims could not be independently verified.

Both sides have described the assault that began Monday as a new phase of the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the Russian military was throwing everything it has into the battle, with most of its combat-ready forces now concentrated in Ukraine and just across the border in Russia.

"They have driven almost everyone and everything that is capable of fighting us against Ukraine," he said in his nightly video address to the nation.

Despite claims that they are hitting only military sites, the Russians continue to target residential areas and kill civilians, he said.

"The Russian army in this war is writing itself into world history forever as the most barbaric and inhuman army in the world," Zelenskyy said.

Weeks ago, after the abortive Russian push to take Kyiv, the Kremlin declared that its main goal was the capture of the mostly Russian-speaking Donbas, where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces for eight years.

A Russian victory in the Donbas would deprive Ukraine of the industrial assets concentrated there, including mines, metals plants and heavy-equipment factories.

A senior U.S. Defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the Pentagon's assessments of the war, said the Russians had added two more combat units, known as battalion tactical groups,

in Ukraine over the preceding 24 hours. That brought the total number of units in the country to 78, all of them in the south and the east, up from 65 last week, the official said.

That would translate to 55,000 to 62,000 troops, based on what the Pentagon said at the start of the war was the typical unit strength of 700 to 800 soldiers. But accurately determining Russia's fighting capacity at this stage is difficult.

A European official, likewise speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss military assessments, said Russia also has 10,000 to 20,000 foreign fighters in the Donbas. They are a mix of mercenaries from Russia's private Wagner Group and Russian proxy fighters from Syria and Libya, according to the official.

While Ukraine portrayed the attacks on Monday as the start of the long-feared offensive in the east, some observers noted that an escalation has been underway there for some time and questioned whether this was truly the start of a new offensive.

The U.S. Official said the offensive in the Donbas has



begun in a limited way, mainly in an area southwest of the city of Donetsk and south of Izium.

Justin Crump, a former British tank commander now with the strategic advisory company Sibylline, said the Ukrainian comments could, in part, be an attempt to persuade allies to send more weapons.

"What they're trying to do by positioning this, I think, is ... Focus people's minds and effort by saying, Look, the conflict has begun in the Donbas," Crump said. "That partly puts pressure on NATO and EU suppliers to say, Guys, we're starting to fight now. We need this now."

President Joe Biden is expected to announce a new weapons package in the coming days that will include additional artillery and ammunition, according to a U.S. Official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Canada and the Netherlands also planned to send more heavy weapons, their prime ministers said.

Associated Press journalists in Kharkiv said at least four people were killed and three wounded in a Russian attack on a residential area of the city.

An explosion also rocked Kramatorsk, killing at least one person and wounding

three, according to AP journalists at the scene.

In the southern city of Bashtanka, an unspecified number of people were wounded when Russian forces shelled the hospital, destroying the reception area and the dialysis unit, the head of the regional council, Hanna Zamazeeva, said on Facebook.

Eyewitness accounts and reports from officials have given a broad picture of the extent of the Russian advance. But independent reporting in the parts of the Donbas held by Russian forces and separatists is severely limited, making it difficult to know what is happening in many places on the ground.

# Ukraine war refugees top 5 million as assault intensifies

AP ■ WARSAW

After spending weeks without electricity or water in the basement of her family's home in Ukraine, Viktoriya Savychkina made a daring escape from the besieged city of Mariupol with her 9- and 14-year-old daughters.

Their dwelling for now is a huge convention center in Poland's capital. Savychkina said she saw a photo of the home in Mariupol destroyed. From a camp bed in a foreign country, the 40-year-old bookkeeper thinks about restarting her and her children's lives from square one.

"I don't even know where we are going, how it will turn out," Savychkina said. "I would like to go home, of course. Maybe here, I will enjoy it in Poland."

With the war in Ukraine approaching eight weeks, more than 5 million people have fled the country since Russian troops invaded on Feb 24, the UN refugee agency reported Wednesday. When the number reached 4 million on March 30, the exodus exceeded the worst-case predictions of the Geneva-based UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The even bigger milestone in Europe's biggest refugee crisis since World War II was reached as Russia unleashed a full-scale offensive in eastern Ukraine that will disrupt and end more lives.

Ukraine had a pre-war population of 44 million, and UNHCR says the conflict has displaced more than 7 million people within Ukraine along with the 5.03 million who had left as of Wednesday. According to the agency, 13 million people are believed to be trapped in the war-affected areas of Ukraine.

"We've seen about a quarter of Ukraine's population, more than 12 million people in total, have been forced to flee their homes, so this is a staggering amount of people," UNHCR spokesperson Shabia Mantoo told The Associated Press.

More than half of the refugees, over 2.8 million, fled at least at first to Poland. They are eligible for national ID numbers that entitle them to work, to free health care, schooling and bonuses for families with children.

Although many of have stayed there, an unknown number have traveled on to



other countries. Savychkina said she is thinking about taking her daughters to Germany.

"We hope we can live there, send children to school, find work and start life from zero," she said inside the vast premises of the Global EXPO Centre in Warsaw, which is providing basic accommodations for about 800 refugees.

If "everything goes well, if the children like it first of all, then we will stay. If not..." Savychkina said.

Further south, Hungary has emerged as a major transit point for Ukrainian refugees. Out of more than 465,000 who arrived, some

16,400 have applied for protected status, meaning they want to stay. Many are members of the ethnic Hungarian minority in Ukraine.

Hungary's government says it has provided around \$8.7 million to several charitable organisations and is giving subsidies to companies that employ Ukrainians granted asylum.In March, a non-governmental organisation, Migration Aid, rented an entire five-story building in Budapest, a former workers' hostel, to provide temporary accommodation for people escaping the war in Ukraine.

It has helped some 4,000 refugees so far.

## Russia's Chernobyl seizure seen as nuclear risk 'nightmare'

AP ■ CHERNOBYL

Here in the dirt of one of the world's most radioactive places, Russian soldiers dug trenches. Ukrainian officials worry they were, in effect, digging their own graves.

Thousands of tanks and troops rumbled into the forested Chernobyl exclusion zone in the earliest hours of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, churning up highly contaminated soil from the site of the 1986 accident that was the world's worst nuclear disaster.

For more than a month, some Russian soldiers bunked in the earth within sight of the massive structure built to contain radiation from the damaged Chernobyl nuclear reactor. A close inspection of their trenches was impossible because even walking on the dirt is discouraged.

As the 36th anniversary of the April 26, 1986, disaster approaches and Russia's invasion continues, it's clear that Chernobyl - a relic of the Cold War - was never prepared for this.

With scientists and others watching in disbelief from afar, Russian forces flew over the long-closed plant, ignoring the restricted airspace around it. They held personnel still working at the plant at gunpoint during a marathon shift of more

than a month, with employees sleeping on tabletops and eating just twice a day.

Even now, weeks after the Russians left, "I need to calm down," the plant's main security engineer, Valerii Semenov, told The Associated Press. He worked 35 days straight, sleeping only three hours a night, rationing cigarettes and staying on even after the Russians allowed a shift change.

"I was afraid they would install something and damage the system," he said in an interview. Workers kept the Russians from the most dangerous areas, but in what Semenov called the worst situation he has seen in his 30 years at Chernobyl, the plant was without electricity, relying on diesel generators to support the critical work of circulating water for cooling the spent fuel rods."It was very dangerous to act in this way," said Maksym Shevchuck, the deputy head of the state agency managing the exclusion zone. He was scared by it all.

Russia's invasion marks the first time that occupying a nuclear plant was part of a nation's war strategy, said Rebecca Harms, former president of the Greens group in the European Parliament, who has visited Chernobyl several times. She called it a "nightmare" scenario in which "every nuclear plant can be used like a pre-installed nuclear bomb".

## Japan formally revokes Russia's ‘most favoured nation’ status

Combined with other sanctions imposed by other countries this is expected to intensify pressure on Russia

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan formally revoked Russia's "most favoured nation" trade status Wednesday over its invasion of Ukraine, as Tokyo steps up sanctions amid revelations of the Russian military's widespread atrocities against civilians.

The stripping of Russia's trade status is Japan's latest move against Moscow and was part of a list of sanctions measures Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced last month that also included a decision to expel eight Russian diplomats and trade officials.

The revocation of Russia's trade status by Japan's Parliament, combined with other sanctions collectively imposed by other countries, is expected to intensify pressure on Russia, but the moves could also prompt reprisals from Moscow.

The revocation of the trade status applies to tariffs on all Russian imports.

Wednesday's parliamentary decision also included a revision to a foreign exchange law to prevent the transfer of virtual currency held by those subject to asset freezing.

Japan is taking a greater role in the international effort against Russia because of concerns about the impact of the invasion in East Asia, where China's military has grown increasingly assertive.

Japan has also frozen the assets of hundreds of Russian individuals and groups and banned new investment and trade, including the export of goods that could be used for military purposes.

Japan also announced plans to phase out imports of Russian coal.

On Wednesday, the eight Russian diplomats subject to expulsion were seen leaving the Russian embassy in Tokyo on a bus to the Haneda international airport, where they took a Russian government plane back to their country.

Japan has already faced reprisals from Russia.

Moscow recently announced the suspension of talks on a peace treaty with Tokyo that included negotiations over Russian-held islands that the former Soviet Union seized from Japan at the end of World War II.

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, हल्द्वानी**

पत्रांक: 1848 / 613 / 214      दिनांक: 20 / 04 / 2022

**निविदा शुद्धि पत्र**

एतद् द्वारा जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक संख्या 1737 / 613 / 205 दिनांक 11.04.2022 द्वारा जनपद ऊधमसिंह नगर के विभिन्न विकास खण्डों में पेयजल योजनाओं हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित किये गयी थी। उक्त निविदा के क्रम संख्या 01 पर अंकित बिड नं० 01/JJM/SE/2022-23 "नारायणपुर कोठा पेयजल योजना (विकास खण्ड रुद्रपुर)" की ई-निविदा अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त की जाती है।

**अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE**  
**Invitation of Re-Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)**

1	<b>Name of work with its location</b>	Strengthening of heavily corroded/perforated of X-girders at Br. No. 233 Up(5X30.5m) on DUK section, 148 (1x76.2m) & 161 (2x45.7m) on SIR-DLPC section and strengthening of heavily corroded/ perforated X-girder at Br. No. 140(10x30.5m) on SIR-NLDM section on UMB Division in the jurisdiction AXEN/BLUMB.
2	<b>Approx. cost of work</b>	Rs. 85,97,183.57
3	<b>Completion period of the work</b>	06 (Six) Months
4	<b>Date &amp; time for submission of tender &amp; opening of tender</b>	Up-to 15:00 hrs. on 13.05.2022 Opening of tender after 15:00 hrs. on same day.
5	<b>Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen &amp; downloaded</b>	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

Tender Notice No.: 32-W-140-148-233-MB-UMB    Dated: 19.04.2022.    873/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender against **Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2021-22-10**. The details are as under:-

1.	<b>Name of the work</b>	Comprehensive AMC of DG set with its all parts and components including AMF panel at ELS/GZB for period three years
2.	<b>Approx. cost of work</b>	Rs. 7,15,874.23
3.	<b>Earnest Money to be deposited</b>	Rs. 14,300.00
4.	<b>Last Date &amp; Time of Submission of tender bid of tender</b>	09.05.2022 (11:00 Hrs.)
5.	<b>Date &amp; Time of opening of tender document</b>	09.05.2022 (After 11:00 Hrs.)
6.	<b>Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen</b>	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

**Note:** (i) The tenderer's must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in e-tender system.  
(ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.  
(iii) No manual offers are acceptable.  
(iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

**No.: 230-TRS-GZB-2021-22-10    Dated: 19.04.2022    882/2022**

**Serving Customers with a Smile**

**OFFICE OF THE DIGP, GROUP CENTRE, C.R.P.F. DADRI ROAD GREATER NOIDA-201306**

**ADVERTISEMENT**  
It is informed that requirement of Lady Headmistress, Teacher & Aaya for Nursery and KG for the academic Session 2022-23 at Montessori School of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Group Centre, CRPF, Dadri Road, Sultana, Greater Noida-201306 purely on temporary and contractual basis (From 01/07/2022 to 31/05/2023). Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for the following posts:-

Sl No.	Post	Number of Post	Honorarium per month	Age	Education Qualification
01	Headmistress	01	10,000/-	30-40	Graduation with at least 50% Marks and B.Ed or Two year Diploma in Elementary Education or B.T.C or equivalent and five years teaching experience in Basic School.
02	Teacher	03	8,000/-	21-40	Graduation with at least 50% Marks and B.Ed or Two year Diploma in Elementary Education or B.T.C or equivalent.
03	Aaya	02	6,500/- (1 post meant for Creche)	18-30	Passed class V or equivalent examination with Hindi.

**Note:-** The number of above mentioned posts can be reduced and increased at any time without informing.  
02. **Application form/mode of application:-** (A) Application form has to be submitted in the following format: (1) Name/paste photo of applicant (2) Name of the father/husband of the applicant (3) The post for which the application is made (4) Applicant's permanent address (5) Applicant's current correspondence address and mobile number (6) Applicant's citizenship (7) Applicant's date of birth (8) Applicant's caste (9) Applicant's education (10) Applicant's class nursery educational experience (11) Any other information (12) Signature of the applicant (B) **Method of applying:-** Application of interested candidates, for the appointment to the said posts can till date **07/05/2022** till 1600 hrs. to Office of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Group Centre, Central Reserve Police Force, Dadri Road, Greater Noida-201306 and Candidates qualifying to the post will be called appear for the interview On **13/05/2022** at 10:00 hrs at the Office of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Group Centre, CRPF, Dadri, Greater Noida-201306. Note:- Detailed advertisement can be on the website of CRPF [www.crpf.gov.in](http://www.crpf.gov.in).

**Deputy Inspector General of Police, Group Centre, CRPF, Greater Noida**

## Russia: We await Kyiv response on peace talks

AP ■ MOSCOW

The Kremlin's spokesman says Russia has presented Ukraine with a draft document outlining its demands as part of peace talks and is now awaiting a response from Kyiv.

Dmitry Peskov told a conference call with reporters Wednesday that Russia has passed on a draft document containing "absolutely clear, elaborate wording" to Ukraine and now "the ball is in their court, we're waiting for a response".

Peskov didn't give further details. He blamed Ukraine for the slow progress in negotiations, and claimed that Kyiv constantly deviates from previously confirmed agreements.

## Zelenskyy: Russian army world's most barbaric

AP ■ KYIV

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the Russian military is throwing everything it has at Ukraine, with most of its combat-ready forces now concentrated in Ukraine and just across the border in Russia.

"They have driven almost everyone and everything that is capable of fighting us against Ukraine," he said in his nightly video address to the nation.

And despite Russian claims of hitting only military sites, he said they continue to target residential areas and kill civilians.

"The Russian army in this war is writing itself into world history forever as the most barbaric and inhuman army in the world," Zelenskyy said.

**SALE NOTICE**

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on “**AS IS WHERE IS BASIS**” and “**AS IS WHAT IS BASIS**” for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD Vs. DEEPAK KUMAR, Suit No. 1811/-19	Vehicle No - HR38W5771, Make & Model –MARUTI WAGON R LXI, Manu. Year- 2016, Reserve Price: Rs. 80,000/- EMD Amount Rs.8,000/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC
ICICI BANK LTD Vs KRISHAN LAL GOYAL, CS NO. 1761/2018 (107/2018)	Vehicle No-DL10CJ1512, Make & Model - MAHINDRA KUV100 K2, Manu. Year- 2017
ICICI BANK LTD VS DHARMENDER, CS (COMM) 52/20	Vehicle No. HR38Z5502 Make and Model - TATA WINGER, Manu Year - 2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS ANISH PATHAK, CIS No. 7030/17	Vehicle No - DL3SDJ4557, Make & Model –HERO HF DELUXE, Manu Year-2016
ICICI BANK LTD VS ANKIT VATS, EX NO. 1133/2021	Vehicle No - DL4CAP3637, Make & Model –HYUNDAI VERNA SX CRDI, Manu. Year-2010
ICICI BANK LTD VS PRAKASH SINGH, CIS No. 321/18	Vehicle No -DL5CP5475, Make & Model- HYUNDAI I20 MAGNA , Manu. Year-2018
ICICI BANK LTD VS RAKESH SHARMA, CIS No. 949/2020	Vehicle No -UP16CA8833, Make & Model MAHINDRA Scorpio, Manu. Year- 2018
ICICI BANK LTD VS ARUN CHAUDHARY, Suit No.533/2017 / ID NO. 4239/17	Vehicle No - DL1ZA8415, Make & Model HYUNDAIXcent , Manu. Year- 2016
ICICI BANK LTD VS SANJAY SHARMA, Suit No. CS (COMM) 2170/2021	Vehicle No - DL7CM2140, Make & Model MAHINDRAXUV 500, Manu. Year- 2014
ICICI BANK LTD VS LALIT CHOLA, Suit No. 1022/2020	Vehicle No - DL3CCQ4673, Make & Model- TATA TIGOR XT, Manu. Year- 2018
ICICI BANK LTD VS SHWETA AGGARWAL, CS (COMM) NO. 2839/2021	Vehicle No- DL10CK4792, Make & Model- HONDA AMAZE 1.2 S(O) MT (I- VTEC), Manu. Year- 2017
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. RAHUL KHAN, CS DJ 14048/16	Vehicle No - CH01AE6776, Make & Model- CHEVROLET CRUZE VCDI, Manu. Year-2010
ICICI BANK LTD VS Bharti, SUIT No. 92-20	Vehicle No- DL7CQ0817, Make & Model- HYUNDAI i-20 VTVT SPORTZ, Manu. Year-2017, Reserve Price: Rs. 4,00,000/- EMD Amount Rs. 40,000/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. RAJ KUMAR, CS (COMM) 183/19	Vehicle No - DL1CX2959, Make & Model- MARUTI UDOYG LT Wagon R LXI, Manu. Year- 2017
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. SIMRAN, CS (COMM) NO. 1441/21	Vehicle No - DL2CBB3221, Make & Model- MARUTI UDOYG LT Swift Dzire, Manu. Year- 2019.
ICICI BANK LTD VS BIJENDER KUMAR SINGH, CIS No. 2404/17	Vehicle No- HR10Y9116, Make & Model- BEAT 1.0 LT OPT, Manu. Year-2018

**Auction Date : April 28, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.**  
**Place of Auction:** Godara Yard, Kheawat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec – 17, Sukhrali, Gurugram - 122022

**Contact Person– Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763) And**

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Babar & Anr., CS (Comm) No. 1377-21	Vehicle No - UP14JT1939, Make & Model- ASHOK LEYLAND GURU 1010, Manu. Year- 2019

**Auction Date : April 28, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.**  
**Place of Auction:** Mahakal Parking yard, Khnasa No 527 Village Bantla Near Indane Gas Plant Loni Ghaziabad-UP

**Contact Person – Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763) And**

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Sandeep Kumar, Suit No. 620717/2016	Vehicle No-UP16AW2490, Make & Model- RENAULT DUSTER RXL, Manu. Year-2014
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. SOBHA RAM, C.S. No 3168/19	Vehicle No-UP16ET0758, Make & Model- HYUNDAI XCENT, Manu. Year-2016
ICICI BANK LTD VS SURENDER DUTT, CS No. 506/18	Vehicle No- HR51BE3856, Make & Model CHEVEROLET BEAT Diesel, Manu Year- 2014, Reserve Price: Rs. 75,000/- EMD Amount Rs.7500/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. GAURAV SINGH, CS No. 2487/19	Vehicle No - HR26CJ1552, Make & Model - MARUTI WAGON R LXI, Manu. Year- 2014

**Auction Date : May 7, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.**  
**Place of Auction:** Godara Yard, Kheawat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec – 17, Sukhrali, Gurugram - 122022

**Contact Person– Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763) And**

**Terms of Sale**

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and DD/PO of EMD amount in favour of ICICI bank Limited, payable at Delhi (Wherein applicable) to participate in the auction.

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount wherein applicable) within 5 days from the date of approval by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited.

The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Centre, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi - 110085** for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.



# Markets bounce back after 5-day rout

## RIL leads charge

**Mumbai:** Benchmark indices bounced back on Wednesday after falling for five straight sessions, with investors snapping up the recently-mauled IT, finance and consumption stocks amid a supportive trend overseas.

A rebounding rupee further bolstered sentiment, traders said.

Halting its five-session slide, the BSE Sensex jumped 574.35 points or 1.02 per cent to finish at 57,037.50.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty surged 177.90 points or 1.05 per cent to 17,136.55.

The market breadth was in favour of the bulls, with 20 of the 30 Sensex stocks closing in the green.

UltraTech Cement topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 3.52 per cent, followed by Asian Paints, Maruti, Reliance Industries, TCS, Bharti Airtel, HUL and HDFC.

In value terms, index heavyweight Reliance

Industries accounted for almost half of the benchmark's gains. In contrast, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, ITC and L&T were among the prominent laggards, dropping as much as 3.35 per cent.

"With support from recovery in beaten-down HDFC stocks and the IT sector, the market countered yesterday's selloff. Foreign investors are pumping out funds in large quantities while support from DIIs is helping the market to partially balance the pressure.

"A similar level of volatility can be expected to continue until global uncertainties settle down leading to a softening of FII selling," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

S Hariharan, Head- Sales Trading, Emkay Global Financial Services, said, "A series of sharp negative reactions to minor misses in earnings from large caps (Infosys and HDFC Bank) point to a precarious state of positioning among investors."

"Under-weight positioning in energy and materials sectors and over-weight positioning in IT and consumer-facing sectors across both DII and FII investors has served to accentuate under-performance by active strategies," he added.

The BSE midcap index gained 0.45 per cent, while the smallcap gauge jumped 0.36 per cent.

As many as 1,738 stocks advanced, while 1,662 declined and 110 remained unchanged.

Among BSE sectoral indices, auto gained the most by 2.21 per cent, followed by energy (2.19 per cent), oil and gas (1.85 per cent) and telecom (1.40 per cent), while metal (0.41 per cent), utilities (0.18 per cent) and bank (0.17 per cent) were among the losers.

World stocks ticked higher as investors monitored hardening bond yields as well as the war in Ukraine.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Hong Kong, Seoul and Shanghai settled lower, while Tokyo ended with gains. **PTI**

## Rupee surges 29 paise to close at 76.21 against US dollar

**Mumbai:** The rupee appreciated 29 paise to settle at 76.21 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking positive domestic equities and some moderation in crude oil prices.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 76.41 against the US dollar and touched an intra-day high of 76.16 and finally closed at 76.21, registering a rise of 29 paise over its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee had dropped 21 paise to close at 76.50.

"The rupee is currently trading slightly higher today on overnight decline in crude oil prices and positive domestic equity markets. Softer US Dollar is also supporting rupee," said Praveen Singh, AVP- Fundamental currencies and Commodities analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Singh further said, "We expect Indian Rupee to decline again from higher levels as overall sentiments remain negative for Rupee. Geopolitical

tensions due to tensions between Russia and Ukraine may again put downside pressure on the Rupee."

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.60 per cent lower at 100.35.

"The US Dollar is also expected to recover from lower levels as hawkish Federal Reserve and elevated US bond yields may continue to support the greenback," Singh said.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 574.35 points or 1.02 per cent higher at 57,037.50, while the broader NSE Nifty surged 177.90 points or 1.05 per cent to 17,136.55.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, inched up 0.76 per cent to USD 108.06 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 5,871.69 crore, as per stock exchange data. **PTI**

## Wheat procurement down 32% till Apr 17; pvt firms buying more grains for exports

**New Delhi:** The Centre's wheat procurement declined 32 per cent to 69.24 lakh tonnes till April 17 of the current rabi marketing year as private companies are buying grains aggressively for exports, according to official sources.

As per the official data, about 69.24 lakh tonnes of wheat has been purchased by the government agencies till April 17 of the ongoing 2022-23 rabi marketing season (RMS) as against 102 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period.

The rabi marketing season runs from April to March but the bulk of procurement ends by June.

State-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies undertake procurement at a minimum support price to meet the requirement under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes.

The Centre has set a target to procure record 444 lakh tonnes of wheat in the 2022-23 marketing year as against an all-time high 433.44 lakh tonnes in the previous marketing year.

The official sources attrib-



uted the fall in wheat procurement so far to increased buying activities by private players, especially in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

However, they said that even if there is a small decline in the government's procurement, this will not have any impact as the government has surplus buffer stock for meeting any exigencies.

The decline in the government procurement is largely seen in Madhya Pradesh and Haryana where private traders are actively purchasing wheat

at present, they noted.

As per the data, the government's wheat procurement in Haryana reached 28 lakh tonnes till April 17 of the current marketing year when compared to 44 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period. As much as 9 lakh tonnes were purchased in Madhya Pradesh as against 17 lakh tonnes in the comparable period.

In Punjab, the government agencies have procured 32 lakh tonnes of wheat as against 34 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period. **PTI**

## Jio pips Airtel to become India's 2nd largest fixed-line service provider

**New Delhi:** Telecom operator Reliance Jio has taken a lead over Bharti Airtel to become the country's second largest fixed-line service provider in February 2022, according to data published by the sector regulator Trai.

Fixed-line or wireline telecommunication refers to telephone and broadband internet services provided through a network of cables.

Reliance Jio wireline subscriber base reached over 58.85 lakh while Bharti Airtel recorded a customer base of more than 57.66 lakh in February, according to subscriber report of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India released on Tuesday.

Reliance Jio led the wireline telephony growth by adding 2.44 lakh customers in



February, Bharti Airtel came second in the segment by adding 91,243 new users.

Vodafone Idea added 24,948 customers, Quadrant 18,622 and Tata Teleservices 3,772.

Reliance Jio is now behind only BSNL which has over 75.76 lakh wireline customers.

The government-owned BSNL and MTNL, which jointly have a 49.5 per cent share in the segment, lost 49,074 and

21,900 fixed-line customers, respectively.

The growth trend in wireline subscriber base, which picked up after the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, is gaining momentum with private telecom operators driving the growth in the segment.

Since January 2021, BSNL's market share has come down from 34.64 per cent to 30.9 per cent in February. Share of MTNL dropped to 11.05 per cent in February 2022 from 14.65 per cent in January 2021.

On the other hand, private players Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel have continuously gained market share.

Reliance Jio has been aggressive in the segment and its share increased to 24 per cent from 14.7 per cent

between January 2021 to February 2022.

To strengthen its position in the segment, the company has waived entry fee and installation charges for new customers opting for postpaid Jio Fiber connections.

The company has also introduced monthly plans for Jio Fiber postpaid customers and given an option to subscribers of low-value plans to pay Rs 100 for availing access to six entertainment apps.

Bharti Airtel share increased marginally to 23.52 per cent from 23.12 during the same period.

Overall, wireline subscribers base in the country reached 2.45 crore at the end of February 2022 from 2 crore in January 2021, according to the Trai data. **PTI**

## Gold plunges by ₹915, silver tumbles ₹2,221

**New Delhi:** Gold in the national capital on Wednesday plunged by Rs 915 to Rs 52,367 per 10 grams amid a decline in international precious metal prices and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had finished at Rs 53,282 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also tumbled Rs 2,221 to Rs 67,969 per kg from Rs 70,190 per kg in the previous trade.

Meanwhile, the rupee appreciated 29 paise to settle at 76.21 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking positive domestic equities and some moderation in crude oil prices.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,942.5 per ounce and silver was marginally lower at USD 24.94 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded lower with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.38 per cent



down at USD 1,942 per ounce on Wednesday. Gold prices declined to one-week low on Wednesday as a rally in the US bond yields dampened demand for yellow metals as safe-haven," said Dilip Parmar, Retail Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Navneet Damani, Senior VP - Commodities Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "Gold prices continue to trade lower, after touching USD 2,000 level at the start of the week, as elevated US treasury yields and hawkish statements from Fed officials continued to pull investors away from zero-yield bullion." **PTI**

## Nissan pulls the plug on Datsun brand in India

**New Delhi:** Japanese auto major Nissan on Wednesday said it is discontinuing Datsun brand in India, nine years after the company kicked off the marque's global relaunch in the country.

Having failed in its ambitious global relaunch of Datsun, Nissan had in 2020 discontinued the brand in Russia and Indonesia, the other two countries along with South Africa and India which were marked as key markets targeting the entry level car segment.

Confirming the move to discontinue the Datsun brand, Nissan India in a statement said, "Production of Datsun redi-GO has ceased at the Chennai plant (Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Ltd). Sales of the model still continue (till the stock lasts)."

The company further said, "We can reassure all existing and future Datsun owners that customer satisfaction remains our priority, and we will continue to provide the highest levels of after-sales service, parts

availability, and warranty support from our national dealership network."

The company had already stopped production of two other models under the Datsun brand - entry level small car Go and compact multi purpose vehicle Go+.

The discontinuation of the Datsun brand is a part of Nissan's global transformation strategy which was announced in 2020.

"As part of Nissan's global transformation strategy, Nissan is focusing on core models and segments that bring the most benefit to customers, dealer partners and the business. In India, this includes the all-new, locally produced Nissan Magnite with over 100,000 customer orders to date," Nissan India said in the statement.

Under the global transformation plan, Nissan had said it would exit the Datsun business in Russia and streamline operations in some markets in the ASEAN

(Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region. It had also announced the stopping of manufacturing operations in Indonesia.

In July 2013, the Japanese auto major had globally relaunched Datsun with the launch of entry level hatchback 'Datsun Go' in India, reviving the brand 32 years after it was discontinued.

In the following year Datsun launched two more models -- redi-GO and compact multi purpose vehicle Go+. However, the brand failed to make its mark in the highly competitive Indian mass market of compact car segment dominated by the likes of Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai.

When it was relaunched, the then Nissan Motor Co President and CEO Carlos Ghosn had pinned hopes on Datsun to play a big role in the company increasing its market share to 10 per cent in India by 2016, up from 1.2 per cent in 2013. **PTI**

## Koo makes algorithms public, pledges commitment to transparency, neutrality

**New Delhi:** Twitter-rival Koo on Wednesday said it has become the first significant social media platform to publish the philosophy and workings behind its core algorithms, thereby empowering users to understand why they are seeing the content that they do.

These algorithms were made public on Koo's website, according to a statement.

Algorithms are a set of mathematical rules that help to personalise and improve experiences for users based on their own behaviours and preferences. The core tenet of these algorithms is to drive relevancy for a user. Koo's latest move comes at a time when transparency and free speech concerns have dominated the public narrative around social media platforms such as Twitter.

Last week, the world's richest man Elon Musk offered to buy Twitter for USD 43 billion and has since been vocal about the need for the social media giant to drive greater trans-



parency on how and why it promotes content. Musk also said Twitter should open-source its algorithms.

In a statement on Wednesday, homegrown micro-blogging platform Koo said it has become the first significant social media company to make its algorithms public, adding that the move "establishes Koo as a transparent and safe platform."

"This move reiterates Koo's commitment to platform transparency and neutrality, while keeping user interests at the core. It empowers users to know why they are seeing the content that they do," the statement added. **PTI**

While the focus for Koo has been on building transparent, intelligent algorithms that function seamlessly, the platform now seeks to educate and make users aware of how it achieves these objectives, it explained.

"Koo discusses the broad variables used in its four main algorithms - Feed, Trending #, People recommendations and Notifications. These four algorithms determine the type of content users see and consume," it said.

Aprameya Radhakrishna, co-founder and CEO of Koo, asserted that the platform's algorithms work without any interference or bias.

"To speak openly about our algorithms is part of our commitment to letting users know that there are no hidden agendas at Koo," Radhakrishna said. Koo will continue to keep users informed about how it operates, and how it is building a safe, unbiased and reliable social media platform for the future, he added. **PTI**

## India ends FY22 with 2.6% drop in oil production

**New Delhi:** India's crude oil production fell 2.67 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 31, as state-owned ONGC produced less than the target, but natural gas output rose helped by KG production by Reliance-BP.

Crude oil production at 29.69 million tonnes in 2021-22 (April 2020 to March 2022) was 2.63 per cent lower than the 30.5 million tonnes output a year back and 11.67 per cent below the target of 33.61 million tonnes, according to official data released by the oil ministry.

India's crude oil production has been on a decline during the past few years. From 35.7 million tonnes in 2017-18, it fell to 34.2 million tonnes in the following year and 32.2 in 2019-20 and 30.5 million

tonnes in 2020-21.

The primary reason for the decline is the aging fields where natural production decline has set in. The output is being maintained by investing in technologies to boost the recovery rate.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) produced 19.45 million tonnes of crude oil in the fiscal FY22, which was 13.82 per cent lower than the target and 3.62 per cent less than the output in the previous fiscal year.

This was due to less-than-anticipated production from the WO-16 cluster in the western offshore due to delay in mobilisation of a production unit and less oil in the NBP field due to an inspection-related shutdown, it said.

Natural gas output, how-

ever, rose 18.66 per cent to 34 billion cubic meters in FY22.

This is after Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner BP Plc started output from newer fields in the eastern offshore KG-D6 block.

Five-times higher output from eastern offshore at 1.34 bcm offset a 5.7 per cent decline in production by ONGC.

With demand returning with a rebound in economic activity, refineries processed 9 per cent more crude oil at 241.7 million tonnes in the fiscal.

They produced 254.3 million tonnes of petroleum products, up from 233.5 million tonnes a year back and the target of 249.8 million tonnes for the fiscal. Refinery run was 89 per cent of the capacity in the fiscal, the data showed. **PTI**

## 34% of Pak population lives on just ₹588 a day income: World Bank

**Islamabad:** Around 34 per cent of Pakistan's population lives on just USD 3.2 or Rs 588 a day income, the World Bank has said as the cash-strapped country's new Finance Minister Miftah Isamil faces uphill tasks of containing rising inflation and navigating through one of the worst external sector crisis.

The Pakistan Development Update - the biannual report issued by the Washington-based lender - said that soaring inflation disproportionately affected poor and vulnerable households that spend a relatively larger share of their budget on food and energy, the Express Tribune Newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The poor spend around 50 per cent of their total consumption on food items, the World Bank said in the report released on Tuesday, the day Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appointed Isamil as the finance

minister.

The report pointed out that Pakistan's key indicators were further deteriorating in the current fiscal year, seeking urgent measures to tighten the fiscal belt for ensuring debt sustainability.

Poverty measured at the lower middle-income class poverty line of USD 3.2 Purchasing Power Parity line of 2011 per day was estimated at 34 per cent in the last fiscal year. The ratio was 37 per cent in the preceding year. But despite a nominal reduction, the percentage was significantly higher and it would be a constraint for the new government that was assigned with an uphill task to ensure economic viability of the country, the report said.

Ismail, along with Dr Ayesha Ghaus Pasha, who has been assigned the portfolio of minister of state for finance

would leave for Washington on Wednesday to have their first interaction with the authorities at the US Treasury Department, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

"I am hopeful that I will be able to convince the IMF to revive the programme on terms that also take into account harsh ground realities in Pakistan," Ismail was quoted as saying. His one of the most important meetings would be at the US Treasury Department, as the country seeks to repair ties with the world's largest economy, damaged by immature public statements by former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign affairs minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

But the World Bank's Pakistan Development Update report tells what lies ahead for the new finance minister.

It cautioned that rising food and energy inflation was expected to diminish the real purchasing power of households, disproportionately affecting poor and vulnerable households that spent a larger share of their budget on these items.

However, with higher inflation, increasing borrowing costs and political uncertainty, business and consumer confidence had been trending lower after reaching a pandemic high in June 2021.

The World Bank said that the inflation was estimated to rise to an average of 10.7 per cent in fiscal year 2021-22 as against the target of 8 per cent, reflecting higher oil and commodity prices.

Headline inflation in Pakistan was the highest in South Asia, where the regional average was 6 per cent during the first half of the current

fiscal year. Energy inflation reached 25.1 per cent on a yearly basis in urban areas and 22.6 per cent in rural areas in the current fiscal year.

The World Bank report underlined that given the current significant imbalances in the external sector and low external buffers, macroeconomic adjustment, specifically fiscal consolidation to complement ongoing monetary tightening, was urgently needed.

Heightened domestic political uncertainty over the past few months had slowed the implementation of key reforms to improve overall fiscal and debt sustainability.

Going forward, further policy reform slippages and delays in adjustment measures were likely to exacerbate the already widening macroeconomic imbalances, it said. **PTI**



# FAB 4 AT ANFIELD

## Salah, Mane, Diaz & Jota take Liverpool to top of Premier League

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool embarrassed Manchester United for the second time this season to move top of the Premier League as Mohamed Salah struck twice in a 4-0 thrashing on Tuesday.

Jürgen Klopp's men won 5-0 at Old Trafford in October and expectations of a similar rout were well-founded as Liverpool exposed the massive gulf between the sides with Luis Díaz and Sadio Mane also on target.

Liverpool move two points ahead of Manchester City at the top of the table, but still need the English champions to slip up in their remaining seven league games of the season to win the title.

In contrast to the fine margins separating Liverpool and City, a 22-point gap now lies between the league leaders and United in sixth with only Tottenham and Arsenal's own failings keeping the Red Devils in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League.

United interim manager Ralf Rangnick forewarned what would happen to his side if they defended as they did in a 3-2 home win over bottom-of-the-table Norwich on Saturday.

The German's attempt to plug the holes in the United defence was a recall for Phil Jones, making just his second Premier League appearance since January 2020, as part of a back five.

But it took just five minutes for the visitors to be cut open.

Mane's through ball picked out Salah in acres of space and he found Díaz to apply a simple finish from close range.

Two minutes later the fierce rivalry between English football's two most successful clubs was set aside in a show of sup-



port for Cristiano Ronaldo.

On the field, the one-way traffic continued with United barely able to get out of their own half. A second Liverpool goal seemed inevitable and when it arrived, it was of the highest quality.

Joel Matip fizzed the ball into Mane's feet and the Senegalese lofted a first time pass over the top for Salah.

The Egyptian had not scored for

Liverpool from open play since February, but showed no signs of a lack of confidence as he cushioned the ball into his path and slotted low past David de Gea.

Díaz rounded off another brilliant team move before half-time only to be flagged offside.

Half-time offered United some respite and they improved markedly after the break thanks to the introduction of Jadon

Sancho.

The England winger created the visitors' one big chance to get back into the game as Alisson Becker spread himself to block from Marcus Rashford and Anthony Elanga.

Liverpool are now potentially 10 games away from a first ever quadruple of Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup and League Cup titles.

## Man Utd 'make life easier' for Liverpool: Salah

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Mohamed Salah conceded playing against Manchester United this season has been "easy" after scoring twice in a 4-0 thrashing of the Red Devils at Anfield on Tuesday which sent Liverpool top of the Premier League.

Salah also scored a hat-trick as Liverpool ran riot to win 5-0 at Old Trafford when the sides last met in October.

"They make our life easier in the midfield and in the back," said Salah. "They always try to give us the ball in a one-against-one situation so it makes our life much easier."

"When we defend, we had a clean sheet here and a clean sheet there."

Salah had not scored for Liverpool from open play since February, but clicked back into form with the space offered by United's disjointed defence to take his tally for the season to 30.



"I scored many goals for this club, it's going to keep coming," Salah added. "The most important thing is the team are winning."

## Liverpool fans show support for grieving Ronaldo

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool fans put rival-ry with Manchester United aside to show support to Cristiano Ronaldo on Tuesday, a day after the Portuguese star revealed his newborn baby son had died.

Supporters from both sides stood to applaud during the seventh minute of a clash between English football's two most successful clubs at Anfield, a reference to Ronaldo's shirt number.

Liverpool fans also sang their famous anthem "You'll never walk alone".



Ronaldo missed the match to be with his family.

"Family is more important than everything and Ronaldo is supporting his loved ones at this immensely difficult time," United said in a statement earlier in the day. "As such, we can confirm that he will not feature in the match against Liverpool at Anfield on Tuesday evening."



## Inter reach Coppa Italia final

AP ■ MILAN

Lautaro Martinez scored twice as Inter Milan beat city rivals AC Milan 3-0 on Tuesday to reach the Italian Cup final, where they will face either Juventus or Fiorentina.

The semi-final second leg was closer than the scoreline suggested, but Inter ultimately were comfortable winners on aggregate after a goalless draw in the first fixture.

Simone Inzaghi's men will take on the winners of Wednesday's other semi-final, which Juventus lead 1-0 after the first leg, at the Stadio Olimpico on May 11.

AC Milan remain without a major trophy since winning the 2011 Serie A title, but the Scudetto is still up for grabs this season.

Stefano Pioli's men lead Inter by two points in the table, although the reigning champions have a game in hand.

Inter Milan made a dream start on Tuesday as they struck inside the first four minutes.

Matteo Darmian's dinked cross found its way to Martinez, and the Argentinian slammed a volley into the top corner to score his 18th goal of the season in all competitions.

AC Milan eventually burst into life around the half-hour mark, with Inter goalkeeper

Samir Handanovic having to make smart saves from Rafael Leao and Alexis Saelemaekers.

They almost levelled again twice in quick succession five minutes before half-time, as Ivan Perisic somehow scrambled the ball off the line with his chest, before Leao's effort was kept out by Handanovic's legs.

But Inter sprung straight up the other end to double their advantage against the run of play, as Joaquin Correa played a lovely through ball into the path of Martinez, who coolly chipped the ball over advancing goalkeeper Mike Maignan.

Milan started the second half brightly, with the defence producing crucial blocks from attempts by Ibrahim Diaz, Olivier Giroud and Pierre Kalulu.

The Serie A leaders thought they had given themselves hope in the 66th minute through Ismael Bennacer's excellent long-range drive.

But the goal was disallowed by VAR due to Kalulu standing in front of Handanovic in an offside position.

Inter secured their place in the final with eight minutes remaining on the counter-attack, as Marcelo Brozovic crossed for substitute Robin Gosens to score.

## Freiburg in DFB-Pokal decider

AP ■ HAMBURG

Freiburg cruised into the first German Cup final in the club's history with a 3-1 victory at second-tier Hamburg in Tuesday's semi-final, with all their goals coming in the first half.

Bundesliga side Freiburg dominated Hamburg, who have spent the last four seasons in the second division, with Nils Petersen, Nicolas Hoefler and Vincenzo Grifo scoring in the opening 35 minutes.

Hamburg managed a consolation goal with two minutes left when Robert Glatzel headed in a cross.

There will be a new German Cup winner when the final is held at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on May 21. Neither Freiburg, nor Union Berlin and RB Leipzig who meet in Wednesday's other semi-final, have previously lifted the trophy.

Hamburg were the only club



in the semi-finals to have already won the cup, with the last of their three victories coming during the fallen giants' glory days of the 1980s.

Hosts Hamburg were behind on just 11 minutes when Hoefler swung in a cross which Petersen headed in.

Hoefler then smashed in a

shot which deflected off Hamburg captain Sebastian Schonlau six minutes later.

Freiburg grabbed their third when Grifo converted a penalty after a foul on Germany defender Nico Schlottnerbeck.

Glatzel scored a deserved late consolation for Hamburg when he headed home.

## Fulham promoted back to PL

AP ■ LONDON

Fulham were promoted back to the Premier League on Tuesday with four games to spare as Aleksandar Mitrovic scored twice in a 3-0 win over Preston at Craven Cottage.

It is the fifth consecutive season the Cottagers have changed divisions as they were also promoted in 2018 and 2020 before being relegated in their first season back in the top flight.

However, in contrast to their need to go via the play-offs two years ago, Marco Silva's men have been the best side in the Championship by a distance this season.

Mitrovic has been the major reason why and the Serb took his tally to an incredible 40 goals in 40 league games this season with a first-half double.

Liverpool-bound Fabio Carvalho was also on target as Fulham also closed in on sealing the Championship title.

They lead Bournemouth by nine points with five games left for the Cherries to catch them.



## USA learns path to 2023 Women's WC

AP ■ MIAMI

Reigning Women's World Cup champion United States was drawn against Mexico, Jamaica and Haiti for July's CONCACAF W Championship, the North American qualifying event for the 2023 Women's World Cup.

The draw conducted on Tuesday by the regional football governing body at Miami placed the Americans and their rivals in Group A while Group B will feature Canada, Costa

Rica, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago. The CONCACAF event will be staged July 4-18 at Monterrey, Mexico.

Two teams will advance from each group to the tournament semi-finals and those four nations will qualify for next year's FIFA Women's World Cup in New Zealand and Australia.

In addition, the overall champion will qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics while the runner-up and third-place squad will meet in a September



2023 playoff for the other CONCACAF berth at the Olympics in France.

Third-place teams in each group will qualify for a 10-team inter-confederation playoff next February to decide three final berths in next year's Women's World Cup.

The United States women have won four Women's World Cup titles and four Olympic Gold medals. They are chasing an unprecedented third consecutive Women's World Cup crown.

## 'Hosts Ivory Coast can win 2023 AFCON'

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Former Ivory Coast star Salomon Kalou believes his country have "a good chance to win" the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations when they host the tournament during June and July next year.

Kalou and former South Africa star Lucas Radebe made the draw for the 2023 qualifying groups at the studios of TV channel SuperSport in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

Although automatic qualifiers as hosts, the Ivory Coast were included in the 48-team draw and placed in Group H with Zambia, the Comoros and Lesotho.

With the Ivorians guaranteed a place at the next Cup of Nations, only the highest placed of the other three teams will join them at the finals.

Being grouped with Zambia will bring back sad memories for Ivorians, as they suffered a shock loss to the



Chipolopololo (Copper Bullets) on penalties in the 2012 final in Gabon.

Ivory Coast won the premier African national team competition in 1992 and 2015 and Kalou is convinced the 'Elephants' can complete a hat-trick on home soil.

"Playing at home is always an advantage," said the 36-year-old who helped the Ivorians defeat Ghana on penalties to win the 2015 final in Equatorial Guinea.

"Teams achieve extra power when playing in front of their countrymen. What we

have to do is find the right balance in the team between youth and experience.

"If we succeed in doing that, the chances of the title staying in the Ivory Coast after the tournament are high."

Ivory Coast are coach-less after deciding not to renew the

contract of France-born Patrice Beaumelle following a last-16 exit from the 2021/2022 Cup of Nations after a penalty shootout against Egypt.

Defending champions Senegal, who edged Egypt on penalties after a goalless final two months ago in Yaounde, are in Group I with Benin, Mozambique and Rwanda.

Egypt, record seven-time champions but losers of two of the last three title deciders, were paired with Guinea, Malawi and Ethiopia in Group D.

Belgium-born South Africa coach Hugo Broos wanted an "easy" draw, but did not get one as they must tackle Morocco, Zimbabwe and Liberia in Group K.

Nigeria, one of several African countries currently without a coach, must tackle Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome e Principe or Mauritius in Group A.

## Olympians to feature in KIUG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympian shooter Manu Bhaker, sprinter Dutee Chand and swimmer Srihari Nataraj are some of the big names to feature in the Khelo India University Games to be held in Bengaluru from April 24 to May 3.

Besides, the shooting duo of Diyaansh Singh Panwar and Aishwary Prapat Singh Tomar will also be seen in action in the event, where two indigenous sports -- Yogasana and Mallakhamb -- will make their debut.

A total of 3,878 athletes from 189 universities from across the country will participate in the Games, where 20 disciplines will feature and a total of 275 gold medals will be up for grabs.

The large number of participants and the high level of technical conduct of the Games in state-of-the-art venues makes the Khelo India

**SPORTS MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR SAID THAT DURING THE GAMES NADA WILL RUN AN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON DOPING FOR THE ATHLETES**

University Games one of the biggest University-level Games in the country," Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said in a press briefing.

"I am confident that these Games will throw up many more champions this year."

The minister further said that during the Games NADA will run an awareness campaign on doping for the athletes.

"NADA is going completely digital in terms of all its Information, Education, Communication (IEC) and also testing the Games app for paperless protocols by WADA.

"The athletes will be given awareness on doping through NADA to ensure that the Games are clean and fair."

Thakur also informed that his ministry has sanctioned Rs 34.97 crore for the conduct of the Games.

The first edition of KIUG was held in Bhubaneswar in February, 2020, and saw a total participation of 3,182 athletes, across 158 universities and colleges from all states.

Panjab University was the champion in the first edition with a total of 46 medals, including 17 gold medals.





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2022

12

I THINK WE STARTED REALLY WELL AFTER GETTING TWO WICKETS IN THE FIRST OVER, TO GIVE AWAY 50 IN THE POWERPLAY, WE SHOULD HAVE DONE BETTER.

— KL RAHUL

## Dominating win for DC

## ► points table

Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1.	GT	6	5	1	0	10	0.395
2.	RCB	7	5	2	0	10	0.251
3.	RR	6	4	2	0	8	0.380
4.	LSG	7	4	3	0	8	0.124
5.	SRH	6	4	2	0	8	-0.077
6.	DC	6	3	3	0	6	0.942
7.	KKR	7	3	4	0	6	0.160
8.	PBKS	7	3	4	0	6	-0.562
9.	CSK	6	1	5	0	2	-0.638
10.	MI	6	0	6	0	0	-1.048

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Delhi Capitals showed remarkable resilience to overcome a COVID crisis in their camp and hand Punjab Kings a nine-wicket thrashing in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday.

Delhi, who had a chaotic build up to the game with a sixth COVID positive case being reported on the morning of the game, dished out a clinical bowling display to bowl out Punjab Kings for a below-par 115.

On a track where the deliveries were holding up a bit, even Lalit Yadav became unplayable leave alone Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav.

Delhi seemed in real hurry to close the game with Prithvi Shaw (41 off 20) and David Warner (60 not out off 30 balls) getting them off to a flying start.

Their 83-run partnership off 39 balls ensured Delhi cantered to victory in 10.3 overs, giving a big boost to their net run rate.

The match, which was shifted to the Brabourne Stadium from Pune, was given a go ahead barely an hour before the start of play after Delhi keeper-batter Tim Seifert tested positive on Wednesday morning.

Shaw and Warner looked in devastating touch dispatching a deflated looking Punjab bowling attack to all



corners of the grounds. However, Punjab bowlers could not be blamed on the night with batters letting the team down on a good pitch.

With Delhi racing to 81 for no loss in the powerplay, the game was as good as over.

It was Delhi's third win in six games while Punjab, who had a game to forget, suffered their fourth loss in seven games.

Earlier, the Delhi spin trio of Lalit (2/11), Kuldeep (2/24) and Axar (2/10) did the bulk of the damage.

Punjab were tottering at 35/2 after losing openers Mayank Agarwal (24) and Shikhar Dhawan (9) early.

Mayank, who recovered from his toe injury that forced him to miss the previous game, started with a cut for a boundary. He then launched into Shardul Thakur, striking three fours in the third over that fetched 14 runs.

But off-spinner Lalit removed Dhawan (9) cheaply, after the left-

Mumbai vs Chennai  
Live from 7:30 pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1

handed batter's attempted paddle resulted in a nick to Rishabh Pant.

Punjab were soon reeling at 46/3, as Axar struck in his first over removing the in-form Liam Livingstone (2), who was stumped by Pant. Livingstone came down the wicket to have a go at Axar, but the left-arm spinner turned the ball away from him to get Pant into action.

Wickets kept on tumbling for Punjab as Jonny Bairstow (9) gifted a try to Mustafizur at fine-leg in the seventh over off Khaleel Ahmed (2/21).

Jitesh Sharma (32), who struck five boundaries and Shahrukh Khan (12) tried to resurrect the innings, but managed to add only 31 runs before

## ► boundary meter

4s

918

6s

476

Axar trapped the former in front of the wickets, as Punjab lost half their side for 85.

From 85/5, it became 92/8, as Punjab lost wickets in quick succession with chinaman Kuldeep casting Kagiso Rabada (2) and Nathan Ellis (0) in the 14th over.

Khaleel got his second wicket dismissing Shahrukh in next over with a cross-seam slower while Rahul Chahar (12) became Lalit's second scalp.

Pacers Khaleel and Mustafizur shared three wickets and ably supported the spinners.



## MI face CSK in battle to save IPL elimination

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

On the verge of elimination after six losses on the trot, a horribly out of form Mumbai Indians would need to notch up their first win of this IPL to remain afloat when they face Chennai Super Kings here on Thursday.

Five-time champions Mumbai have not won a single match this season and a loss on Thursday would send them packing from the tournament.

Defending champions CSK, who are just a rung above bottom-placed MI, have also faltered as a team though there has been a few instances of individual brilliance. With five losses from six games, a defeat on Thursday would also send them on the brink of elimination.

For Mumbai, the biggest concern is the form of skipper Rohit Sharma, who has gathered only 114 runs from six innings. If Mumbai have to chase or set up a big total, he will have to do the bulk of scoring.

Young batter Ishan Kishan has also not justified his heavy price tag of Rs 15.25 crore. He needs to do more than the 191 runs from six matches with the help two half centuries.

The likes of Dewald Brevis, Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav have played some scintillating knocks individually but together need to take responsibility in the middle-order.

Another disappointment so far has been all-rounder Kieron Pollard, whose ability to win matches has been on the wane. With just 82 runs, Pollard has been a complete failure, even as questions have cropped up over his retention.

Mumbai have the batting ammunition, at least on paper, but they have not exploded in unison as yet.

They would be hoping that to happen against CSK, whose bowling attack is rather inexperienced.

If batting is a worry, bowling is a far bigger concern for Mumbai. Save for Jasprit

Bumrah, Mumbai bowlers have had a torrid time, be it Tymal Mills, Jaydev Unadkat, Basil Thampi or lead spinner Murugan Ashwin.

Mills bled 54 runs in three overs against Lucknow Super Giants in their last match, while Unadkat and Ashwin went for 32 and 33 runs respectively.

Mumbai tried the option of Fabian Allen, but even he was taken to cleaners, as he gave away 46 runs in four overs in the last match.

For Chennai, the biggest positive is Ruturaj Gaikwad finding his mojo back with a 48-ball 73 against Gujarat Titans.

Robin Uthappa and Shivam Dube did shine in the team's solitary win against Royal Challengers Bangalore with their brutal hitting but the duo faltered against Gujarat.

Dube will have to shed his one match wonder tag and shoulder more responsibility along with Ambati Rayadu and Moeen Ali, the pinch hitter, who has looked out of sorts.

## Our bowlers went too far ahead with tactics and strategies: Rahul



PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul said his bowlers failed to execute team "tactics and strategies", allowing Faf du Plessis play a captain's knock in Royal Challengers Bangalore's 18-run win in their IPL match here.

RCB captain Du Plessis smashed a 64-ball 96 to take his side to 181 for 6. RCB then restricted LSG to 163 for 20 to win the match at the DY Patil Stadium here on Tuesday night.

"Something we could have

done better is we knew what the wicket was and what lengths to bowl. We needed to stick to that for longer periods of time," Rahul said during the post-match press conference.

"Sometimes we just went a little too far ahead in terms of our tactics and strategies. We wanted not to be predictable and try the batter guessing.

"But on a pitch like that, where there was help, even if we were predictable, if we could have kept in the right areas, would have probably got us a couple of more wickets in the middle and put the

## KL fined for breach of IPL code of conduct

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Lucknow Super Giants captain KL Rahul has been fined 20 per cent of his match-fee for an unspecified breach of Code of Conduct during his side's match against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL here.

Rahul admitted to the "Level 1 offence" of the IPL Code of Conduct and "accepted the sanction", the IPL said in a release. Rahul's teammate Marcus Stoinis has also been reprimanded for breach

squeeze on them."

The LSG skipper lavished praise on his rival skipper for playing one of the best captain's knocks.

"We have all seen Faf playing over the year. He is a very good player, not just spin but overall he has been playing well in IPL over the last few years," he said.

"It was not an easy wicket to bat on but he constructed the innings really well, something

ing an IPL Code of Conduct during the same match which RCB won by 18 runs on Tuesday night.

Stoinis' Code of Conduct breach was also not specified, though he was seen arguing with the on-field umpire during an over bowled by Josh Hazlewood. "Mr Stoinis admitted to the Level 1 offence of the IPL Code of Conduct and accepted the sanction", the release said. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding.

we as a batting unit (could have done), one of us in the top 3 or 4 had to play an innings like that, where we bat deep.

"That could have given us best chance to win this game but unfortunately we couldn't string in those partnerships. It was a very good knock. It was one of the best captain's innings that he (Du Plessis) could have played."

LSG take on Mumbai Indians on Sunday.

## DC's Tim Seifert tests positive for COVID-19

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The IPL game between Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings on Wednesday evening has been put under serious doubt after wicket-keeper batter Tim Seifert tested positive for COVID-19. The New Zealand player is the second overseas cricketer in the Capitals team after Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh to catch the infection, taking the overall count of positive cases to six.

The positive case emerged after a fresh round of testing conducted on Wednesday morning, according to a BCCI source.

"As far as we know, Tim Seifert of New Zealand has tested positive," said a BCCI source.

"We were tested in the morning and we will be tested again shortly. We continue to be isolated," said a player on the condition of anonymity.

Officials from the Punjab franchise told PTI the squad was ready to leave for the venue.

As per the IPL regulations, a minimum of 12 players including seven Indians are needed for the game to go ahead in case of a COVID outbreak.

There is also an option to reschedule the game if the minimum player requirement is not met.

The BCCI was on Tuesday forced to shift the game to Mumbai from Pune "to avoid any further incident due to any undetected case during a long-distance bus journey in a closed environment".

Delhi physio Patrick Farhart and sports massage therapist Chetan Kumar had tested posi-



tive last week while Marsh, who is hospitalised, team doctor Abhijit Salvi and social media content team member Akash Mane returned positive tests on Monday.

Seifert had also contracted the virus last season when he was with the Kolkata Knight Riders.

Multiple cases across four teams had forced the organisers to suspended the IPL last season before it was completed in the UAE in September-October.

## Kieron Pollard announces retirement from international cricket

PTI ■ MUMBAI

West Indies white-ball captain Kieron Pollard on Wednesday announced his retirement from international cricket though he will continue to freelance in private T20 and T10 leagues across the globe.

If one tries to sum up Pollard's international career in a nutshell, he could be termed as a perennial under-achiever in maroon jersey.

The 34-year-old Pollard, who made his ODI debut back in 2007, fittingly played his last series against India.

A country which has become his second home due to his long association with Mumbai Indians.

"Hi all, after careful deliberation, I have decided to retire from international cricket. It was a dream of mine to play for West Indies since I was a 10-year-old boy and I am proud to represent the West Indies for over 15 years in T20 and ODI format of the game," Pollard announced on his official instagram page.

While he is a feared T20 cricketer, one of the finest that the world has seen.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Batting stalwart Virat Kohli is mentally "overcooked" and needs to take a break from cricket in order to serve the country for at least another six-seven years, feels ex-India coach Ravi Shastri.

Kohli has been going through a lean patch with just two 40-plus scores to show in last seven innings for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the current IPL season.

The 33-year-old from Delhi, who hasn't scored a century in the last 100 matches across formats, had stepped down from T20 captaincy both for India and RCB and also quit Test leadership, while he was removed from ODI skipper's role.

Shastri feels the likes of Kohli needs to be handled with care and empathy amid the COVID-19 restrictions which has confined players inside bio-bubbles.

"I am going straight to the main guy here. Virat Kohli is overcooked. If anyone needs a break, it's him," Shastri told Star Sports.

"Whether it's 2 months or a month-and-a-half, whether it's after England or



before England. He needs a break because he has got 6-7 years of cricket left in him and you don't want to lose that with a fried brain."

Kohli was out for a duck on Tuesday night as RCB rode on Faf du Plessis' 96

to claim a 18-run win over Lucknow Super Giants.

"When I was coach at the time when this first started, the first thing I said is 'you have to show empathy to the guys'.

"If you're going to be forceful, there is a very thin line there, from a guy losing the plot as opposed to him hanging in there and giving his best. So you have to be extremely careful."

Shastri said there might be one or two players in world cricket going through the same problem which needs to be addressed upfront.

Echoing the same sentiment, former England captain Kevin Pietersen said Kohli should take time away from the game as well as social media to rejuvenate himself.

"...The guy has had so much to deal with, from marriage to baby to media scrutiny and all on his personal life. He is the biggest star on show," he said.

"Virat Kohli needs to say 'cricket boots, for six months, I will see you later'. Turn off social media, go and get re-energised.

"When the stadiums are full again, you guarantee him a spot in that side for the next 12, 24 or 36 months. Tell him 'you're our guy, we know you'll deliver for us'."

Pietersen said Kohli "is going to find it very hard to continue delivering now as his brain is completely fried".

## Dhawal Kulkarni set to join MI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai Indians are likely to sign Dhawal Kulkarni for the remainder of IPL 2022.

The former India pacer is part of Hindi Commentary panel for the season. Kulkarni was part of MI in IPL 2020 and 2021 Mumbai Indians (MI) have been the only winless team in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 and with 6 defeats from as many matches, they are reeling at the last spot in the points table. The five-time IPL Champions have largely struggled due to the lack of contributions from bowlers.

MI's Indian pacers lack experience while the overseas pacers have gone for plenty of runs. MI are now planning to bolster their pace attack with

an Indian pacer and are set to sign Dhawal Kulkarni. As per The Times of India, Kulkarni will join MI by the end of April.

The former India pacer is part of Star Sports' Hindi commentary panel for the season and has been sharing his expertise with the fans. The report adds that MI captain Rohit is keen on adding the experienced pacer to the roster.

"MI skipper Rohit Sharma was keen on adding Kulkarni to strengthen their pace attack. Being from Mumbai, he's aware of how to bowl in Mumbai and Pune, where IPL-15 is being held," a source was quoted as saying.

Kulkarni has played 12 ODIs and 2 T20Is for the Men in Blue. He was part of the Test team as well but is uncapped in the format.

Meanwhile, MI would be keen to bring their campaign back on track. Every defeat will hurt their chances and a few defeats at this stage can rule them out of the competition early.